

HAPPENINGS

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation
PROMOTING EQUALITY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



Registered Charity No. 251051

Summer 2004

Foundation's Training College Awards High Achievers

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Training College paid tribute to the remarkable achievements of its disabled trainees at the annual prize-giving this summer.

Garry Billing, Principal of the Training College, welcomed some 120 guests comprising students, staff and representatives from the local business community and spoke of his admiration for the College's trainees and their success in completing their studies.

Prizes were awarded in fifteen different categories ranging from Computer Aided Design through to Vehicle Refinishing for students who had excelled in their studies.



"The College is magic. It's the best thing that has happened to me."



Trainee of the Year, Vince Boardman, summed up the mood of the prize-giving event: "The College is magic. It's the best thing that has happened to me."

After an accident Vince was unable to practise carpentry and joinery and found himself unemployed for eight years. However, through the Training College's specialist employment programme, Vince regained his confidence and found new opportunities in the workplace. Since leaving the College, Vince has moved into engineering where now he works as a consultant.



Vince Boardman with Garry Billing (Left) and sponsor Chris Begley (Right) at the College's prize-giving day.

This Edition: Excitement builds for Foundation's 70th Anniversary; Win a Classic Car; Sporting Dinner raises £60,000; Development Centre celebrates achievements ...

Foundation turns 70

Anticipation is mounting throughout Queen Elizabeth's Foundation as preparations for the 70th anniversary take shape. Due to commence in the Autumn, there will be a series of fundraising and celebratory events commencing at the Training College and officially beginning with a thanksgiving service.

PR Manager, Fintan Nicholls notes: "This will be a real opportunity to communicate the excellence of the Foundation. For 70 years we have worked to empower people with disabilities and we are rightly proud of our achievements".

Throughout the year a number of fundraising opportunities are envisaged with the Foundation's Events Management team planning a wide variety of celebratory occasions, including a charity golf day at the exclusive Royal Berkshire Golf Club, Ascot. Plans to recreate a fundraising ball commemorating the celebrations held at the Café Royal in 1935 at the inauguration of the Foundation are also envisaged.



Golfing at Royal Berkshire

Training College gets a lending hand from local volunteers



KBR volunteers pitch up at the Training College

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation welcomed willing volunteers from local management consultants, Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), who pitched up with paintbrushes and much gusto over the summer.

Having painted walls and tirelessly built fences all day long, the volunteers took a few moments to admire their work and relax. Saluting their hard earned achievements, the Foundation's Estates Manager, John Cuthbertson gratefully acknowledged: "They have vastly improved the appearance of areas around the Training College. Kellogg Brown & Root's assistance has really helped us. The volunteers are an enthusiastic and hard working group. It's always great fun to welcome volunteers especially when they have such a positive outlook."

The Foundation is greatly assisted through volunteer support. If you know anyone who might spend a few hours a week helping out at any of the Foundation's Centres or in the charity shops, tell them to call 01372 841118.

Applied Materials, the world's largest semi-conductor manufacturer has donated twenty much needed PCs to the Foundation's Training College.

IT Manager at Applied Materials Rob Dowding, commented: "Being successful isn't just about making money but also about supporting the local community. We feel we have a moral obligation to contribute in a positive way to society and give something back."

IT Support Manager at the Foundation Nick Evans, responded:

The PCs from "Applied Materials" will really help

Be a Classic Prize Winner

As part of the Foundation's 70th anniversary celebrations, the Training College will be hosting a grand raffle with the first prize being a restored classic 1960's Ford Anglia.

If you would like to purchase tickets for the raffle or would like to help The Training College in supporting the celebrations, call Tony Goudie on 01372 841142.



Foundation's theatre group raise the roof at Leatherhead Drama Festival

The Freewheelers, the Foundation's acclaimed drama group, based at the Development Centre, has come of age having scooped the Adjudicator's Special Prize at the Leatherhead Drama Festival.

Acting legend Sir Michael Caine presented Freewheelers cast member Andy Marber (pictured) and Director Viv Colvill with the award for their outstanding production of *The Musicians*, by Patrick Marber.

Competing against 18 other drama groups, the adjudicators' noted that "...the Freewheelers' performance was a 'champagne moment', 'pure theatre', a 'transformation' and an 'imaginative realisation of what wasn't stated in the script.' "

Viv and the cast were bowled over by their success as Sir Michael talked to them all and signed autographs and they were interviewed by Radio Jackie.

The Freewheelers enjoyed another brilliant day with a prolonged standing ovation when they performed at the Albany Arts Centre in Deptford. Gavin Barlow, Head of the Arts Centre said: "... it was a phenomenal production."

The success of the group is a terrific boost for Viv who puts in an enormous amount of work rehearsing the cast.

The sense of achievement was summed up by cast member, Anthony O'Sullivan: "Today I'm happy," he said. "Really happy!"

Microchips all round from Applied Materials

trainees access a world of information where they have an opportunity to develop their skills and gain greater confidence in themselves."



(Left to Right) Rob Baker and Rob Dowding from Applied Materials with David McGregor from the Training College.

Foundation volunteers celebrate success



Foundation volunteers and stalwart supporters from the Trefoil Guild celebrated in style when they joined together at the annual tea party, held at the Foundation's Training College.

Chief Executive, Cynthia Robinson, praised their commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to the Foundation and thanked them for their long-term support. Afterwards supporters toured the Training College and spoke to trainees and staff.

The joy of sharing

Many people have the odd share certificate stuffed in a drawer not doing an awful lot. These shares can make a real difference to Queen Elizabeth's Foundation.

Sharegift is a charity run by the Orr Mackintosh Foundation which takes thousands of individual shares, sells them in bulk and then distributes the monies raised to charities, including the Foundation.

If you know someone who might be interested in donating a few shares, call 01372 841118 or see the enclosed leaflet.

Bunzl bears gifts for College

The Foundation's Training College has once again benefited from long-time supporters, Bunzl, who has donated £15,000 for the purchase of two interactive whiteboards for the Training College along with ten computers for the Basic Office Skills course.

Julia Battyll (*pictured at the refinished Computer Aided Design suite opening at the Training College last autumn*) and Celia Baxter from Bunzl have also requested to visit the College to discuss further ways of offering practical help such as work experience.



This latest contribution comes in a long line of donations from Bunzl who have supported the College for many years. Susan Abbott, the Foundation's corporate fundraiser enthuses: "Bunzl's support sets the standard in long-term commitment to partnering disability issues. Their example has led many companies to consider the wider benefits of working with the disabled community."

Over 350 guests joined at the Foundation in style. The committed support of construction firm, Ellmer, Irish Bank (GB), the evening was a glittering

Hosted by TV comedienne, appearances from Rugby legend, cricketer icon, Alec Stewart, the evening the building works at t

Jan Page, Events Manager, notably notes: "This is a donation. Our deep appreciation, Ellmer, the Byrnes Irish Bank (GB) along with contributed to the eve

Foundation

Spreading the word

A new look for the Annual Review brought much acclaim following the Foundation's drive to look at the wider issues affecting people with disabilities.

Tackling the underlying concerns related to work, mobility, housing and the drive for independence, the Annual Review highlights the need for a more diverse, more inclusive wider community with disabled people taking a full and active part in all the decisions relating to society.

Copies of the Annual Review are available through the Foundation's Fundraising Department on 01372 841129.



joined staff at the Café Royal, the work of Queen Elizabeth's Made possible thanks to the of Tony Dowle from the con- and sponsorship from Allied Byrne Group and Chorus, the ng array of sporting legends.

ntator Ian Robertson with ap- y World Cup hero, Jason Leo- Geoff Miller and sporting star ening raised £60,000 towards the Development Centre.

anager for the Foundation jubi- a fantastic result for the Foun- appreciation goes to our spon- ne Group, Chorus and Allied side all those to attended and ning."



Sponsor Tony Dowle from Ellmer Construction (pictured left) with Rugby legend Jason Leonard, Chief Executive of the Foundation, Cynthia Robinson, Commentator Ian Robertson and Foundation Chairman, Lord Hamilton.

on scores huge success at sporting dinner

Up and away at Brain Injury Centre

Parachuting at the Brain Injury Centre? Not quite, but it's still one big step for Greg Irons.



Thanks to the fundraising efforts of The Friends of the Brain Injury Centre, a new hoist has been installed in the Physiotherapy Gym which enables clients to test their mobility skills without fear of falling.

Eileen Jackman, Principal at the Brain Injury Centre notes: "We are able to be more adventurous in our treatment." Greg, (*pictured*) a client at the Centre concurs: "I think the best thing for me is the confidence. If I loose my balance, I'm not going anywhere. It allows me to walk on my own." One big step indeed!

Epsom College donation

Awareness of disability in the community is central to the work of the Foundation, so when Epsom College presented a cheque for £8,000 to Queen Elizabeth's Foundation, there was enormous gratitude and appreciation from both sides. The College raised the money through a series of events including a choir and talent show as well as donations from students, staff and College supporters.

Suzanne Smith (*pictured left*) from Epsom College presented the cheque to Jan Page (*right*), Community Fundraising Manager at Queen Elizabeth's Foundation, who praised the initiative in fundraising events:

Happy union for Resource Centre

Amicus, the UK's largest manufacturing union has donated £1,000 to Queen Elizabeth's Foundation in recognition of the Resource Centre's work.

The donation came through Richard Cook, a client at the Resource Centre, Chair of the Client Support Group at the Centre and a member of the TUC's Disability Committee.

Richard introduced Amicus members to the work of the Resource Centre with the aim of building wider awareness of grass-roots disability support.

Head of the Resource Centre, Debbie Saunders enthuses: "This is a terrific opportunity to generate wider awareness of the issues surrounding disability to a Union that has a real desire to build a more inclusive and representative workforce. We hope that this is the beginning of a longstanding partnership with Amicus."

Celebration was the theme of the day at the Foundation's Development Centre when entrepreneur Peter Harrison joined supporters and benefactors to view the new en-suite bedrooms at the Centre, made possible through generous contributions from benefactors - many of whom attended the day and funding from The Big Lottery, represented at the event by Caroline Waters and Simone Baker.

Guests also enjoyed a performance from the Foundation's disabled theatre group, *The Freewheelers* with a short excerpt from Patrick Marber's *'The Musicians'*, having recently won the Adjudicators' Award in the Leatherhead Drama Festival.

Development Centre achievements

Large 'cheques in' with

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"We have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the students at Epsom College and look forward to working with them in the future."

Chessington shop takes them by storm

The Foundation's shops continue to go from strength to strength with the opening of the latest shop in Chessington following several months refurbishment.

Colin Day from Retail Trading notes: "Already the shop has received widespread goodwill from the people of Chessington, whose support will benefit many who have endured a disability. We would like to thank the local community for their warm welcome and to take this opportunity to appeal for volunteers to help us with our work at the shop." For details on volunteering at a Foundation shop call 01372 841333.

Among those joining many Foundation staff and students in the celebrations were Mole Valley MP Sir Paul Beresford, Dr. Grace Dowling, High Sheriff of Surrey, Sheila Gruselle, Chair of Surrey County Council, Cllr. Sharland, Chair of Mole Valley and Cllr. Burgess, Mayor of Elmbridge.



Nuala Rowand and Peter Willan with former student Alison Lapper (centre) Maeve Willan and MP Sir Paul Beresford (pictured far right) in a celebration of achievement at the Development Centre.

The event concluded with a viewing of the 18 newly completed study bedrooms for students at the Development Centre, which were built with the help of The Big Lottery (formally The Community Fund), the Peter Harrison Foundation and many of the supporters attending the festivities.

The celebrations are set to continue in August as the new multi-purpose space at the Development Centre nears completion. The new facilities will provide a physiotherapy room, Internet and computer access and a flexible area for performance arts and activities.

Centre trumpets



Forthcoming Events

Charity Race Day - 15 September

At Sandown Park Racecourse, an action packed race day with full hospitality for 300 guests which includes lunch and a high value auction. Sponsored by Man Group.

Ladies' Autumn Lunch - 7 October

Held in the Queen's Stand at Epsom Racecourse, this is a perennial favourite. This year's speaker is David Emanuel, known for co-designing Princess Diana's wedding dress. There will be stalls for Christmas shopping and a raffle featuring a hot air balloon adventure as first prize.

'Celebration of the Sea' - 14 October

Reception and private viewing of the annual exhibition of The Royal Society of Marine Artists at Mall Galleries, 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 Vanessa Ralph on 01372 841127

Lifetime opportunity for Mobility

When an opportunity arises for the different Foundation Centres to work together, it is usually a very successful partnership, so when the Media Techniques department at the Training College were asked to produce a corporate video for the Mobility Centre, they seized the chance with terrific enthusiasm.

Having spent several days filming at the Mobility Centre, the Media Techniques team then chopped away in the audio/visual studio at the Training College to produce a one minute promotional film.

With advice and direction from TV producers, *The Life Channel*, the film broadcast in hundreds of doctors' surgeries across the country throughout August - widely raising awareness of the Mobility Centre and the Foundation as a whole.

Acting Principal at the Mobility Centre, Sue Vernon, enthusiastically notes: "Paul Vlaeminck and Ian Collings who spearheaded the project, spent several weeks researching, designing and producing the final edit which is outstanding. Working on this project with the Training College has been a really exciting and productive experience for everyone who participated. This is a great opportunity to inform so many people about the work of the Mobility Centre and it would not have been possible without the help of the Training College. Thanks must go to all who worked on the project at Media Techniques and to the *Life Channel* for providing this broadcasting opportunity."

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