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FORCE Fundraising



On a beautifully sunny Sunday at Quay Climbing Centre, Exeter, a number of Clinton Devon Estates staff were busy testing their rock climbing skills in aid of FORCE Cancer Charity at 'Exeter's Everest Challenge'.

Over 200 climbers of all ages completed five 7 meter climbs to reach the combined height of 29,029ft, the equivalent of one person climbing Mount Everest.

Many of those taking part had never climbed before and there was a palpable mixture of excitement and nerves at being 7m high and at the mercy of the man belaying below, followed by pride at having achieved something new, and a few aching limbs.

The facilities and staff were generously given free of charge by Quay Climbing Centre ensuring that all money raised went to FORCE Cancer Charity.

A total of **£1337.20** was raised from the event, so a huge congratulations to all who took part.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR INFORMATION TO ENTER INTO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER PLEASE CONTACT:
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Sunday Times Top 100 Best Companies Awards



Clinton Devon Estates has been named as the 24th Best Small Company to Work For in the UK in the sought after Sunday Times Top 100 Best Companies to Work For awards.

At an impressive awards ceremony in Battersea Evolution, London, the Estate was honored for the third time at the Best Companies awards. In the award breakdowns, the Estate ranked an impressive second for its efforts to protect the environment and 8th for its contribution to society.

All participating organisations were surveyed based on rigorous methodology. Best Companies is then able to compile an authoritative list published in the Sunday Times.

Guests arrived to a red carpet and waiters serving champagne in the foyer. The venue was decorated with leopard-print sofas, disco balls, a starlight ceiling and a selection of photos from the Sunday Times magazine to be published after the awards.

On arrival Gaynor Hayne and Steve Woodley dashed off to have the official photo taken with the award before everyone was seated for dinner.

Somewhere in the region of 1000 covers were served for the three course dinner. Streams of waiters flowed out of the kitchens and served each dish to the tables, all within 5 minutes of each other, an impressive feat of organization.



The meal was followed by presentations of the Special Awards and the Top 5, and finally the Top 100 Countdown.

Journalist and BBC Newsreader Kate Silverton presented the awards, proving to be a captivating host and very adept at keeping the audience under control; the evening was run to a tight schedule to fit everything in before the dancing began at 11pm.

It was a joy to attend such a wonderful event. A real sense of occasion filled the room with everyone a winner and proud to be in attendance. Ball gowns, cocktail dresses, bow ties and tuxedos at every turn added to the glamour and glitz of the event.

This prestigious award is nationally recognised and gives organisations a benchmark from which to continue improving and providing the best possible service for their staff and clients.

A total of 524 small firms registered for this years awards with the survey capturing the views of more than 26,000 employees.

Feedback from the surveys will enable us to improve where necessary and continue providing a top place to work

For more information visit:
www.bestcompanies.co.uk



Caroline Snell Joins the Team



Clare James, Estates Surveyor, is now on maternity leave for which we all wish her well and are looking forward to meeting the new addition to their family (photos of the new baby in the next edition we hope!).

Caroline Snell has stepped in to cover Clare's maternity leave and will be joining us on a part time basis from her full time job as a Rural Surveyor at Stags.

Daffodils at Heanton



These are newly planted Narcissus 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation' on the approach to the Mansion at Heanton Satchville. It is one of the very earliest daffodils to flower; during a mild winter, the season may extend from early January until mid March. The cooler January weather helps to hold the flowers in good condition and they are ideal for picking.

These are amongst some 13,000 new bulbs planted at Heanton this winter, along with 300 hedging yews, 30+ ornamental trees, 130 Hydrangeas, 25 rambling roses, nearly 60 shrubs of various sorts, 250 perennials, grasses and ferns, and not to forget 5 new climbers. A busy winter's work for the garden team, and we've still not finished!

Here is a small selection you might like to try in your own garden -

Yoshino cherry, 'Prunus yedoensis' a lovely weeping habit, smothered with soft pink flowers in spring which fade almost to white. Very delicate.

'Celastrus orbiculare', a vigorous climber related to the Spindle Tree. Quite a rarity, it can reach 10m or more and is smothered in small white flowers in summer, followed by amazing autumn colours in hues of orange and yellow.

'Hydrangea arborescens' Annabelle will reward you with huge clouds of delicate white flowers if pruned hard in the spring.

Rosa sericea pteracantha' Red Wings' is a selected form of a wild rose which has bright red, elongated thorns on the young stems.

Spring is almost upon us, so get planting!

Caroline is used to working in a busy Estate Office having spent four years working on the Chatsworth Estate located in the Peak District in Derbyshire.

She is a farmers daughter from East Devon and a former Young Farmer so we have no doubt that she will very quickly find her feet and feel at home with us here on the Estate. Make sure to say hello and introduce yourself if you see her out and about.