

## Pride and passion set tone for 2002 Awards

**P**ride and passion were the hallmarks of this year's Whitley Awards Ceremony as nearly £200,000 was awarded to winning conservationists from all over the world.

Compered by Jeremy Paxman, this year's ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society, attended by more than 250 supporters, was notable for the sheer scale of awards given. Overall, funding has almost doubled since last year, with more than 100 conservation projects now benefiting directly from Whitley Laing Foundation grants and awards.

Praising the winners' enthusiasm, the Foundation's patron HRH The Princess Royal said: "We hope that the awards they've received will be useful in their hands. What they have done *without* our help is remarkable – and we believe that what they can do *with* our help will be outstanding."

The Princess Royal said the winners shared a common gift for communication. She said: "To bring alongside these people, who are very poor and whose interest in survival is about using the environment in the short-term, and give them enough encouragement and confidence to look to the long-term is extraordinary."



Jeremy Paxman with the Award winners: (from left) Carlos Soza, Lourdes Mugica, John Mauremootoo, Laury Cullen, Dr Anand Karve and Silas Siakor



To conserve the fragile ecosystem of the Atlantic Forest, which has been reduced to about 7% of its original size, Laury is fighting to halt deforestation, create agroforestry buffer zones which reduce human impact at the forest



### Brazilian wins Gold Award

**A** 35-year-old conservationist working to restore the forest of Brazil is this year's winner of the Whitley Gold Award for International Nature Conservation.

Laury Cullen's ambitious project to replant forest in the Pontal eco-region of the Atlantic Forest of Brazil centres on a mould-breaking partnership with landless immigrants who have been resettled there.

He said: "These people are exceptionally poor and on the edge of survival themselves. Protecting the environment would not usually be a high priority for them, but we're encouraging them to take a pride in their environment, to contribute and make a difference."

**"We are already seeing important change"**

edge and plant forest "corridors" enabling genetic exchange between the few remaining forest fragments.

Working closely with the Sem Terra (*Without Land*) movement, Laury is using the endangered jaguar as a flagship species to foster enthusiasm for conservation

amongst the 6,000 families who now live in the area.

The £50,000 Gold Award will enable Laury to spend more time at work rather than fundraising. He said: "We are working at landscape level. It could take up to 50 years to really have a major impact but already we are seeing important change."

**The Whitley Laing Foundation** is a UK-based charity focusing on the conservation of the natural environment, with emphasis on threatened species and habitats. We offer a range of Awards and Grants for outstanding work around the world, providing funds directly to the people who can best use them in countries where they are most needed. Our winners are usually nationals of the countries where they work and their work integrates conservation, development, awareness and education.



Celebrating with Edward Whitley: (from left) Laury Cullen, HRH The Princess Royal and Claudio Padua

Dear All

Welcome to our first newsletter, launched in order to keep in touch with our supporters through the year and also to describe our work to potential supporters.

At its heart our work is about people - conservationists like those featured in these pages who are dedicating their lives to protect our natural environment, and, on the other side of the coin, our supporters who make it possible through their generous funding.

This year has been exhilarating as our funding doubled once again. We were delighted and honoured to receive all your cheques. Our website was also busy and attracted all our applications.

Without doubt the most important event for the Foundation was the arrival of Louise Rettie, as our full-time director, to transform us from well-meaning amateurs to well-meaning professionals. A qualified accountant and scuba diver, Louise is perfectly suited for the job. She coordinates all the candidates' applications, runs the screening and Panel process and reports to all our supporters.

We hope that you find the stories of this year's winners inspiring. We also hope that you share our pride in their success and wish to continue funding them and others we find like them. Without your funding, their work grinds to a halt.

On behalf of all our winners, thank you very much for your support.

Edward Whitley

## Funding doubles for Whitley Awards 2002

In just eight years, the Whitley Awards has grown from a single £15,000 prize to funding worth more than £700,000. The Whitley Laing Foundation now provides critical support for over 100 conservationists around the world.

We were pleased to receive so many cheques during our Awards Ceremony in March. We thought the best use of this money is a Friends Award to connect our supporters with our winners. Catherine Faulks is overseeing this and describes it in her letter (see page 8).

Several new awards and partnerships have helped boost this year's funding to nearly double that of 2001. New awards include the £25,000 Award for People and the Environment, sponsored by WWF-UK, and the £25,000 Award for Birdlife Conservation sponsored by the Studs Trust. There is also a new scheme to

fund PhD students, four grants have been awarded so far, while the Foundation's unique Continuation Awards have been substantially boosted this year by the Ruben and Elisabeth Rausing Trust and now provide awards up to £30,000 to reinvest in the work of previous winners.

The value of the Rufford Small Grants, aimed at supporting conservationists just setting out in their careers, has again soared and now makes up a large proportion of our total funding, with £175,000 this year going to some 30 conservationists working in 25 countries.

Next year we anticipate funding will rise even higher. We are happy that we are now able to offer this wide range of funding opportunities across the various stages of conservationists' careers.

## The Awards

### Gold Award

*the top Whitley Award of £50,000*

**Laury Cullen**, 35, who is working with resettled people in Brazil to reduce forest destruction

### The Whitley Award for People and the Environment

*a new £25,000 award sponsored by WWF-UK*

**Carlos Soza**, 44, for his work in the Maya Biosphere Reserve of Northern Guatemala

### Whitley Award for International Nature Conservation

*a £25,000 award sponsored by The Maurice Laing Foundation*

**John Mauremootoo**, 39, for his campaign to restore the native forests of Rodrigues island, Mauritius

### Whitley Award for Birdlife Conservation

*a new £25,000 award sponsored by the Studs Trust*

**Lourdes Mugica Valdes**, 44, for her project to persuade Cuban rice farmers that migratory birds are beneficial rather than a threat

### Sting & Trudie Styler Award for Human Rights & Environment

*a £20,000 award*

**Silas Siakor** for his courageous campaign against excessive logging in Liberia

### Ashden Award for Renewable Energy

*a £30,000 award sponsored by The Ashden Trust*

**Dr Anand Karve** for a project to recycle sugar cane waste as fuel

### Continuation Awards

**Pablo Bordino**, protecting the rare La Plata Dolphin in Argentina

**Daniela Hamidovic**, conserving the Long-fingered Bat in Croatia

**Patricia Moehlman**, saving the Wild Ass in Eritrea

**Claudio Padua**, founder of IPE in Brazil

**Lindy Rodwell**, leading a campaign to save the cranes of southern Africa

# The Whitley Awards

## Rebuilding the native forest from scratch

**The fate of the Dodo** is a constant reminder to John Mauremootoo of the risks which still face the wildlife of Mauritius and how urgent is his goal on the tiny, remote island of Rodrigues.

Already, most endemic plant species here are under threat while only three of 176 endemic vertebrates still survive. It's no longer a battle to conserve natural habitat; it's about rebuilding the native forest from scratch.

Winner of the Whitley Award for International Nature Conservation, sponsored by the Maurice Laing Foundation, John Mauremootoo, 39, grew up in Britain but returned to Mauritius six years ago.

He said: "My job would actually be easier if there were no trees here at all. The introduction of non-indigenous plants has caused enormous damage, sucking up groundwater and creating an almost perpetual drought. Reviving the forest is vital in order to enhance watershed areas, reduce erosion and stabilise the soil. It will also provide local communities with sustainable materials for the island's basket-weaving industry."



Highlighting the Rodriguan Fruit Bat as a flagship species, John's project has enthusiastic local support. He said: "People no longer feel conservation is irrelevant and the idea of using native forests to restore watersheds and protect soil has strong appeal. Rodrigues may be a small island but our efforts can serve as a model for other island communities right across the world."

## Guatemala project is runner-up

**A new charity** set up to promote conservation in Guatemala is a Whitley Award runner-up this year.

Hundreds of miles south west of Carlos Soza's work in the Peten, biologist Lorena Calvo founded her Centre for Biodiversity Conservation in Guatemala (CCBG) to focus on three main problems: lack of environmental education and awareness in young people, lack of training for conservation professionals and lack of research into the country's rich natural environment.

Guatemala is home to over 8,000 plant species, many highly endangered. Much of CCBG's research work involves developing techniques to reduce the impact of agriculture on the natural environment. Lorena also prioritises education and CCBG's Environmental Library for Children has now expanded to provide a mobile library for people in rural areas.

She said: "Many Guatemalans don't understand the importance of conservation because they don't know how severe the problems are. My aim with CCBG is to build an influential, professional centre where educators and young biologists can devote their energy and enthusiasm to the conservation of natural resources in Guatemala."

The other Whitley Award runner-up was Kanchana Weerakoon Ranasinghe's project in Sri Lanka (page 6).

## Scarlet macaw leads the way

**Carlos Soza, winner** of the new £25,000 Whitley Award for People and the Environment sponsored by WWF – UK, is working in Guatemala, a country brutalized by civil war. Since the conflict ended six years ago, thousands of indigenous Mayan people have fled to the Peten region in the north of the country, to search for land, but the influx is placing the natural environment under enormous pressure.

Once a farmer, Carlos Soza's aim is to show local people there is an economic alternative to cutting down the rainforest. He said: "If we don't act now, Guatemala will be a wasteland. Our organisation, ProPeten, is empowering people to become custodians of the natural environment and to see how conservation can actually benefit them."



Focusing on the *Scarlet Macaw trail*, ProPeten is strengthening eco-tourism as well as encouraging sustainable farming methods and identifying alternative economic activities. Since it launched in 1990, there has been less than 2% forest reduction in its area.

## Rice paddies offer new haven for endangered birds in Cuba

**With wetland habitats** for birds becoming increasingly rare and those remaining prone to destruction, rice paddies are emerging as a possible new safe haven.

Rice is a major crop throughout the world, but especially in developing countries where 95% of the world's rice crop is produced. In Cuba, it's the second most important crop after sugar cane. Cuba is also in the middle of important waterbird migration corridors and host to some of the last significant populations of Caribbean bird species.

Lourdes Mugica, 44, winner of the new £25,000 Whitley Award for Birdlife Conservation sponsored by the Studs Trust, has dedicated her life to saving the wetlands of Cuba. Her research has shown that migratory birds are an important biotic component of the rice agro-ecosystem and that, far from causing harm, they can actually be immensely beneficial to rice growers.

Much of her work now involves persuading local rice farmers that the birds which settle on their land - such as egrets, herons and ibis - are not to blame for their crop losses. She says most birds actually feed on animal pests and weeds, rather than rice seeds, and their droppings provide an invaluable fertilizer.

Farming practice can drastically reduce wildlife living in and around rice paddies which gives Lourdes' project the potential for enormous significance worldwide.



## Ashden Award

### Recycling sugar cane waste helps poor in India

**A** remarkable breakthrough in processing sugar cane leaves could simultaneously boost rural incomes, reduce pollution and deforestation, and provide urban populations with a cleaner, cheaper source of fuel.

Dr Anand Karve of the Appropriate Rural Technology Institute has won the £30,000 Ashden Award for Renewable Energy for finding a use for the 4.5 million tonnes of leaves left behind after the sugar cane harvest in Maharashtra. He said: "These leaves have no nutritional value and are difficult to decompose, so they're simply burned which causes pollution."



It was Dr Karve's daughter Priyadarshini, a physics post-grad, who developed a special kiln to char the leaves, which can then be converted into smoke-free char briquettes. The project could not only boost rural incomes and thus reduce migration to urban slums, but also provide town-dwellers with a fuel five times cheaper than kerosene, which has recently been de-subsidised and soared in cost.

Producing the char briquettes could generate an extra 75,000 rupees a year for a rural family, while an urban family could reduce its daily fuel costs to just 2.5 rupees. ARTI plans mass production of the kilns as well as more demonstration kilns around the state.

**Winner of the Ashden Award second prize** was Dale Lewis' programme to introduce solar-powered fencing in Zambia to prevent crop raiding. Runners-up were Margaret Owino of SCI and Irving Williams of AHEAD, with two separate solar cooker projects in Kenya and Tanzania.

## PhD Grants

**T**he Whitley Laing Foundation gives a small number of grants to students undertaking a conservation focused doctoral degree. These occasional grants are given to exceptional candidates from developing countries who demonstrate a clear commitment to pragmatic long term conservation work.

Paula Kahumbu, who last year received a Grant in support of her PhD at Princeton University on the relationship between elephants and their habitat in Kenya, has now completed her studies. She says: "Though my current job at Kenya Wildlife Service is largely related to wildlife trade, I am aiming to move into field conservation and projects very soon, and I'll be doing research also starting in September. I'm very excited about the possibilities."



## Foundation news

### New trustee on board

We are delighted to welcome Dr Sigrid Rausing as a Trustee of the Whitley Laing Foundation. Through her work as settlor and trustee of the Ruben and Elisabeth Rausing Trust, Sigrid is extremely experienced in charitable issues around the world. Sigrid has identified the Continuation Funding as an area which she would like to see us develop.



Continuation Awards are providing a significant boost to our previous winners. The Lisbet Rausing Trust has also generously contributed to the Foundation's core costs in order to enable us to continue our expansion.

### New award takes flight



This year saw the launch of a new award specifically aimed at funding projects involving birds. The new Whitley Award for Birdlife Conservation, won by Lourdes Mugica of Cuba, has been generously sponsored by John Studzinski.

### WWF- UK

WWF-UK has become directly involved with the Foundation for the first time, with its sponsorship of the new Whitley Award for People and the Environment. Carlos Soza of Guatemala is the first winner.



### Friends Award

The new Friends Award, which will be presented for the first time next year, will comprise all the donations we receive from individuals during the year.

Catherine Faulks has kindly agreed to chair the Friends of the Whitley Laing Foundation.



## News from previous winners

**Alex Peal**, the Whitley Gold Award winner in 2001 for his work with the Pygmy Hippos of Liberia, continues to make important progress. He has recently been invited to represent Conservation International as its first Country Director in Liberia. Alex says: "This is an opportunity to accomplish my lifetime objectives for leading a team to set up a protected area system in Liberia. This opportunity brings the financial, logistic and moral support to achieve this goal."



**Sean Privett**, Walker Bay Fynbos Conservancy, South Africa and winner of a Whitley Award in 2001 says: "Winning a Whitley Award provided our programme with an amazing boost. It gave our work international recognition, we received fantastic coverage in local print and radio media, and it was instrumental in raising our profile in conservation and environmental circles. We have now employed two conservancy managers who are putting our plans into action."



**Greg Rasmussen** won a Continuation Award in 2001 for his work with the Painted Hunting Dogs of Zimbabwe. He says: "Despite the continued political turmoil that still affects the daily lives of everyone here, the project continues to make strong progress on all fronts. We're about to start building our Conservation Education Centre and are planning work to reinforce the value of biodiversity and painted hunting dogs in real terms for the local rural communities."



**Vu Thi Quyen** won a Whitley Award in 2001. She tells us: "Our NGO, Education for Nature-Vietnam, has now been formally established and is growing well. We have received a great deal of encouragement from international communities over the past year. We are working hard to build skills and capacity amongst young Vietnamese who show a strong interest in nature conservation."



## Sting and Trudie Styler Award for Human Rights & Environment

### Fighting logging in Liberia

**Silas Siakor**, 31, winner of the £20,000 Sting and Trudie Styler Award for Human Rights and the Environment, is running a courageous campaign to preserve what is left of Liberia's dwindling rainforest. The forest, a global biodiversity hotspot, now covers less than 13 per cent of its original size and has effectively been split in two, compromising its ecological integrity.

Silas' Liberian Forest and Human Rights Campaign has already called for an international boycott on timber from Liberia and now plans to unite protest at a national conference on logging.

He said: "Logging has reached unprecedented proportions and if left unchecked could effectively destroy this unique ecosystem. For local people, who depend on the forest, the impact would be profound. We want greater transparency in the industry, higher revenue for local communities, improved processes to ensure sustainability and better enforcement of protected areas."

Silas, a father of three, is aware of the risks he faces. He said: "Many logging companies employ private militia. There have been illegal arrests, detention and harassment. But if ordinary people take a stand, it will give us negotiating strength with the government."

Sting added: "Trudie and I have long been supporters of environmental and human rights issues and are particularly concerned about multinationals ignoring these rights and being complicit in environmental and human rights abuses. We are thrilled Silas Siakor has won our Award."



"We reached several milestones in Lahaul & Spiti during the past year," says **Gargi Banerji**, winner of the Whitley Gold Award in 2000 for her work in the Himalayas. "We set up new plant nurseries, and ran training programmes to build up community knowledge of how to grow medicinal and aromatic plants. We are especially pleased with the progress of our efforts to mobilise women's groups, with the long term aim of building an incense making enterprise. The Award has created a new set of opportunities for the inhabitants of this cold desert region."



**Dami Buchori**, winner of a Continuation Award in 2001 has been instrumental in the launch of the Indonesian Centre for Insect Conservation and Management (PEKA). PEKA has a research agenda and also provides educational services for The Insect Museum in Jakarta. "Last year we published several children's books on insects and are planning more" says Dami. The Centre believes insects can be an entry point to engage the Indonesian public in a more general discussion of biodiversity conservation.

## Rufford Small Grants

In just three years, the Rufford Small Grants have become the largest tranche of funding that the Whitley Laing Foundation provides, with more than £175,000 this year going to support some 30 conservation projects around the world. The grants, worth up to £5,000 each, are aimed at smaller projects, including pilot projects, with funding usually directly linked to conservation field work.

Below are just a few examples of Rufford Small Grant funded projects, including Kanchana Weerakoon Ranasinghe's notable success in Sri Lanka in launching ECO-V, a volunteer network set up to protect the Peak Wilderness Sanctuary. Kanchana has developed her work dramatically, and was a Whitley Award runner-up this year.

All six species of Caribbean sea turtles are endangered. In Venezuela, **Hedely Guada** teaches courses on sea turtle biology and conservation. Participants are both local and from overseas. She also runs awareness workshops during the summer for local fishermen, teachers and the public. Her work encourages cooperation between conservationists from different countries and increases awareness of sea turtles and their threatened habitats across a wide audience.



**Emilian Hristov Stoynov** is monitoring birds of prey in Macedonia. Many, such as the Griffon Vulture and the Imperial Eagle, are under severe threat and one of his aims is to see whether it will be possible to restock or reintroduce species which are either endangered or already extinct. He is supporting the development of a new conservation organisation which will increase local knowledge about these rare birds.



In Kenya, **Solomon Kyalo** is trying to save the Hirola Antelope, now numbering just a few thousand. By working with existing conservation groups in the Hirola's home range, Solomon Kyalo is using their traditional knowledge of the antelope to discover why it has declined so drastically and how it can be saved through community conservation measures.



**Kanchana Weerakoon Ranasinghe**, 31, shows just how much an enthusiastic conservationist can do with a £5,000 award. Her Rufford Small Grant last year enabled her to launch ECO-V, a volunteer network set up to protect the Peak Wilderness Sanctuary in Sri Lanka as well as raise awareness of conservation nationwide. She is now a regular guest on Sri Lankan television.



Malaysia's only wetlands of international importance are found at Tasek Bera. This site is very significant because it is home to many endemic and endangered species, but the only literature available about it is highly technical. **Dr Sundari Ramakrishna** is compiling a bilingual Malaysian/English guide which she will use to raise awareness of Tasek Bera and the conservation work needed.



# Continuation Awards

The Continuation Awards are the largest awards that the Whitley Laing Foundation gives and enable conservationists who have already won an Award in a previous year to continue receiving funding.

## Desert donkeys under threat

The African Wild Ass, ancestor of the domestic donkey, is the world's most endangered equid. Once widespread across northern Africa, hunting, drought and competition with domestic animals has brought it to the very edge of survival. Numbers are down 90 per cent since 1980.



In the Denkelia Desert of Eritrea, Rausing Continuation Award winner

Patricia Moehlman is working to revive its numbers. Her efforts have frequently been hampered by Eritrea's conflict with neighbouring Ethiopia yet Patricia has still managed to train up local ecologists, encourage the local Afar people to protect the ass as well as initiate a cross-boundary programme with Ethiopia.

She said: "We need to conserve endangered species but we also need to ensure long-term food security for the people who live here. The war sometimes made things difficult but we've already collected a great deal of data as well as help local communities see they depend on this environment for their survival."

## From corporation to conservation

Since giving up his suit and tie ten years ago, former businessman Claudio Padua has grown his Instituto de Pesquisas Ecologicas (IPE) from one small project to save a monkey to an internationally-recognised organisation now running over 30 programmes across Brazil.

Claudio, a previous Whitley Award winner, said: "We are all in a sense 'entrepreneurs', trying to find ways to 'sell' conservation to all kinds of people. The challenges today involve all sectors of society and conservationists must master a wide range of issues, from poverty and over-consumption to how governments form environmental policies." IPE prioritises education and has set up the only conservation training centre in South America.



## Dolphins on the edge of survival

Efforts to save one of the world's smallest dolphins have been boosted by a Continuation Award funded by WildInvest.

The La Plata Dolphin is so rare there are few pictures of it alive. Argentinian marine biologist Pablo Bordino hopes to save the dolphin by reducing the number killed as incidental by-catch by fishermen. At least 500 die every year, bringing it precariously close to extinction. Pablo has gained the trust and co-operation of local fishermen and even persuaded them to fish further offshore to protect females and calves. He is working on protection methods such as



## Bat gets help in Croatia

A project to save the Long-Fingered Bat in Croatia was a Rausing Continuation Award winner this year. Daniela Hamidovic, 29, is working in Croatia's forests to assess the population of the bat which seems unable to co-exist with its human neighbours and is verging on 'endangered' status.

Daniela's team is working in the Miljacka Cave, one of the largest bat caves in Europe, gathering data on which to base a long-term monitoring and management plan. Daniela has managed to reduce public access to the caves as well as set up nesting boxes and "bat recovery centres".

Since receiving a Whitley Award in 2000, Daniela has achieved extraordinary media attention for the bat and its habitat, and works closely with local community groups and schoolchildren to enhance public awareness still further.

Daniela is proposing the Long-Fingered Bat as a bio-indicator species for its habitat, karstic freshwaters, which are home to several hundred endemic and endangered species.



## Cranes fight for survival in Africa

Cranes are revered as symbols of peace and longevity, but across southern Africa many species are fighting for survival.



Over the past 200 years cranes have suffered massive losses. All three of South Africa's crane species are endangered because of hunting, power line collision and nest-raiding.

Lindy Rodwell wants to protect the crane across all of southern Africa. She said: "Cranes don't recognise political boundaries so international co-ordination is the only way to have an impact. People are rising above civil war,

poverty, lack of resources and formal education to become champions of crane and wetland conservation in their own countries."

Lindy's Crane Working Group is helping develop skills programmes for conservationists in Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Congo and Zimbabwe. It also plans a census of the endangered Wattle Crane so that a cohesive conservation programme can be put into action.

acoustic alarms to warn dolphins away from the small-meshed gillnets.

He said: "The Buenos Aires coast has a rich marine wildlife and the dolphin is a barometer of the health of this environment." Pablo, a Whitley Award runner-up last year, is lobbying the Government to set up protected areas where fishing is banned.

# Friends of the Whitley Laing Foundation

We were delighted by the level of support we received from all those who made donations to the Foundation this year. We welcome your support at any level, whether by becoming a Friend of the Whitley Laing Foundation (see letter from Catherine Faulks below), or by sponsoring a new Whitley Award or Whitley Continuation Award. You can contact our Director Louise Rettie at the office address below. Donations under Gift Aid enable us to claim basic rate tax back on your gift which increases it by almost 30%.



DONATING TO THE WHITLEY LAING FOUNDATION

We would like to thank the following supporters who donated to the Foundation so far this year:

Russell and Cindy Aboud	Father Bill Kirkpatrick
Toby and Bronwen Angel	The Kirby Laing Foundation
Anonymous	The Maurice Laing Foundation
The Ashden Trust	The Lake Foundation
Sarah Barbour	Piers and Annabel Lea
Maggie Baxter	Ina Lindemann
Judy Bollinger	Simon and Penny Linnett
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Catherine Faulks	The Rufford Foundation
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Andrew and Penny Hutton	Nigel and Shane Winner
Geetika Jain	Nick and Dominique Worcester
Chris and Dana Kinder	WWF-UK

Thanks to Venetia Simonds and Madeleine Harper for all their hard work in helping to create this newsletter.

Dear Friends

As a long term supporter of the Whitley Awards, I am delighted to have been invited to be the first chair of the Friends of the Whitley Laing Foundation.

I'm looking forward to building a significant circle of supporters. Friends will act as ambassadors for the Foundation as well as contributing financially.

As we announced at the 2002 Awards Ceremony, we are launching a new Award which will be sponsored by the Friends of the Whitley Laing Foundation. I want to create a direct link between one of our winners and the Friends. All donations from our supporters will be pooled throughout the year, and we will announce the first winner of this Award at the 2003 Awards Ceremony next March.

We were very encouraged by the many cheques received this spring from such a wide variety of people; we felt this large show of support validated our endeavours throughout the year. Donations towards this Award can be made at any time - we have already raised over half the £30,000 funding needed for it. As well as financial contributions, we are always looking for people or companies that can help us, so please pass on any useful contacts. I would like the Friends to feel involved and would welcome any feedback or suggestions that you might have.

If you would like to become a Friend of the Whitley Laing Foundation I would love to hear from you: please contact me at the Foundation's offices.

I look forward to reporting on our progress in the Friends' section of the next newsletter.

*Catherine Faulks*

Catherine Faulks



Catherine Faulks, centre, with Friends: (from left) Andrew Mitchell, Sebastian Faulks, Edward Faulks & Louise Rettie

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