

## Tea on THE Lawn

*Jeff and Win tell their red-letter day stories*

### Jeff's Day

During six years working for my Duke of Edinburgh Award, I never envisaged such a day, but here I was! Through the Gold Award I had completed 6 hikes, 80 hours of service, learnt new sports and skills and now had been selected to be presented at the Palace. I was thrilled, and when my parents realised I could take two guests along, the suit, hat and posh frock were ready in a flash!

### Celebrities

Marquees had been erected on the Palace lawns and thousands of award winners and guests flowed in. The presentation itself was a more intimate affair, taking place in groups of about thirty. Rob Howell, Welsh and British Lions Rugby player, presented certificates to my group. There was a short speech before we all packed around Prince Philip, Edward and Sophie, as they progressed down the lawn greeting guests. We enjoyed tea and cakes before strolling around the Palace grounds and leaving via the main gates into the Mall. It was a lovely way to finish a slightly surreal day –ME invited to pop into the Palace for tea, but a day I will always remember.

**Jeff Fitzpatrick**



Jeff & parents



Win and Bill

### Win's Day

July 9<sup>th</sup> 2003 was truly a red-letter day for me, when, accompanied by my son Bill, I went to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. After a picnic lunch in Hyde Park, we made our way to the top of the Mall, and reached the Palace

grounds through the Garden Entrance. Passing a beautiful herbaceous border, we came to a great lawn area where we listened to the music of Military Bands. We enjoyed watching fellow guests; members of H. M. Forces, including the Ghurkhas, Clerics, Civil Dignitaries, with chains of office, National Dress from many countries and of course ladies in summer attire complete with hats.

### The Royal Party

The arrival of the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, The Duke of York and Princess Alexandra caused quite a buzz, but I only caught a glimpse of them, though I was fortunate enough to be in the line-up as the Royal Party returned to the Palace. They chatted to guests along the way and I was really quite close to the Queen. This was the 'icing on the cake' and a perfect end to my day.

**Win White**