



## New Vice President



Many of you will recognise the lady in the picture from Brookside or Challenge of a Lifetime; the daredevil Saturday night show or maybe even as the woman sporting Marks and Spencer lingerie. Lucky for us she has added Vice Presidency to her C.V. Claire Sweeney has been supporting the centre for some time now and when she was asked if she might like to represent us further we were delighted that she said yes!

For those of you who are not up to date with your celeb knowledge - where have you been? Claire is emerging as one of the U.K.'s most popular screen faces best know for her role as Lindsey Corkhill in Brookside and shooting to stardom after a stint in the Big Brother house earlier this year. Claire has decided to tread the boards and is currently in rehearsals for her lead role in the hit musical Chicago!

Some of you may have met Claire at Spirit of Christmas 2000, her support since then has been fantastic and she has proven herself as a great ambassador for the NMC, she has kept in touch with us and has been keen to monitor the centre's progress. Claire, thank you for your commitment and we wish you well in your west end debut, we know you will be fabulous!

## V.I.P. (Very Intelligent Person)

She's the lady who answers all our computer questions and keeps smiling although she's surrounded by technophobes - of course its our very own Lorraine Woolley, IT Co-ordinator at the NMC. As well as working at the centre three days a week Lorraine has successfully completed a HNC in Computer Studies and was also given the Harry Cunningham Special Achievements Award. We think you are fabulous Lorraine and your award simply confirms what everyone at the NMC already knew, Well Done.

Hold the fanfare.....Anne No. 2 reporting for duty. Hello, I'm the new girl Lyndsey. You know, its funny I feel as though I have been Appeals Manager for ages, until yet another new face appears at the door of the fundraising office and asks where Anne is and then I realise that I have only been in post since July - funny how time flies when you're having fun!! This is my first venture into the intrepid world of fundraising; I completed a marketing Masters in July and had been working for Granada Food Services in a marketing role for the last two years. I'm enjoying the challenge that working in the fundraising office offers on a daily basis as manic as it often is! I've met so many of the NMC's committed supporters and although new to fundraising I know that the people who contribute to the centre are truly unique and inspirational. I know I've got a hard act to follow and I hope I don't disappoint!

That's the introductions out of the way, the nights may well be dark and damp but some hot summer gossip may help to bring some winter cheer. It was definitely a sporty summer with runners, abseilers and parachutists the order of the day. We salute all of you athletic and daring people who've been our sporting heroes this summer and raised vital funds for us. Huge thanks go to everyone who has supported the centre during this year; your efforts are invaluable to us. Special thanks to the Need family - what can we say? The friends of NMC for their unfaltering support and relentless efforts, the Jackson family for their Christmas catalogue marathon, Pochins, British Airways, MBNA Bank International, Cheshire Building Society and so many more whose names would fit into a book!

There is lots to look forward to this Christmas and I can't wait for the 7th December and the Spirit of Christmas, the planning that goes into this event is truly amazing. What is even more scary is that as soon as this, the sixth Spirit finishes we will begin planning for Spirit 2002! I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a truly wonderful New Year, if you are planning your 2002 diary take a look at next years forthcoming events and make a note of the ones you fancy, there's something for everyone.

Very Best Wishes

Lyndsey



## Farewell to Ruby

As well as my arrival the summer saw the retirement of one of the centre's longest serving staff members. Ruby Speed has been a familiar face at the NMC for the past nine years as a care/business assistant, in NMC Design and the Centre as a whole. We couldn't let the occasion pass, so in traditional NMC style we had a 'bit of a do', amongst the canapés, bread sticks and pound piling pud's were another two NMC retirees (or should we say escapees), Kate Fox and Colin Bate who were on hand to offer Ruby some top tips on having a fabulous retirement and joined all her friends at the Centre in wishing her a long and happy retirement.

We know Ruby won't be a stranger as a huge NMC supporter we look forward to hearing tales of late breakfasts, long weekends and other such joys of retirement - how many years do I have left..... We send Ruby and Roy (her hubby) best wishes and hope that you are making the most of your reclining sunlounger to capture the last few autumn days in the garden.

## We Need You!

We know that you all support the centre in so many different ways and we can't thank you enough. As ever we need to raise more money than ever before in 2002, can you help us? Whether its as an individual, group or organisation could you pledge to do something no matter how large or small for the NMC in 2002? Some ideas.....

- **Car Boot Sale** • **Bowls Match** • **Put a Collecting Tin in your local Shop or Pub**
- **Sponsored Event i.e. Swim, Cycle, 10k Road Race, Marathon, Wirral Walk**
- **Wine Tasting** • **Murder Mystery Night** • **Darts Competition** • **Donate to us on a Regular Basis** • **Parachute Jump** • **Bring & Buy Sale** • **Masked Ball**
- **Open Your Garden** • **A Raffle** • **Cheese & Wine Night** • **Bingo Evening**
- **Safari Supper** • **Fashion Show** • **Abseil** • **Duck Race** • **Bridge Tournament**
- **Could we be Your Company's Charity of the Year** • **Join the 100 Club** • **Buy Tickets for Gorgeous Grub at the Grosvenor** • **Coffee Morning** • **Strawberry Tea** • **Hog Roast** • **Donate Your Time** • **Golf Day** • **Auction** • **Sponsored Silence** • **Darts Competition**

If you can help please contact Sarah ([seg@nmcentre.com](mailto:seg@nmcentre.com)) or Lyndsey ([lynsey@nmcentre.com](mailto:lynsey@nmcentre.com)) or telephone us on 01606 861733.

## Liz Powell

Liz is the new face in NMC Design. Liz joined us in October as a care/ business assistant and will be working in the Design company full time. Liz joins us from The Cedars Residential Home in Holmes Chapel where she worked as a care team leader.

## Fantastic Up & Over Event

1st September might have dawned grey weather wise but it turned out to be a fantastic day for the NMC. With nineteen willing victims! Sorry volunteers from, far and wide, who braved the Chester crowds to abseil 170ft down the west window of Chester Cathedral. The honour of first abseiler of the day went to David Nelson from BNFL, David shimmied down the west window like a true professional making it look so easy to those of cowards on the ground. David was joined by a fellow employee from BNFL, Royal and Sun Alliance, the Tote, J Leech and Company and PDC Copyprint.



Four British Airways girls flew in to fly - quite literally down Chester Cathedral to raise cash for the NMC. Victoria Randle was abseiling for the NMC for an extra special reason, her father Ian was a one time physio client. Therefore Victoria knows only too well what a vital resource the Centre is, she was able to see for herself first hand when she visited the Centre to hand over a whopping **£705.00** in sponsorship money which was raised by herself and the other BA girls (left to right Cathy McDonald, Jenny Price, Me, Claire Nicholson and Victoria Randle. Also Ellen Duncalf, from Vale Royal Unison, after her successful descent). We send a huge thank you to all the BA staff who helped make such a huge contribution to the NMC.

Sponsorship monies are still being accumulated but over **£3,800.00** has been collected so far and we say a thumping thank you to all the brave freefallers and the people who sponsored them.

## Tremendous Training

Congratulations!! to the six trainees who passed the EMFEC course this summer, with two students Andrew Fox and Phillip Littlewood achieving distinction's. Everyone did extremely well, but sadly Andrew died shortly after completing the course. However he and his fellow trainees certainly showed just how remarkable they are. The NMC training scheme is making such progress that there are days when Terry our trainer has to teach from the doorway, as eleven trainees started the course in September. This is more than ever before which we think speaks volumes about the course's run and the teaching quality we offer at the centre. As well as the EMFEC course in computer based graphic design a City and Guilds qualification is now available and can act as a springboard to further education courses should students want to pursue them.

Terry has really settled in well at the centre and has already made such a difference to the training department although he has been known to ask for the occasional headache tablet when the radio for 'background' music gets less 'background' and more headbanging! I don't know the youth of today!

## Glorious Golf

A local group, Delamere Golf and Bowling Society raised £900.00 by hosting a golf day on behalf of the NMC, I'm not sure if there were any hole-in-ones but a hole-hearted thank you goes out everyone who took part.

The members of Sandbach Golf Club held a prof-am golf day and raised £800.00 for the NMC, I know it wasn't a huge chore to all you keen golfers playing in a golf competition but a huge thank you goes out to everyone who swung a club for the NMC!

## Party Time

As summer drew to a close it was time to show off those summer tans in frivolous frocks and that was just the men! A Michealmas Ball was held in Nantwich in September. Massive thanks goes to F J Need and Paul Need for donating the superb venue, the marquee and marvellous band 'Zoot Serious and a Bellyful of Bop', thanks must also go to the rest of the Need family who donated their time and efforts. The event was organised by the friends of NMC, who all did a great job in ensuring the evening was a huge success - Thank you all!

Selling over 200 tickets and raising over £5,500 was truly fantastic and anyone who was there on the night would join with me to say that

sumptuous food, a live band which ensured nobody sat down and a worthwhile purpose made for a brilliant evening. Thanks goes to everyone that donated and took part in

the auction volunteered their services on the night and to all that attended your contributions are so appreciated. Those who were not dancing the night away ensured a glass of something alcoholic was never far away from their lips - so a good time was had by all!



Jim and Tina Jennings raise their glasses to another successful event for the NMC.

## Diary Dates

### 9th March 2002

Gorgeous Grub at the Grosvenor - It was such a success last year with the wonderful Kevin Woodford we've decided to stun you all again with another top chef (its going to be a surprise) and we can guarantee that they are going to thrill you with fantastic culinary creations. Tickets will be on sale from January priced at £45.

### 24th May 2002

Linedance Fest - Once again the infamous NMC linedance will be held at Winsford Civic Hall. Dig out your stetson and cowboy boots and get ready for a truly toe tapping evening. Tickets will be on sale early in the new year.

### 29th June 2002

Jazz at the Laurels - Nantwich. This evening of music and picnics always kick starts summer and raises over £2000 for the Centre. Bring picnic, a bottle of wine or two and perhaps a broly although we are trying not to tempt fate!

### 21st July 2002

Get out your mouldy trainers and start limbering up, the British 10K Road Race is a great opportunity for anyone who is a bit daunted by the Marathon but doesn't mind a more manageable 6 mile run! If this is for you or you would like to sponsor our team please do get in touch and we can let you have all the info.

**Telephone Sarah or Lyndsey for more information on 01606 861733.**

## 100 Club Update

We now have 177 members who raise a whopping £4602.00 per annum for the Centre

**4 x £10 weekly prizes  
£50 monthly jackpot  
£250 Quarterly prize  
and a mystery annual prize  
- last year £400**

To join call Dawn 01606 861733 for a 100 Club application form.

## User Profile :

### Paul Baddeley

He's the man who makes the best brew North of Stoke and makes Mondays worth coming to work for, its the one and only Paul Baddeley.

Hi, I'm Paul and I work in the chaotic fundraising office with Sarah, Lyndsey, Dawn and Lorraine - I know poor old me! Apart from being nagged to death and making endless cups of coffee I am responsible for helping with the vast amount of admin that goes with the fundraising department, whether its thank you letters or updating the database, I help out wherever I can.

I've been coming to the centre for about four years and its great being part of a team again. I work one day a week at the centre and can benefit from physiotherapy and hydrotherapy in my lunch break both of which keep me healthy. When I'm not at the NMC I'm kept busy by Jade and Shane my children, wife Shelly and the two dogs.

*Paul*



## Summer Runnin'

If, like me, you have trouble running for a bus then you will join me in congratulating our team of runners who completed the British Memorial 10K Road Race, taking in the fantastic landmarks and sights of London. Paul and Alison Need, Tim Cross and Angela Wardely all got their running shoes on and irrespective of the pain finished the run triumphant. Our very own Sarah Kelly was there to cheer on the brave quartet who between them clocked up some extremely quick times, Sarah only just beat them to the finish line and she was in a cab - who said wheels were faster than trainers!

A fantastic £1,300.00 was raised and a huge thank you must go to Paul Need and F.J Need Foods for funding the debenture cost **and** running in the race for the NMC. In fact it proved such a great event we have twelve places for next years 10K so recruits are being encouraged to get training now, just think you'll build up a real appetite for Christmas Pud and for once you won't feel guilty for over-indulgence!

Another fit supporter Marathon Man Steve McGarry was also spending hours training during the summer whilst we all spent our summer evenings in beer gardens Steve was pounding the pavements of Winsford. All that pain paid off in September when he successfully completed the Manchester Marathon raising more than £200 for the Centre.

***A MASSIVE THANK YOU to all of you fit folks you did us proud.***

## Fantastic Footy!

Fans of Hollyoaks and Brookside were able to support the NMC whilst drooling over their favourite on-screen hunk, stars from the two soaps put their best scoring feet forward for charity and pitched their skills against Cheshire Fire Brigade's finest football players. It was 2 all at full time but when put under pressure during the penalty shoot-out the Fire Brigades team were cool enough to win the match.

## An 'Abbey Ending

It was an Abbey ending all round when the Abbey National kindly donated £1,500 to the NMC's training scheme, the graphic design courses which are offered at the Centre can combine physio sessions so you get your mind and body flexed! David King from Abbey Nationals Community Partnership Scheme visited the Centre in June to present the cheque.