



Press Release

Embargo until
Wednesday, 13 May 2009

Duke of Kent visits OWL Bike's 'surgery' at Addenbrooke's Hospital Wednesday 13 May

Opportunities Without Limits, the Sawston based charity, was delighted when Addenbrooke's Hospital invited OWL's bike project to run a weekly bike surgery on site for the convenience of their staff and in support of their cycle to work 'Think Green' campaign, and even more excited when they learnt that the Duke of Kent was going to visit them there.

OWL provides work, learning and leisure opportunities to over 35 adults with learning disabilities each week, in addition to work experience, supported employment and volunteer places for people of all ages and abilities.

OWL Bikes is the charity's latest social enterprise; it takes unwanted bicycles, saving them from landfill and refurbishes them for sale if possible or sells the scrap and reusable parts. Tyres and inner tubes go to Africa, nothing is wasted. Recognising that customers also wanted their bikes serviced and repaired has given the project another dimension and further opportunities for its trainees and other client groups.

Of the visit Gill Riley, C.E.O, said "when one of the trainees asked if the Duke knows the Queen it brought home to us what a tremendous honour it is that our small charity is being royally recognised."

OWL Bikes can be found at Unit 29, London Road Industrial Estate, Pampisford CB22 3EE. Tel. 01223 839580 Monday to Saturday and at Addenbrooke's on Wednesdays.

ENDS

Contact for further information:

Gill Riley, C.E.O., Opportunities Without Limits, Sawston Village College,
New Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB22 3BP.

Email gill.riley@owlgroup.org.uk, Tel: 01223 835329, www.owlgroup.org.uk

Notes for Editor:

- Opportunities Without Limits (OWL) started in 1996 to create work, learning and leisure opportunities for adults with learning disabilities, helping them to live happy, normal lives within the community. It now caters for 36 trainees a week.
- Over the last 13 years its remit has extended to include working with people with mental health problems, frail elderly and young offenders.
- Social enterprise projects include a purpose built community café and catering training centre – OWL Café, Meals-2-You (hot meals for the elderly service), gardening at Sawston Village College, community maintenance (bus shelters and park benches for Parish Councils) and the recycling of aluminium cans and mobile phones.
- Applications for work experience and supported employment placements are considered.
- The leisure programme includes a sports club, gym sessions and weaving.
- Over 40 volunteers help at OWL - people of all ages and abilities welcomed.