

MARTHA NEWS

SPRING '12 NEWSLETTER



Inside

25 years of
Martha Trust

Plus

Fundraising update



 25th
Anniversary



CEO, George White looks back at 25 years of Martha Trust

This is an exciting time to be working at Martha – 25 years is a great milestone and thanks to our residents, their families and our supporters we can be proud of our achievements

In 1987

...we officially opened our first home, Martha House in Deal. This was followed by Frances House, Deal, in 1998 and Mary House, Hastings in 2005.

As well as building three bright and modern homes, we have created a Day Care Centre, respite care facilities, sensory rooms, a therapy suite and two state-of-the-art hydrotherapy pools.

Martha Trust now provides residential, respite and day care for around 37 people. The impact we have on the lives of our residents and their families is a source of great pride to everyone who works here. And over the next 25 years and beyond, we'll continue to ensure that the people we care for are loved and respected and that their lives are happy and fulfilling.

Our Tracey

...left college in 1989. While she decided what to do with her life, she took a short-term contract with Martha Trust and after a few months, she'd fallen in love.



That was 23 years ago and Tracey has dedicated her life to getting to know our residents inside and out. She recognises their moods and feelings from just a look or gesture,

she appreciates their likes and dislikes, and she knows how to make sure they get the most out of each therapy session and activity.

"Working at Martha is awesome"

Because of her training and experience, Tracey can tailor individual therapy programmes around each resident that are stimulating, challenging and above all fun. She's organised horse riding and sailing and single-handedly designed Martha's new therapy suite.

So what's next? "I've got a course lined up on 'Intensive Interaction' which I'm very excited about. But really, I'm just happy to be working here. Even on your worst day, you watch someone achieve something, no matter how small, and your day is instantly better. Working at Martha is awesome."

Gemma

...came to live with us in 1994. Her Mum, Jeannette told us what Martha means to their family.

"Like her two brothers, Gemma seemed to grow up very quickly when she left home. Gemma is very sociable and loves the bustle of family life. So when she moved to Martha, we were delighted that it was just like a family home, with lots of activity and mealtimes together round a big table.



unwell. When something's wrong, they move mountains to sort it out, stepping up the pace in response to an emergency without upsetting Gemma or causing us undue worry.

"At Martha, Gemma can live independently from us and yet we are still very much involved in her life. It says a lot about Martha that we're as happy with her living there now, as we were when she first moved in 18 years ago."

"We're as happy with her living there now, as we were when she first moved in"

"Martha has changed considerably over the years – but it still feels like a family. Gemma is treated with great respect and dignity and her

keyworker, Nicole is wonderful at keeping us involved with regular updates, phone calls and even birthday cards. The two of them are extremely close and we genuinely feel that Gemma is loved and well cared for.

"The staff know Gemma so well, and recognise when she's happy or tired or when she might be



Fairway fundraising

The Geraint Jones Golf Day at Prince's Golf Club, Sandwich raised over **£8,000** for Martha. The weather was spectacular and our 16 teams enjoyed 18 holes of outstanding championship links golf.

Nick Bushell of Lorica ran a fantastic auction which included a Four ball at Wentworth donated by Strokesport and tickets to see Manchester United played courtesy of Prince's Golf Club.

Alan Langley photographed the whole event and our main sponsors for the day were Sota Solutions, with Crawford Insurance Consultants and MTS Cleaning Services sponsoring our tees.

Congratulations to the Strokesport Team who took first place, Graham Stiles who won 'nearest the pin' and James Snell for the longest drive. And thanks to everyone who took part,



Geraint Jones presents the winners cup to Strokesport's Gary Denham

not least the Prince's Golf Club for the amazing venue and Geraint Jones for hosting such a great event.



Photographs of the event are still available from www.photoboxgallery.com/doverdesign

Taking the heat

Thirteen fearless supporters took our Firewalk challenge at the Deal and Betteshanger Lions RFC in November.

During a two-hour training session our intrepid team were taught to overcome their fears, face life's challenges and achieve their goals – and it worked! All 13 successfully completed the Firewalk raising **£2,500**.

Our thanks to the Deal and Betteshanger Lions RFC; TW Services for the free skip; Alan Langley for the photography and Blaze for running such a fantastic fundraiser. And of course, thanks to the 13 people who overcame their fears and walked over hot coals for us!

The best of British Gypsum

Since naming Martha its 'Charity of the Year' in 2011, British Gypsum, Robertsbridge (BGR) has been one of our biggest supporters

British Gypsum is a major authority in the UK construction industry and the country's leading manufacturer and supplier of gypsum-based plastering and drylining solutions.

So far, the Robertsbridge Plant has donated over £3,000 to Martha through a mixture of company support and the incredible efforts of its staff.

A sponsored slim saw Gary Kennard, Ian Smith, David Graham and Andy Barden shed 44.5lbs in weight and raised nearly £650. The company's Christmas raffle added another £260. Just over £540 has been donated through collection pots at

the plant. The company's Zero Harm Rating where no staff were injured at work during 2010 saw Martha benefit from another £450.



And cycling team, the Robertsbridge Wheelers, rode 84 miles from Hastings Pier to Brighton Pier and back, raising nearly £1,300. The team included Mike Emson, Steve Mabbott, Neil Hutton,

David Catt, George Clements, Chris Tyhurst, Guy Hirst-Amos, Dan Burke and Graham Peace.

Being Charity of the Year at BGR is making a huge difference to Martha, raising vital funds and building lasting relationships. It's also been a great way to raise the profile of the wonderful work the company does in supporting local charities.

There are so many ways a company can work with Martha, and so many benefits. Find out more by visiting www.marthatrust.org.uk/companies or call us on 01304 610448 to talk through your ideas.

We went mad in Monte Carlo – now we're going **Bonkers in Barcelona**



The seven teams who took part in last year's car challenge raised **£23,487** in sponsorship. A huge "Thank you" to everyone who took part, to all our generous sponsors including our main sponsor Ward & Partners and to the local arm of the Harley-Davidson Riders Club who gave us an official escort through Dover to see us off.

As it's our 25th Anniversary we're making this year's challenge – Bonkers in Barcelona – our most exciting yet. From 22nd-25th September we'll be driving from Dover to the stunning Mediterranean city of Barcelona in cars worth no more than £200. You'll need tax, insurance and a valid MOT and we're asking each team to raise £1,500 in sponsorship towards our work. Ferry crossings, accommodation and flights home will all be taken care of.

Our fundraising toolkit has loads of ideas to kick start your fundraising and we'll be on hand to help every step of the way.

To find out more about this epic adventure and download your registration pack visit www.marthatrust.org.uk/bonkersinbarcelona



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If you'd like to receive future issues of Martha News by email and help us to save money, please email us at fundraising@marthatrust.org.uk

