

HAPPENINGS

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation
PROMOTING EQUALITY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



Registered Charity No. 251051

Spring 2005

Seventy Years of Achievements *Thanksgiving Celebration at St George's Chapel, Windsor*

It was with enormous honour and pride that Queen Elizabeth's Foundation began its 70th anniversary celebrations in the presence of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh at the Service of Thanksgiving held at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle on the 2 December 2004.

Trustees, staff and supporters joined with students, trainees and volunteers from across the Foundation to commemorate the life of the founding patron, Her Majesty the Queen Mother and to acknowledge the growth and achievements of the Foundation over the past 70 years.



(Left to Right) Cynthia Robinson, Foundation Chief Executive, Edward Guinness, Chair of the Event, Lady Diana Holderness, Foundation President and Lord and Lady Hamilton of Dalzell with H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

In the address given by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Lord Hamilton paid tribute to the Queen Mother's devotion to the cause of the Foundation and to the visionary drive of the co-founders Dame Georgiana Buller and Stanley Evans. Lord Hamilton went on to recognise that despite changing fashions, the ideology of the Foundation has remained constant since the beginning:

"...the basic principles which govern the Foundation are still the same as those set out in 1934, the far sighted progenitor of the now legally enforceable code of equal opportunities for people with disabilities. It still provides them with the essential means to take advantage of the opportunities opened to them by the Disability Discrimination Act."

The thanksgiving service marked the beginning the Foundation's platinum anniversary with a number of events planned throughout 2005 including a Foundation Birthday Party, a ball at the Dorchester Hotel, a Golf Day and other major fundraising activities.



This Edition: The Foundation's 70th Anniversary Year is here; Training College opens new course; New course at Development Centre; Brain Injury Centre gains archery range; Training College Raffle has a winner...



Volunteers Share Good Cheer



**(Left to Right)
Corinne Secular
with her raffle
prize, Marilyn
Henry and Linda
Pope.**

Jack Frost may have been doing his best to keep the weather icy and nippy, but on Thursday 16 December, the mood was very warm and full of Yuletide cheer at the Foundation's Christmas Party for volunteers. Lady Hamilton was on hand to thank the volunteers on behalf of the Foundation:

"The last year has been a great success largely thanks to your effort and commitment. Without your dedication the Foundation simply could not do its important work."

Over a hundred people were present for carols, prize draws and a brain teaser of a quiz. As well as having a chance to catch up with the latest news on the Foundation the volunteers were treated to some fantastic food and drink to help usher in the approaching Christmas holidays.

Staying ahead of the Game with DISS

One of the biggest challenges of any organisation is in coming to terms with change, and in this context DISS Information Services has risen to the challenge of dealing with more than its fair share of change in the recent past. For years, DISS provided a telephone enquiry service to the people of Surrey, as well as developing and supporting its in-house DissBASE software. Now, as a leaner and fitter information service, DISS is focussing on its core business of continuing to develop and support DissBASE for the benefit of its Subscribers nationwide.

Taking over as Sales and Marketing Manager of DISS in September 2004, Hugh Schoenemann brings twenty-five years of IT industry expertise to the role of moving DISS and DissBASE to the next phase. With a team of two full-time staff and one volunteer, Hugh is confident that he has a core of great people on the team to deliver even greater benefits to DissBASE users.

"I see my role as three-fold", Hugh says. "Firstly, DISS must continue to support existing DissBASE users both via a telephone service and a quarterly update process. Also, the data on the database must be updated constantly to ensure its accuracy."

"Secondly", continues Hugh, "is to increase the number of DissBASE subscribers and "advertisers" by placing a targeted mailshot campaign to the voluntary-, private- and public sectors. This work is being done by John and I very much in the forefront of this effort."

"Lastly, DissBASE itself must keep pace with advances in database technology", Hugh adds, "so part of this involves moving DissBASE to an even more functionally rich database. Whilst the majority of DissBASE users today are textual in nature, modern database engine technology allows multiple data types to be used by subscribers. Graphic, full-motion-video and sound files are now within our grasp, so programmes and data can be moved to this richer environment, possibly with the use of web-browser technology."

Hugh concluded by saying that DISS is already exploring various methods of financing the "DissBASE" project – so just watch this space for developments!

**John, Bob, Nick and
the DISS**



Training College's 70th Anniversary Prize Finds A Good Home



Mrs. Durrant with her new 'ride' and joy!

Happy Birthday! The Training College at Queen Elizabeth's Foundation held its 70th Birthday Party and a great time was had by all. The main prize for the event's birthday raffle was a vintage Ford Anglia.

Mrs Carol Durrant is now the proud winner of the birthday car. She is looking forward to giving the car its first spin and she has a special passenger in mind for the first journey. Her dad John! Mrs Durrant explained the emotional impact of winning the Anglia:

"As a child I remember being driven around Surrey in an Anglia...I'm going to drive Dad down to Seale and re-visit all the places we used to go to."

Prior to arriving at the Training College the car had sat in a garage for twelve years but was kindly donated to the College by a long time supporter. The car has been brought back to its prime by the College's trainees and staff. It is now in stunning condition and was presented to Mrs Durrant with all the original owner's documents, catalogue and colour chart.

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Charity Race Day

Skies were blue, champagne sparkled and the crowds were heaving at the Foundation's 2004 Annual Charity Race Day at Sandown Park.

Pat Eddery made a welcome appearance and offered his riding boots to eager bidders, Trainers Richard Hannon and Kim Bailey each donated a morning's ride on the gallops for four lucky individuals.

Some of the other great prizes up for auction were corporate hospitality and seats at Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal and Chelsea matches.

Also up for the highest bidders was a round of golf at Wentworth and a VIP day at the races at Sandown Park. The Foundation's 2004 Charity Race Day was generously sponsored by ManGroup plc. Close to £20,000 was raised.



(Left-Right) Colin Brumpton of ManGroup plc, official sponsor of the Charity Race Day, Pat Eddery along with successful auction bidders Anne Subba Row and Stephen Henderson.



Anticipation Builds as the London Marathon Draws Near

Running shoes are being dusted off and runners everywhere are hitting the tarmac in preparation for the 2005 London Marathon. Queen Elizabeth's Foundation is expecting a good turn out from supporting runners.

Jan Page, the Foundation's Events & Community Fundraising Manager has been impressed by the response:

"The take up of Golden Bond places has been so successful that we now no longer have any places left. But people can still run for us as independents. We have been very pleased with the response and I would like to say a big thank you to everyone that has signed up to run."

Don Martin, long time Foundation staff member and Marathon stalwart, has run in the Marathon every year for the last 24 Years. In 2005 he is running for the Foundation again. Best of luck to Don and all the other runners as they limber up for 2005!



Don gets ready for the big run.



A client at the Brain Injury Centre takes aim.

Reed Business Information Makes a Big Difference at Brain Injury Centre

The Brain Injury Centre recently welcomed a friendly band of volunteers from the Sutton branch of Reed Business Information (RBI).

Contributing two days' of time and effort, RBI's staff set about the Centre's wilderness field and completely renovated it. The Centre now has an archery range and a large area for clients to grow seeds, plants, vegetables and flowers. The RBI staff also planted grass seed and created a winding pathway reaching down to the trees.

" We feel we have made many new friends"

Eileen Jackman, Principal of the Brain Injury Centre, was amazed and delighted at the progress the RBI volunteers had made: "It is now a very tranquil place for the Brain Injury Centre's clients to walk or wheel through and relax in. We are very grateful for all the efforts of the staff at Reed Business Information, they have worked really hard. The two days they have put aside makes a huge difference for the Brain Injury Centre and the results will be enjoyed by its clients for years to come. We also feel that we have made many new friends"

Dressing to Impress

David Emanuel presided over a journey into the world of fashion at Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Ladies Autumn Luncheon at Epsom Race Course.

David, displaying all the taste and sophistication one would expect from an internationally renowned designer, provided dressing tips by using some of the guests as real life models. Giving a witty and incisive talk, he touched on all the crucial areas of fashion: why men rarely notice what their wives are wearing, the subtleties of accessorising and the importance of colour co-ordination.

David's talk was not the only highlight of the day as ladies could take their pick of clothes and jewellery from the wide variety of stalls present.

The Ladies Autumn Lunch was sponsored by the Blair Foundation. The Epsom branch of the National Counties Building Society sponsored the champagne reception. The event raised £17,000 with the proceeds going to the Brain Injury Centre.



Anne Cotterell, Chairman of the Ladies Autumn Lunch Committee, Maggie Thornton, Blair Foundation (sponsor), David Emanuel, Jeni Thorton, Blair Foundation (sponsor) and Cynthia Robinson, Foundation Chief Executive.

Guinness & Oyster Luncheon

300 people were out to lunch at the Lord Mayor's official residence in London and all for the benefit of the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation. The Guinness and Oyster lunch has been an annual event for the last 39 years and is as popular as ever - particularly with the City of London financial organisations. This year's event also sported a number of celebrity guests from the world of TV and music.

The Foundation thanks the event's sponsor Diageo for their continued support and for providing excellent Guinness. The event raised over £29,000.



(Left to Right) Stuart and Trish-Fletcher, Edward Guinness and the Lord Mayor of London.

Mobility Centre Principal Gets to Grips with The House of Lords

By Sue Vernon

As Principal of QEF Mobility Centre I was honoured with an invitation from Lord Denis Carter on behalf of Ricability to a reception celebrating their 40th anniversary. An invitation had also gone to my predecessor, Morigue Cornwell, confirming that our past association on projects concerning outdoor mobility aids, is recognised and will continue.

After the speeches we enjoyed good (and useful) conversations with new acquaintances from government departments and other disability organisations while overlooking the Thames and enjoying a beautiful meal.

Altogether an interesting, worthwhile and enjoyable day's work, leaving a smart gold edged invitation to file away in the family album as a souvenir.

Watership Down comes to the Development Centre

Students at the Development Centre have been with some new furry friends, thanks to a new course in Animal Management.

The furry friends are Alfie, Spencer and Floppy, three dogs who have taken up residence at the Centre. The course gives students the chance to learn the basic responsibilities and necessities of animal care such as cleaning out the kennels, as well as providing a regular supply of food and water, not forgetting the odd cuddle or two. Jill Mabbs, the course tutor, explains:

"It's a great chance for the students to work as a team, building on their animal care skills. The students take on various responsibilities on a rota basis. We have already offered 'holiday care' for staff pets and are considering expanding this service to the general public by providing a 'Rabbit Care' service. We would like to increase the variety of animals to include cats, and further down the line maybe even a goat, donkey, or chickens, who knows!" Jill is looking at ways to improve the Centre's facilities to make it easier for the students:



(Left to Right) Natalie, Jill Mabbs (course tutor), Kate, Jeffery and Steven get to grips with animal care.

"We are reviewing the possibility of installing an accessible shed to keep the animals warm and dry. It would be much better if the animals and the storage for the straw and feed were closer together. At the moment the students have quite a trek to collect the feed and bedding. Many of the students are looking forward to having their own pets when they later move into their own accommodation and this is a fantastic opportunity to learn the idea of the practicalities involved."

Desks A Plenty

Leatherhead-based pension administration specialist MNPA has recently moved in to new premises in Leatherhead and has kindly donated a huge supply of furniture to the Foundation.



Jackie surveys all the desks kindly donated by MNPA.

Jackie Wills (Estates Administrator) from the Training College has been helping to distribute the new furniture throughout the Training College:

"The very generous donation by MNPA has enabled the college to re-furnish many of its office-based training areas and to help furnish new projects and new course developments...the feedback from staff and trainees has been very positive."



Training College's Employment Development Department joins the Matrix

The Employment Development Department at the Training College was delighted to gain accreditation to the Matrix quality standard for its information and advice services.

Angela Honeywood, Head of Employment Development explained that the Department aims to provide trainees at the College with a high level of service and it was wonderful that the hard work by staff has been recognized.

The Department also provides an external service as a Partner with 'In Touch with Learning and Work', the Surrey arm of the *Learning and Skills Council* which will enable the College to reach out to even more people with disabilities who require information and advice on gaining employment or on furthering their education.

"The three day assessment for the award required a great deal of preparation and training but the team are all very proud and feel the extra work involved has proved most worthwhile."

Angela went on to say that she believes this award, by the Guidance Accreditation Board, is an excellent way of looking at and extending The College's services in Surrey.

Do you have a story to tell?

If so we would love to hear from you. Please call **Tris Clark** on **01372 841192**

Forthcoming Events

Golf Day at Berkshire Golf Club - 16 March 2005

Flora London Marathon - 17 April 2005

Ladies Spring Lunch - 27 April 2005

Taking place at Epsom Downs Racecourse. Includes shopping stalls and lunch with guest speaker.

70 Anniversary Ball - 7 July 2005

Supporters of the Foundation celebrate its Platinum Anniversary and 70 years of working towards independence for disabled people at the Dorchester Hotel, London.

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation hosts a number of fundraising events throughout the year.

Proceeds raised enable the Foundation to continue the invaluable services that help change the lives of people with disabilities.

For more information on events, call Jan Page on 01372 841126

Hilton In the Community Foundation Funds Training College's New Course



Simon Sheehan, (Hilton in the Community Foundation Director)
Gillian Pendlebury (General Manager of Cobham Hilton)
Beverly Brett (Travel and Tourism Tutor)
Deborah Richards and Garry Billing (Training College Principal)

The Training College is set to open a new Hotel and Leisure Reception course. Angela Honeywood, Head of Employment Development, at the College explains:

"Due to an increase in leisure and business travel, fitness and health clubs and so on the hospitality and leisure industry is expanding all the time. The course will feature training in customer service techniques and computer skills including using a specialised software package commonly used throughout the industry."

The hospitality and leisure industry is expanding all the time

This new course is now possible thanks to the kind support and funding of Hilton in the Community Foundation who have donated £40,000 towards its costs.

Hilton in the Community Foundation's new Director, Simon Sheehan, recently visited the Training College to see the progress made by trainees at the College's Travel and Tourism Course.