

A YEAR OF PROGRESS FOR THE FELIX BYAM SHAW FOUNDATION

BUILT ON THE GENEROSITY OF FELIX'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS

The generosity of Felix's family and friends has enabled us to set up two significant projects. The Felix Project has been operating from a West London depot since March 2016 and is now poised for major funding and rapid expansion. The Felix Hedgehog Project covers an area of 130 hectares in North Oxford where the local community and institutions and conservation experts have been brought together to improve conditions for hedgehogs to ensure their survival in the place where Felix grew up.

Our funding has enabled us to make grants to the Meningitis Research Foundation to sponsor 'Pushing The Boundaries – Life Beyond Limb Loss', an event that brings together children

who have had amputations following meningitis, and to the Eton Fives Association to part-fund a coach to introduce West London children to the sport of Fives.

A new initiative for this year will be the formation of a group of Felix's close friends and cousins to discuss the Foundation's grant-giving in future and advise the trustees on the selection of causes which best reflect Felix's values and passions.

We will continue to run the Foundation as a lean and cost-effective operation. We, the trustees, pledge to allocate funding prudently. Every penny donated to the Foundation will be put towards grant-making and project-funding, as



Felix's family and friends at a major fund-raising event.

donations from Felix's family will cover all the charity's administrative costs. None of the trustees will receive a fee.

Thank you to all of Felix's friends, family and our community for all your love, emotional support and generosity.

Jane, Justin and Dan Byam Shaw, trustees

THE FELIX HEDGEHOG PROJECT

ENSURING A FUTURE FOR HEDGEHOGS IN NORTH OXFORD



On what would have been Felix's 16th birthday, 21 April 2016, the Felix Hedgehog Project was launched in the garden of his home in Northmoor Road, Oxford. The project has begun to work with conservationists, the government and local communities to try to establish the exact nature of the current threat to hedgehogs. Some experts fear the creatures could become extinct over the next decade following a dramatic decline in hedgehog colonies over the past 60 years.

Felix was a great lover of hedgehogs and other native British mammals and regularly rescued sick hedgehogs, taking them to Tiggywinkles Hedgehog Hospital near Thame. The project has established a North Oxford Hedgehog Conservation area, a 130-acre zone bordered by the Cherwell River, Marston Ferry Road, Banbury Road and the southern edge of the Oxford University Parks, where it is known that there is an existing hedgehog population.

The major institutions based here – the Dragon School, Wolfson College and Lady Margaret Hall – have all been supportive of the scheme. Over the summer they have helped collect data about the number of hedgehogs currently present to establish the size and strength of the colonies. The Dragon School has even appointed a Hedgehog Champion!

Ecologist and hedgehog champion Hugh Warwick was at the launch and explained the importance of access across suburban gardens where hedgehogs can thrive. 'Hedgehogs need access to lots of different gardens to survive, so we need to encourage people to co-operate by creating hedgehog "highways" for them to pass between gardens. No single garden is sufficient for a hedgehog to live in – they need streets of linked-up gardens if they are to survive.'

This involves making holes in garden boundaries. North Oxford is characterised by walled gardens, which make access a problem for hedgehogs. The Foundation has invested in a powerful drill with a diamond bit to get through the red bricks and allow hedgehogs the freedom they need to forage; they sometimes cover up to 3km in a night in search of food.

The launch was covered by local and national media and since then hedgehog-friendly gardens have begun to appear in North Oxford.

The Felix Hedgehog Project has had meetings with ministers from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) to discuss co-funding research into the causes of the decline in the hedgehog population.



THE FELIX PROJECT

GOOD FOOD FOR GOOD CAUSES

The Felix Project has been set up as a new charity, funded by grants from the Felix Byam Shaw Foundation and other donors. It is a separate organisation with its own trustees. Start-up funding came from the Felix Byam Shaw Foundation (from Felix's parents, grandparents, family and friends and some wonderful fund-raising events and initiatives) and enabled us to set up a West London depot in Park Royal as the pilot, based on the model of the Oxford Food Bank, co-founded by Robin Aitken and David Cairns. Project Co-ordinator Anne Elkins came on board in January 2016, quickly secured a warehouse with a chiller and, with a van in the bright green Felix livery, started collections and deliveries in March 2016.

Surplus food, mainly fresh fruit and vegetables, is collected from local supermarkets and wholesalers, sorted and stored in our warehouse, and distributed to charities with kitchens that feed some of London's most deprived people.

The project is now poised for significant growth and major investment. We plan to spread our wings across London and operate across five depots within eighteen months. This expansion will be sponsored by Sainsbury's, Citi, Lush Cosmetics and three hedge funds, and endorsed by various City institutions, the *Evening Standard* and the *Daily Mail*.

The Felix Project will be the central feature of an *Evening Standard* 'Food for London' campaign kicking off in autumn 2016 with a Food Forum on 10 October, addressing food waste and food poverty across the capital and involving the Mayor of London, the Prime Minister, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Deliciously Ella and other chefs and celebrities. There will be a celebrity cook-off and a 'Feed the Five Thousand' event in Trafalgar Square.

We plan to launch a new soup-kitchen venture in East London in 2017, with the support of some of the world's leading chefs. Working title: Felix's Kitchen.



The first Felix Project van.



Anne Elkins delivers to the manager and chefs at St Laurence's Larder and Open Kitchen.

CURRENT FOOD DONORS TO THE FELIX PROJECT INCLUDE:

- Booker Group
- Makro
- Waitrose (5 London outlets)
- Sainsbury's (3 London outlets)
- Costco
- WholeGoods (JaxCoco coconut water)
- Remi Realfoods (Polish produce)
- Various allotments – produce from staff and their families and our volunteers!

CHARITIES WE SUPPLY:

- Suфра NW London
- St Laurence's Larder and Open Kitchen
- Centre for Armenian Information and Advice (CAIA)
- St Mungo's: Help for Homeless People
- Ashford Place
- 240Project
- Open House (WGBC)
- All Souls Parochial Church Council
- Brent Foodbank
- Salvation Army Kilburn
- Acton Homeless Concern
- Salvation Army Harlesden
- Community of Sant'Egidio
- No Second Night Out
- The Kids' Cookery School
- Fresh Horizons
- St Peter's Church, Maida Vale
- Hanwell 2 Hanwell

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ANNE ELKINS

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR OF THE FELIX PROJECT IN WEST LONDON

7.30am I arrive early at the depot in Park Royal from my home in Chiswick, as this is the only slot I find in the day for emails. The depot we have now is twice the size we started with: 2,300 sq ft with a freezer and a big walk-in chiller.

8.30am The morning volunteers arrive. We have nearly 20 regular volunteers now, who found us through charity jobs websites, church newsletters and Brent Council. We load up the van with mixed produce according to the needs of the charities along the Route Sheet I have planned the previous evening. Typically the load will be a mix of fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products, sliced bread and grocery products like pasta, rice and cooking sauces. The Route Sheet gives the driver and 'co-pilot' directions for collections from supermarkets and deliveries to charities. They'll be gone for 2 to 3 hours.

9.30am While the volunteers are out, I'm on my own again. I clean and organise the depot. There might also be meetings with local charities and supermarkets or the trustees.

noon – 1pm The volunteers are back. The most unpredictable part of my job is opening the back doors of the van to see what has been donated – you just never know what you'll get. This is rarely disappointing and sometimes the van is full to the rafters. We once received 3 pallets of coconut water, which was one of the most popular items we've ever given out to the charities. Another time we had 24 pallets of pasta in one load from Sainsbury's. It's not unusual to get an utterly mouth-watering selection of perfect fruit and vegetables – gleaming berries, perky broccoli, juicy pineapples, for example – nowhere near their 'display till' deadline; it's just surplus to requirements. With the volunteers we carefully sort and store the donated food. If we have a bag of oranges with one mouldy one, we unpack the bag and carefully preserve all the good ones.

1pm – 5.30pm The morning shift goes home and the afternoon shift arrives. The morning's work is repeated in the afternoon. I love my job and when I get to the end of the day, I'm exhausted, but the time has flown.

We are rapidly building an excellent reputation with supermarket store managers, who know us to be friendly, reliable and consistent. We arrive when we say we will and make it easy for them to donate their surplus supplies.

My job satisfaction comes from seeing how we help the charities we deliver to, who are caring for and nourishing some of the most vulnerable people in West London: the homeless, the elderly, refugees and those in poor mental health. I always make a point of telling the people working in the charities how valuable I believe their work to be, to say 'well done, good work', because they are amazing and don't always get the praise they deserve.



Anne Elkins receiving donations of fresh fruit and vegetables.



Charity delivery.

FELIX'S FUNDING FELLOWSHIP

TO RECOMMEND FUTURE GRANT-GIVING FROM THE FOUNDATION

Tracey Camilleri, Felix's Godmother, has agreed to lead a group of Felix's friends in discussing what sort of grants the Foundation should make in the future. The idea is that Felix's friends will meet annually around the time of Felix's birthday, over a pizza supper (Felix's traditional birthday party choice!). The group will present and discuss ideas for causes that would reflect Felix's values and passions and make recommendations to the trustees for what they believe would be the most fitting grants to make in Felix's memory. Any of Felix's friends who would like to be involved in the group should email info@felixbyamshawfoundation.org

DONATION TO ETON FIVES ASSOCIATION PART-FUNDING FOR COACH

Justin, Felix's father, has played Fives since he was a teenager, as has Felix's brother, Dan, who competed in national competitions while at school and earned four half-blues in the sport at Oxford University. Felix had taken up Fives in his first year at boarding school and played with his father the evening before he left for France in July 2014, just before he died.

The Foundation has made a grant to the Eton Fives Association in memory of Felix to part-fund a coach to introduce young people from the local community to Fives at the Westway Sports Centre in West London.



Felix Byam Shaw, 21 April 2000 – 19 July 2014.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES LIFE BEYOND LIMB LOSS FOR MENINGITIS AMPUTEES

We received very moving feedback from the Meningitis Research Foundation about this 2015 sports and support day for children who have lost limbs to meningitis. The Felix Byam Shaw Foundation co-sponsored the event, providing funding for travel for meningitis survivors and their families.



'All the family enjoyed the day. We found it very informative, both through the excellent presentations, and also through meeting other children and families. The children especially loved the wheelchair volleyball.'



'He is a very happy, boisterous little four-year-old. He's been wearing prosthetics since he was 11 months old; it's just an everyday thing now. He doesn't really see himself as any different to anybody else; he goes to a mainstream school and he's just accepted as himself. But for his older sister, it's lovely for her to see children that are exactly the same as him. Although it's become a normality of life for us to just put his legs on, he is still different in a sense and it's nice for us to see other children and just experience a bond with them.'

'A day of fab research and information-sharing.'

'Amazing day considering we battled in the storm to get there. We spoke to the doctor from Camms who had made it in life even though he had had meningitis. What an inspiration as we look to the future for my son who had meningitis, and his career path with a brain injury.'

We have decided to repeat our sponsorship for the next event, to be held in Windsor in February 2017. Felix loved the physical satisfaction and exhilaration of sport as well as the camaraderie of sports teams and it feels fitting for the Foundation to support 'Pushing the Boundaries'.



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