

EastEnders Star Visits London Brain Injury Centre



ACTRESS SOPHIE THOMPSON, better known as *EastEnders*' Stella, visited Rehab UK's London Brain Injury Centre (LBIC) recently.

After meeting staff and talking with a couple of service-users at length, Sophie expressed how humbled she felt and how impressed she was with the centre and its work. She was delighted to be asked to support the establishment of the Community Integration Service in London and has offered to provide any further help that may be needed in profiling the work of the centre.

As the star herself of films such as *Gosford Park*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *Emma*, sister of well-known actress Emma Thompson, and daughter of actor Eric Thompson, it's fair to say that Sophie belongs to an acting dynasty and will no doubt prove to be a great support to Rehab UK. ■

*Pictured left: Actress Sophie Thompson, better known for her role as Stella in *EastEnders*, who recently paid a visit to the London Brain Injury Centre. Her father Eric had a stroke when she was a child.*

“In Her Own Words – Sophie Thompson”

“Time for Bed...” said Zebedee

In the 1970s, a whole generation of children and their parents were familiar with the sound of my father’s voice. Eric Thompson wrote and narrated the hugely popular Magic Roundabout series, and millions of viewers regularly tuned in to listen to his stories of Dougal and his pals in the magic garden.

My father was 49 when he had his first stroke, paralysing him down his right side, leaving him unable to speak or write. At the time we knew so little about brain injury. There wasn’t much the medical profession could offer in the way of help. Families were left to pick up the pieces in the best way that they could.

A lot has changed since then and we now are able to understand and deal with the effects of acquired brain injury much more successfully,

giving patients the opportunity to rehabilitate in a way that had never been previously considered. Many are now able to regain full and independent lives once more. Rehab UK works with a huge range of people of all ages who may have been unfortunate victims of a road accident, violent assault, accidents at home or at work, or who may have suffered from a particular medical condition such as an aneurysm or a stroke, all of which can come with no warning at all.

Through highly-trained rehabilitation teams working at specialised brain injury centres, Rehab UK provides an astonishing level of support for thousands of people and their families at what is possibly the hardest time of their lives. It is my privilege to be associated with Rehab UK and the vital work it is doing.

Sophie Thompson



Pictured left: The Magic Roundabout in its heyday

Who to contact

For further information please contact:



Jonathan Smallman

Rehab UK

(0044) 1323 744395

jonathansmallman@chaseleytrust.org