

The latest news...



Zero to Hero Team -De Cymru

De Cymru Zero to Hero

On 3rd November a team of six from **RBS Insurance** in Cardiff led by **Sarah Reardon**, embarked on the challenging and inspirational Zero to Hero event for the Fairbridge De Cymru centre. Following a days planning in the centre, the team ventured forth to put the plan into action. And action it was, as the team launched into save Santa, bag packing and carol singing fundraising activities. The team still have a couple of months to go, so here's all the best to reaching their target and helping out with vital funds for the De Cymru Centre, and spreading the good word of Fairbridge.



Changing Rooms Teesside

Rags to Riches for Teesside

Over the last few months the Fairbridge Teesside team have had a complete overhaul of their new premises, making it user friendly for programme delivery, young people and staff. As part of the rags to riches process an **RBS** team from **Churchill Insurance**, led by **Adele Sanderson**, played their part in converting an empty room into a sophisticated boardroom! The team raised over £2000 to help purchase the necessary furniture and accessories, which they then installed. As thanks to the RBS team for their efforts, Fairbridge staff took them out for an afternoon abseiling, which went down a treat!



Community Project Kennington

Fulham Palace Garden Centre trolley conundrum!

On 21st November a team from **RBS group, NatWest Private Banking**, joined up with Fairbridge in Kennington to create number plates... for trolleys! The Fulham Palace Garden Centre's trolleys keep venturing astray as individuals cart off their new flora and fauna, and 'forget' to return the trolleys. Alongside Fairbridge young people, the RBS team put their creative skills to the test developing identification tags to attach to the trolleys, aimed at encouraging people to return them to the garden centre. Well done all, so far a pollinating success!



Changing Rooms Birmingham

Art Attack! Birmingham

Sarah Mercer and team from **RBS Insurance**, transformed a pitiful and trashed art store into an artists mecca in Fairbridge West (Birmingham). The centre had previously been broken into and the art store destroyed, or perhaps given a 'modern' artistic look in the eyes of some! Fundraising activities, ripping up carpets, laying lino, repainting the walls and providing suitable shelving was all it took to re-invent the room and provide some inspiration to the budding young artists within the centre. As an added bonus the team also organised the archives store. Now there's a daunting task, but very much appreciated by centre staff. Well done team – operation nightmare achieved!



Manchester Gameshow

Manchester Gameshow Marathon

On 3rd November 2008 twelve teams from **RBS Group** based in Manchester came together to take part in a Gameshow Marathon. During the day 78 RBS employees took part in a series of activities remnant of popular TV Gameshows. Contestants also took on the challenge of completing an Army Built Assault Course in order to complete The Krypton Factor meets Takeshi's Castle Game!



Changing Rooms! Kent



Employability Programme Development Day



Go Green in Glasgow



Attic Attack; Dundee



Mission Impossible

After a fantastic day of laughter, competitiveness, problem solving, team building and entertainment all round, the RBS teams were delighted to hand over a grand total of £24,000 from their fundraising efforts. Well done everyone, a great achievement, and a huge thanks from Fairbridge for your support of our cause.

Tough jobs for tough times!

Of all the tasks undertaken by RBS teams, hats have to be taken off to **Faye Yates** and team from **RBS Manufacturing**. The team were presented with the challenge of improving the functional and feel good factor of a cold damp basement room in a listed building, with flaking paint on damp stone walls, stone floors and freezing gusts of wind for ventilation! The team undertook the most unpleasant task of prepping the room for painting at a later stage. Sanding and scraping walls for 4 hours in an 8 by 10" room definitely deserves a medal. In the afternoon the team went on to participate in various activities which were facilitated by Fairbridge young people, who, as a result, gained credit towards their nationally recognised ASDAN qualifications. Furthermore the team generated £850 which was donated to the centre. Well done team!

Wot no jobs?!

Apprenticeships', no more! Work experience, no more! Dole, no more! Opportunity – OH MORE! The majority of Fairbridge young people have missed out on the educational element of understanding the vast scope of employment across an extensive range of industries. So; Fairbridge in Kennington set out to tackle the problem! On 16th December Fairbridge brought together a team of individuals from **RBS group**, Nike, Freshfields, GS1UK QA Expertise and Reed Smith, to help plan an employability programme that aims to introduce Fairbridge young people to the working environment, and the opportunities presented across industries. The week long programme will be piloted through the Fairbridge Kennington Centre later in the year.

Plans for 2009? Want Some?

Fairbridge has a range of exciting projects, challenges and team building events planned for 2009. Here are but a few;

Go Green in Glasgow. Fairbridge Glasgow has an allotment in Springburn which is in need of extensive weeding, rotivating and planting of fruit and vegetables. Following the overhaul and planting we are seeking volunteers to help maintain the garden throughout the growing season.

Attic Attack. Fairbridge in Dundee have the most amazing attic space, however due to health and safety reasons are currently unable to use it with the young people. 'Velux' have already replaced the attic windows and a lift has been installed, but the floor needs sanding or covering and the lower beams need sanding and painting. This room offers so much potential for the centre, we would be delighted to see it up and running.

Mission Impossible. On the 15th May, 10th June and 11th September, Fairbridge teams and young people will put your problem solving and team work skills to the test in London, Scotland and Manchester respectively. 12 Teams of 6 will pit their skills against one another in a range of team building activities to indentify the real team players. For more information contact Sharron.grant@fairbridge.org.uk

Raid Pyrenean; the cycling challenge of a lifetime! Join fellow cyclists on the 20th June for a week's tour through the Pyrenees; from the Bay of Biscay to the Cebere on the Mediterranean coast. For more information or to register by 27th Feb contact mark.frodsham@fairbridge.org.uk

RBS team building;
the Fairbridge way....



Fairbridge has 16 teams working with over 3,600 young people aged 13-25 in some of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods across England, Scotland and Wales.



Thousands of young people have given up hope in the future

Fairbridge helps them to think differently

www.fairbridge.org.uk

London Triathlon & The New York Marathon. Secure your place through Fairbridge and help raise vital funds for vulnerable young people; contact caroline.meynell@fairbridge.org.uk for more information

9 Lakes in 9 Hours. Trek, bike and canoe your way across 9 lakes in 9 hours. Set in the beautiful Lake District, challenge yourself on this exciting course and help raise funds for Fairbridge. For more information contact rachel.cranham@fairbridge.org.uk

GAYE- Another Way to Make a Difference

There has been a lot happening in the partnership around the UK, so again a **BIG THANK YOU**. Your participation in our events, fundraising and work behind the scenes to help get the Fairbridge word out continues to make a real difference! If you have been impressed with what you've seen at Fairbridge and would like to continue to make your own individual difference, please consider signing up to GAYE. RBS has one of the most generous payroll giving schemes in the UK- with RBS adding £2 to every £1 you donate.

For example, £5 a month from you, combined with the contribution from RBS, provides six hours of one-to-one support over a year – a vital part of Fairbridge's programme, ensuring young people really make the most of our activities. So your GAYE donation could *make a real difference to the lives of the young people we work with!*

Case Study – by Jake Smith

During my time at Fairbridge I have really enjoyed myself. I have enjoyed every session so far. Before I joined Fairbridge I was getting into trouble at school and had been excluded. I was also getting into trouble with the police as I would lose my temper and lash out. I got involved with Fairbridge through my school and completed an access course. I've done lots of activities with Fairbridge like cycling, climbing, canoeing, basketball and so many more. I've also gained awards in climbing, basketball coaching and skiing. I have also done Mission isPossible where I was the only under 16 from Greater Manchester asked to help out which I found very enjoyable as I was raising funds for Fairbridge by showing business men how to do different activities such as climbing and raft building and we raised £10,000.00.

Fairbridge have helped me to improve my social skills within a group of other young people. I have learnt how to stay calm when people try and upset me or wind me up and I have managed to use this in school. Without Fairbridge I would not have been able to get into a mainstream high school and stay there. In the near future with Fairbridge I would like to do volunteering and have a chance to go sailing on the *Spirit of Fairbridge*. I am currently doing my year 10 GCSE's in which the new Fairbridge library will hopefully be useful.

For more information about the partnership...

Contact Sharron Grant, RBS Partnership Manager

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