

# The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust

(Registered charity number 1069269)

## Annual Report

January – December 2016

### **Aims and Objectives**

The aim and objective of The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust is to relieve sickness, suffering and distress of patients with Leukaemia.

This is achieved by providing complementary therapy for patients, offering short term breaks on referral from medical staff and thirdly but most importantly through furthering research into the disease. This is achieved through the purchase of equipment for The Tracy Sollis Laboratory and the adjoining research laboratories situated within The Anthony Nolan Research Institute.

The Trust is also available to consider any worthy request funds permitting.

### **Trustee Board**

The Trust is managed by Trustees and as on 1st January 2016 they consisted of the following:-

Mr Peter Vale

Mrs Ann Oakes

Mrs Debbie Edmondson

Mrs Vivien Bentley

Mrs Margaret Bayley (*minute secretary*)

Mr Roger Warrington

Mrs Sue Sollis (founder member)

### **Resignations**

Due to work commitments it was with great sadness that Peter Vale's resignation was accepted during the latter part of January 2016.

## **Elected**

Mrs Sue Palmer (11<sup>th</sup> January 2016) Sue is a retired nurse with 34 years' experience and a former Hospital Ward Manager.

Treasurer

Mrs Ann Davies

## **AGM Venue**

Each year The Trust holds its Annual General Meeting at the Fleece Inn Bretforton giving an opportunity for all friends, supporters and members of the general public to attend and discover more about the general running of The Trust. The AGM in 2016 featured Guest Speaker Hazel Forde who is Laboratory Manager for the Anthony Nolan Research institute. She gave an interesting and informative talk about the equipment donated by The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust and the work being undertaken within their research establishment.

BBC's Countryfile farm hero Joan Bomford attended and presented Certificates to those who had excelled in their work towards The Trust. She also related her time with Tracy Sollis when she was a former pupil at her riding school.

Each year the venue stages a fundraising concert by Patron of The Trust Gordon Giltrap. This is held every April, to celebrate the Trust's Official Registration with the Charity Commission on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1998.

## **Patron Gordon Giltrap**

The Trust is very proud to have Gordon Giltrap as its Patron. Gordon's commitment has been outstanding and once again in 2016 he planned to return. It was due to a serious health problem that this was unable to happen. Despite the set back Gordon and his wife Hilary were determined to help and donated many possessions to raise funds.

We are delighted to report that Gordon is now well on his way to recovery.

## **Shop 5**

Shop 5 has been inundated with donations. The sorting, cleaning and pricing of these goods requires extremely hard work and there is nothing but admiration towards the volunteers. The volunteers have worked as a close team supporting each other and work out their rotas

according to their availability. Exceptional attendance has been made by Gill Gregg who attends the shop as a volunteer for a full five days a week. The takings in the shop have increased and many complementary comments have been made by customers with the regard to customer service and the bright and clean appearance of the shop in general. Due to lack of room the office within the shop was doubling up as a changing room. This was highly unsuitable so when the kiosk situated opposite shop 5 became available for rent it was applied for. It was small but ideal for use purely as an office. It also meant that the shop could have a proper changing room for customers. A lease was drawn up to be signed dated December 25<sup>th</sup> 2016.

### **Information Screen**

An information screen has been put into shop 5 which was funded by Doug Edge in memory of his late brother John Edge. The screen gives updated information to customers as to the Trust's progress, fundraising activities and where the money is being used. This facility has proved invaluable.

### **Callum Salter**

Callum Salter is a former pupil of Prince Henry's High School. He now attends Gloucester University but still finds time to donate a couple of hours a week as a volunteer. He has proved to be invaluable in producing promotional material. He designs posters, concert programme, updates The Trust's Facebook page and the information screen provided in the shop.

### **Work Experience - School Student**

The Trust was asked if it would provide a one week work experience place for a Prince Henry's Student. This was arranged and we had Chloe Salter (Callum's sister). Chloe surprised everyone with her progress during the week and we were sorry to see her leave when the time came.

### **Furniture Shop 7**

This is the furniture shop's second year of trading with income slowly increasing. Deliveries and collections of furniture are normally undertaken each week on a Monday. Sue Sollis had been driving the vehicle generously supplied by Evesham Self Drive with employee Andrew Bailey and volunteer Anthony Palmer accompanying. However later during the year due to a substantial increase in donations of furniture and the amount of heavy work involved more help was needed.

This was when the services of Dave Garrett, 'a man with a van', was called upon. The change meant an increase in expenditure but was deemed necessary. It allowed Sue to deal with the furniture as it arrived at the shop and to reorganise the shop floor accordingly. It was

however reassuring to know that Evesham Self Drive was still at hand and willing to provide a vehicle should the need arise.

The success of the furniture shop has also been due to yet another local business Bradford's Carpets and Bedding. The company offers support by regularly donating carpets and beds which has increased the shops income by approximately £3,500 for the year.

Furniture shop Manager, Andrew Bailey became qualified to PAT test the many electrical goods received. The Trust now able to sell items having passed the safety standard required.

### **Car Park Duties**

The Trust marshals car parks for various organisations with voluntary donations received on these occasions. The biggest of these is the Asparafest which runs over two days at Ashdown Farm. This raised the grand total of £942.22. Another car park duty is The Bretforton Silver Band Annual Proms Event which raised £237.46

Bretforton Flower Show Car Park raised £22.50 as opposed to £190.49 on the previous year. This was due to a second car park at the other side of the village being used by attendees.

### **Band Concert**

Avonbank Brass Band and Stour Concert Brass staged their annual joint concert originally held in memory of David Turner who was a member of both bands. Dave was also a former Trustee. The Event is normally held in St Peters Church Bengeworth and during 2016 raised £427.35 plus a further £100 donated by an attendee = £527.35. The venue has very limited parking facilities which is affecting turn out and it has been suggested that in 2017 another location is sourced.

### **Talks**

Talks were given to two organisations. Comer Ladies Worcester who donated £100 and Pershore Ladies British Legion who donated £80.

### **Bretforton Gardening Club**

The Trust was delighted to be notified by Chairman Rita Booth of Bretforton Gardening Club that it was nominated as a beneficiary for Bretforton Open Gardens in 2016. It was subsequently delighted to receive the magnificent sum of £1,000.

## **The Vale Golf Clubs Senior Section**

We were delighted when the newly elected Captain of the Vale Golf Clubs Senior Section, David Rimell, selected The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust as his Charity for The Year'. To commence the fundraising and at the age of 80yrs David decided he would undertake a 20 mile sponsored walk from Broadway Golf Club to Cleeve Hill Golf Club, Cheltenham. It was an amazing achievement with even more fundraising activities raising a magnificent total of £4,363.00 The full amount would to be officially received during January 2017.

## **Hilda Farr Trust**

The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust was once again privileged to receive a grant from the Hilda Farr Trust. The amount was for £2,500 which was requested to be used towards equipment for The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust or to help local leukaemia patients.

## **Donations**

Funds have been received from some totally unexpected places. One of these was from local pianist Rachel Davis who generously gave a donation in memory of a very good friend, Jean Mason, who gave much support towards her career as a musician.

We also fondly remember Tony Lyon, Marion Cosnett and Stephanie Holder

Donations

Lygonian Singers £425

Harvington Ukelele group donated £50

Group 'Hi Times' £100

Fleece Formula 1 competition £67

South Worcestershire College Beauty Department £363.75

Celebration Reed and Brass £156.67 by holding a concert and carol playing.

Lenches Teddies £42

## **Short Term Breaks**

The Trust provides short term breaks for patients on referral and received an urgent request from social worker Janet Byrne Goddard of Clic Sargent. It was asking whether The Trust could arrange a short term break for a family going through a particularly difficult time albeit at very short notice. The family's 5 year old daughter had relapsed with leukaemia and they were in

urgent need of a short break to come to terms with the situation. We were able to find accommodation at short notice with the Vale Golf Club who provided a chalet in beautiful surroundings. A card of thanks was later received from Clic Sargent saying how beneficial the break had been in helping the family cope during a particularly stressful time.

### **Complementary Therapy**

Carrie-Ann Adams is the Trust's complementary Therapist. She has an understanding of the disease due to being a former leukaemia patient and having undergone a successful bone marrow transplant.

Carrie has helped many patients over the years and during 2016 she has provided 546 patient sessions. A letter was received by Sue Sollis on Christmas Eve from one of Carrie's patients. It reads as follows:-

Dear Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust,

'I am writing to say a huge thank you for having the foresight to provide a complementary therapy massage service at Worcester Royal Hospital through Carrie-Ann Adams. I have been a patient there 20<sup>th</sup> July-28<sup>th</sup> November this year since my diagnosis of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia. During that time Carrie-Ann has provided several excellent foot massages which I have found very beneficial to my health and wellbeing at a difficult time. Her easy manner and conversation has been a joy and made a tough journey less difficult. I am now at Queen Elizabeth Hospital awaiting my transplant.

Please will you accept this small donation towards the work of The Trust with many thanks and all best wishes for the future.'

### **London Visit**

A visit to the Tracy Sollis Laboratory and the Anthony Nolan Institute was arranged for supporters and volunteers. The party travelled to London on a mini bus hired from Evesham Self Drive and driven by Ian Jarvis. It was an extremely interesting tour of the laboratories with numerous presentations provided by many of the research staff. Three Students from Prince Henry's were in attendance and received the offer of a work placement which would be very helpful towards their future employment prospects. It was during this visit that Rita Booth and Barbara Jenman presented a cheque for £1,000 to Laboratory Manager Hazel Forde.

### **Anthony Nolan Research Institute Equipment**

The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust has purchased several items of equipment required for the Tracy Sollis Laboratory and the a-joining laboratories. The items were purchased direct from the supplier for delivery to the institute. The purchases were made from FluidX Ltd and Thistle Scientific. The total of these purchases came to £11,872.50.

## **Prince Henry's High School**

Tracy Sollis attended Prince Henry's School and it was a wonderful surprise when The Trust was contacted by Charity and Community Coordinator Barbara Taylor on behalf of the school's Interact fundraising group. It was to inform The Trust that it was to be the school's nominated charity for the year. Thanks to lots of hard work carried out by the group an amazing £1,585.00 was raised and presented to The Trust.

During July Sue Sollis was contacted by the school and asked if she would attend Speech day as a Guest Speaker. Debbie Edmondson (formally Oakes) who is one of the Trust's Trustees was invited to attend as a former pupil and best friend of Tracy Sollis. It was an emotional day to take to the stage on which Tracy had stood so many years ago encouraging people to join the Bone Marrow Register. A time which will always be remembered.

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