



The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust

(registered charity number 1069269)



Fundraiser's Annual Report 2011

With poor weather conditions, the month of January proved to be a challenge. The Trust was also affected, when the Library Arcade, which is where the shop and headquarters are situated, was temporarily closed as a thoroughfare. This was due to alterations being made to accommodate a Registry Office within the Library.

Despite the set back the shop income was steady. Various donations helped, including a donation from Avonbank Brass Band, for assisting with ticket sales for their concert.

An extra way of increasing income was through the sale of donated items on Ebay. Mr Bob Cowter has been doing this on the Trust's behalf and although the recession has hampered sales, it added several hundred pounds to the yearly income. Sincere thanks to Bob for his time and knowledge which is much appreciated.

During February The Trust received a pleasant surprise, when a cheque was received for £490 from the Lygonian Singers. The Choir have supported The Trust over many years through their Christmas Carolling and we are very grateful. A further boost came when Foster and Freeman contacted the Trust to say they had a cheque for a magnificent £1,165.00.

The shop went from strength to strength as the year progressed. This was due to a good working team of volunteers and increased support from the general public. Shop volunteer, John Woodings, made a major improvement, by designing and providing a ramp for the shop step. This made it accessible for wheelchair and pushchair users and has proved to be a much needed and appreciated asset. The volunteer team also worked wonders while I had a much needed two week holiday and takings spiralled during the summer months when a half price sale was held.

There was an increase in fundraising activities and the month of April saw our Patron Gordon Giltrap hold his annual concert for The Trust at the Fleece Inn, Bretforton. With no expenditure incurred this brought in a

grand total of £999.20. Many thanks to Gordon for his support and Nigel Smith, for providing a wonderful venue.

We are also grateful to Gordon for recommending his website manager, Sue Holton, to The Trust. Sue does a marvellous job in managing and updating The Trust's website - Just blink and it's done!

The week after Gordon's Concert, Trustee Mr Chris Hunter staged a Sixties Night with his two bands 'Mines a Pint' and 'The Throwbacks' of which he is bass player. Chris together with band members, and the help of his wife Rosie and family, organised a great night, it was a sell out and raised an amazing £1,117.30.

Shop Volunteer, Malcolm Allen showed great commitment when he decided he was going to swim 50 lengths of Evesham Pool. Malcolm doesn't do anything by halves and quickly got into training at the same time going flat out to raise as much sponsorship as possible – and *raising sponsorship these days isn't easy!* Pushing himself to the limit, he completed the swimathon and raised an incredible £631.50. Congratulations and thank you Malcolm!

A Fashion Sample Sale was held at the Lifford Hall, Broadway a total of six times during the year. Organisers arranged that the £1 admission fee would be donated to The Trust and they would then kindly match every £1 taken £1 for £1, thus doubling the amount. The Trust would also benefit from the sale of refreshments on the day. We were extremely lucky that Clare Sandalls volunteered to run the canteen making tea, coffee and selling plenty of her popular homemade cakes. Grateful thanks also to Graham Bonson and his wife Sue for taking over managing the door to enable me to return to the running of the shop. The event has subsequently brought in between £300 and £600 on each occasion, dependant on footfall. We are extremely grateful for this ongoing arrangement.

During the year, several requests were received for me to attend various clubs and organisations as a guest speaker. This was in return for a donation to The Trust.

One of the places visited was Bretforton First School to talk about leukaemia and the importance of friends - *especially when you are ill*. I was accompanied by The Trust's mascot 'Harry Hedgehog', who proved to be quite a celebrity. Pupils afterwards drew pictures of him and they are now permanently on display in the Trust's Charity shop. The school went on to raise the wonderful sum of £183.96.

Among events for the year, Evesham Specsavers worked wonders by organising a Summer Ball which was held at the Vale Golf Club. It proved highly successful and raised an amazing £1,279.00.

During September a Charity Golf Day was held at the Vale Golf Club. The event was planned and organised by Colin Smith who together with his wife, Kathy, and family members, managed to raise an incredible £1,514.72. What a result! It was a fantastic day and the weather was superb.

On writing this report I am amazed at the amount of activity and support that has taken place throughout the year.

These include the stewarding of 'The Fleece Inn' Car Park which brought in a return of £204.07

We also had The Trumpet Inn Rock Band Evening, £340

The De Montfort Restaurant 'Tea For Tracy' afternoon, £200

The Best of Evesham Evening at the Cracow Restaurant £130,

We held a Warwick Folk Festival Charity Stall, organised by Tracy's Grandparents and assisted by Tom Green £261.45

The Lenches Club Family Event Day with Debbie Edmondson, Margueritte Bayley and family friends, £95.15

Avon Estates helped man the gate at the Vale of Evesham Show, in return for a donation of £100

Pippa Singleton, who many will know as Wychavon's Dog Warden, gave a talk to Cleve Vale Rotary Club receiving £250 which she generously donated and The North Cotswold Vintage Motorcycle Club gave a generous donation of £104 following my visit as a guest speaker. Two of its members namely Neil & Katie Batchelor went on to collect £147.67 during one of the club's long distance runs.

Many individual donations were received. Among these was a very special and completely unexpected amount following an appeal to raise over £7,000.00 for a new Assessment Unit at Worcester Royal Hospital. The amount of £1,000.00 was donated and dedicated to the memory of Mr John & Mrs Betty Brown and their son Dr Ralph Brown. I am overwhelmed by this moving and generous act of kindness and although I never had the privilege of meeting Dr Ralph Brown I have fond memories of Dr Brown's parents Betty and John.

Expenditure and Achievements

At the beginning of the year The Trust was asked by Worcester Royal Hospital if it could assist with transport costs for a patient who was experiencing financial difficulties. The request was granted and the patient was re-imbursed for four months hospital travelling costs. This helped to relieve the stress and worry they were experiencing.

The Trust had been looking for a Complementary Therapist for patients at Worcester Hospital. The perfect applicant came forward and we were delighted when in June we appointed Carrie-Ann Piercy as our 'Tracy Sollis Complementary Therapist'. Carrie- Ann celebrated her marriage a couple of months later and is now Mrs Carrie-Ann Adams. Congratulations Carrie and Christian!

Carrie- Ann has been making such a difference to a patient's well being. We are greatly aware of her good work due to the many letters of thanks The Trust has received. Carrie has a full understanding of leukaemia having been a former patient. Carrie underwent a bone marrow transplant before being restored back to health and has that special ability to help others. She is seeing between 50 to 60 patients per month. This is something that we feel is well worth funding.

Among The Trust's commitments was the pledge to keep up the maintenance of electric beds purchased for Laurel 3 Ward and we have honoured this agreement to date.

During the year we were asked if we could provide a fridge for patients on the ward. This would allow patients to store and have access to personal stocks of food or drink. We subsequently purchased this commodity.

We have also purchased hand held Dopplers. These are devices used for locating veins when inserting pick lines. It makes the procedure much easier for both patient and nurse thus relieving unnecessary distress. We have provided 'Oxygen Meter thermometers which monitor a patient's condition and purchased a bacteria free couch to help eliminate the chance of cross infection.

There were a few changes within the structure of The Trust. I was accepted on to the Trustee Board in June and during July Debbie Edmondson resigned as secretary due to her family and work commitments. The role of secretary was accepted and transferred to Trustee Margueritte Bayley.

Finally it was a year for weddings. Shop volunteer Steve Pritchard, who had been with the Trust for almost 10 years, had become part of the fixtures and fittings. Steve announced he was getting married to Sue, a nurse at Gloucester Hospital, and that he would be moving away. Well done Sue and Steve - *Steve you're missed, but will never be forgotten!*

Total Reported Income for the year was £41,064.05
Total Reported Expenditure for the year was £39,873.52

Trustees

Mr Graham Bonson (Chairman Of Board)

Mrs Zuzana Brotherton (Treasurer)

Mrs Margueritte Bayley (*newly elected secretary July 2011*)

Mrs Debbie Edmondson (*resigned as secretary July 2011*)

Mr Chris Hunter

Mrs Ann Oakes

Mrs Sue Sollis - *reinstated June 2011*