



THE FRANK HAINES MEMORIAL TRUST

2016 marked the ten year anniversary of Frank's death, meaning it is also the ten year anniversary of the Frank Haines Memorial Trust (FHMT). We decided to mark this in March with a party at The Scolt Head pub, which Rosie and Richard also bought 10 years ago, in the final months of that tumultuous year.

The main purpose was to say thank you: thanks to all those who've supported the Trust with their donations, enthusiasm, cycling, running and much besides. It was also a chance to look back and reflect on all we'd achieved. We were delighted to see so many of you there. Richard and Rosie gave short speeches about what this all meant to them, and how important the FHMT (not to mention The Scolt Head itself!) had been in bringing everyone together over the last ten years. Special praise went to their mum, who has been the driving force behind the Trust this past decade, and without whom it wouldn't be what it is.

We'd like to thank everyone who donated on the evening, including Jez Galaun who provided beer from his brilliantly successful Brixton Brewery. If anyone is still interested in buying a FHMT tea-towel, there are still approximately 100 going begging following the party (from an original job lot of 100).

Aside from the party, the main event of the year, as usual now, was the sponsored bike ride in Norfolk, which starts and ends in Holkham Hall, and is then followed by a party in Burnham Thorpe. We were delighted that the bike ride raised an impressive £12,000, from around 120 riders of all ages. Thanks to all cyclists, and to Richard Haines for his organisational prowess once again. Look out for info about the 2017 ride!

Our charities

We supported the same charities over the course of 2016: Newark Youth, which provides after school activities and sports for young people; SPLASH, which offers safe evening spaces and activities for children in Poplar, East London; Switchback, which supports young men in the transition from prison into working life; Make It! (based at Toynbee Hall), which offers young people confidence-building trips away, aimed specifically at children who often don't get chances to develop at school; and Somali Week, which takes place at Oxford House in Bethnal Green once a year.

These charities are all thriving. Newark Youth football teams have won a number of cups this year. 60 children are joining this year's Make It! cohort, while the programme is expanding into Hackney and Newham. And Ayan, who runs Somali Week was awarded an MBE this year, for services to the Somali community!

Switchback has continued to defy all the odds in achieving remarkable results, at a time when prisons are a matter of growing public concern. The reoffending rate for Switchback Trainees is currently at 12%, less than a quarter the usual rate of men coming out of prison (55%). More than 70% of those that successfully move on from Switchback have secured a permanent job.

In addition to the existing charities, we're delighted to be supporting a new venture this year: The Carpentry Club. The Carpentry Club is a not-for-profit public maker space specialising in woodwork. It is a curated, safe and social community workshop where professional and hobby woodworkers can use the tools, make a mess and noise, learn or teach new skills.

FHMT has committed to funding a partnership between Switchback and Carpentry Club. Once a month a group of Switchback trainees will spend a day with Ollie who runs the club and their mentors. We hope that by giving this group the opportunity to spend supported time in the Carpentry Club environment they may find that working with their hands either as a profession or as a hobby is something the trainees might want to know more about. The supported days followed by membership to this club will give them access to a safe environment that we hope will add to their skillset and confidence at this tough time after release.

FHMT have funded two days so far and feedback from the Mentors and Trainees has been great. We hope that this programme is a great success.

Looking forward

We are looking forward to another great year for the FHMT, with a bike ride and other sponsored activities. As ever, we owe you all tremendous thanks for your very generous donations and efforts in fund-raising activities.

We will soon have a brand-spanking new, beautifully designed website, which will provide all of our latest activities. Many thanks to Nipsy for doing such splendid work on that. We look forward to showing that off.

Look out for dates of the bike ride and party, and do get in touch if you have ideas for fund-raising activities.

In the meantime, we wish you a very happy Christmas and a relaxing New Year. See you in 2017!

Elizabeth Haines, Rosie Wesemann, Richard Haines, Nick Carlton, Will Davies,
Rebecca Dawson, Rob Haines, Kerrin Isaacs, Maz McCartney

The Trustees