
Charlie Waller Memorial Trust Newsletter

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Charity update

Forthcoming Events

"A Bridge Tea"

At Yew Bank House, Ibworth, Basingstoke, Hants on Monday 27th April 1998. We hope to have 50 tables. A bridge-day-at-home in the same week is encouraged for those people who cannot come on the 27th April, but would nevertheless like to participate.

All information from Mrs David Bowyer, Ashe Warren House, Ashe Warren, Overton, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 3AW. Telephone: (01256) 770 215.

"The Charlie Waller Memorial Cricket Tournament"

This is to be an annual event with the inaugural tournament being held at Bradfield College on Saturday 18th July 1998. 8 teams are taking part and anyone wishing to play, picnic, or join the ensuing party should contact Richard Waller on (0171) 209 5906 or write to him at 2 Oval Road, London NW1 7EB. 1000 pints of beer have to be drunk.

"The May Ball (in April?) 1999"

Plans are well under way for this major event at Radley College on 19th April 1999. More important than New Year's Eve - make sure you pencil it in to your diaries now.

Thanks to tremendous work by Mia Trethowan all the legalities enabling the trust to be granted charitable status have been achieved.

The trustees have now had four meetings. The last two have taken place with representatives from the advertising agencies Leo Burnett and Simons Palmer. Our aim is still to raise the awareness of depression as an illness, and particularly with employers.

The decision has been made to focus initially on the advertising industry as a guinea-pig. We hope that all involved will find that there are benefits not just for the people who at present suffer from stress and depressive symptoms but for the industry itself by being able to preserve and nurture its human resources. Success in this industry may enable whatever programme and ideas we have gained to be passed on to other employers.

In practice the programme taken on by the agencies involved will have the following aims:

- (a) To keep stress to a minimum.
- (b) To raise awareness of the signs of stress.
- (c) To make it easier for people who need help to receive it.
- (d) To improve the ability to treat stress if it turns into a depressive illness.
- (e) To reduce the stigma attached to depression so that people will be more able to talk about their own and other peoples' problems.
- (f) To make it easier for people to re-enter the work-place having experienced depression.

We have had enquiries from a school that would like us to devise an information leaflet. We are keen to do this as the earlier people become aware that depression or signs of stress are matters to be shared the better. By including this awareness as part of the education in schools young people should feel more able to talk about feelings of stress and depression and able to recognise signs of suffering in others.

We are also contacting other charities who appear to have aims very similar to our own to see whether we can share experiences and try not duplicate efforts.

We are soon going to need someone to take on the work that needs doing even in the limited areas outlined. If there is anyone who feels they would like a part-time job that might grow in to a more full-time job we would be very happy to receive applications!

Thanks to the support and generosity of everyone involved we have now raised over £70,000.

We hope that future fund raising events will be as enjoyable as they are successful and look forward to seeing you there.

Events Review

"Disco Fever"

January this year. Russell Square. Jet-spooked tourists heaving bags from taxis, relieved to be checking-in after long-haul flights and gruelling transfers. It's Friday and this must be London.

At reception all is normal, staff and guests palpably there in the present - 16th January 1998. "Yes, we have your reservation. That will do nicely". Then tired eyes stray across the courtyard and are held by a flash of blue satin. Sequins. Fierce nylon. Overloaded retinas struggle to take in the glare of man-made fibres. And afros. And platforms. Over there hundreds of people seemed to have slipped through some tear in the present, and queue groovily to be let back in to the past. Tourists rub their eyes. Just where are they, anyway? Is this the Royal National...or the Hotel California?

Your input

We hope you have enjoyed our first newsletter. If there is anything you would like to add to our next edition; personal experiences, fund raising ideas, ideas for the trust.....please let us know

On 16th January nine hundred people paid twenty pounds a head to attend a seventies party in aid of the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust. 'Attend' doesn't quite do it. 'Get down to' perhaps. From 8pm to 1am and beyond 'The Decade that Style Forgot' was lovingly remembered. Those who had seen the seventies from the perspective of high chairs and prams did their best. On men sideburns crawled down cheeks, chest wigs (were they wigs?) sprouted from between 747 collars, trousers were worn uncomfortably tight. Women meanwhile teetered on spangly platforms; glitter and tinsel animated hair and faces; crazy-coloured tops were, fetchingly, far too small; infinitesimal skirts or shorts or cramp-inducing hip-hugging loon pants that ballooned at the bottom into flares were everywhere.

But those that could remember the seventies from the first time around showed youngsters how it was done. Lounge lizard Mark Waller sported a gold lame jacket (this can be proved - there are photographs) while Stephen Walduck eschewed fancy dress as such, preferring to delve into his own wardrobe for a cherished three piece French tapestry suit, circa 1972. (It is a matter of regret that Vanessa's matching thigh-high boots could not be found).

Inside the Galleon suite (inspirationally lit by Jonathan Heyward), Ben Walker and Matt Gooden showed why they are called 'creatives'. Walls were draped in suitably psychedelic colours, on TV screens Charlies's Angels, Kojak and the dubious oeuvre of Russ Meyer endlessly looped. Even the carpet looked like it had been laid in the seventies (it had - Ed).

There was 'twister' for those wanting an appropriately retro pursuit and nobody was disappointed by an anachronistic touch - five arcade-sized Play Stations. At the turntables Dave Davies span the decades's hits on vinyl - disco, motown and glam classics had dancers working the oil-based fibres of their outfits hard: from wigs and tank-tops sparks, quite literally, flew.

Plentiful cheap drinks - £1 (cheap for the nineties anyway - the seventies, remember, was when a pound was a pound) - fuelled the illusion. The dancers moved faster pulling moves not seen since the days (and boogie nights) of the Heath administration. Under the pulsing lights...could it be... Starsky and Hutch? Isn't that Donna Summer? And over there, surely, the blonde one out of ABBA? Shouted conversations at the bar discussed the Fisher/Spassky rematch, the pros and cons of joining the Common Market, Leed's chance of the double, the Kinsey report: groovy talk.

But like the seventies themselves this party had to end (though not in a winter of discontent). The disco queens and medallioned studs spilled out the doors and back into the present once more weirdly conspicuous against the sub-fuse nineties night. From his hotel bedroom, bewildered, a jet-lagged tourist watches them stagger towards the street. But though the seventies are gone utterly, this much remains of the party: more than £15,000 raised for the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust. Well done, everybody and particular thanks to Imperial London Hotels.

Iain Weatherby

"November Dinner Dance"

On November 22 Candy, Sasha and Olivia Walduck and Mark Walton borrowed the venue from their father's 50th birthday party to tempt 130 friends to Hertfordshire for a black tie bonanza. Mulberry, Planet Hollywood, Wagammamas and The Harlequins generously donated raffle prizes and 'Hayes the DJ' kept the party pumping all night long - over £2,000 was raised.