

connect

Issue No. 10
October 2013

The Chelmsford City Council staff magazine



Autumn issue

ICT CAREER BOOST | CONCERT REVIEW | COMPETITIONS | DAY IN THE LIFE | CHELMSFORD'S MOST HAUNTED

Welcome to the Autumn issue of *connect*...

In this issue, you can read about the ICT team's top-notch training, a relaxing and toe-tapping new way to spend your lunch break, a working day spent teaching the young at the Museum, haunted happenings around the city and a lady with a wall full of running medals!

The next edition will be the winter issue, which will be published in December.

Happy reading!

To send feedback/suggestions for *Connect*, or to discuss article ideas, please email samantha.dordoy@chelmsford.gov.uk or dial ext. 6459.

News in Brief...

- Environmental Protection are proud to announce that Tim Savage, Scientific Officer, passed his summer exams and gained an HNC in Civil Engineering, which he passed with merit.
- The Visit Chelmsford mobile phone app, featured last issue (Summer 2013, p4) is now available to download! Search 'visit Chelmsford' on the Android or Apple app stores and get it on your phone. It's great for finding bus and train timetables, local shows, events and businesses, and you can also explore the city's history through an exciting virtual tour.

Cover image

This issue's cover image of Kings Tower, seen across Central Park lake, was entered by Mark Simms.

These were taken on a particularly sunny day in early October – hopefully not the last of the bright, crisp autumn days before winter arrives. Mark has won a Chelmsford Monopoly board, which he has raffled off to colleagues in aid of Children in Need.

The next issue of *Connect* will be published in Winter, so any staff who are snappy with a camera are invited to enter their wintry or Christmassy photographs for the cover!

Please email a copy of your image to samantha.dordoy@chelmsford.gov.uk to enter.

There are a couple of rules – photographs must have been taken within Chelmsford City Council's jurisdiction, must be your own work and must be high-resolution, with no timestamp or watermark.

The deadline for entries is Friday 29 November.



Staff hellos

- Colette Carpenter, Public Health Protection Officer, Public Health & Protection Services, Safer Communities
- Joshua Clarke, Commercial Vehicle Technician Apprentice, Refuse Workshop, Public Places
- Daan de Lange, Intern, Legal & Democratic Services, Corporate Services
- Stephen Duffy, Investigation Support Assistant, Audit & Investigations, Financial Services
- Rachel Dyer, Planning Officer, Planning Design, Safer Communities
- Rebecca Fitzpatrick, Learning Officer, Museum Services, Public Places
- Michael Hart, Planning Support Officer, Development Management, Sustainable Communities
- Thomas Howard, Senior Business Analyst, Corporate ICT, Corporate Services
- Gemma Jones, Receptionist, South Woodham Ferrers Leisure Centre, Leisure & Cultural Services
- Alastair Kirk, Intern, Parking Services, Safer Communities
- Max Nicholls, Intern, Policy & Performance, Corporate Services
- Allan Reeves, Street Care Operative, Street Care & Performance, Public Places
- Alexander Sadowsky, Intern, Planning Policy, Sustainable Communities
- Chloe Shortall, Intern, Corporate Communications, Corporate Services
- Valerie Smith, Cleaner, Riverside Ice & Leisure Centre, Leisure & Cultural Services
- Clive Stacey, Learning Officer, Museum Services, Public Places
- Michail Valdaicev, Market Attendant, Street Care Operative, Street Care & Performance, Public Places
- Resh Verma, Customer Services Advisor, Customer Services, Corporate Services

Staff in new roles

- John Breen has taken a secondment as an Information Compliance Officer, Corporate ICT, Corporate Services
- Mike Corsham is now an Advanced Intern, Legal & Democratic Services, Corporate Services
- Chloe Dickens is now a Licensing Officer, Licensing, Safer Communities
- Neil Dighton has taken up a Housing Advice Officer role, Housing Advice, Sustainable Communities
- Helen Fagg is now an Advanced Intern, Sports Development, Leisure & Cultural Services
- Penny Frost has taken a secondment as an Energy Officer, Building Services, Safer Communities
- Francesca Lancioni has taken up a Courses Administrator role at Riverside, Leisure & Cultural Services
- Matt Walsh has taken a secondment as a Community Safety Lead Officer, Public Health & Protection Services, Safer Communities
- Joanna Wilson is now Land Charges Support Officer, Development Management, Sustainable Communities
- Dan Wright is now a Risk Management Officer, Accountancy Services, Financial Services

By Martine Kettles, HR Business Partner



Winners announced for 100% Attendance Prize Draw

In 2012/13, over 350 staff achieved 100% attendance. With so many people with fantastic sickness records, it was only fair that there should be some reward for those making it into work every day, avoiding the winter bugs, summer sneezes and, of course, the new-term flu that those with children will be ruefully familiar with...



So, on 20 June 2013, those staff were entered into a prize draw to win £100 of capital bond vouchers.

Names were drawn at random from each directorate by the Chief Executive, Steve Packham, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Roy Whitehead, and Councillor John Galley. In attendance were Louise Goodwin, Florence Agyei and Kerry Knowles, along with two staff forum representatives – Daisy Eledy-Cole and Mike Keen.

The 25 winners were: Florence Agyei, Deborah Beazley, Benjamin Bohac, Liz Butter, Wayne Chittock, Deborah Clark, Catherine Fenghour, Keith Flowers, John Gilbert, Mandy Gumbs, Peter Kemp, Ashley Knott, Karen Lonsdale, Michele Lumley, Sharon Mount, Andrew Pepper, Andrew Pryke, Paul Reeves, Phil Reeves, Helen Sams, John Smith, Janet West, Richard Williams, Mike Wray and Glenn Yates.

On 17 July, the winners collected their vouchers at a short ceremony presented by Steve Packham.

By Nerissa Baitson, HR Strategic Support Officer

Crematorium to host Christmas Services

This December, Chelmsford Crematorium will hold two seasonal services.

Christmas carols and songs will be sung by the St John Payne School Choir in the first service and by local soloist, Kathryn Harris, in the second. Names of loved ones will be read out in a candle-lit act of remembrance. An offering will be taken in aid of the Mayor's Charity, the J's Hospice, and seasonal refreshments will be served in the North Chapel after each service.

The services will take place on Sunday 8 December at 2pm and 3.30pm. All are welcome to attend: those requiring a seat are advised to arrive early.

By Ann-Marie Smith, Bereavement Services Development Manager

To provide the name of a loved one to be read out during the Christmas Service, please call 01245 606662.



Great staff development opportunity!

This year's Chelmsford Showcase for Business is all set for Wednesday 20 November at Anglia Ruskin University. As well as being a popular event with local businesses, the Showcase offers staff a great development opportunity via the seminar programme that's on offer. These cover a variety of motivational and inspiring topics and this year the program features:

- 'It's Time to S.H.I.N.E – Are You Ready?' – Paul Wearmouth
- 'Communication Alchemy' – Nick Looby
- 'Brilliant Networking – helping you to take a step forward' – Susan Rom/Graham Clarke
- 'Building a brilliant brand' – Jeff Della Mura
- 'How Using Data Better Will Rocket Your Business Growth' – Matthew Day
- 'Search engine optimisation (SEO) and user experience: Is your website losing you customers?' – Bernie Mills & Ian Miller
- 'Use your website to sell your products/services globally' – Levent Yildizgoren
- 'Making Social Media successful for your business' – Ian McKendrick

Council staff are free to register, but please check with your manager first.

By Stuart Graham, Inward Investment, Economy & Growth Manager

Full details and online registration are available at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/showcase. Further information is available from the Inward Investment Team on ext. 6364.



Career boost for ICT's approved apprentices

Over the years, Chelmsford City Council has given many young people the opportunity to gain skills and qualifications through internships and apprenticeships.

Most recently, the ICT apprenticeship scheme was awarded approval status by the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET), illustrating the quality of the scheme. As apprenticeships are becoming more popular, this is a major boost both for the Council and for those who become our apprentices.

As one of 70 organisations in the UK with approval status, Chelmsford City Council is the first of its kind – the only local government ICT scheme to gain approval from the IET. Andrew Webb, ICT Customer Services Manager, would like this to change. "I'd like to see more local authorities registering on the scheme," he says, "providing candidates with opportunities for flexibility and enhanced career prospects."

The Council apprenticeship offers candidates the opportunity to obtain quality training and learning opportunities within a complex and interesting environment. One of the key features of Chelmsford City Council's ICT apprenticeship is that candidates visit key areas within the Council for a short period of time, learning about HR, employment law, how Council finances operate and how ICT support the democratic process. An apprenticeship is often the foundation of somebody's career, and so the Council scheme helps to provide greater career opportunities, recognition and influence within the organisation and industry.

Caius Ajiz, a past ICT apprentice, says, "Achieving approval status means that upon completion of a level 3 apprenticeship, I'll be a chartered IT professional. The approval mark helps us get head and shoulders above the rest of the people that are doing similar apprenticeships. Being able to say that we're chartered will be a huge help when looking for work in the future. It's an interesting point that helps my CV stand out."

Approval status recognises competent engineers and ICT professionals, connects apprentices to innovative and influential people within the industry, as well as achieving an internationally recognised qualification. As it is a professional rather than technical qualification, the apprentice works toward a level of professionalism, for example, considering their image and attitude, and how this will support their career going forward.

Taking part in the apprenticeship scheme is increasingly beneficial for the Council as it enabled the ICT team to be more customer focused, with apprentices helping to contribute towards an improved response rate and enabling the customer service



Left to right: Caius Ajiz, Danny Monnoyer and Andrew Webb with the certificate of accreditation from the IET

desk to meet more targets. For Danny Monnoyer, a current ICT apprentice, "The best part of the apprenticeship is helping people, which boosts my confidence. It's great when I talk to people that I have never met before!"

The IET approval will also help the Council attract more of the finest candidates to the scheme. For those who have completed the apprenticeship, the ICT department are keen for them to stay on, investing in the apprentice and helping them to continue their career and play a significant part in Council life.

Congratulations on the IET approval status, and well done to everyone involved!

By Chloe Shortall, Communications Intern

If you want to find out more about apprenticeships, or are interested in offering one, please visit the apprenticeships page on the Council's intranet site.

If you know of any young person trying to get ahead in ICT, please direct them to have a look at what the Council offers at: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/apprenticeships.

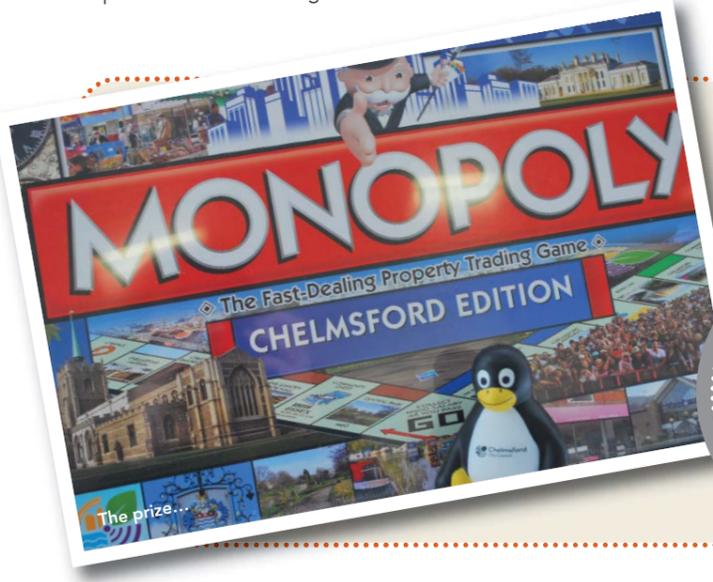


Percy Penguin Photo Competition

Percy Penguin has had a very busy year and we've all enjoyed seeing where he's been.

We're now giving you the chance to win a marvellous prize by entering this competition. Just send in your funniest or favourite photo of Percy! It can be one from the archive or it can be a new one; it can be taken on his travels abroad or here in Chelmsford – it's entirely up to you.

Please send one photo only with a subject of 'Percy Comp' to: WheresClarence@chelmsford.gov.uk
Closing date: Friday 29 November 2013



REVIEWS...

A musical interlude to the working day

All concerts are 1 – 2pm at the Cramphorn Theatre. Drinks and snacks available from the theatre bar. Entry is free; donations of £1 are suggested.

On Wednesday 16 October, I went to try out one of the Cramphorn Theatre's Lunchtime Concerts. Free to enter and lasting between 1 and 2pm, this one featured violinist Nikoloz Shamirov and pianist Christopher Weston playing what the theatre's web pages called "unashamedly romantic" pieces.

As someone who knows next to nothing about classical music (I have a couple of compilation CDs for relaxing background music, put Classic FM on when I can't sleep and have a vague idea that I don't like Tchaikovsky, gained from college Art classes with a teacher who owned only one CD and thought we should 'work to musical sound'), I was slightly apprehensive. With this in mind, I dragged my partner along for solidarity in case everyone else there turned out to be terrifyingly knowledgeable and I needed a fellow rookie to lean on. Unashamedly romantic? Hmm.

Arriving slightly late from a meeting, we were relieved to find the room full of very relaxed-looking people, laughing at something a man with boots, jeans, long blond hair and a casual grin was saying on stage. This was Nikoloz Shamirov, the violinist, accompanied by the smart figure of Christopher Weston at the piano.

The pieces played mostly involved both instruments, but the real focus for the audience was on the violinist. Slightly squeaky on the high notes at first – due to the quality of the violin, not Shamirov's skills – the music built passion and feeling over the course of the hour. By the third piece, the theme from Schindler's List, the audience were very quiet and staring either at the floor or at Shamirov, whose cheeky grin had given way to a serious expression of concentration. It was played beautifully by both musicians, sad and romantic at the same time.

Other pieces were quieter, others loud and almost angry, and 'romantic' turned out not

to mean quite what I expected. The fifth piece, 'Aus der Heimat' (literally translated as Out of my Country) was written by a German national to express his love for his country, and it was that piece that I would describe as the most romantic-sounding of the hour. Full of trembling notes and passionate crescendos, Aus der Heimat really allowed Shamirov and Weston to show off their skills. Though there were still a few squeaky moments, the overall sound was sweet and clear.

The final piece of music, Vittorio Monti's 'Czardas', was a swooping, lovely piece, genuinely moving and with frequent pace changes that kept it exciting and interesting to listen to – and to watch. During an especially fast, ardent and fiddly-looking solo, the entire audience had their eyes fixed on Shamirov's flying fingers and it was clear that this was not just an amateur performance.

The musicians left the stage modestly to great applause from the audience at the end. We were left feeling surprised that we had found the concert so absorbing and moving – the 40 minutes it had lasted seemed to have flown by.

As the winter draws in and walking to town on lunch break becomes less and less appealing (there's nothing like drinking coffee with rain in it from a soggy cup in a freezing, grey park, thinking how much warmer you'd be back in the office), these lunchtime concerts at the Cramphorn Theatre seem like an interesting once-a-week alternative to sitting in the staff kitchen or Coval Club. It's a way to experience something dynamic and new in the middle of the day, and with a programme of wildly different musicians every week, you have no danger of getting bored. If Shamirov and Weston's fantastic performance is anything to go by, I'll be going every Wednesday in future.

By Sam Dordoy, Communications Intern



Try something new this winter:

Wednesday 13 November

The Environ Music Group return to the Cramphorn Theatre for a recital featuring the works of some local composers and other arranged items

Wednesday 20 November

Cross Harmonies, directed by Peter Cross. A wind ensemble featuring flutes, clarinets, soprano saxophone, French horn and bass clarinet.

Wednesday 27 November

TBC

Wednesday 4 December

Jane Parker with Jeffery Wilson. A vocal highlight of the season with original pieces and well-known songs.

Wednesday 11 December

'Chego' (Chelmsford Guitar Orchestra). Roger Montgomery as musical director with Ross Silverton, George Willey, Josh Bird, James Moodey and Joe Jefferies.

Wednesday 18 December

Megan Hill and Matt Strover are from the Birmingham Conservatoire and offer some violin and cello duets and solos for our delight.

Restaurant Reviews

Do you think you could write a fair, interesting review? Can you recommend a restaurant or pub for a family get-together, an evening out with friends or for that special occasion?

If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please tell us about your experience and send your recommendations, along with a website link, to restaurantreview@chelmsford.gov.uk

Please include some key information about your recommendation:

- The name of the restaurant
- Its location
- The nature of your visit (for a birthday, an evening out, a Sunday lunch, etc)
- The ambience of the place
- The quality of service
- Whether you felt you got value for money
- The parking facilities

By Julia Salvage, Members Support Officer



A day in the life...

of a Learning Services Manager



Teaching the younger population about Chelmsford and its history is an important job, and one that Yvonne Lawrence took on back in 2010. Surrounded by local artefacts at Chelmsford Museum, Yvonne tells me what it takes to be a Learning Services Manager.

Talk me through a typical day...

To be honest, I don't really have a typical day! Every day can be totally different. On Saturday I came in, opened up, and caught up on quite a lot of my projects as there are fewer distractions here. We also had a paranormal group in that evening to see if they could find any ghosts! Last Thursday we had a school group in the morning, and so I was teaching then. As far as typical goes, we'll often do a school session in the morning and mix it up with some admin in the afternoon. I like to be involved in bigger initiatives, including thinking about how the Museum will operate, especially with the new history curriculum.

You seem really busy!

Yes, there is a lot going on! We've commissioned a special model of the history of Chelmsford, which is an exciting project for next year. I'm also planning a teacher conference about the changes that have been made to the curriculum, which will affect us. But it's exciting as it means we can rethink how we operate and what we can do to meet these new, unexplored needs.

Has your previous experience helped you?

It really has. I taught for ten years at a local comprehensive, and also have a Masters in teaching. I was looking for a job where I could use my degree, but I didn't want to go into school leadership. It's a great background to have as we often work with schools and groups. It's also handy when I'm speaking to teachers as we're on the same level.

How has your role changed?

After the Museum was extended in 2010, my priority was to build the business back up again. When I first started, the priority was to

restart the school visits, as many hadn't taken place due to the building work. I've become more involved in other activities, including the learning zone, which enables teachers to be able to see what the Council can do to help them. I've really been able to make my mark, including introducing the Night at the Museum brand, where groups can stay over at the Museum. I've spent a lot of nights here: I even have my bedding in the office!

As Learning Services Manager, how do you work with schools?

We do a range of sessions. Some of our key strengths are with our curators, and working with them can be a powerful combination. We do some great sessions, for example, Nick Wickenden is interested in the Romans, and these have been great. Victorian sessions are also popular: we have a Victorian kitchen which allows students to really get involved.

You must see a lot of exhibits – which is your favourite?

I really like the World War Two Luftwaffe model of Chelmsford, which marks out the Marconi and Hoffman factories in New Street. It's so accurate when you get your bearings; it maps the factories, which were prime targets during the war, and shows the unluckiest road in Chelmsford. After the war it was presented to the Museum and now it's on display. It's a beautiful piece of work, but it can be quite chilling when you think about what it was originally intended for.

What is the most popular exhibit?

I've got to say the bees, everybody loves them!

What is the best bit of your job?

Undoubtedly the variety. I love that I can get involved in many different things. Working in a public building is also great because anybody could come in at any time, and it can be totally unexpected.

It sounds like Yvonne is a very busy lady, best leave her to it!

By Chloe Shortall, Communications Intern



Yvonne with the Luftwaffe model



The Victorian kitchen at the Museum

Chelmsford's Most Haunted

As you walk through the bright, modern streets of Chelmsford on your Saturday shopping trip, dark happenings and creepy tales are probably far from your mind. But some say that once night falls, the city becomes a different place... Here are a few spooky spots to visit this Hallowe'en:

Hylands House

There have been many reports of hauntings at Hylands House.

Paranormal investigations are often held at the House. Ghosthunters have contacted the spirit of a young, illiterate man who was once a servant there. Another group found an estate manager whose daughter was killed in the house, thrown down the stairs by a man following an argument. A "Mr Gooch" has also been contacted, as well as a crying woman called Christine Hanbury – the House's last private owner – who was looking for her son, Jack.

Visitors and staff have seen a Victorian-looking man on the first floor in a top hat and long coat, cooks in the basement and a lady in what used to be the lavatory. A pianist at a wedding asked guests, "Who was that bridesmaid watching me?" – but there was no bridesmaid.

New Hall School, Springfield

There have been reports of scary happenings in the grounds of New Hall School, once Beaulieu Palace, home to King Henry VIII, the Boleyn family, Mary Queen of Scots and, briefly, Oliver Cromwell. Since 1798, it has belonged to the nuns of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, who opened a school there. A graveyard at the school is the resting place of many of those nuns.

One witness, parked in the car park at night with friends, felt deeply uncomfortable and



Hylands House

kept noticing odd shadows moving outside the car. The group stayed there for a short time, but to their alarm a doorhandle of the car became extremely cold, to the extent that steam was rising from it, as if a freezing hand were on it. The radio they were listening to suddenly crackled, then the music was interrupted as a deep, garbled voice issued from the speakers. That was enough for the group, who swiftly drove off.

All Saints' Church

A persistent local legend says that, if you are brave enough to run around the church thirteen times at midnight, an angry phantom nun appears – perhaps to rebuke you for mocking the church, as the thirteenth apostle at the Last Supper was Judas, making the number unholy.

Patching Hall Lane

A tall, pallid figure wearing a top hat and cloak was seen in the lane by three teenagers. The figure disturbed them to such an extent that they ran off. Looking back to see if he was following, the witnesses saw the ghost vanish before their eyes.

Disclaimer: Connect cannot be held responsible for any eerie echoes you may hear, apparitions you may see or sixth senses you may develop if you visit these locations (although if you actually do have any ghostly experiences, we'd love to hear about it!)



The Museum

Staff Sightings...

Yvonne Lawrence, Learning Services Manager at Chelmsford Museum: "I personally haven't seen anything spooky at the Museum, but one of our previous curators was adamant that she saw a ghost on the stairs. I was a bit worried when I started doing the Night at the Museum sessions, as I didn't know what to expect, but I've never sensed anything!"

Nick Wheatley, Deputy Theatres Production Manager: "Many years ago, there was a guy – my brother, actually – who used to work here in the 1980s. He was knocked down by a motorbike just this side of the railway bridge in Duke Street and passed away at Oldchurch Hospital 24 hours later.

Two years or so later, odd things started to happen. Visiting companies would occasionally comment on how they had spoken to someone helpful backstage who had guided them out, but there had been nobody backstage at the time. When they described him, it was distinctly my brother – he was six foot four, while no-one else in the theatre was that tall, and they described his features perfectly.

On two occasions, visiting companies had somebody psychic in their party, who came over to us and said, 'I'm sorry to say this, but has anyone died here recently?' because they sensed a really strong presence in the theatre.

The oddest thing is that when both myself and our other brother were in the building, really peculiar things would happen: things falling off the wall without anyone touching them, that kind of thing. It only seemed to happen when we were both in the building.

As his appearances lessened over the years, we started seeing the butterfly. It's white, and it comes at the most unseasonal of times. I know some species don't hibernate, but we never, ever have butterflies in here in summer, and this one appears every winter, very often, in the coldest depths of the season. My brother worked for an external production company who used to come in over the six-month winter period to organise plays and musicals. The butterfly always appears during the pantomime, which was the production he was most intensely involved with."

By Sam Dordoy, Communications Intern



Jules at the Berlin Marathon on 30 September



Julia and Steve after running the Bristol Half Marathon on 15 September

Run as fast as you can...

From 5ks through to full marathons, Julia Owen and her husband, Steve, are hitting the ground running to raise money and awareness for MRSA Action UK.

The small charity aims to raise awareness of the devastating effects of hospital-acquired infections, including superbugs and MRSA. The charity is made up of a group of volunteers who wish to relieve the distress and suffering experienced by patients who contract these infections.

Six years ago, Jules' father-in-law, Don, died after contracting MRSA whilst in theatre during a knee operation. The Owens know, first-hand, the effects that these infections can have, and how important it is to help campaign for safer standards in hospitals. Even though neither Jules nor Steve was particularly active or sporty, they took on a huge commitment three years ago and decided to run a half marathon for MRSA Action UK. As they had never done anything like this before and didn't know how to start the mammoth task of training, they began with a run-walk-run strategy around their local park.

While their first race was a little slow, it was an amazing experience for Jules and Steve with an incredible sense of achievement, and so one race turned into another! Since then, she has competed in over 35 events with her husband by her side, spurring each other on to keep going and achieving personal bests time and time again. Previous events include the Edinburgh Marathon in 2011, the Brighton Marathon and Great North Run in 2012, and the Greenwich 10k run in 2013. By

the end of 2013, they will have clocked up an impressive 1024 miles between them.

Pushing through injuries, running in the rain and even sprinting in the snow, Julia and Steve refuse to let anything get in their way so that they can keep fundraising for MRSA Action UK. Both Julia and her husband Steve are champions for their cause. 2013 has seen Jules and Steve achieving the impressive milestone of their 40th race by the end of the year, including their first adventure overseas, when they competed in the 40th anniversary of the Berlin Marathon on 30 September. Running through the capital of Germany was certainly a great way to celebrate their inspiring achievements!

Having completed the Berlin Marathon, Julia said: "The marathon went really well and I'm very happy with my time of four hours and 13 minutes. The thousands of supporters who lined the streets for the whole distance really helped push me along."

For anyone considering taking part in a marathon, Julia advises that you have to be prepared to give up a lot of time to train, especially when it's dark and miserable outside. However, if you're prepared to make the commitment, knowing that you are part of only one per cent of the population to complete a marathon is a very special feeling.

By **Chloe Shortall, Communications Intern**



Running out of space: the couple's collection of running medals

EVENTS DIARY

Arts & Culture

Oh Whistle...

Tuesday 19 November

Time: 8pm

Venue: Cramphorn Theatre

Cost: £12, concessions £10

Two ghost stories by M R James.

Cinderella

Wednesday 4 December –

Sunday 5 January

Times: Vary

Venue: Civic Theatre

Cost: £5 – £20

A magical family pantomime.

Sleeping Beauty on Ice

Wednesday 18 December –

Sunday 22 December

Times: Vary

Venue: Riverside Ice & Leisure Centre

Cost: £5 – £14

Ice show spectacular for all the family.

Children & Youngsters

Christmas Crafts at the Museum

Saturday 14 December

Time: 2pm

Venue: Chelmsford Museum

Cost: £3 per child, accompanying adults free

Annual Christmas crafts family workshop.

Comedy Club 4 Kids

Saturday 16 November & Saturday 16 December

Time: 2pm

Venue: Cramphorn Theatre

Cost: £7

The best comedians from the world circuit – without the rude bits.

Exhibitions, Fairs & Courses

Christmas Shopping Fair

Sunday 1 December

Time: 11am – 7pm

Venue: Hylands House

Cost: Free entry

Popular festive fair.

The Guild of Essex Craftsmen Fair

Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 November

Time: 10am – 4.30pm

Venue: Hylands House

Cost: £3.80 adults, £2.80 concessions, under 16s free

Unique gifts and craft demonstrations.

You can read more about Julia and Steve's running adventures at: mrsaactionuk.net/julesnsteve.html

If you would like to leave a message of support or donate, visit their JustGiving page at: www.justgiving.com/JulesnSteve.

