

Special Feature

Laura and James bring Lady Reade Alive!

Nearly 200 years ago, in 1811, Lady Reade, chatelaine of Shipton Court started a Charitable Trust to support students who had completed secondary education and needed extra money for books and other materials at their places of higher learning. The grants are available to people who live in the original Shipton Parish comprising Shipton, Milton, Lyneham, Bruern, Ramsden and Leaffield.

The sum of money originally invested in the charity by Lady Reade was £800, and interest on that money as well as annual contributions from local bodies and individuals has allowed the charity to survive and give grants year after year. There were 10 applicants for grants in both 2008 and 2009. Several recipients have sent notes of thanks for the grants they received and we are pleased and proud to be able to help people such as Laura and James to learn a skill or study a subject at university.

Laura's Hairdressing,



Laura Huxford lives in Milton and received a grant in 2008 which helped her buy the necessary block model-head and several pieces of special equipment to carry out her hairdressing course, which she completed on day release, whilst working as an apprentice hairdresser in Witney.

She is now employed by Toni & Guy in Oxford, and is honing her cutting and colouring skills with a view to becoming increasingly successful in her chosen profession

Laura tells us that the grant was very helpful, as this line of work is not well paid, and each operator needs to buy her own equipment if she intends to have a real future in the profession.

James's Music



James Winkley who comes from Leaffield received a grant in 2009, which he said came at a propitious moment when the music textbooks he needed were not available in the library and so he decided to buy them. Not only were the books useful when writing his first year essays, but they will be needed again in the second and third year. He said that music texts are expensive, and the grant was very important to him. He is reading Music at Durham University, and sings in the St. Mary's Church choir whenever he is available.

If you are able to give a donation to the charity, please get in touch with: jameswalmsley@mistral.co.uk

James Walmsley.