

HAPPY BIRTHDAY *to Origin*

SPRING 2016

In March we celebrate our 15th anniversary!

Our overall aim remains the same – to be the best specialist spinal injury care provider – but there have been a myriad of changes along the way. Developments and improvements in our PA training being one of the most significant and one which impacts on both clients and staff. We have not only revamped our PA induction training course but we have also introduced regular refresher training courses for all PAs – which has been met with unreserved positive reactions from those involved who have welcomed the opportunity to meet up with colleagues and maintain and improve their skill levels.

We are already marking this milestone celebration with two significant developments and have other ideas that we will unveil throughout the year.

Origin – has recently launched a new, revamped and mobile and tablet responsive website which means it can more easily be viewed on mobile phones and tablets as well as PCs – an essential for busy PAs and clients: www.origincare.com.

Origin – can now offer a unique PA support scheme for further studies with The Open University and other training providers. 'Learn While You Earn @ Origin' means Advanced PAs have the opportunity to develop skills and gain work related qualifications whilst working – with the benefit of a full fee support package that gives valuable access to training whilst earning.



Director of Care and joint founder, Linda Adamsen, says, *'We want to focus our celebrations on the truly amazing staff we have and their contribution to making Origin a leader in its field and also give our thanks to our loyal clients across the length and breadth of the UK.'*

We are also proud of our contributions to support disability and other charities and we hope this will be a significant feature in our celebrations this year.'

QUALIFIED SUCCESS

Please join us in congratulating Lorraine, our Operations and Registered Manager, on graduating with a BA (Hons) in Leadership and Management. After her working day at the office, Lorraine has turned to her studies in a three year distance learning programme to achieve her well deserved qualification. With modules on marketing and finance, organisations and their people and leadership, influence and change, the course has covered diverse areas of study which are relevant for her operational role at Origin.

Well done, Lorraine!



NEWS

ORIGIN

CONTRASTS

A COUNTRY OF

Japan is like nowhere else in the world. Its history, culture, food and mix of modern and traditional ways of life make it a fascinating holiday destination – and last year Origin client, Francis Boorman and his girlfriend Jenny headed there for an awesome two week vacation. Traveling via Moscow to Tokyo, Hiroshima, Niigata, Matsumoto and Kyoto, the couple enjoyed the best of coastal and mountain scenery.

'In Tokyo we experienced a mix of neon lit skyscrapers and temples, bustling city life and peaceful gardens. People were polite, helpful and very considerate of personal space, despite being in such a highly populated city. Accessibility was pretty good – about the same as UK and the language barrier not a big problem.

The Bullet Trains are synonymous with Japan and with a 2 week train pass they proved a quick and efficient means of transport. Access was no problem, pretty much like UK; occasionally I found myself shunted into a corridor!'

Once the imperial capital, Kyoto is home to hundreds of Buddhist temples, palaces and beautiful gardens. Francis and Jenny found Kyoto a more traditional city with people wearing traditional robes, tea ceremonies and geisha, creating a pleasing mix of day to day ritual and politeness.

Francis was already a fan of Asian food and admits he loved the amazing fare. From traditional meals served by geisha to the noodle bars where £5 bought a very acceptable meal, Francis and Jenny indulged themselves in the authentic Japanese cuisine, famous for its unique presentation and ceremony as well as the taste.

'The horse sashimi, (rather chunky pieces of raw horsemeat) was probably the strangest thing I ate but there was a good variation of food for us to experience. We particularly enjoyed a meal in a Tempura restaurant, where the food was cooked in front of us. I wouldn't say eating out was expensive but I'm used to London prices! But in Japan everyone eats out.

We would definitely recommend Japan for a holiday experience to remember and would love to return and see more of this amazing and friendly country.'

It's my life 2- Book Review. Published and available from Aspire

The sub-title says the book is a collection of stories from people with spinal cord injury....but after reading this book cover to cover, I can tell you it is much more than that! For some of the people who have written their story it is affirmation that they have a life after injury, for others their story is a celebration of their achievements both at work and in their personal relationships and home life. Their stories pull no punches on what it feels like to live with this challenging injury. Sometimes you'll have a lump in your throat and other times, when reading you'll be ready to fist pump the air in celebration.



The stories in the book demonstrate that although things are different after an injury, every day challenges can be, and are, overcome. This is a book you will want your friends to read so you can both say a heartfelt 'wow'!

'Those featured in the book are not claiming to be remarkable; their stories instead are about hanging out the washing, returning to work, raising a family and all those everyday things that occupy all of our lives'.

David Edwards, Aspire Chairman.