



NEWS

from The Lin Berwick Trust

Building holiday accommodation for people with disabilities, their families and carers



www.thelinberwicktrust.org.uk

Summer 2011

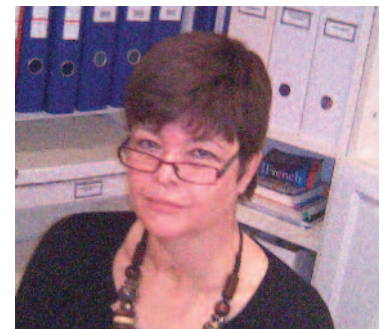
SMALL CHARITY, BIG SOCIETY PREPARING THE WAY FOR RALPH BOYCE HOUSE

The 'Big Society' is David Cameron's Big Idea. His aides say it is about empowering communities, redistributing power and fostering a culture of volunteerism. Yet as anyone who has been involved in the voluntary sector will know, volunteers are, and always have been, at the heart of its success. And the voluntary sector in the UK is one of the largest in the world. Volunteering England claims that 22 million adults volunteer each year to complete 90 million hours of work a week. According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, 'even using the most conservative estimates, the total value of time volunteered annually is over £3 billion. An estimate that takes into account replacement costs values voluntary activity at almost £8 billion per year.'

'Doing something for charity', whether it's having your head shaved or attempting to reach the 20,320 ft summit of Mount McKinley in Alaska, is as British as the cream tea. And charities like The Lin Berwick Trust are a proud example of this voluntary spirit and what it can achieve.

The Lin Berwick Trust gets no state funding. We get no subsidies and we enjoy few discounts. We even pay VAT at 20% on the services we buy and as we are not VAT registered we can't claim it back. From our inception we have relied on donations, big and small, from ordinary people who have been inspired by what we are doing and who want to help us. After 22 years,

and with a current turn-over of £100,000 per year and assets of nearly three-quarters of a million pounds, we have only one full-time paid member of staff and two part-time house managers. David Cameron may think that the 'Big Society' is his idea, but for successful small charities like ours, with limited resources, it's the very foundation of our success. We rely on volunteers in every aspect of our work from our Board of Trustees, who are responsible for our governance and policy-making to our sub-committees and the individuals they co-opt who are responsible for our general management, fundraising, recruitment and project management. We also rely on individuals up and down the country, and some from abroad, who are constantly raising money, making donations, organising events or simply spreading the word about our work.



Miriam Toosey
Editor & TLBT Administrator

So it is with a sense of *déjà vu* that we hear about Mr Cameron's 'Big Society', because without it and everything that underpins it, this small charity, founded with a kitty of £1,000 by friends around Lin and Ralph's kitchen table all those years ago, would not be here today, let alone planning its third holiday house, to be named after Ralph himself, in recognition of his own contribution as one of TLBT's invaluable volunteers.



Artist's impression of Ralph Boyce House near Looe which will cost £400,000 to build

A FRIEND IN DEED – A TRIBUTE TO RALPH BOYCE

Dear Friends

It is with great sadness that I must tell you that my husband, Ralph Boyce, the co-founder and first chairman of TLBT, passed away on 27 February 2011.

He was my wonderful friend and companion, but to all who knew him he was the quiet man backing me up and supporting me at every public occasion. Without his steadfast support TLBT would never have come into being. He was the man who gave me my head and worked on my hair-brained schemes to get funds in for the charity.

He was a man of great diplomacy at Trust meetings, and worked tirelessly for Berwick Cottage at East Harling. It was just a matter of days after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's that he climbed the ladder to put the remaining roof tiles in place at the topping out ceremony. The opening of Berwick Cottage was, he said, one of the greatest days of his life. We were so proud of what we had managed to achieve together.

The opening of Denis Duncan House was another wonderful victory; a victory over disability. Our next property in Cornwall will be called Ralph Boyce House. It is a terrible sadness to me that he will not be there for another great occasion. Yet the work must go on. Our original ambition was for five cottages, in the north, south, east and west of the UK



Lin and Ralph at the opening of Denis Duncan House in Dirleton in April 2006

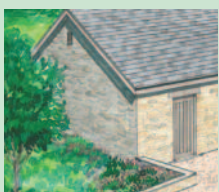
and one abroad. That can only happen if people help us with donations, fundraising events, grants or legacies. No amount is too small. The 'Big Society' can only achieve great things if individuals set their minds to helping. For those who cannot contribute financially we need your loving support and prayers, and enthusiasm for our work.

When Ralph died more than £1,500 was donated towards Ralph Boyce House in place of floral tributes. This is a practical way that people can help. When Ralph and I started this charity we did not know that our dream could become reality. We have to have the belief that what we do will make a difference. I know that through the work of The Lin Berwick Trust the lives of many disabled people, and their families, have been enhanced by what we have achieved.

I must pay tribute in this regard to

our two marathon runners, who have raised over £4,500 between them. This is truly amazing. My heartfelt thanks and congratulations go to them. Not everyone may be able to run a marathon, but please think about how you could help. It may be simply by talking to someone else and getting them enthusiastic about our charity. I can remember when Ralph and I were travelling to Scotland for Denis Duncan House. I sat next to a lady in the aeroplane and we talked about why I was travelling to Scotland. When we reached Edinburgh Airport she opened her handbag and wrote a cheque for £500 to TLBT! That was incredible. You never know who you might talk to and what they might do to help the cause. Ralph fought against all the odds and sadly lost in the end. His suffering may be over, but his work is still growing. This is his biggest legacy.

Dr Lin Berwick MBE



£0

£133,000

£400,000

A WORTHY CAUSE

We now have reserves of £133,000 towards our third property, Ralph Boyce House in Cornwall. We need your help to raise another £267,000!

RUNNING THE GUANTLET - THE LONDON MARATHON 2011

I was encouraged to run the London Marathon for The Lin Berwick Trust by my friend, Pennie Bongomin, and I can honestly say, "never, ever again"!

The first 18/19 miles weren't too bad. I'd heard from several people about "hitting the wall" but I rather foolishly didn't expect to hit it. It's



Steve Reshat

quite hard to explain as my body as a whole didn't feel too bad but at around mile 20, every part of me was saying stop! Yet the support from the crowd was amazing. Being dressed as a Ginger Bread Man helped me considerably. I was constantly hearing shouts of "Go on, Ginger", "Run, run as fast as you can, can't catch you 'cos you're the

atmosphere electric with excitement as runners with elaborate costumes geared up to start the race. I was determined to finish the race, and finally after seven gruelling hours of running I came towards the Mall with the crowds cheering and clapping. As I stepped on the 'Finish Mat' I was filled with great joy, for my hope of running for The Lin Berwick Trust had turned to reality! I feel privileged to have been one of thousands of people who endured so much that day for their charities in order to make a difference in people's lives. It was the most wonderful experience that will remain with me for the rest of my life. Thank you all very much for your prayers and support.

Ginger Bread Man" along with "I wanna eat you, Ginger Bread Man!" ... While others just shouted "Go on, Steve...whatever you're dressed as...!" I managed to finish in 5 hours, 4 minutes and 44 seconds and I want to say a huge thank you to all of you who supported me and donated. I won't ever forget running it, but I'm glad that I did.

Steve Reshat

I came to know about the Trust in the Eighties through the Rev Dr Denis Duncan who came to our church in North London to lead us in worship. During his sermons he spoke of his 'remarkable' friend, Dr Lin Berwick, and all she was doing in the Trust among many other things! When the idea of running the London Marathon for a charity crossed my mind, I decided to run for the Trust.

When the big day arrived, we gathered at Blackheath in an

atmosphere electric with excitement as runners with elaborate costumes geared up to start the race. I was determined to finish the race, and finally after seven gruelling hours of running I came towards the Mall with the crowds cheering and clapping. As I stepped on the 'Finish Mat' I was filled with great joy, for my hope of running for The Lin Berwick Trust had turned to reality! I feel privileged to have been one of thousands of people who endured so much that day for their charities in order to make a difference in people's lives. It was the most wonderful experience that will remain with me for the rest of my life. Thank you all very much for your prayers and support.



Pennie Bongomin

Pennie Bongomin

A WELCOME BID



Marilyn Watsham

Until August 2010 I was Deputy Principal at Suffolk New College in Ipswich and retired after 39 years in education, most of that spent at the College. I met Lin and Ralph many years ago at Elmsett Methodist Church when Lin came to take a preaching appointment accompanied and helped by Ralph and it was then that I became interested in and a supporter of The Lin Berwick Trust.

I knew that just being retired would

not be satisfying enough for me and talked to TLBT about the possibility of becoming a Trustee. The work that TLBT does is amazing and I, like many others, want to see the building of Ralph Boyce House, not only as a tribute to a wonderful man but also as a holiday facility for people who are living with their disabilities, and their carers.

It is probably appropriate that my first bit of fundraising as a Trustee was at Suffolk New College where I organised the 2011 fundraising dinner which I am glad to say has become an institution at the College

and has raised £6,165 for TLBT since it was first held in 2006. It is just one of the many ways in which I hope to be able to help raise money for this worthy cause, so bids here I come!

Marilyn Watsham



Guests at the Suffolk New College dinner in May 2011

A STEADY HAND



Sandy Brodie

Following the retirement of Bob MacGregor after the death of his wife, Pat, in February, we welcome Sandy Brodie as the new Manager at Denis Duncan House.

Sandy lives in nearby Fenton Barns and when he isn't looking after his grandchildren he spends his time running his own self-catering holiday cottages as well as his own building company!

He brings a wealth of practical knowledge of the holiday letting market to his new position as well as hands-on technical experience

and excellent organisational skills and an easy-going, friendly approach which will stand him in good stead whether he is welcoming holidaymakers or dealing with emergencies.

In his spare time (if he has any!) Sandy enjoys sailing and playing rugby. We wish him a long and happy association with TLBT.

FUTURE TENSE

The Lin Berwick Trust is looking for volunteers to help make Ralph Boyce House a reality.

Perhaps like our new Trustee, Marilyn Watsham, you are coming up to retirement and looking for a new challenge or like our volunteer fundraisers, Julia Wardrop and John Raine, you have spent a happy holiday at Denis Duncan House or Berwick Cottage

with your family and would like to give others the chance to do the same. We currently have two vacancies on our Board of Trustees, so if you have experience of fundraising, financial or project management and are able to travel to Sudbury, Suffolk for meetings we would love to hear from you. Alternatively, if you would like to join our successful on-line team of bid-writers you

can do so from the comfort of your own home regardless of where you live. All you need is a computer with Internet access, good computer skills and the ability to write a persuasive letter!

If you are interested please telephone Miriam Toosey on 01787 372343 for more information or an informal discussion.

APPEALING TO YOU

Please tick as appropriate:

I wish to make a one-off donation of £.....towards the work of TLBT, and enclose my cheque made payable to The Lin Berwick Trust.

I wish to make a regular monthly/quarterly/annual donation of £.....towards the work of TLBT and ask that the Trust Administrator should forward a Banker's Order form to me at the address below.

My contact details are (please print):

Name

Address

E-mail address Date

Please tick (if applicable): As a UK taxpayer, I authorise The Lin Berwick Trust to claim Gift Aid on my donation(s).

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Please tick if you would like a receipt.

Post to: The Lin Berwick Trust, The Christopher Centre, 10 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2EU