



The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust

(registered charity number 1069269)

Annual Report

January –December 2014



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 currently being achieved by providing complementary therapy for patients, offering short term breaks on referral from medical staff and thirdly by furthering research into the disease.

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

Trustee Board

There has been one change to The Trustee Board as it was with great regret that Chris Hunter resigned as a Trustee due to work commitments. Chris remains a loyal supporter of The Trust and has stated that he will continue to hold further fundraising concerts. This will be with his two bands namely 'Mines a Pint and 'The Throwbacks'. 'Thank you Chris for your much valued support and wishing you every success in the future.'

Events

Events for the year started with The Trust's Patron Gordon Giltrap performing at The Fleece Inn, Bretforton. The Event raised £1,178.00 and marked exactly twenty years since Gordon first met Tracy after whom the charity is founded Tracy was in search of a bone marrow donor at the time and Gordon volunteered to perform at a charity concert to help. Gordon has donated his time and talent ever since. A special souvenir programme was compiled and designed by Callum Salter from Prince Henry's Grammar School. It contained all Gordon's achievements towards the charity over the past 20 years. A very special occasion.

The next musical event featured Avonbank Brass Band and Stour Concert Brass. The two bands united in a special commemorative concert staged in memory of musician and former Trustee Dave Turner. It was a nostalgic occasion held at St Peter's Church, Bengeworth which marked the life and times of Dave as both a musician and fundraiser. The wonderful sum of £1,000 was raised with a further £200 received from the Blakemore Foundation.

Evesham's U3A Concert Band gave their support in July by holding a fundraising concert at Evesham Methodist Church. It was the band's first ever concert since being formed and achieved the much welcomed sum of £325.71.

The Lygonian Singers are long time supporters of The Trust and this year was no exception. Through their hard work with their Carol Singing activities we have once again received a donation. This year it was for the marvelous sum of £600.

Right on track was the Honeybourne Railway Club when it held a Bingo Night especially for The Trust. Thanks to Sam Boulter and local supporters the evening was a great success raising £320.

Another fundraiser is when each year the Trust assists with car park duties for various events. One of these is the Asparafest which is held at Ashdown Farm Nr Badsey. This is held over two days during the May Bank Holiday weekend with donations invited from motorists. This year it raised £956.04. (slightly down on previous years)

The second car park duty for the year was for Bretforton Flower Show which raised £154.96. A further donation of £134 was received from the Flower Show's Host Mr Chambers in appreciation for our help.

The third and final car park duty was for Last night Of the Proms held by Bretforton Silver Band which raised £205. A big thank you to all those who volunteered to help out these occasions.

The Trust had a stall at a couple of shows. The one was at Warwick Folk Festival which is always a popular and happy event and this year raised £94.70. The other location was at Badsey Flower Show which was the first time the charity had attended. It raised £85.57.

Talks & Presentations

Sue Sollis was invited to talks to various clubs and organisations. They were Eckington WI (£328.10), Sedgeberrow British Legion (£40) plus further donations from their individual members totaling £60, Pershore over 60's (£20), Watson Lane Residents (£131.34), St Peters Bengeworth £45, Studley W.I. (£57) and Bredon Hill Rotary Club £500. Altogether the talks, which in this report includes all donations mentioned resulted in a total of £1,181.44.

Business Support

There has been some amazing business support

Foster & Freeman Forensics have supported The Trust for many years and the year 2014 was no exception. The Trust received a cheque for the wonderful sum of £1,427.00.

Focus Accountancy, also provided a pleasant surprise when it announced it was presenting a cheque for £1,000.

United Buildings Ltd sent a cheque for £2,000.00 being proceedings donated from the sale of a plot of land.

Matcon Ltd donated £200

Thomson and Bancks Solicitors staff raised £387.20

One Stop, Convenience Store, Evesham raised £170

Conference Fashion Show

At the beginning of the year, Ann Davies from I.A.g.S.A. (Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators), contacted the Trust to ask if it would be prepared to stage a fashion show at its Annual Conference. The I.A.g.S.A. would provide the models needed.

It was agreed that this would be a good opportunity to promote the charity and its charity shop. The Event took place at Farncombe Conference Centre, Broadway and was quite a challenge as there was no opportunity for a dress rehearsal.

Thankfully the clothes fitted the models who had travelled to the Conference from various parts of the country. It was a success in raising awareness of leukaemia and received a total of £287.99.

The Shop

Space in the shop for an ever spiralling increase of donations became more problematic. On top of clothes and bric a brac received customers were offering furniture which had to be turned away. It was therefore decided that a bigger premises was needed. The search commenced but shops on the market proved to either be too small or in the wrong location to attract maximum footfall. It was a relief when the shop next to the Trust's existing one became available. This was ideal for future furniture and home accessories donated. It would involve a certain amount of outlay to adapt but felt well worth it.

This is when a couple of local businesses came up trumps. The Trust first major development was when E.S.D. (Evesham Self Drive) offered to provide a vehicle for all deliveries of furniture and large goods. One of the first pick ups was from the Trust's Patron Gordon Giltrap who donated a large amount of his personal possessions including a couple of guitars. The extra shop premises started trading towards the end of the year with the official opening of the new unit scheduled to take place in the year 2015.

The next business to offer substantial support was Bradford Carpets. They generously offered to donate regular supplies of Carpets and Bedding.

In December, one of the busiest trading times, Sue Sollis went down with Flu and the shop found itself without adequate cover due to backup cover being unavailable. There was no option but to close until Sue returned to health. That was until Volunteer Shelia Davies stepped forward and did a magnificent job in keeping the wheels turning. Sheila deserves every credit for her hard work and commitment.

Shop income for the year was £40,543.17 marking an increase of £2,594.01 on the previous year.

Complementary Therapy

During 2014, The Trust's complementary therapist Carrie Adams, saw 551 patients. This is an increase of 33 patients on the previous year. We congratulate Carrie on her excellent work with many newly diagnosed patients finding it reassuring to have someone who can take time to listen. Carrie has had firsthand experience of the disease and therefore has a very special understanding of a patient's worries or concerns.

Our second complementary therapist, Gill Goldfinch, is based in Malvern. Gill is able to provide complementary therapy for patients outside the hospital environment. Gill saw 29 patients with this figure expected to increase during the following year.

Short Term Breaks For Patients

Farncombe Estate is the location provided for short term breaks for patients. The Estate is located in the heart of the Cotswolds with magnificent views.. It provides a healthy environment and specialises in meeting any special dietary requirements. There is 24hour cover at its reception which is very reassuring for patients with a compromised immune system. It is the ideal location for patients to experience some quality time and recuperate from intensive treatment. The Trust received referrals from Worcester Royal Hospital for patients and their families who they felt would most benefit from a short break. The first of the Complimentary Vouchers have been issued and feedback from those receiving them has been very complementary.

The Tracy Sollis Laboratory

The Tracy Sollis Laboratory is situated on the ground of The Royal Free Hospital. It was officially opened by HRH The Duchess Of Kent in 1996 following a successful hundred thousand pound appeal and is run by the Anthony Nolan Research Team.

It was during the year that we received a request from the Anthony Nolan Trust to purchase a piece of research equipment called a Plate Reader. This was purchased for the cost of £24,563.47. Following its installation members of The Trustee Board travelled to London to see the equipment in action. They were very impressed with its ability. The Plate Reader can process samples in 2 minutes that would have previously taken 7 hours. Amazing!

Trustee Board

Chairman Mr Nigel Smith
Vice Chairman Mr Peter Vale
Mrs Ann Oakes
Mrs Margaret Bayley
Mrs Debbie Edmondson
Mrs Vivien Bentley
Mr Roger Warrington
Mrs Helen Gray
Co. Founder Member Mrs Sue Sollis

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Treasurer — Mrs Angela Harper

Secretary — Margaret Bayley

Patron

Gordon Giltrap