

**CONDOR COMPETITION BRINGS FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOGETHER**

CONDOR Ferries brought together last weekend the friends and relatives of a Guernsey family.

Kim Hutchison was chosen as the winner of the Condor Ferries friends and family competition which gave islanders the opportunity to bring their friends and family across to Guernsey for a weekend break which included travel, accommodation and a fantastic dinner party with champagne reception. Entrants were asked to explain why they felt they deserved to win the prize.

'Every one of Condor's sailings brings friends and families back together. Friends and family are important to us all, and the competition seemed an ideal way to celebrate that,' said Ian Milner, Condor Ferries' Channel Islands Manager.

'We had dozens of entries and there were so many fantastic stories that it was incredibly difficult to choose a winner. The judging panel felt that Mrs Hutchison's family had really come together during what had been a difficult time and given the number of important dates for them over the summer, we were delighted that we could bring them to Guernsey to celebrate.'

In her entry Mrs Hutchison explained that she is one of seven children and that her younger brother died at 18 months when she was just 10 years old. She moved to Guernsey 12 years ago after meeting her now husband Stephen in Kuwait where they were both teachers. The couple began to plan their wedding but when her eldest sister Donna suffered a massive brain haemorrhage and spent nine months in a coma, they were forced to scale back their plans. When she woke up, Donna was severely brain damaged and is unable to do anything for herself.

This month has been a busy one for the family and winning the competition meant they were able to celebrate a number of occasions which included a 42<sup>nd</sup> birthday, a 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, a 61<sup>st</sup> birthday, and an 18<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Mrs Hutchison's niece and brother are also celebrating their 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays this year and one of her sisters has recently got married.

**more....**

## CONDOR COMPETITION BRINGS FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOGETHER / 2

This weekend also gave the family the opportunity to celebrate the blessing of Mr & Mrs Hutchison's wedding vows which will happen next month in front of their children Harry, 9, and six-year-old Tilly.

Mrs Hutchison's parents, two of her sisters, her brother, her niece, two father-in-law and her two best friends came to Guernsey last weekend for the celebration at Cobo Bay Hotel on Saturday night which was attended by 18 of Mrs Hutchison's friends. They had hoped that Donna would be able to come across with her carer but she is sadly unwell.

'When I heard that I had won, it was amazing, It's such a fantastic prize,' she said.

'For me, it's a way of rewarding my parents and family for everything they do. My family have been very supportive in visiting Donna and trying to give her some quality of life. It is a heavy burden to bear but thanks to Condor, we can come together and celebrate the fact that despite all the difficulties, we are still a family.'

- ends -

**Issued by Katrina Bray, Image PR. Tel (01481) 723456 or email [katrina.bray@imageci.com](mailto:katrina.bray@imageci.com)**

Notes to Editors

### **Picture Caption:**

We are family: Kim Hutchison was joined by family and friends last weekend after winning Condor Ferries' friends and family competition.

### About Condor Ferries

Condor Ferries was founded in 1964 and initially operated a passenger service between France and the Channel Islands. In 1987 the first service linking the Channel Islands with the UK was launched and since then Condor Ferries has operated a year-round service connecting the UK through Poole, Weymouth and Portsmouth, the Channel Islands through Guernsey and Jersey and the ports of St Malo and Cherbourg in France.

Condor Ferries operates Condor Vitesse, Condor Express, and Condor 10 fast cat ferries. In 1999 Commodore Clipper, a conventional car, passenger and freight carrying vessel was introduced to the fleet to offer an all weather, year round service. Each year Condor Ferries carries some 900,000 passengers and 200,000 passenger vehicles.

Condor Ferries also operates Commodore Goodwill, as a freight only vessel. The Condor Ferries fleet carries 100,000 freight vehicles into the Channel Islands each year as well as exporting tonnes of local produce.

Condor Ferries is also an active member of the communities within which it operates and supports numerous organisations, sports and charities through sponsorship and travel.

More information about Condor Ferries and its services is available at [www.condorferries.com](http://www.condorferries.com).