

The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust

(Registered charity number 1069269)

Annual Report

January – December 2017

Aims and Objectives

The aim 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, purchasing laboratory equipment for life saving research and offering short term breaks for patients on referral from the medical profession. Grant requests which come within the Trust's remit are welcomed.

The charity is run by the Board of Trustees whose members are listed as follows:-

Mrs Susan Sollis (Founder Member)

Mrs Suzanne Palmer (Chairperson)

Mrs Vivien Bently (Vice Chairperson)

Mrs Debbie Edmondson

Mrs Ann Oakes

Mrs Marion Bratt

Mrs Margueritte Bailey (minute secretary)

Resignation - Mr Roger Warrington resigned from the board in January 2017 due to work commitments

Election of New Trustee – Mrs Marion Bratt was welcomed to the Board January 2017

The Trust's Treasurer is Mrs Ann Davies

Administration Unit

On 25th December 2016 The Trust undertook a lease for a small new unit. It was in January 2017 that we moved into the premises which are situated within the Library Arcade. This is now the location for all administration. Previously administration was being dealt with within shop 5 which was not ideal. Grateful thanks to local firm Bradford's for supplying and fitting a carpet for this property completely free of charge.

Shop 5

Shop 5 continues to flourish with takings yet again up on the previous year. Trade is steady and it is constantly busy with an ever increasing amount of goods received. Volunteers work exceedingly hard to keep the shop running efficiently and always maintain a high level of customer service and care. Changing room facilities are now available in the shop which are helping to boost clothing sales.

Shop 7

A big thank you to Bradfords Carpet and Bedding who continue to offer support by regularly supplying the shop with goods to help raise funds. Shop 7 predominantly focuses on the selling of donated furniture. It is rather unpredictable in turnover and although slightly up on the previous year of 2016 is not as profitable as shop 5. Its running costs are also higher. At the beginning of the year deliveries and collections of furniture had continued to be undertaken using a vehicle generously provided by Evesham Self Drive with just insurance costs incurred. Due to the company's success the availability of a vehicle had become increasingly difficult. It was due to this that The Trust began to hire Dave Garrett, 'a man with a van'. This was a more costly arrangement and later in the year it was decided it would be more practicable to purchase a van. A Ford Transit Van was subsequently bought from Tewkesbury Van Sales. The van would also prove of use for forthcoming fundraising events. It was sign written by local company 'Signs R Us' with the graphics designed by volunteer Callum Salter (a former Prince Henry's Student). This would help in highlighting the charity.

Charity of the Year Presentation

Vale Golf Club Seniors Section – Captain David Rimell

The Trust was delighted to have been nominated Charity of the Year for 2016 by its Captain David Rimell. Mr Rimell together with fellow members of the club raised the magnificent sum of £4,363 which was presented in February 2017. The fundraising had commenced with Mr Rimell undertaking a 20 mile sponsored walk from Broadway Golf Club to Cleve Hill Golf Club. This he successfully achieved at the age of 80 years and on possibly the hottest day of the year!

AGM

The Trust's AGM 2017 was held at the Fleece Inn, Bretforton with an excellent turn out of approximately fifty people present. Headmaster of Prince Henry's High School, Dr Tony Evans was among those present together with two members of his staff. The school has a particular interest in research projects being carried out within the Anthony Nolan Research Institute which includes The Tracy Sollis Laboratory. Tracy Sollis being a former student of Prince Henry's. Guest speaker for the evening was laboratory manager for the Anthony Nolan Trust, Hazel Forde

EVENTS

Gordon Giltrap

We were delighted to have our Patron Gordon Giltrap once again return to the Fleece Inn, Bretforton for his Annual Charity Concert. It is always a sell out and this year was to be no exception. Gordon has never claimed any expenses and all proceeds from his concerts go direct to the charity. The Fleece Inn is also generous in providing the wonderful venue completely free of charge.

We are pleased to say that the event raised a total of £1,300.90 to include the raffle which raised £155.

Avonbank Brass Band, Stour Concert Brass with Alcester Male Voice Choir

It was thanks to the generosity of Prince Henry's High School and its Headmaster Dr Tony Evans, that Evesham Arts Centre was the new and revised venue for the Annual Brass Band Concert featuring Avonbank Brass Band and Stour Concert Brass. The event had previously been held at St Peters Church, Bengeworth but parking facilities for those attending was very limited. This year the two

bands were joined by Alcester Male Voice Choir. Both bands performed free of charge with the choir claiming £190 for expenses. A generous and kind hearted member of Stour Concert Brass paid the said amount to avoid any cost to The Trust. It was a brilliant evening held in an amazing venue with members of Prince Henry's staff and students hosting the event. A grand total of £921.58 was raised.

Further Events Held

Formula 1 Event - £80.00 Fleece Inn - organiser Martin Hunt

Asparafest Car Park £371.46 (manned by volunteers)

Andrew Bailey - Half Marathon (Stratford) £86 sponsorship plus £130 on Just Giving page

Lygonian Singers £315

Bretforton Flower Show Car Park £96.51 (manned by volunteers)

Bretforton Flower Show Mark Chambers £103 (supplement donation)

Bret Proms Car Park £54.60 (manned by volunteers)

Masonic Lodge £500.00 donation

Cycle Fest £25.50 Car Park (manned by volunteers) plus donation from organisers to follow

Broadway and Leedons Park coffee morning £30

Rachel & Bobby Golden Wedding donations £90 .22

Fleece Inn LCVS Charity and Voluntary Services 2 donations received £140.69 and £130.63 = total of £271.32

Stow Primary School

Nominated the charity for the academic year. Sue Sollis visited the school in September 2017 along with mascot Harry Hedgehog to talk about the Trust.

The Tracy Sollis Cup

In September the organisers of Wychavon Festival of Brass announced that the Tracy Sollis Cup donated by Bennetts Estate Agents, would this year be awarded to the youngest player performing at their annual contest. The Trophy was won by Ynshire Brass Band's percussionist 7 year old Noah Davies. Noah follows the footsteps of Tracy who was a young brass band player.

Talks

The History and Work of The Trust - undertaken by Founder Member Sue Sollis

Includes the following:-

Honeybees WI £50

Sundowners Badsey £30

Friends of Evesham Church Talk £55

Mrs Albright donation ref: Friends of Evesham Talk £100

Quinton Fellowship Talk £50

Comer Ladies £100

Evesham and District Pensioners Association £50

Total £435

Educational Visit to Anthony Nolan Research Institute

A mini bus was generously provided by Prince Henry's High School and driven by the school's Careers Officer Jane Tozer. Seven students attended plus 5 supporters of The Trust together with the Trust's Founder Member Sue Sollis. It was an interesting and successful visit where everyone was made welcome and given a tour of the laboratories. Research is progressing well with the endeavour to re-produce red blood cells. This work is being carried out alongside research into improving the survival rates of those needing a transplant. Attendees were amazed by the amount of equipment donated by The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust and also the enthusiasm of those working at the Research Institute. Work experience places are to be made available to 3 students from Prince Henry's High School during 2018.

Research Project Achievement

Tracy Sollis Laboratory & the Anthony Nolan Research Institute Equipment

A wish list was received from Laboratory Manager Hazel Forde which included the following:-

1. Liquid Nitrogen Storage Tank
2. Promega Maxwell DNA Rapid Sample Concentrator
3. Nano Drop 1000
4. Plate Sealer
5. Jouan Centrifuge C444
6. Cold Plate Shaker

A total of **£50,560.47** in equipment was subsequently purchased and delivered to the Research Institute.

Complementary Therapy

The Trust's Complementary Therapist, Carrie Adams saw a total of 442 patients during 2017. There has been excellent feedback from patients as to how beneficial this has been to their health and wellbeing.

It was during the latter half of the year that Carrie announced that she was expecting a baby. This was especially good news as Carrie is a former leukaemia sufferer.

As maternity leave was needed we were delighted to welcome Sharon Benfield as a temporary replacement. Sharon settled into the position well having been shadowed by Carrie for a short time before taking over. Expenditure for complementary therapy provided for the year totalled £9,940.00.

Credits

In May 2017 Sue Sollis received the Mayor of Evesham's Civic Award.

At the close of the year it was announced on the New Year's Honours List 2018 that Sue Sollis was to be awarded the BEM for her services towards Leukaemia Research.

