

MARTHA NEWS

AUTUMN '10 NEWSLETTER

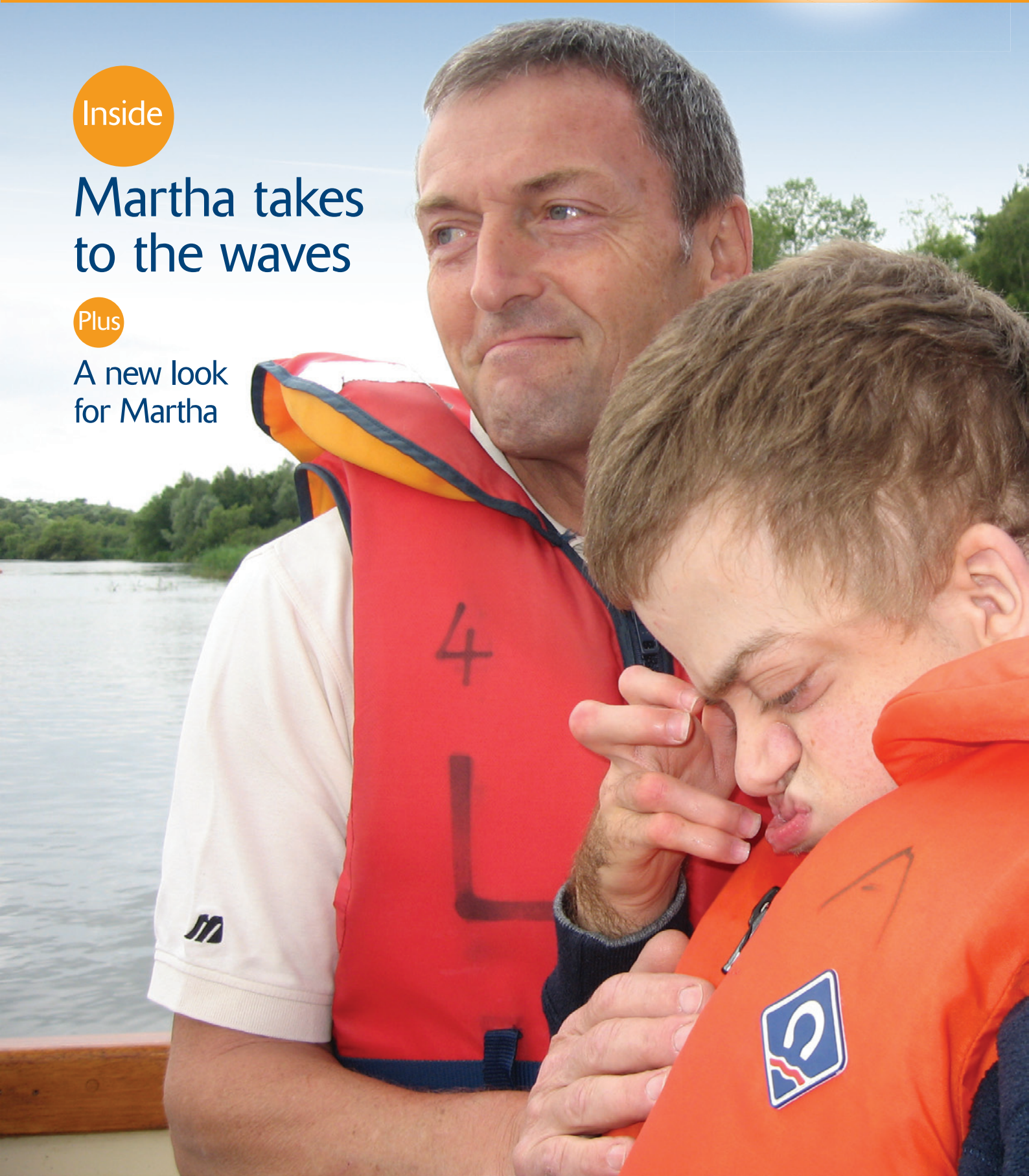


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A new look for Martha





A new look for Martha

Martha is growing, and so is the number of people who need our services.

So it's more important than ever that our logo is easily recognisable, explains who we are and what we do, and reflects the lives and personalities of our amazing people.

We really hope we've achieved this, and that our logo will become synonymous with our aim: **to give the people we care for the very best that life can offer.**

Where there's a Will

Have you thought about leaving a legacy to Martha in your Will?

Once you've provided for your family and friends, it's really very simple to pass on a charitable bequest – not to mention tax free. And because charitable legacies are paid out before tax, it reduces the total amount of inheritance tax due on the rest of your estate.

Talk to your solicitor or a Will writing professional for advice about making a charitable bequest, and help the work of Martha to live on.

REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL
Help our work live on...

We're on Facebook!

You can now get fully interactive with Martha by visiting our Facebook pages. We'll be posting up our latest news, flagging up events and displaying some of our incredible photos. But what we want most of all is to hear from you.

Social networking lets you share your own stories, exchange news and reach out to other people who support us, work with us, and have friends and relatives who live with us.

If you've never used Facebook then give it a go – you'll be amazed at how easy it is.

Register at
www.facebook.com

facebook

The Gift *giftaid it* that just keeps giving

Regular donations are the lifeblood of Martha and, when they're Gift Aided, they are worth even more – **25% more.**

In fact, when a regular donor decides they'd like to give in this way, we can even look back over their past donations and reclaim tax on the money they've **already given.**

This prompted us to check through our Gift Aid reclaims for the past few years and as a result, we have just been awarded £9,951.09 in back tax by HMRC. And it hasn't cost our donors a penny!

Hundreds of you already support us in this way, including two donors who first came across Martha in a Daily Telegraph article in 1988.

"I was extremely moved by Toby's story and wanted to find out more about the work of Martha Trust. They are a wonderful charity and I've been so impressed by the individual care they give to each of their residents that I have continued giving since 1988 and now do so via a standing order.

"My parents were always actively involved with charities and made sure they gave in a way that was tax efficient. So wherever possible, I donate through Gift Aid.

"It's an incredibly simple way to give and allows the charity to reclaim the tax you've already paid on the donation. I would absolutely recommend it to other Martha supporters. If you pay tax at 40% then you can claim more tax back through your tax return and that money is also available for giving."

Mrs S Willmott, Maidstone, Kent

"The article was called 'For the love of Toby' and was about a mother's difficult decision to place the care of one of her twins in the hands of Martha Trust.

"I have twins myself, one of whom suffered serious head injuries in a car accident in 1986, so I sympathised immensely with their situation. I was also deeply impressed by the work of Martha and decided to become a regular donor.

"I now give £20 each month through Gift Aid and in the time I've been giving, Martha has been able to reclaim over £300. This is money that would otherwise have gone to the taxman."

Mrs P Cash, Mollington, Cheshire

If you would like to see your donation to Martha boosted by 25%, then take a look at our new Gift Aid declaration form, available online at www.marthatrust.org.uk/giftaid

Martha takes to the waves

When Jane Longhurst's mother sadly passed away, she left a generous donation in her Will to Westbere Sailing Opportunities (WSO). That charity is now giving our residents the chance of a lifetime – to go sailing.

WSO was founded so that people with physical disabilities and learning difficulties could discover the joy of being out on open water. The donation has meant that Jane, a nurse at Martha House, has been able to secure reduced rates for our residents at the beautiful Westbere Lakes near Canterbury.

On their very first session, our staff and residents met Hilary Lister, the only disabled woman ever to sail solo around Britain. One member of that lucky group was Adam.

Adam is a supremely happy 22 year old who's always smiling and always up for a challenge.

Adam has lived at Frances House for just over three years and loves it. According to his parents, Olivia and Tom, he's a typical young man who enjoys movement and rough and tumble, so sailing seemed the perfect activity for him.

What made it even more appealing was the fact that Olivia and Tom were able to share the experience at Westbere with Adam, meeting the people who'd be taking him out on the water, and even joining him on the boat.



Olivia and Tom got to see, first hand, just how safe and well-run the afternoon was, and how much Adam got out of it:

"The day was absolutely perfect with beautiful sunshine and light winds. Adam had a fantastic time, particularly because we were able to be there with him.

"It really was a great experience and the more sailing he does, the more he'll come to look forward to his time on the water. It's even given us the confidence to go sailing as a family in the future."



A card for a good cause

Katharine Dewick is a brilliantly talented Kent textile artist.

A member and regular exhibitor with SEAS (South East ArtistS), she is also a teaching assistant at St Mary's Primary School and a mum. Yet on top of all this, Katharine finds the time to volunteer for Martha and has now designed for us a beautiful and unique set of Christmas cards.

Katharine was first introduced to the work of Martha through the 'No Limits' cluster of St George's Church, Deal. The congregation hold regular monthly services at Martha

House, engaging the residents in lively, multi-sensory sessions that are loved by everyone who attends.

Even Katharine's parents are involved in our work, regularly volunteering and supporting Martha's fundraising activities.

This is the first time that Katharine will have seen her Christmas card designs in print and she's keen that they help to generate even more support for the charity.

Katharine explained: *"Martha is founded on Christian principles, and it's through my Christian faith that I came to know the charity. I wanted to capture this ethos in my designs and reflect what, to me, is the true spirit of Christmas.*

"I really enjoy the contact I have with Martha and would love to continue working with them in the future."

The card designs are a stunning blend of patchwork and embroidery and follow the story of the Nativity.

This is the first time that Katharine will have seen her Christmas card designs in print

Priced £3.25 for a pack of 10, they are available through Martha's website at www.marthatrust.org.uk or by using the order form enclosed, or by calling us on **Tel: 01304 610448**

Whacky Races



Our recent Trail of 3 Cities car rally from Dover to Frankfurt, Geneva, Paris and back to Dover has been an amazing success.

Nine teams joined our epic European adventure, travelling nearly 1,300 miles in just four days, and raising over £10,000 with donations still coming in.

The atmosphere throughout the entire journey was fantastic with a terrific sense of teamwork and

camaraderie, particularly at the end of each day's driving over a glass or two in a local hotel...

Everyone made great efforts from our own Martha Fundraising team who dressed up as the Pink Ladies from Grease, to Fred and Barney Flintstone,

The Hairy Farmers, two Knights, the T Birds (also from Grease) and a couple of jailbirds dressed in boiler suits. Oh, and two Austrian yodellers!

We're grateful to everyone who took part in this event and to their sponsors for supporting them so generously.

And the icing on the cake? When the cars were finally sold at the Hobbs Parker

auction in Ashford, despite having been bought for less than £100 each, they were sold for a combined total of £1,345 which has also been passed on to Martha.

Well done to everyone and if you'd like to know how you can take part in future Martha Trust events, just give our rally veteran Carol Baalham a call on 01304 610447.

'Light up a Life' this Christmas

Celebrate the life of a loved one or say a simple 'thank you' by buying one of Martha's 'Light up a Life' stars this Christmas.

Full details of this can be found in the enclosed leaflet.



Contact Martha Trust:

Julie Gayler Fundraising & Communications Manager
01304 610446 – juliegayler@marthatrust.org.uk

Carol Baalham Fundraising Assistant
01304 610447 – carolbaalham@marthatrust.org.uk



Martha Trust, Homestead Lane, Hacklinge, Deal, Kent CT14 0PG
T 01304 615223 F 01304 615462 E contact@marthatrust.org.uk W marthatrust.org.uk