



ANNUAL REPORT

2004-2005

VOLUME NO 11, WINTER 2005

INTRODUCTION

I am delighted to introduce the 11th Annual Report of the Kirstin Royle Trust and to report on another year of successes. 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. Although it's been a relatively quiet year with only three grants given out and no major fundraising activities, the Trust has continued to ensure that disadvantaged and excluded people are encouraged to participate alongside able or more advantaged peers. This aim was demonstrated in a grant to purchase an off-road wheelchair which is allowing disabled young people to access the Mountains of North Wales and benefit from outdoor activities alongside their peers.

The Multi-activity weekend at the Raymond Priestly Centre on Coniston water has continued to flourish, staffed by Trust volunteers. Once again blessed with beautiful weather, the weekend attracted a second generation of friends of the Trust, with Rhianna, Erin and Skye joining their parents for a full program of activities (Jon, Genevieve and Skye all the way from New Zealand).

GRANTS GIVEN

Off-road wheelchair - Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre

£1000 was given towards the cost of an off-road wheelchair for an activity centre in North Wales.

"I am writing to express my appreciation of your generous donation towards an off road cross country wheelchair. There are more and more disabled students who wish to attend Bryntysilio and the wheelchair has made it much more accessible for these children. We purchased the wheelchair shortly before the Easter holidays in time for a primary school group. One of the group suffers from Perthes disease. He has limited mobility and strength. Although he is mobile, he requires sticks and tires easily, particularly on hilly and rough terrain. The chair proved to be invaluable when the group went rock climbing and when they went up the hill to Castell Dinas Bran.



Just before Easter a young lady suffering from Cerebral Palsy was a member of a secondary school group. She has very limited mobility and requires the use of a wheelchair most of the time. The chair enabled her to access the rock climbing area, accompany her group on a navigation exercise, access the canoeing area and take part in the mountain expedition. Following the group's return to school I received a very positive report from the staff. By enabling this young woman to access activities at Bryntysilio the confidence and relationships that developed as a result of being with her peers at the centre has had a considerable impact on her life back at school. The wheelchair has not only made our activity sites available to disabled students, it has been the envy of able bodied students in the same group".

John Palmer - Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre



Activity week - The Ashley School

£1200 donated to the Ashley School, Suffolk, offering financial support to families unable to

afford the pupil contribution for an activity week in Wales.

“The Ashley School is a Special school for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties. We took 12 pupils to the Christian Mountain Centre at Pensarn in North Wales. The group took part in canoeing, kayaking, sea kayaking, archery, rock climbing, gorge walking, sea level traversing, a mountain walk and the older pupils slept out for a night in the mountains.



The grant made a significant difference as we were able to take some youngsters who otherwise would not have been able to afford it. Thank you for making such a difference”.

Lawrence Chapman – The Ashley school



Sports Leader Award - Harbour School

£1175 for the Harbour School, Kent a special school for pupils with Behaviour and Learning needs to support five young people to complete the Sports Leader Award.

“Thank you for your help and work supporting the Sports Leader Award at the Harbour school. The children had an amazing time. They all achieved feats way beyond anything I had anticipated. The countryside, the tasks and the instructors inspired them. I saw more personal growth in one week than I have seen in years of teaching. The pupils grew in confidence and belief by the minute. It was an incredible experience made possible by the Kirstin Royle Trust. Wee are truly grateful and I cannot thank you enough”.

Jeremy Edwards – Harbour School

“Today we went canoeing across a lake where we stopped off at a slate museum. I really thought I learned a lot at the museum. We even got to see the highest wheel powered by water. Once we got back on the canoes I teamed up with Raymond where we steered the canoe towards the rocks. Back at the site we played some wet games. I watched Jason and Wayne fall into the water. It was very cold” – David.



“We climbed a rock. We all sat down to have our photo taken. Then we abseiled down. The weather was hot. I enjoyed abseiling and I would like to do abseiling again. We all had to wear special safety equipment. We had a hard hat to protect our head. We wore a harness and it had a rope attached to it” – Matthew.



CONISTON WEEKEND

This year saw the return of a group from Washwood Heath School in Birmingham, with twenty six enthusiastic students accompanied by six excellent staff. After brief introductions and a ‘Welcome’ talk, everyone settled down to a hearty Priestly Centre meal. This was then followed by an orienteering competition in the grounds of the centre. It wasn’t long before the group had spotted the inviting waters of Coniston, and only seconds after mentioning the word swim, everyone was in the lake!



After a good night’s sleep (?!), the group were eventually raring to go on Saturday morning. The Priestly Centre Staff, of whom Jon was an honorary member for the weekend, turned up at 9am to meet their teams. After piling on the sun cream, everyone began the activities, rotating around canoeing, kayaking and the high ropes course.

The weather was superb, apart from the fact that there was no wind to sail, and many voluntary capsizes took place, in a bid to cool down. It was great to see the jetty and lakeshore, a hive of activity as everyone got stuck in.



As evening drew closer, at the end of a very active day, the groups drifted back in to shower and dry off. This did not last for long though, as within an hour everyone was back on the jetty, and once again jumping into the lake!



Evening meal was a barbeque out on the front, with the spectacular view of the lake. The students then headed down to the beach, where they lit a fire and entertained themselves for a few hours. The staff relaxed around the barbeque, with the smoke providing some deterrent to the midges!

The following morning, after breakfast, with the sun shining brightly, activities began. There was a whisper of wind over the lake, so out came the sailing dinghies. Once again, the temptation to capsize proved too much, and it soon became a sport in its own right!

After a short lunch break, it was then time for the rafting competition. Each group was given barrels, rope and planks, and attempted to construct a sea worthy vessel. A racing start from the beach, and four successful launches, soon turned to catastrophe though, as all but one of the rafts disintegrated into barrels, ropes and planks again! The groups were not disheartened though, and continued to splash and swim their way around the jetty.



As activities finished, the task of packing bags, and cleaning the centre commenced. Before long,

chaos returned to calm, and once loaded up, everyone met for small presentation ceremony. The group left under the hot sun, with smiles on their faces having enjoyed an action packed and very wet weekend. A great time had by all, and great to see Jon, Gen and Skye over from New Zealand.

Huge thanks to the School Staff for their help in organising the trip, and to all the staff at the Priestly Centre and Jon, who, as ever, were brilliant. Finally a special thank you to Justine, who spent quite a few hours of her maternity leave organising the whole thing.



Arran Holdsworth

FUNDRAISING

Congratulations to Graeme and Jonathan Shilland and Clunie Scott who competed in the UK's first Urban Adventure Race in Edinburgh in July. The team finished a commendable 7th place while raising funds for the Trust.

Notelets and Christmas cards have been drawn exclusively for the Trust by Scottish artist Jenny McLaren. Thanks to Mike and Jan Hay at the Glen Lyon Post Office in Perthshire for promoting the cards and original drawings in their tea room. They also serve tremendous home made cake if anyone is visiting Scotland.

We still have cards and t-shirts available. If you need to update your wardrobe please contact 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.

BABIES

As noted earlier, many of the friends of the Trust are now being supported by a second generation. Congratulations to all the new arrivals of 2004/5, how about a sponsored crawl or toddle?

To Steve and Lindsay, Charlie a brother for Maisy now three

To Arran and Justine, Erin, a sister for Rhianna age two

To Twitters and Sarah, Lucia, a sister for Gabriella, also two

To Jon and Sally, another girl, Beth, a sister for Megan and Cate

To Greg and Charlotte, a baby girl, Alyssa

To Jon and Genevieve in New Zealand, a baby girl, Skye

To Mike and Jan, a baby boy, Callum

To Mat and Liz, a baby girl, Rosie

To Angus and Tamzin, Rory, nephew of Katie

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

Helen Acton
Arran Holdsworth
Lesley Metcalf
Katherine Owen
Stephen Royle
Jeremy Tizzard
Graeme Shilland

AND FINALLY...

At the beginning of September 2005, Kelly, Ed, Archie and Eva left London for their new life in South Africa. On behalf of all the Trustees and friends of the Trust, we would like to wish them the best of luck and happiness in their new venture. Better get that spare room ready fast for all the visitors!