



**08 February 2010**

## **UKHO Staff Hand Over £10,620 to Charity**

Delighted staff at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office have handed over £10,620 to the Open Door (Taunton) charity following a year-long fundraising campaign.



**Pictured from left to right: Rachel Grant, Heather Bray, June Thompson (all UKHO), Philip Bedford (Open Door), Liz Stocker (UKHO) and Tim Hather (Open Door)**

For the past three years UKHO staff have adopted a charity for the year. During 2009 staff organised and took part in a series of money raising events to raise money for Open Door. And, beating last year's total of £9,045 to St Margaret's Somerset Hospice, the end result saw UKHO raise the biggest amount of money for a single charity in its 200 year history.

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The huge amount was raised by holding many events including sale of unwanted Christmas gifts, Family and Armed Forces Open Day, Life Craft Festival and monthly quizzes to name a few.

Last week delighted fundraisers handed over the money to Philip Bedford, Treasurer of Open Door. Open Door was set up by Taunton Christians Together in Action and has been running since 1996. Run by volunteers for homeless people in Taunton, its highly valued day centre provides a range of personal support, development and care facilities.

The UKHO's £10,620 contribution has helped pay for work on the new premises at Mount Street, which were opened in July 2009. Pauline Sutton, Chair of the Trustees at Open Door, said: "We are very privileged that such a large local business should choose to help such a small charity as ourselves. This wonderful gift has enabled us to clear our debt on the refurbishment of our premises – a wonderful day."

Rachel Grant, chair of the UKHO fundraising committee, said: "I am thrilled we raised such a huge amount of money for an extremely worthy cause. This wouldn't have happened without the hard work, dedication and inspiration of the charity committee giving up their time to organise events. I would like to thank all the staff who have been involved in this year's fundraising and those who have supported the events or made donations."

For 2010 UKHO staff have elected to support Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and look forward to another year of fun fundraising.

**ENDS**

## **More...**

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## **Notes for Editors**

1. The UKHO, which is part of the Ministry of Defence, has been charting the world's oceans for more than 200 years with the primary aim of providing navigational services for the Royal Navy and merchant mariners to save and protect lives at sea. In addition it also serves the small craft and leisure mariners and provides a range of consultancy services.
2. The UKHO produces a worldwide series of some 3,300 paper nautical charts and 160 publications under the Admiralty brand and has a growing portfolio of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs). These charts are sold globally and used by nearly 70 per cent of international shipping.
3. The UKHO is a Trading Fund which means it is a government agency owned by the MoD with the freedom to trade commercially to generate revenue and cover running costs.
4. The UKHO also plays a central role, in support of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in discharging the navigation element of the UK's Safety of Life at Sea Treaty obligations for waters of UK national responsibility.