

HAPPENINGS

Queen Elizabeth's Foundation

PROMOTING EQUALITY FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



Registered Charity No. 251051

Summer 2007



Dr. Louise Clowes and the League of Mercy's prestigious medal.

Dr. Clowes Receives Prestigious Award

Dr. Louise Clowes has been honoured with the League of Mercy award for her outstanding voluntary services on behalf of the Foundation.

It was not a difficult decision for Queen Elizabeth's Foundation to recommend their friend and Governor for this award, as Dr. Clowes has been personally responsible for raising over £500,000 for the charity during the past 25 years.

A retired paediatrician, Dr. Clowes energised a network of parents and children in her creative fundraising campaign, arranging dancing and badminton classes, discos and balls to entertain children during the school holidays.

Never doing anything on a small scale, she hosted a garden bring and buy sale raising £6,000 and organised a 50th anniversary ball which raised in excess of £25,000.

Having built up her contacts, Dr. Clowes mobilised this force into action establishing a variety of events which are still just as popular today, including the renowned Autumn Ladies Luncheon held at Epsom Racecourse now in its 13th successful year.

Congratulations and thank you for all your sterling efforts.

Government Advisor Attends AGM

David Freud, author of the independent report 'Reducing Dependency, Increasing Opportunity' commissioned by the Department of Work and Pensions and published in March of this year, was guest speaker at Queen Elizabeth's Foundation Annual General Meeting held at Leatherhead Court on Wednesday, 25 July.

Freud's blueprint for reform includes financial investment from commercial organisations and the provision of training and mentoring services by charities with a successful track record of achieving results.

The Foundation's Training College has just such a proven track record having helped trainees with wide-ranging disabilities to re-enter the workplace for the past 70 years.

Freud indicated that the Government, through the DWP report published on 18 July entitled 'In work, better off', has stated its intention to act on his recommendations and we look forward to discussing this initiative with both investors and employers.



L-R: David Freud in discussion with Cynthia Robinson, Chief Executive of the Foundation and Garry Billing, Principal of the Foundation's Training College.

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Wendy Wins Award

Wendy, a client at the Development Centre, took a trip into the City of London this May to receive the Girdlers' Medallion awarded by the Girdlers' Company in recognition of her campaigning spirit.

The Girdlers' Company is one of London's oldest Livery companies with a long tradition of philanthropy, supporting and encouraging young people from all walks of life. What most impressed the Company was Wendy's empathy and passion for speaking out on behalf of others. She chairs client forums, helps to interview new members of staff and has recently been appointed client representative to the Commission for Social Care Inspection influencing the overall management of the Centre. "I try to ensure that clients and staff are happy and that the Centre can run smoothly with maximum client input," said Wendy.



Everything stops for tea

The weather may not have been very kind to us this year, but the sun did shine on Retail Trading when it held its summer fete to say a big thank you to all its volunteers for their wonderful support over the past 12 months.

Organised by Cherry Jones, Manager of the Tolworth shop with help from Colin Day and Lynn Robinson of Retail Trading, the day was packed with entertainment and fun. The star of the show was Bridie, an 8ft tall tea lady - thanks to her stilts - who helped to serve up scrumptious cream teas while she sang and danced to the tunes of Tom Jones and Dean Martin.

However, no one escaped becoming involved with a host of events taking place including a fully fledged fashion show modelling donated clothing and a fiercely competitive best dressed gazebo competition. Try as they might, the men were not able to hide as staff joined volunteers in their own, more modest, version of the Full Monty that proved so popular, an encore was demanded.

The day was voted a tremendous success by one and all.



8ft Bridie and her tea trolley.



Catwalk glamour.



Tolworth shop win best dressed gazebo competition.

Training College celebrates trainees determination to succeed

The Foundation's Training College held its annual prize giving ceremony this July to reward the hard work and success of its disabled trainees.

Garry Billing, Training College Principal, outlined our philosophy on re-training for work: "We are here to provide the expertise, support and encouragement, but ultimately success depends on a trainee's commitment to their training programme."

Trainee of the year, sponsored by Colin Peel, was Paul. Paul had a career in the Army with the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment which was brought to an abrupt halt by an accident which left him disabled.



Paul, Trainee of the Year.



L-R: Brendan with Alan Howell, President of the Rotary Club of Ashted, Surrey.

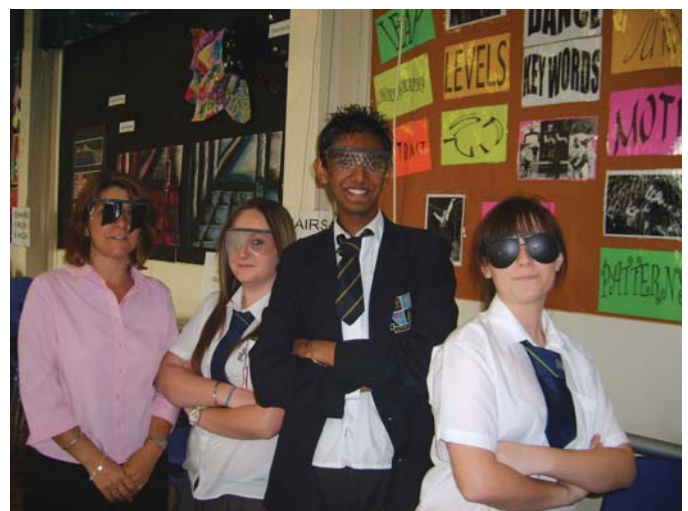
"I went to the College to retrain and start my life afresh. You have to be self motivated but the staff gave me all the support I needed. I now have a long-term job with great prospects. It's just fantastic," said Paul.

The Principal's prize, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ashted, this year went to Brendan. And what made Brendan so special?

"Every once in a while you meet a very powerful person who it is impossible to dislike. Brendan, thank you for making my college a nicer place," said Garry on presenting the award.

Back to School

Staff and members of the Resource Centre went back to the classroom this April when they visited Axton Chase School, Longfield, Kent. They went to help students gain a greater understanding of what it is like to be disabled and how it impacts on not just an individual and but on the entire family.



The workshop was split into two parts, the first being a presentation followed by a question and answer session. Then came the practical demonstrations giving students the chance to experience for themselves what it might be like to have a visual impairment or how it feels to be in a wheelchair.

On the road again



The Mobility Centre has been providing assessments, information and advice since 1982. Thousands of clients have passed through their doors in Carshalton since then and these are the thoughts of just one ...

"My name is John and I had a driving assessment at your mobility centre. I was perhaps not your typical stroke victim at 36 years of age and had been without my driving licence for 18 months since the stroke occurred. I was probably more nervous prior to the assessment than when I originally took my driving test many years earlier!

Everyone that I dealt with during the assessment was both friendly and professional, making every effort to relax me and ensure that the assessment was a true reflection of my abilities. The woman who carried out the cognitive and physical assessment and the man who actually performed the in-car assessment were both particularly helpful and I would like them to know I have had my licence fully reinstated by the DVLA.

The work that your assessment centre does truly changes people's lives and my life is so much better now that I have my independence back.

Once again, thank you to all those involved in making a real difference to the lives of people."

John (38), Surrey

Lights, Camera, Action...

Every year, thousands of students from colleges across the UK seek a career in the world of media. To be successful, it is essential to gain work experience within a reputable company but placements are few and competition is fierce.



So, you can imagine how delighted everyone was to hear that Kevin, trainee at the Training College, had been successful in securing a four week placement with the ultimate broadcasting company, the BBC, working with the Crimewatch team. Pictured left, Fiona Bruce, presenter, Crimewatch.

Crimewatch, a seasoned favourite for over 23 years, gains an average audience of between 4-5 million people for each episode - no pressure then to get things right!

Certainly not a nine to five role, Kevin found himself missing breakfasts and working long into the night and through weekends. "I loved every minute of it," said Kevin. "I was involved in everything from rehearsals, filming on location, editing - I even appeared on screen in a reconstruction of a crime."



BBC filmcrew reconstruct a traffic accident to solve the crime.

And when the filming finished, the BBC invited Kevin back in to be on set during transmission.

"Everyone on the production side was so helpful and friendly, I really did feel part of a team. It is just so exciting to see a programme on television that you have helped to produce - but best of all, I get to include the BBC on my CV," said Kevin.

Right: Kevin perfects his camera technique.



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Corporate Commitment

The Training College will be including an additional course to its curriculum next year - Customer Service. In a fiercely competitive marketplace, very often the only definable differential between companies rests entirely upon first impressions and the quality of customer service received. Working towards a Level 2 qualification, this generic course will be of interest to all market sectors and in particular, the hospitality industry.

The Training College has a successful track record in starting new courses and initiatives in order to keep pace with the changing demands of companies for staffing expertise but this is totally dependent upon finding adequate financial support.

Thanks to the generosity and commitment of Bunzl plc who provided the start-up funding for this project, a full fundraising campaign was launched and has now come to fruition. The new Customer Service Course is scheduled to come on line in 2008.



Are we unique? You decide

The Brain Injury Centre is widely recognised for its first class rehabilitation of young adults who have acquired brain injuries through accident or illness. As with other neuro-rehabilitation centres, we offer therapy and independent living skills to equip clients to make a successful transition back into the community to live at home, in their own home, with or without support, or in a group setting. However, what makes our Centre unique is that in addition we provide education delivered by specialist teachers, focusing on clients entering or returning to

college or getting onto a training programme when a placement is completed.



For some, college and a career is not a reality, in which case the client is supported to adjust to this loss of hopes and dreams and helped to identify alternatives that may provide fulfilment and

opportunities to contribute to society in other ways.

Each individual is set realistic, long term goals aimed at the best possible outcomes in physical and emotional recovery, social re-integration, independent living skills and future occupation.

We are justly proud of our unique multi-disciplinary team where our balanced and integrated education, therapy and living skills provision is recognised by OFSTED, the Adult Learning Inspectorate, the National Association of Specialist Colleges, the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the South Thames Brain Injury Rehabilitation Assoc.



A spot of gardening for UNUM team.

We recognise that for these tasks to be effective for a company, the Foundation must be organised yet flexible. Large scale projects are broken down into manageable sections, ensuring that satisfaction of achievement of 'a job well done' is a key consideration. And, for companies wishing to combine physical and mental exercise, meeting rooms are available for between 5 to 50 people with the provision of secure storage and ample parking facilities. Why not come and join us.

Team Time

The Foundation has built up strong relationships with many companies who year on year visit to lend a helping hand with a whole host of projects from clearing woodland to painting and decorating. An obvious bonus to us, but what do these companies gain from their hard efforts?

These projects are very often at the heart of a team building exercise where colleagues get to work together in an area totally unrelated to their normal roles and without the regular management structure.



Friends Provident rebuilding a bridge.



Inspiration for the ladies who lunch

Guest speaker at this year's Ladies Spring Lunch held at Epsom Racecourse was Tricia Stewart, Miss October and creator of the Alternative WI Calendar as portrayed by Helen Mirren in the film 'Calendar Girls'.



L-R: Dorothy Wheeler; Tricia Stewart; Sally Frost, Chairman, Ladies Spring Lunch Committee and Audrey Binyon.

In true WI tradition, volunteering their help on the day, Audrey Binyon and Dorothy Wheeler, past and current president of Stoke D'Abernon WI and long time supporters of the Foundation. They joined several hundred guests to hear how Tricia transformed the sleepy village of Cracoe in the Yorkshire Dales.

Tricia told of how she replaced the Calendar's traditional pictures of hills, sheep and village greens with eleven nude ladies aged between 45-65, camouflaged only by WI crafts. Media coverage was huge. "We modelled at the Savoy, were voted Women of the Year, baked a spotted dick on TV and even took Calendars to the Palace," said Tricia.

An extremely witty raconteur, a constant stream of laughter rang out through the Queen's Stand as Tricia told her amusing, emotional and inspirational story.



Far R-L: Maggie Thornton of the Blair Foundation, sponsors of the event, shares a joke with Tricia Stewart.

Famous in Print

The prestigious Goldsmiths' Hall was the venue for our 'Rhapsody in Gold' event held in May. A string quartet played an eclectic range of music from



L-R: Jacqui Walford, Director of Fundraising, QEF, Linda Di Marcello and Penny Vincenzi.

Beethoven to the Beatles and the concert was followed by very fine dining.

The evening was drawn to a close by an auction with fierce bidding on items money just could not buy. Donated by Penny Vincenzi, the chance to see your name in print as a character in her next novel, was won by Linda Di Marcello. The name could be very famous in future as Penny's last novel sold over 7 million copies.

DON'T FORGET ...
For Christmas Cards and that special little gift, please shop on line at www.qef.org.uk

BOLLYWOOD EVENING

Mantra Restaurant
37 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AE

Thursday 20 September 2007
6.30pm until Midnight

Reception
Dinner
Entertainment
Disco

Carriages at 12 midnight



Perhaps your last chance to participate in the celebratory season 'India Now'. Join us for a fun night out in true Bollywood style ... for further information and tickets, please ring Pat Lelliott on 01372 841213

Forthcoming EVENTS

Sunday 16th September
Hydro Active Womens Challenge
Hyde Park, London

Thursday, 20th September
Bollywood Evening
'Mantra' Indian Restaurant, EC3

Thursday, 11th October
Ladies Autumn Lunch with
David Shilling as Guest Speaker,
Queens Stand, Epsom Racecourse

Thursday, 29th November
Guinness & Oyster Luncheon
Plaisterers' Hall, London EC2

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

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