

THE SNOWDON AWARD SCHEME

*Helping students with physical disabilities
in further and higher education or training*



ANNUAL REVIEW **2011**

Celebrating 30 Years Of Achievement 1981-2011

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Helping students with physical disabilities in further and higher education or training

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Annual Review

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Front Cover

William Ramsay in his standing wheelchair enabling him to take part in the laboratory and workshop elements of his course.

Signed in

Patrick Hyland

has profound sensory-neural hearing loss and is studying a Dual Masters course in Innovation Design Engineering at the Royal College of Art.



Patrick's Snowdon Award, sponsored by the **Doughty Hanson Charitable Foundation**, allows him to pay for additional sign language interpreters. These interpreters help him to keep up with the considerable demands of his course by enabling him to interact fully in lectures and tutorials.



Mark Ward is tetraplegic as a result of a diving accident sustained whilst attending a World Challenge Expedition in Zanzibar in 2002. His Snowdon Award, sponsored

by the **Persula Foundation**, has enabled him to pay for note taker and library support during his studies for a Graduate Diploma in Law.

Sarah Core suffered near fatal burns over fifty per cent of her body seven years ago. As a result she has been left with multiple physical difficulties. After an extensive period re-building her life, Sarah has now started a degree in Ceramic Design at St Martin's College of Art and Design. Her comments sum up what many recipients feel about receiving a Snowdon Award.

"The Scheme is an amazing body of people and gave me the support I needed to start afresh after some very difficult years. I fully intend to honour the opportunity they have given me."

Our objects:

To provide grant funding, information and support to help students with physical or sensory disabilities in further and higher education, or training.

Our vision:

That all disabled students will have equal opportunities in post-16 learning and training. In particular, that they will not be discriminated against on grounds of finance.

Our mission:

To improve the lives of disabled students by:

- Providing grants to help cover the additional costs they have to incur as a result of their disability and where such costs are not adequately funded by available statutory awards.
- Helping them and their families to access appropriate information and advice on the best facilities and all sources of funding available to them.
- Highlighting the barriers that continue to prevent disabled people from achieving their full potential in their studies.

Our values:

Equality We believe disabled people should have truly equal opportunities to pursue their chosen studies and succeed in them.

Qualifications We value educational and training qualifications and recognise their importance in helping disabled people obtain better employment.

Understanding We strive to understand the issues faced by disabled students who approach us and to provide support wherever possible.

Inclusiveness We believe in the value of diversity. We respect people's different strengths, beliefs and culture and we recognise their abilities over their disabilities.

Potential We have a strong desire to see all disabled students achieve their full potential in their studies as a stepping stone towards a successful and independent future.

We **EQUIP** disabled students to achieve study success, leading to lifelong benefits.



A message from Lord Snowdon

I do hope you will enjoy reading this Review and finding out a little about just a few of the 90 students we have helped during the 2010/11 academic year.

This year marks the Scheme's 30th anniversary. In 1981, our inaugural year, we helped just 6 students. To date, we have now provided grants to more than 1,800 people to help them access post-16 learning and prepare themselves for better, more independent futures. We have helped many more people indirectly, by drawing attention to the barriers that disabled people face and influencing government policy, leading to major improvements in statutory provisions.

Whilst celebrating these achievements, I am slightly saddened that in 21st century Britain, so many disabled people still have to rely on charitable support. Despite all the improvements over the past 30 years, there is still a great deal of demand for our funding.

So I am delighted that the Scheme is marking its 30th year with the appointment of several new trustees who are helping us to review our future strategy and ensure that the charity will continue to carry out its critical work for as long as we are needed. I am so grateful to all the trustees and our selection panel members for giving freely so much of their valuable time and expertise.

Finally and most importantly, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to those generous organisations and individuals



Lord Snowdon practising his sign-language skills with student Konstantinos Dimopoulos

who support my Scheme's work financially and make everything possible.

With my very best wishes,

Snowdon



Maria Peppas has Spinal Muscular Atrophy. She grew up in a culture where it is often assumed that anyone with a disability will never be able to achieve much in life. But she has

proved them all wrong and is currently studying for a degree in Natural Sciences at Cambridge University.

Maria's Snowdon Award has been sponsored by the [John Spedan Lewis Foundation](#) and the money is being used for support costs – providing assistance to get to and from lectures and to access every area of her academic life. It's not just her academic life that has been enriched by the Cambridge experience, however. Maria's social confidence has been boosted and she has been able to achieve a level of independence that she hadn't expected.

Just as her Snowdon Award has made such a difference to Maria, she is now looking forward to using the knowledge that she gains from her studies to make a difference to others.



Miracle Maduforo is blind. He is studying for a BA in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Coventry University. Miracle's Snowdon Award has been of significant help to him, financing electronic Braille display equipment which makes it easy for him to access written study material. Braille books are very expensive so previously, Miracle was reliant on magnifying tools and speech software. Now he can use the Braille display linked to his laptop computer to read a Braille version of anything in document or PDF form.

Help us to change lives

Can you help us to fund a disabled student's extra needs and provide a life-changing opportunity?

We rely entirely on donations to fund our work and we welcome all levels of support from individuals, companies or charitable trusts.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Make a donation
- Sponsor an award
- Nominate us for an employee giving scheme
- Take part in a sponsored activity
- Remember us in your will

Please contact [Kathryn Hayden](#) for more details.

Tea with Lord Snowdon



In March 2011 a number of Snowdon students who had received awards for the current academic year were invited to an afternoon tea reception in the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons. Here they had an opportunity to meet each other as well as the Scheme's Trustees and Panel members and some of our supporters. It was a wonderful opportunity

to obtain updates on how their studies are progressing

Our guest speaker was Chris Swift, who had received a Snowdon Award in 1996 while studying for an engineering degree at Harper Adams University College. Chris is now Managing Director of Moltenrock

Equipment Ltd – a company he set up to design and manufacture off-road wheelchairs. You can read more about him on page 5.

Left to Right with Lord Snowdon: Thomas Williams, Zainab Yate, Sarah Core, Ryan Marsh



Ryan Marsh has speech and language difficulties and received his Snowdon Award to help him with his travel expenses whilst undertaking his diploma course in art and design and Neath Port Talbot College.

Ryan has identified photography as a discipline through which he can communicate unencumbered by his difficulties. Ryan was thrilled to be

invited to our reception at the House of Commons, but was rather shocked when we asked if he would step in to help us in the absence of our official photographer!

Despite his fears, Ryan thoroughly enjoyed taking on the role and found it to be a helpful experience in his development towards becoming a professional photographer. He said "It was an honour to shake hands with, and say hello to, Lord Snowdon. I am sure that my memories of that day will stay with me for the rest of my life". Ryan now has offers for places from three different universities.



for their financial support. His Snowdon Award meant that he was able to buy a standing wheelchair. Studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of Bath, Will

Will Ramsey suffered a serious spinal cord injury when he fell from a height of 5 storeys in 2009. Now a wheelchair user Will is grateful to the Snowdon Award Scheme

is now able to function independently in the laboratory and workshop environment and to engage fully in his course.

Margareth Maganga is a 2nd Year Law student at the University of Leeds. Originally from Tanzania, Margareth is visually impaired, having started to lose her sight just a few years ago. Initially Margareth didn't appreciate how much her sight loss would affect her during her studies, but now she is very grateful for the large print transcriptions that her Snowdon Award funds. Sponsored by the [French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust](#), Margareth's award has meant that she is more able to access reading material required for her degree. She has also written a book about her experience of becoming partially blind, and hopes to use some of the proceeds of this to buy equipment for blind students back in Tanzania.



Wheels of success

Chris Swift has Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) which he contracted following a bout of food poisoning. With GBS the body attacks its own nervous system and, as a result, muscles lose their ability to respond to the brain's commands.

15 years ago, Chris received a Snowdon Award for special voice activated software to operate his computer while studying for an engineering degree. He went on to complete a masters degree in off-road mobility for wheelchair users and then attended Cranfield University where he completed an MBA.

Chris had been frustrated by difficulties in accessing University field work sites in his wheelchair and, with the encouragement of his MBA classmates, he took the bold step of setting up his own business to help fill a gap in the market for products to answer the needs of other wheelchair users like him.

Molten Rock Equipment Ltd manufactures specialist off-road wheelchairs and mobility products to help people access the outdoors for work or fun. Since its first sales in early 2008, Chris's company has helped people back into work, education or just join in with their families and their activities.



Chris received his Snowdon Award to allow him to complete his university studies. In reality, it helped him achieve much more than that. The friends and contacts he met at university have been instrumental in the pursuit of his goals and for his ongoing success, both in business and in life.

Ann Lewis is spinally injured as a result of an incorrect lumbar puncture procedure.

She needed a specialist all-terrain wheelchair to access fully her Masters degree in Outdoor Education and applied to the Scheme for help with purchasing this. Having scoured the market she discovered that the best product available for her demanding off-road use was the Boma Wheelchair manufactured by Molten Rock Equipment Ltd – which just happens to be the company set up by previous Snowdon Award recipient Chris Swift!

Why we support the Snowdon Award Scheme



Contact Associates Ltd is a market leader in the provision of disability assessments in the UK. Our company was started by Emma Shelton MA (Educational Psychology) and Una Lynch RSA Dip SpLD, both disability specialists with a long history of enabling disabled students to achieve their potential.

Most disabled students in Higher Education are entitled to a Disabled Students Allowance to help with their additional disability-related costs at university. Contact Associates' skilled professional staff complete Assessments of Need for disabled students. In some instances, due to the complexity of their disability, the statutory funding available is not sufficient to fully support their needs.

The Snowdon Award Scheme helps such students with additional funding. We support the Snowdon Award Scheme because it closely matches what we are doing every day. It brings practical help to enable students with complex difficulties to achieve their aims and obtain qualifications that will change their lives.

We are delighted to be able to give something back by supporting The Snowdon Award Scheme.



Ondotimi Songi has Sickle Cell Disease and is an overseas student from Nigeria. The Scheme has helped provide him with an electric wheelchair to aid his movement around campus whilst studying an LLM Petroleum Law and Policy course at the University of Dundee



Ben Watkins with leading fashion designer Paul Smith. Ben has passed his level 3 diploma in fashion retail with a merit. He is now in his final year specialising in visual merchandising. Ben went to a Paul Smith open question evening at Selfridges and managed to meet the man himself.

Bridget's Trust joins Snowdon

Founded by Professor Margaret Spufford, Bridget's Hostel was opened in Cambridge in 1991 to provide a supportive environment and 24-hour care for up to 7 severely disabled students at Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities. The more formal Bridget's Trust was established to run the hostel in 1994.

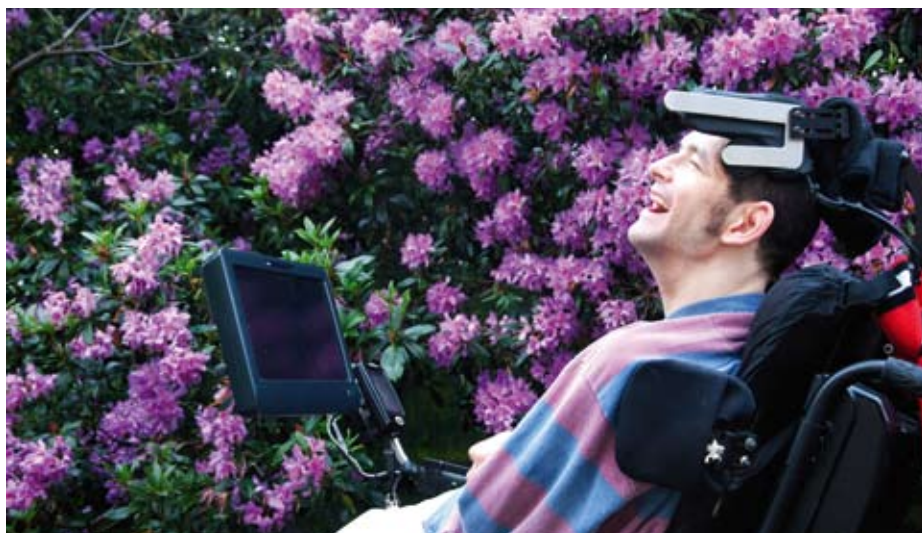
Bridget's Hostel continued to provide accommodation and support for Cambridge students until 2003, when it finally closed following progression towards more integrated housing for all students within the Colleges. Afterwards, Bridget's Trust became a grant making organisation (with similar objectives to those of The Snowdon Award Scheme, but focusing entirely on Cambridge).

Over recent years, Bridget's trustees have found it increasingly difficult to fully allocate their available funding within Cambridge. One option was for them to open up their application process to other disabled students in the UK – but the trustees realised that setting up a structure to manage this would simply be replicating something that the Snowdon Award Scheme was already doing very effectively.

So discussions were held about the possibility of merging the two charities and a decision has now been taken to transfer Bridget's Trust's assets to the Snowdon Award Scheme.



Jane McLarty, one of Bridget's Trustees, is joining the Snowdon board. She started working for Bridget's Hostel in 1993, later adding the role of the University's disability officer and establishing its Disability Resource Centre before moving to Lucy Cavendish College as a Tutor. She is currently Senior Tutor at Wolfson College, Cambridge. Jane said "Bridget's Trust was a catalyst for the improvement of facilities for disabled students in Cambridge, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what the combined assets of Bridget's and the Snowdon Award Scheme can achieve for disabled students nationally."



Matt Gopsill is undertaking a Masters degree in Computing at De Montfort University. He has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, which he controls with head switches. Matt can't speak so he has to communicate using a computer, also controlled with his head. This computer not only needs to be a communication aid, it is also a word processor, mobile phone, internet browser and laboratory tool for building neural networks in software for artificial intelligence. His Snowdon Award helped him to buy the latest model.

Founder President and Trustee

The Rt Hon The Earl of Snowdon GCVO

Vice Presidents

The Rt Hon Lord Ashley of Stoke CH

The Rt Hon Baroness Masham of Ilton

The Rt Hon Lord Morris of Manchester AO QSO

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild

Trustees

Sir John Hannam chairman

Stephen Bradshaw OBE

Robert J Edwards CBE

Andrew Farquhar FCIS

Baroness (Tanni) Grey-Thompson DBE

Lady Frances von Hofmannsthal

Peter Holland

Sidney L Hunt

Anji Hunter

Richard Lansdown PhD

Renny Leach DPhil

David Linley

Lord (Colin) Low of Dalston CBE

Dr Jane McLarty

Dan Norris

Dr Wendy Piatt

Simon Preece

Amber Rudd MP

The selection panel

Applications to us are assessed by a group of people who have personal experience of disability, funding and education issues.

John Rous Milligan chairman
Team leader, sensory support services

Kelvin Currie
Independent consultant in disability and telecommunications

Ann Darnbrough OBE
National Information Forum

Paolo S Dasgupta
Past Snowdon student

Hannah James
Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities

Judith Jesky
Trustee of the Spinal Injuries Association

Richard Lansdown
Child psychologist

Kate Pilkington
Support worker with deaf people

Mike Preece
Emeritus Professor of Child Health and Growth

Nigel Utting
Counsellor, consultant and Disabled Students' Allowances assessor

Statement of the trustees

The summarised financial statements set out here are the responsibility of the trustees. They represent a summary of information extracted from the full annual financial statements of The Snowdon Award Scheme for the year ended 30 April 2011 which have been audited by Knill James and have received an unqualified opinion. The financial statements have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

These summarised financial statements cannot provide a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information the full annual financial statements should be consulted. Copies can be obtained by contacting The Snowdon Award Scheme at Unit 18, Oakhurst Business Park, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9RT.

Signed on behalf of the trustees



Sir John Hannam

Chair of Trustees
23 June 2011



Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 30 April 2011

	£	April 2011 £	£	April 2010 £
Incoming resources				
From all sources		<u>188,273</u>		<u>201,427</u>
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds				
Fundraising expenses		29,989		72,479
Charitable activities				
Grants awarded	153,458		150,447	
Less balances written back	<u>-22,639</u>		<u>-23,171</u>	
	130,819		127,276	
Support costs	<u>58,743</u>		<u>64,995</u>	
		189,562		192,271
Governance costs		<u>3,579</u>		<u>4,302</u>
Total resources expended		<u>223,130</u>		<u>269,052</u>
Net income/expenditure for the year		-34,857		-67,625
Investment gains		<u>7,063</u>		<u>75,281</u>
Net movement in funds for the year		<u>-27,794</u>		<u>7,656</u>
Total fund brought forward		587,388		579,732
Total fund carried forward		<u>559,594</u>		<u>587,388</u>

Auditors' statement to the trustees

In our opinion these summarised accounts are consistent with the full annual financial statements which received an unqualified audit opinion.

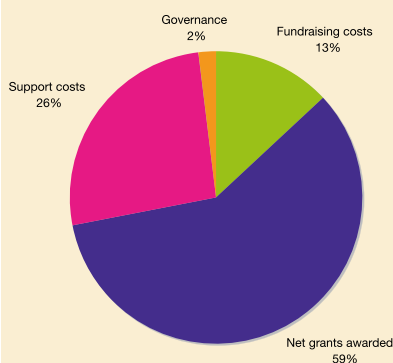
Knill James

Chartered accountants and statutory auditor
One Bell Lane
Lewes, East Sussex
BN7 1JU
23 June 2011

Balance sheet at 30 April 2011

	£	April 2011 £	£	April 2010 £
Fixed assets		566,068		646,299
Current assets	110,423		27,860	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>-116,897</u>		<u>-86,771</u>	
		-6,474		-58,911
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>559,594</u>		<u>587,388</u>

Analysis of charitable expenditure



Charity funds

Designated funds				
Property		254,582		259,999
Investments		180,807		223,544
General funds		<u>114,498</u>		<u>93,815</u>
Total unrestricted funds		549,887		577,358
Restricted funds		<u>10,007</u>		<u>10,030</u>
		<u>559,894</u>		<u>587,388</u>

Karen's marathon challenge

Karen Halvey was supported by the Snowdon Award Scheme whilst completing her ACCA qualification, so she felt privileged to be able to run the London Marathon on the charity's behalf. Here's her Marathon story:



Karen with her niece

"Training started slowly but surely, and I discovered that I really enjoyed running. In January I upped my training and started to follow a rigorous training programme. After a great start I suffered a knock back when I was hit by a muscle strain in February. My pace slowed significantly and I spent two months visiting GPs, Nurses, Physiotherapists and a podiatrist trying to fix the problem.

Three weeks before the big day I was in hospital waiting for an X-ray to determine whether I had a stress fracture. I was so worried that I was going to have to pull out.

Fortunately, no stress fracture was found, and I was London bound!

April 17th 2011 is a day that will live in my heart forever. Seeing so many runners tackling the 26.2 miles was an amazing experience. And every runner had their own story to tell. The supporters were so encouraging and there was always someone on hand with sweets, snacks or fruit. Priests stood outside their churches blessing the runners as they passed. Remarkable volunteers manned the water stations and Lucozade fuel stops and the mighty St John's Ambulance helped so many people cross the finish line, myself included.

My legs held up and got me round the course. I was spurred on by the support of my family, friends and work colleagues and would like to thank them for their generous sponsorship. Most of all I'd like to thank the Snowdon Award Scheme for giving me the opportunity and support to be a successful Marathoner. It was a hard, hot and gruelling challenge, but it was the most amazing thing I've ever done!"

**Any reader who would like to take on the challenge for 2012 is encouraged to contact us!
Call us on 01403 732899 for more details**

Thank you

We are pleased to acknowledge generous funding from the following trusts, companies and individuals. We would also like to thank those contributing who have asked to remain anonymous.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Sylvia Aitken Charitable Trust | The Monument Trust |
| The Annett Charitable Trust | Edward Thomas Mowle Charitable Trust |
| Lord Barnby's Foundation | National Federation of Demolition Contractors |
| Anthony Barton | National Information Forum |
| The Sydney Black Charitable Trust | The Norman Family Charitable Trust |
| Blatchington Court Trust | H A Oppenheimer Charitable Trust |
| The Roger Brooke Charitable Trust | Michael Pass |
| R M Burton Charitable Trust | The Persula Foundation |
| The Vivienne and Samuel Cohen Charitable Trust | The Rest-Harrow Trust |
| Contact Associates Ltd | Reuben Foundation |
| The Coutts Charitable Trust | The Edwin George Robinson Charitable Trust |
| The Doughty Hanson Charitable Foundation | Sir Evelyn de Rothschild |
| The Foyle Foundation | The Ruffield Charitable Trust |
| The French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust | The Jimmy Savile Charitable Trust |
| The Go-Ahead Group plc | Schroder Investment Management Ltd |
| The Goldsmiths' Company Charity | The Sobell Foundation |
| The Gosling Foundation Ltd | The Arthur Souster Charitable Trust |
| The Helianthus Charitable Trust | The Arthur Souster Charitable Trust |
| The Charles Littlewood Hill Trust | The Geoff & Fiona Squire Foundation |
| IMI Kynoch Ltd | Bruce Wake Charitable Trust |
| The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust | The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation |
| The John Spedan Lewis Foundation | The Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust |
| The M Foundation | |
| The Michael John Trust | |

Why do we help?

Education is expensive enough for all students, but disabled students can incur many more costs through no fault of their own.

For most disabled students, the statutory funding available in the UK provides for the majority of their extra costs. However, many students still don't receive the help they need.

Some students and some courses do not qualify for statutory funding at all. For those that do, the limited amounts available may be insufficient – especially where there are high equipment or human support costs.

The examples below show how disability related costs can mount up.

- £12,000** Sign Language interpreter (10 hours per week x 30 weeks)
- £5,000** Power wheelchair
- £3,600** Accommodation costs for 24-hour carer on campus
- £2,500** Desktop Braille embosser
- £1,600** Portable lightweight hoist
- £600** Screen reading software
- £250** Training in use of assistive technology aid



The winning team at the 2011 Snowdon Charity Shooting Challenge at the Royal Berkshire Shooting School: Mark Egerton and his son Tom with Rob Smallman and his son Jack.

This event raised £14,000 for the Scheme.