

GLOBAL CA GUINNESS, OYSTERS AND PHILANTHROPY

Our frequent flyer Carrie Tucker helps raise money for a good cause

When world markets are in turmoil, it is easy to put philanthropy to the bottom of the priorities list. However, the need for charitable support is stronger than ever during these times.

In 2009, I was asked to join the committee for the legendary "Guinness and Oyster" luncheon which is held at Mansion House in aid of the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation (QEF). The charity works with people living with physical and learning disabilities, or acquired brain injuries, to gain new skills, increase independence and achieve life goals.

My role is to help raise awareness of the charity and persuade like-minded people from the City of London to get together for a networking lunch, with unlimited Guinness and oysters (not to mention smoked salmon and white wine), while raising significant amounts of money



or charity. Throughout the year I help rally support and try to find donors for the silent auction – which include everything from aerial thrill-seeking with the Breitling wing-walking team to a week in a cottage in Provence.

The luncheon, now in its 46th year, is sponsored by Diageo and Oracle, which means that every penny raised goes directly to the work of the charity. The actual running of the event is done entirely by QEF, so on the day I just need to make sure everyone is enjoying themselves!

The 2011 luncheon, with England rugby star Will Greenwood as guest speaker, was a record breaker. More than 500 guests attended and the event raised £54,878.77. Clearly this is not a standard day in the office, but philanthropy is very important and I hope to continue to be involved with QEF for many more years.

FOR MORE ON THE QUEEN ELIZABETH'S FOUNDATION, SEE WWW.QEF.ORG.UK

Next month

Carrie on every accountant's "favourite", the end of year rush to close accounts

