

FOUNDATIONS



The Magazine for the Murray Foundation Issue 16 Spring 2007



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The New Southeast Mobility And Rehabilitation Technology (SMART) Building (image on front cover)

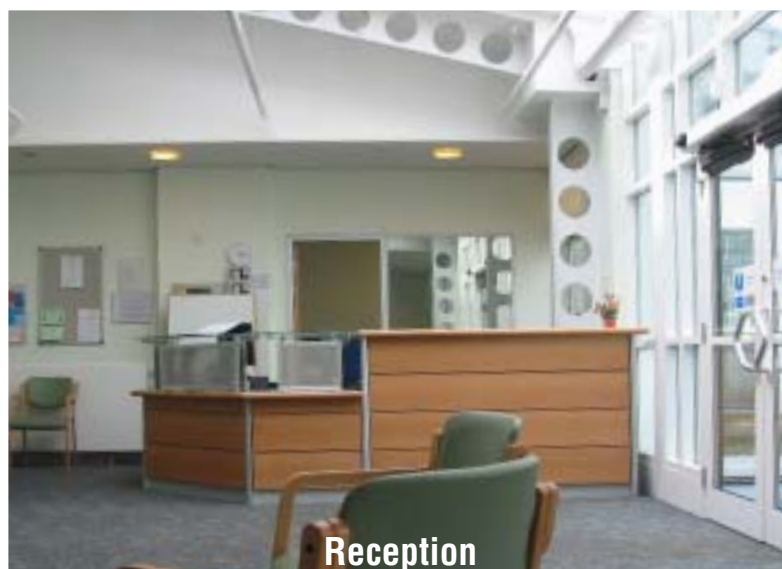
Over the course of Christmas and New Year 2006/2007 both the Rehabilitation Engineering Services (RES) and the Mobility Centre Services transferred to the new Southeast Mobility And Rehabilitation (SMART) Centre at the Astley Ainslie Hospital (AAH) in Edinburgh. The new building on the AAH site opened four and half years after the transfer of the prosthetics and bioengineering from the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital to temporary accommodation at the Eastern General. The mobility centre has been a long time resident of the AAH site but had been in unsuitable accommodation for a number of years.

Like all new buildings there are some technical issues but all in all the building is a great success and provides a pleasant environment for staff, patients and clients alike as the pictures demonstrate.

The building was a significant investment of approximately £8,000,000 and provides accommodation for a variety of services; the Disability Living Centre, which demonstrates aids ranging from seats to hoists; Scottish Driving Assessment; Adult Wheelchair; Enabling Technology for Children; Seating; Prosthetics; Electronic Assistive Technology and Special Needs Design.



Patient Lunch Area



Reception

Information For Users - *The "PIP" Guide to Prosthetics*

The PIP pilot project began in November 2006 and was the result of discussions at a patient focus group about patient information which was commissioned by the Healing Foundation, a national charity set up to champion the cause of people living with disfigurement. Patients felt that getting access to information about the availability, delivery and choice around prosthetics was difficult and a guide might be a simple way of housing all the information in one place.

A small project group was formed to discuss the best way to take the project forward and in the summer of 2006 a number of focus groups were held around Scotland. The remit of these groups was to look at

- * **What type of information do patients want?**
- * **In what format or medium do they want that information to be provided?**

Initial findings from these groups seem to indicate that while the majority of patients would like to see a guide of some sort, it is in fact part of a much bigger picture regarding the level of communication between the prosthetists and the patients and also the perceived differences in service delivery between each centre.

To conclude the PIP pilot project a larger workshop involving all of the focus group participants will be held at which they will be asked to prioritise the following areas of research:

- Information resource/guide
- Communication with prosthetists/service delivery

The outcome of this workshop will very much determine the future form and direction that the project will take. The workshop will be held on Thursday 21st June at a venue still to be agreed. All participants will be notified as soon as the details are confirmed.



Congratulations to David Murray, founder and chairman of the Murray Foundation, who received a knighthood in the New Years Honours List 2007.

He will become Sir David Murray when he receives his Knighthood from the Queen at a ceremony in July this year.

Congratulations also to Rhona (one of the Foundation's Trustees) and Ronnie on the birth of their beautiful daughter Hazel. Hazel arrived on the 4th March, a healthy 7 lbs 5 oz and life has not been the same since! Good luck to all three.



MURRAY FOUNDATION

Everyone has the right to be respected, listened to and

Why have an advocacy service?

Over the course of the past 10 years the Murray Foundation staff and volunteers have dealt with literally hundreds of people who have been affected by limb loss or absence. In the course of that work we have become increasingly aware that many people are struggling to deal with a number of issues in their day-to-day lives, even to the extent of feeling completely overwhelmed by the problems they face. At present our remit is limited to offering emotional support and practical advice when appropriate, and so we have tended to avoid becoming involved in these issues as we have neither the training nor the resources to deal competently with them. However, we feel the time has now come to look in more depth at the problems that people face and how they might be helped to overcome their difficulties.

So what does the MF plan to do?

As this is a new area for the MF, we intend to run a pilot project to help us determine the level of demand for these services and also to identify the areas that seem to cause the most problems. We will then look at how best to set up an advocacy service to deal with these issues. Keith Ferguson, one of our current Volunteer Support Workers, is already involved in offering a some-what limited advocacy service and will be working on this project over the course of the next year. We will also be holding 2 “open forum” type events, one in June for the users and one next February for the health professionals.

What will the open forum for the users involve?

The forum will be run by the MF in conjunction with Julia Cartwright, an independent health consultant who has worked with the Foundation on a number of projects, Terry Daly, the MF counselling training coordinator and Keith Ferguson, as mentioned above. Prior to the event we will ask all those interested in participating to complete a short questionnaire highlighting the issues they feel need to be addressed. At the event itself we will outline the background to the project; what advocacy actually is; look at examples of other advocacy services; hear from Keith regarding some of the issues he has been dealing with; work in small groups to clarify how an advocate might resolve those issues and then lastly try to create a “blueprint” as to what form the service would take.

ADVOCACY SERVICE

and involved in the decisions that affect their quality of life

So what exactly is advocacy?

Not everyone has family and friends to turn to for help. They may be in a situation where they do not understand the information being given to them or the range of options open to them and they may have difficulty communicating what they need. For various reasons, these people need someone to be on their side who will stand up for them. For example, help to talk to people about problems with housing, finance, benefits or medical/social/community services.

If the pilot project shows a need then what will the MF provide?

The Murray Foundation Advocacy Service (MFAS) will provide an independent advocate i.e. someone who is not connected with the services that have an influence on the person they are supporting. They will assist people in dealing with the issues or problems occurring in their life, which may or may not be issues directly related to their limb loss or absence.

- They will be on the side of the person they are supporting
- They will support people with a specific problem or issue and work with them until that issue is resolved
- Their goal will be to support and encourage people to represent their own interests as opposed to the advocate acting on their behalf

We do realise that not everyone will understand what advocacy is and not everyone will think that it is a good idea, but perhaps we can illustrate how advocacy can help by looking at a couple of the problems Keith has been dealing with over the past few months.

After losing his limb as a result of vascular problems, “Jim” knew he would be unable to work again, however he had no idea how to take early retirement due to ill health but still benefit from his company’s pension scheme. Pensions can be extremely complicated and he just wasn’t in the right frame of mind to sort things out. Keith knew a bit about pensions so he contacted Jim’s employers, explained what the situation was, found out what they needed and then processed the paperwork. A few days later everything was signed and sealed with Jim now receiving a substantial amount of money on a monthly basis.

MURRAY FOUNDATION ADVOCACY SERVICE

In another situation, “Bob” had been in and out of hospital many times over the course of a year and each time he was admitted his DLA was turned off. This was the correct procedure but problems began once he was finally at home and finished with his treatment as his DLA was still turned off. He was struggling financially and had tried to resolve the situation, but was finding things increasingly stressful as he could never find the right person to speak to on the telephone and felt like giving up. What was needed was patience, time and many, many telephone calls where “no” was never accepted as an answer. Keith was able to get Bob’s DLA turned back on and ensure that Bob received a cheque for £400 to cover arrears.

Keith feels very strongly about providing a advocacy service for people with these problems and as he says “It’s hard enough dealing with problems like this when you are fit, able and in the right frame of mind so if you have recently undergone an amputation, you just don’t need this type of hassle in your life. I am convinced that an advocacy service would help many people and at the same time actually assist with their recovery”

We would very much welcome your views on this project, so please do contact us either by telephone on **0141 580 8564** or by e-mail at **info@murray-foundation.org.uk**

The Murray Foundation would like to thank Keith’s employers, **in-cargo** based in Livingston, for allowing Keith the time to work on this project.

**The Advocacy Open Forum (users event)
will take place on**

**Tuesday 19th June 2007
1pm – 4pm
Ibrox Stadium
Glasgow**

**If you are interested in attending this event then please call
Susan Shaw on 01691 680635 by Friday 25th May**

THE QUEEN'S GARDEN PARTY

In June of last year the Murray Foundation was delighted to receive the Queen's Award for voluntary service. In addition, the Foundation was asked to nominate a number of volunteers to attend the Queen's annual garden party at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh. Johan Graham, a volunteer who works with some of our groups in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee, was one of those who attended. Here are her thoughts on the day.



"Last July, Ian and I were very lucky to be invited to the garden party at Holyrood Place in Edinburgh. At first, when the lovely invitation arrived, we thought somebody was playing a joke on us, but were delighted when we realised that it was for real. The disabled parking was ideal and we had marvellous time as everything was so well organised. Luckily enough the weather was also good to us, apart from a small thunderstorm. The Queen was so lovely and our day was made when the Duke of Edinburgh stopped and spoke with us both.

We would like to thank the Murray Foundation for making such a splendid day possible. It was a really marvellous experience."

Johan & Ian Graham

INTER SUPPORT GROUP QUIZ FINALE

IBROX STADIUM - DECEMBER 2006

The Grand Finale of the Inter Support Group quiz league was held in December at Ibrox Stadium. The quiz was keenly contested by seven support groups and two additional teams consisting of Westmarc staff and nurses from the Southern General Hospital who joined in the fun. The eventual winners of the trophy and the title Inter Support Group Quiz Champions 2006 were the PAGE group. Congratulations to the team and their supporters. A half time visit from Kris Boyd, Charlie Adam and Chris Burke of Rangers Football Club added to a very enjoyable evening. Thanks to everyone who took part and made the event a great success.



As many of you may know Sandra Fraser, the Murray Foundation administrator, has been unwell now for a number of months. I am sure you will join with us in sending her our best wishes.

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