



## THE EVOLVING THEMES

We are sure that Felix would have done good things in life both to help other people and to protect wildlife. We have set up the Felix Byam Shaw Foundation to commemorate Felix by creating and supporting social projects which reflect his passions and values.

We are very grateful for all the support and suggestions we have had for the concept of the Foundation from family and friends in the year since Felix died. Our thinking about the Foundation's purpose has been evolving. We started with a powerful instinct that we must do something positive to keep Felix's spirit alive and to stay connected to the communities in which he thrived. This impetus is gradually evolving into more concrete project plans.

The imperatives of practical animal conservation, creating sporting opportunities and tackling unsustainable food waste and food poverty have emerged as the themes which energise us most. We would like to tell you about some of our early initiatives in this, our first newsletter.

The Foundation will be a lean and cost-effective operation. We, the Trustees, pledge to allocate funding prudently and effectively; every penny donated to the Foundation will go to project-funding as Felix's family will cover all the charity's administrative costs.

Thank you to all Felix's friends and family for all your love, emotional support and generosity.

Jane, Justin and Dan Byam Shaw, Trustees

## THE FELIX PROJECT

FOOD FOR PEOPLE ... (NOT LANDFILL)

Building on the success of the Oxford Food Bank, the Foundation plans to set up 'The Felix Project' in West London, with the support of the *Evening Standard* newspaper.

This will be a sustainable food bank which will collect surplus fresh food from supermarkets and wholesalers, food that would otherwise be thrown away, and will give it to charities to feed the people most in need in our communities.

The Foundation has commissioned a feasibility study, the findings of which have encouraged us to proceed with this exciting project. This autumn will see us appoint a start-up manager, and acquire premises in Brent and vans sporting the 'Felix' logo, and our intention is to start operations in early 2016.

## OXFORD HEDGEHOGS NEED OUR HELP!

### MAKE YOUR STREET A HEDGEHOG STREET

Felix adored hedgehogs and other native British mammals. For years, he longed to find a wild hedgehog and his dream came true when he finally stumbled across one in his own garden. This was the first of many sightings over the years and Felix became known amongst his friends as a hedgehog expert. People would bring us hedgehogs in trouble and we'd take them to Tiggywinkles Hedgehog Hospital near Thame. One of the happiest experiences of Felix's life was being entrusted with a pair of rescued hedgehogs which he returned to the wild from his grandparents' garden near Epping Forest.

Since Felix died, we've continued to see healthy hedgehogs in the streets and to take sick ones to Tiggywinkles. Felix's great friend Sebastian Callendar has donated two new hedgehog pens to Tiggywinkles in his memory.

We should consider ourselves lucky to have hedgehogs in our neighbourhood as numbers in the UK have fallen drastically. Some fear the species could be extinct in a decade; there are now fewer than one million left in the UK, down from 36 million

in the 1950s. We can't stand by and watch Britain's favourite animal, so beloved by children, disappear!

Our vision is for the Foundation to create a better and safer habitat for Britain's favourite wild animal in 130 acres of North Oxford where the existing hedgehog community can thrive and increase alongside humans who are aware of their vulnerability and their needs, and where the community takes collective and co-ordinated action to ensure the survival of this wonderful creature.

With targeted communications, scientific surveys and a practical action programme, the Foundation will engage the local community and encourage everyone to make the small but significant changes to habitat and behaviour that could make the difference between extinction and survival for our local hedgehogs. We will encourage everyone to connect gardens with gaps in walls and fences to create a 'green corridor' to enable hedgehogs to rove widely in search of food, to remove hazards and provide more sources of shelter, food and water. We want everyone to know how to identify and help a hedgehog



in danger and what food is safe to offer them (definitely NOT bread and milk!).

We will work with the scientific community to learn more about how and where our hedgehogs live and measure and track the local population.

Our ambition is that our work and the results will help inspire other communities in and around Oxford and further afield to do the same. The Felix Byam Shaw Foundation will provide funding for a part-time 'Hedgehog Officer' and, in partnership with local organisations, form a Hedgehog Preservation Area bordered by the Cherwell River, the Marston Ferry Road, the Banbury Road and the southern edge of the Oxford University Parks.

Follow @felixhedgehogs on Twitter and please contact us if you would like to be a hedgehog champion!  
info@felixbyamshawfoundation.org

# PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

## LIFE BEYOND LIMB LOSS FOR MENINGITIS AMPUTEES

Felix was lucky enough to be invited to the Paralympics at the Olympic Stadium in 2012 and the experience made a big impression on a boy who loved the physical satisfaction and exhilaration of sport as well as the camaraderie and friendship of all his sports teams.

Children who survive meningococcal disease are often left with life-changing amputations. Through the Foundation, we want to help these children have a taste of what sport might have to offer them.

We are pleased to be co-sponsors of Meningitis Research Foundation's 2015 annual support and sports day. The Foundation will provide funding for travel and accommodation for meningitis survivors and their families to attend 'Pushing The Boundaries', to be held in October 2015.

The day will feature rugby hero Aaron Phipps, 2012 Paralympic wheelchair rugby athlete, talking about his personal meningitis journey, and Ben Cohen MBE, the former international rugby star and 2003 England World Cup winner.



Aaron Phipps.



## LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD ...

### ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR A PERMANENT WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Our ambition is to acquire land, preferably a woodland area, which will be managed in perpetuity for the preservation and appreciation of the UK's precious flora and fauna, especially endangered mammals. We are hoping to find somewhere that can be visited by Felix's friends and other wildlife enthusiasts, perhaps providing a camping area and some hides.

This will be a permanent natural memorial for a boy who loved wildlife and was interested in working in conservation in the future. Justin and Jane took Felix several times to Badger-Watch, where we put out food for badgers and were rewarded after dark by seeing these magical animals lumbering and scoffing peanuts and peanut butter, just a few feet from our comfortable armchairs in a warm hide. We also spotted owls, foxes, deer and some hyperactive field mice. These were special family times, when we slept cosily in a caravan and when Felix's passion and delight were inspiring and infectious. We want to create a place where people can be similarly swept up by the wonders of the natural world.

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### FUNDRAISING FOR THE FELIX BYAM SHAW FOUNDATION

We are very grateful for the fundraising projects that have taken place this year to support the Foundation, including:

**TEWH auction:** Felix's house at Eton held a hugely successful fund-raising dinner and auction.

**Eton to Anfield Bike Ride:** A team of Felix's friends rode the equivalent of the distance from Eton to Anfield, home of his beloved Liverpool FC, raising money for a bench overlooking the pitches at the school where Felix played football and cricket, and for the Foundation.

**Eton College Collections:** Felix and his family were remembered in prayers and services at Eton College, where very generous collections were made for the Foundation.

**Constance Byam Shaw's birthday party:** Felix's step-grandmother's birthday this year became a gala evening of cabaret entertainment in support of the Foundation.

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