

## Party on the Mall

It was a great honour and an enormous privilege to attend the giant street party on the Mall in London to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday this summer.

More than 10,000 people congregated on the Mall for the occasion, and to honour The Queen's lifelong patronage of more than 600 charities and organisations.

Thanks to the superb generosity of our regular donors, Anthony Titcomb, Liz Beckley, Bea McDowell and Chris Strickland, we were able to invite three families whom we support, to join us for the occasion. They were seven-year-old Charlie Purdie accompanied by his parents Andrea and James; 12-year-old Jade Scott who was accompanied by her gran Liz; and sisters, Chloe and Linzi Cowan.

Those of us who had never been to London enjoyed a whistle-stop tour of London's main attractions on Sunday morning before making our way to St James's Park to join the celebrations. The heavy downpours did nothing to dampen the carnival atmosphere on the Mall where live bands and processions entertained the crowds. Members of the Royal family were greeted with cheers as they made time to shake hands and



PICTURED: L-R, Chloe Cowan, Linzi Cowan, BBC Presenter Mel Geidroyc, and Jade Scott

chat with representatives and guests of the various charities present.

One of the most memorable experiences that day was watching Jade, Chloe and her sister, Linzi being interviewed by *Great British*

*Bake Off* presenter Mel Geidroyc – live for the BBC. The three girls gave an outstanding TV performance which saw them become immediate celebrities with their friends at home. For

all of us watching, the day was summed up so eloquently by Jade when Mel asked her on live TV what the Patron's Lunch meant to her. She replied: "It is truly a once in a lifetime occasion".



PONCHOS: A spot of rain on the day did not dampen the RCET team spirits



## Introducing our new Chief Executive

We are delighted to welcome the former Head of Fundraising at Poppyscotland as our new Chief Executive. Colin Flinn takes over from James MacBain and has nearly 35 years leadership and management experience in the statutory and voluntary sectors. Colin spent the early part of his career fulfilling a range of childcare posts before taking up the role of Assistant Director of Children's Services for NCH Scotland in 1994.

Following a brief spell as Acting Depute Director, he was appointed Head of Fundraising for NCH in 2003, with responsibility for re-shaping the charity's fundraising strategy. In 2007, Colin joined Poppyscotland as Head of Fundraising. During this time, Poppy Appeal income has more than doubled and the Poppyscotland supporter base has grown from 6,200 in 2007 to its present day 120,000.

Colin said he has long admired the work of the Trust. In particular he praised the good work carried out by his predecessor, James MacBain, and thanked him most sincerely for "handing over the charity in such good shape".

Welcoming Colin, RCET Chairman Malcolm Noble said: "Colin's entire career has been dedicated to supporting the disadvantaged in our society. He brings passion and commitment to this work, particularly where it concerns the welfare of children and young people and we are delighted that Colin is joining the RCET." You will hear more from Colin in the next issue of *Caledonian Postings*.

**NEW CEO:**  
Colin Flinn



**SUPPORT:** L to R, Matthew Middler (RCET), Sam Maguire (P1, 6yrs, Longstone), Charles Dunphie (ABF, The Soldiers Charity), Ronan Robertson (P1, 6yrs, Longstone) and Irene Mirtle (Head teacher, Longstone Primary)

## The Soldier's Charity gives RCET £10,000 funding boost

### GRANT WILL ASSIST RCET TO SUPPORT MANY MORE FAMILIES

**W**e want every child from an Armed Forces family to reach their full potential. This isn't always achievable if they are moving between different education systems and their learning is interrupted, or if they are anxious about a parent who is away from home on active service, or experiencing other challenges at home. However, thanks to an amazing £10,000 donation from ABF The Soldiers' Charity, we are able to help even more Armed Forces families overcome these challenges.

The Soldiers' Charity donation will go towards the funding of the RCET education programme in Scotland, which invests in resources and teaching materials, research, and training. Commenting, Brigadier (Ret'd) Robin Bacon, Chief of Staff, ABF The Soldiers' Charity, said: "Supporting everyone in the Army family, from children to the elderly, is extremely important to The Soldiers' Charity. This grant will assist RCET in the vital work it undertakes and allow us to reach many more of those members and family members of soldiers and veterans that we are here to help."

Thank you ABF!

## BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

Children at Quarry Brae Primary School in Glasgow were among the first to see 'This is My Life', which is touring Scottish primary schools for a second year running thanks to funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund. The play tackles loss and separation as experienced through the eyes of a young boy with a parent on deployment. The play at Quarry Brae had special significance for eleven-year-old Dean Martin (pictured above) whose father is a serving Royal Marine. Dean explained to the audience that his father is a serving



**ACTION:** Quarry Brae Primary pupils with members of the cast

Royal Marine and how happy it made him when his father made an unexpected trip home last Christmas to pay him a surprise visit. Nearly 60 schools have signed up to see this year's tour which will include Greater Glasgow, Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, Fife,

Stirlingshire, Falkirk, Angus and Clackmannanshire, with around 10,000 primary four to seven pupils expected to attend the free 55-minute performance.

To assist teachers, RCET has also produced a DVD of the 2015 production. This includes a teaching section on the issues highlighted within the production and a resource pack with suggestions for follow up class activities to allow staff and pupils to explore these issues in greater depth.



> To find out more information, please email [Moira Leslie on edprogofficer@rcet.org.uk](mailto:Moira.Leslie@edprogofficer@rcet.org.uk)

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# Spotlight on vital support

IN THIS ISSUE WE HEAR FROM ONE OF OUR NEW SUPPORTERS, **ANTHONY TITCOMB**, OWNER AND DIRECTOR OF HIRE GROUND RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY IN LONDON, ABOUT HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE RCET AND WHY HE CHOSE TO MAKE A REGULAR DONATION



Anthony Titcomb

### Tell us about your connection with the RCET?

My Nan, Jean Rowley (née Brough) was a pupil at the Royal Caledonian Schools (RCS) from the age of four. She was a very private person but what we know is her mum, Isla Brough, was Scottish and worked in-service for a ballet dancer in London. Isla's husband, Ernest, was also Scottish and a Royal Marine, so my Nan boarded at the RCS in Bushey with her sister Peggy until they were in their late teens.

My Nan was quite ill when she arrived at the RCS and nearly died, but she was well cared for and in time made a full recovery. My Nan always talked fondly about her days at the RCS. In her latter years, when her health was failing, we would try and cheer her up by saying: "Tell us about the best time in your life Nan", and she always took us back to those days at the school. She loved the Scottish dancing and made many great friends there.

Nan passed away in November 2014; sadly her sister Peggy had passed away many years earlier following a long illness. They are survived by five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

### What were your main reasons for choosing to donate to the RCET?

I had heard so much about the

RCS from my Nan and I know how much she enjoyed her time there.

By supporting the charity now known as the RCET, it means I can give something back after they gave so much to my Nan. Since supporting the RCET, I have learned more about the amazing work they do and how many children benefit from their vital support.

### Why have you chosen to make a regular donation?

Charities require regular contributions because it helps them plan what they have available for grants and charities can do much more if they have long-term financial security. It's also really easy to set up a regular donation and have it paid like any other bill.

### What do you hope your donation will help achieve?

I hope my donation helps the RCET to continue its good work long into the future. I was lucky to attend the Patron's Lunch as a guest of the RCET this June. I met some of the families the RCET supports. It was really special. I have been lucky



A SPECIAL WOMAN:  
Jean Rowley

in life and can't imagine the difficulties and challenges some families have to overcome. Seeing how hard you all work and how passionate and dedicated you all are also affirms for me that my donations are supporting a very worthwhile cause.

### What would you say to anyone else who is considering making a regular gift?

I'd urge you to consider donating to some of the smaller charities like the RCET, who don't have the same resources as the bigger charities. Let's not forget them. They need our donations and a regular gift will enable them to do so much more.

**Setting up a regular gift is easy. Simply go to [www.rcet.org.uk](http://www.rcet.org.uk) donations page and let us know how much you would like to give each month. This can be as little as £2. Alternatively you can contact us to set it up over the phone or receive a donation form in the post.**

### Why make a regular donation?

- It's convenient and easy.
- It can come out each month with your bills
- It's easier to find £10 a month than it is to find £120 a year
- It's a cost effective and long-term commitment to our work.

**For more information, contact Matthew, Fundraiser at RCET, t. 0131 240 2224.**



## Roll of thanks

A special thanks to the many individuals and organisations that have supported the Royal Caledonian Education Trust in recent months. The Trust is extremely grateful to have recently received donations from the following:

- ABF The Soldiers' Charity
- Anne Jane Green Trust
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund
- Cheltenham Scottish Society
- Edinburgh Royal Military Tattoo
- Highland Military Tattoo
- Iris & Alexander Walker, Naddell Charitable Trust
- Lady and Lord Craigmyle Charitable Trust
- Legion Scotland
- London Scottish Regiment Benevolent Fund
- Mussleburgh Racecourse
- New Club, Edinburgh
- Poppyscotland
- SSAFA - The Forces Charity
- Stirling Military Show

> If you or your organisation would like to make a donation or fundraise for the Trust, please email [fundraising@rcet.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@rcet.org.uk) or visit our website for further details.

## DID YOU KNOW

The RCET provides educational grants to help with:

- Primary and secondary education:**
- school clothing and uniform
  - after school clubs and activities
  - sports equipment

- tuition fees for music, drama and arts courses
- tuition fees for scholars in very exceptional circumstances
- residential school trips in the UK only
- support for educational costs in cases of very exceptional difficulty.

### Tertiary and further education:

- living expenses provided for the duration of first degree only
- books
- special necessary equipment
- essential course materials.



## TOP HONOUR FOR CAROLYN

Congratulations to Carolyn MacLeod who is pictured above with her MBE and James MacBain, former RCET Chief Executive standing proudly by her side.

Carolyn was among the extraordinary people in the UK to be recognised in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List.



## Supporting our forces families

The majority of our applications have now been processed for this academic year. Consideration though will be given in exceptional circumstances to emergency applications received by the RCET. If you wish to make an emergency application this should be done in the following ways: for primary and secondary education support please contact your local SSAFA branch to enable them to complete the necessary paperwork. Details of your local SSAFA office is available online at [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk) Tertiary students should email our Grants Officer at [grants@rcet.org.uk](mailto:grants@rcet.org.uk) to request an application form.



## Covenant support

The RCET has signed the Moray Armed Forces Covenant representing the Trust's first formal covenant partnership. The Armed Forces Covenant enshrines fair access to health, education, employment and housing to current service personnel, veterans and their families. The Trust's signing of the Armed Forces Covenant reinforces our commitment to children of armed forces families throughout Morayshire in the north of Scotland.

## Special night at Military Tattoo



**VIP SHOW:** RCET staff, directors and guests

The RCET were delighted to benefit from an allocation of charity tickets again this year.

The occasion presented the Trust with the opportunity to invite a number of distinguished guests to join us for an evening where they could hear more about our work and how they could play

a vital role. This took place over a delicious dinner at the New Club in Edinburgh before enjoying a magnificent evening of entertainment at the Tattoo. Nearly 13 million people have seen the Tattoo over the years with around 100 to 300 million television viewers.

Royal Caledonian Education Trust  
Scotland's Armed Forces Children's Charity  
**Are you interested in or involved with supporting the education and wellbeing of Armed Forces families?**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**'Building Brighter Futures Together'**  
**2017 Practitioners' Conference**  
**7 November 2017**  
**Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh**  
**9am-5pm**  
**FREE**  
**Keynote Speaker: Dr Suzanne Zeedyk**  
**Register your attendance at Eventbrite**  
**Organised by The Royal Caledonian Education Trust**  
Registered Charity Commission Number: 310952  
Scottish Registered Charity Number: SC038722

## Hon. VP News

We are delighted to announce Brigadier Gary Deakin, Commander of 51 Infantry Brigade and HQ Scotland and Lt Col Hugh Cowan (Retd.), who stepped down as Director (Trustee) of the RCET in November 2015 after 11 years of service, have both agreed to be Honorary Vice Presidents of the RCET.

Honorary Vice Presidents fulfil important ambassadorial roles in promoting the work of the RCET, as well as, facilitating relationships with relevant organisations, associations and communities in Scotland.



**HON. VP:** Brigadier Gary Deakin

## Save the date

We would be delighted if you would join us for an evening to support The Royal Caledonian Education Trust

**Thursday 27 April 2017**  
**St. Columba's,**  
**Pont Street, London**  
**6.45pm - 8.30pm**

As well as an opportunity to introduce our new Chief Executive and our future plans for 2017, you will hear from some of the young people we support who will be sharing their stories with us on this special evening.

For ticket information and to find out more, please email [admin@rcet.org.uk](mailto:admin@rcet.org.uk)

