



ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

January 2004 was the 10th anniversary of Kirstin's death, which made this year a very special one for the Trust. To mark the event Lindsay and her team of volunteers in Yorkshire organised a fantastic Spring Ball. For most of Kirstin's friends and family this was the first time we had all been together in ten years – a spectacular event with very special memories.

The aims of the Trust continue very much as we first set out; to support young people and those with special needs to participate in the sporting and outdoor activities that Kirstin loved. Despite the fact we are all growing older and family commitments take up much needed time, the Trust continues to make a difference to a number of disadvantaged and disabled individuals. Your donations and fundraising activities count, with so many people getting the chance to learn new skills and take part in new challenges.

CHARITY SPRING BALL

A Charity Spring Ball was held on April 3rd at Leeds City Hilton Hotel to commemorate ten years since Kirstin died and a decade of the Trust's work. The total amount raised for the trust was **£4,380.55**, largely thanks to Richard Oldham's stag party and strip which seemed to go down very well with the ladies.

230 people drank their way through the event and with 10% of the bar takings going to the charity, pints meant prizes! Huge thanks to all the sponsors who either provided services free (tickets, design, flowers, vases) or donated prizes (flights to New York, Champagne etc). Also special thanks to those who helped to organise the event and make the night go so well; Sarah Whitfield, Helen Eakin, John Hartley, Lisa Oliver, staff at the Hilton, the DJ and in particular Stephen who put up with me for 5 months in full organising mode.

'Three Men & a Bass' were fantastic and guaranteed a full dance floor all night and the DJ played all the cheese you could wish for from the eighties. The final partygoers left the bar at approx 4am and looked distinctly worse for wear – although still standing, so all credit to them.

It was a very special night for Stephen and I as we knew practically everyone at the event and found ourselves surrounded by 230 friends, some of whom had made a very big effort to be there and support the trust. The biggest commitment was probably from Sue Roker who cut short a skiing trip to be there.

Full list of sponsors:

ASDA	IKEA, Leeds
Gratterpalm Group	Madame Tussauds
Holmes & Hemmant	Adare Pillings Ltd
Bulbs	
Virgin Atlantic	

Mike, who was the best man from the stag party, won the trip to New York. He and his wife recently took advantage of the offer to leave the kids and do some Christmas shopping. Mike sent the following message:

Postcard from New York

Just a short note to tell you how much Jude and I enjoyed our trip to New York.

We decided to fit in as many of the traditional site seeing excursions as possible i.e. Empire State, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island etc but the highlights for me were the cocktails at a bar overlooking the incredible concourse of Grand Central Station and seeing Chicago on Broadway.

An incredible city all round - we can't wait to return - thanks again for a great night at the Hilton - one which I will always remember for obvious reasons.

Lindsay McManus

GRANTS GIVEN

Ataxia-Telangiectasia Society

£550 was given towards the costs of an outdoor adventure sports holiday at the Calvert Trust for a young person with A-T. A-T is a rare, progressive neurodegenerative, inherited disease which affects many parts of the body and causes severe disability.

“Neil had an absolutely wonderful time and took part in many challenging activities including sailing which both he and his brother really enjoyed. He said that he had a ‘really good and exciting week, which was great fun and I was able to make some new friends’. Neil does not have many challenges in his home life, so this holiday helped to give him much needed exercise and enjoyment to help improve his self esteem”.



National Junior Games

£1000 donated to the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation towards the costs of equipment and medals for the National Junior Games.



“The 2004 National Junior Games for children with disabilities took place at Stoke Mandeville Stadium from 6th-10th October. Over 20 schools participated, plus many individual entrants, resulting in more than 200 children aged between 12 and 18 years taking part, all with varying degrees of disability including ambulant children and wheelchair users. The games provided a mixture of have-a-go sessions in a wide variety of sports, and competitions for those wanting to test their skills against other children. Medals were awarded in the competition events, and each child attending received a certificate. The Kirstin Royle Trust provided the funding for the medals and certificates, and for some disability sports equipment, for which the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation is very grateful”.



Streetwork UK

£1000 was given to Streetwork Proactive to support a project for homeless people to participate in sporting activities including football, fitness training and outdoor residentials.

“The football sessions are firmly established, and along with the gym sessions form the basis of Streetwork Proactive’s detached work, with individuals from some 10 organisations attending regularly. From the regular football sessions, 5 young people were selected for the Scotland Homeless World Cup Trials with one person going on to make the Squad.”



1-to-1 activities have proved useful in encouraging those who might not normally participate in sports to take part. A number of taster sessions have been organised including fishing, swimming, gym fitness, rock climbing and mountain biking. Finally, a 3-day residential experience was organised in late summer giving people a chance to try out new challenges away from the city. A total of 94 individuals have benefited in some way from the programme.”



Things people have said

“Getting a regular kickabout and a laugh with some mates”.

“It gives me something to do and I’ve made a few new pals”.

“It’s a laugh and the workers help you get stuff sorted out”

“A laugh and a chance to do cool stuff”. Rated abseiling experience 11/10

“Meet new people, new challenges, getting away fae the city”. This individual went on to disclose that they had not been outside the city centre for 12 years. Rated canoeing experience 10/10

“Definitely... (I would come again)... cos I would like to do activities again and try other things that I have not tried before”. Rated ropes experience 8-9/10



CONISTON WEEKEND

‘Lake District 2004 was a great success. We all departed from Washwood Heath Technology College at 1pm and headed out on our journey to the Raymond Priestly Centre. The mood was cheerful and all the pupils were excited about spending the next few days in the countryside. We arrived in good time and the weather could not have been better. The pupils could hardly contain themselves as they piled off the bus into the beautiful surroundings and explored their territory for the weekend.

When everyone had finally calmed down we began to settle in, everything was organised surprisingly easily and after a few pointers, pupils had made their beds and unpacked their bags. A few ground rules were set down before we tucked into our evening meal comprising of sausage rolls and sandwiches and it was all washed down with a nice cup of tea. The night’s activities then kicked off, firstly with a walk around the grounds to orientate everyone with their new surroundings. The pupils were then let loose to wander and collect firewood which was highly acceptable for the staff as this left us some time to sit and relax in front of the fire.



The 6am alarm came as quite a shock as pupils came storming out of their rooms ready for the days activities. As breakfast was not until 9am pupils had time to explore in day light and a game of football was soon underway. After breakfast the activities started with a vengeance, the group was split into three and each rotated around the days activities. Firstly a High Ropes Course

which involved pupils working together to guide each other over and around a series of technical obstacles. Next was Kayaking on Coniston Lake, and although no one got close to breaking the water speed record all had a great time. Finally the Zip Wire where pupils put their faith in the hands of their friends!

The evening meal was quickly demolished as a mountain of chips was dished up for the hungry masses. The groups also took it in turns to do the washing up which was as quite a shock to most as apparently they didn’t have to do it at home! When the kicking and screaming had stopped we started on the evening activity. Groups set off into the darkness holding onto a length of rope led by their intrepid group leader. They wandered around the woods just hoping to survive the ordeal! To finish of a great day marshmallows were toasted over an open fire before all went to bed.

The alarm call was not quite so early on day two and staff enjoyed a lie-in until 7.30, not bad by all accounts! Breakfast was a rapid affair and activities were soon underway. The theme for today was water as we were to go sailing and raft building. The raft race proved to be great fun for both pupils and staff, but there was to be only one clear winner...Mr Antell’s Red Dragons.



The weekend had come to an end and everyone reluctantly packed their bags and said goodbye to the great staff that had been our hosts. As we climbed onto the bus for the long journey back to sunny old Birmingham there was definitely sadness in the air. The only thing to cheer the mood was the thought of our return trip next summer...Can’t wait.”

Steve Antell



T-SHIRTS AND CARDS

These are donated to the Trust so that we can sell them to assist with fundraising. Notelets have been drawn exclusively for the Trust by Scottish artist Jenny McLaren and are available from Lesley Metcalf at the Trust address.

WITH THANKS

We extend our thanks to everyone who has supported and helped the Trust over the past year. Without the dedicated and enthusiastic support we receive it would be impossible to continue to keep the memory of Kirstin reaching so many people.

TO CONTACT US

The Trust has its own website for use in publicity and to enable individuals and groups to contact us directly and can be seen by logging on to www.kirstinroyletrust.org.uk. We can be e-mailed on kirstinroyletrust@bigfoot.com.

The registered address of the Trust is 3F2, 6 Valleyfield Street, Edinburgh EH3 9LS.

THE TRUSTEES

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