

Message From The Chairman

Dear Supporter

21 YEARS AND STILL SUPPORTING THE BATH CANCER UNIT

It was 21 years ago that the Bath Cancer Unit Support Group commenced fund raising for the Bath Cancer Unit and thanks to the incredible efforts of numerous supporters over this period, no less than £2.6m has been raised and spent on improving facilities for cancer patients at the RUH.

With your continued support I am certain that the next 21 years will be as equally successful.

If ever there was an example as to how a community of 1/2 million people living in West Wiltshire and Bath could affect the way in which cancer services are delivered, surely it is the support given to BCUSG.

By working together and pooling the proceeds of their fund raising, supporters have enabled BCUSG trustees to contemplate projects which otherwise would have been beyond their wildest dreams.

During the past year support has been given to the new cancer information centre and at its first meeting of 2006 the trustees agreed to part fund clinical staff who are providing specialist care for paediatric cancer patients.

GOODBYE to Janet and Jim Crane

After many years of service to BCUSG Janet, who had been the group's honorary secretary and Jim, the group's vice chairman decided to retire as trustees. For all their numerous contributions I extend grateful thanks.

WELCOME to Dr Olivera Frim

Dr Olivera Frim has been appointed as Consultant Clinical Oncologist within the Avon, Somerset & Wiltshire Cancer Services Network. Dr Frim who is currently working as a locum consultant in Oncology at the Bristol Haematology/Oncology Centre at UBHT will take up this post at the RUH on 1st May 2006.

NATIONAL CANCER PEER REVIEW

It was the turn of the Royal United Hospital to undergo the national peer review of its cancer services on 27th and 28th February. A huge amount of preparation was undertaken in readiness for the review and the reviewers were very impressed by what they saw in Bath. In summarising the visit the reviewers highlighted the strong patient focus and they were extremely impressed by the cancer information centre and the patient information found in it and throughout the hospital. Some of the less positive findings of the review included a lack of privacy for patients within the chemotherapy unit and the poor environmental conditions in the oncology/haematology out-patient areas. It was clear to the reviewers that much excellent cancer care work is being undertaken in the RUH in spite of some difficulties with resources and the environment. The full report of the visit will be available in the next six months alongside an action plan developed by staff at the RUH to address the issues raised.

With best wishes.

John Carter - Chairman

Editor Writes

In our last edition of Supportline I told you about the Studley Senior Section Group in Trowbridge, who had produced a recipe book which had favourite recipes from friends, neighbours, other girls and Guiders. The proceeds being split between Bath Cancer Unit Support Group and their funds.

The recipe books have been selling well and are still on sale and if you would like to purchase a copy please send a cheque for £2.50 payable to Studley Senior Section C/O 26 Helmdon Road Trowbridge Wiltshire BA14 9DF.

The picture shows the girls advertising the Recipe Books.



ReportFromTrowbridgeBranch

DECEMBER 2005

Since my last report in July, Trowbridge Committee has been very busy, not least of all with preparations for the 21st Anniversary Dinner & Ball held at Trowbridge Civic Hall on Saturday 22nd October. Despite one or two hiccups along the way it was a successful evening and thanks to the Sponsors and donations received plus the generosity of those who attended and bought all the raffle tickets and bid for the items in the auction we raised over £4,500. (More detail in a separate report).

Such a lot to report so I'll start by thanking Rachel Deadman's family and friends for their ongoing support. They continue to raise money in her memory and have sent us a further £890 in the last few months.

Thank you Westbrook Inn, Melksham for contributing £300 and to Kate Preece who gave us another £20 from the sale of her beautiful hand made cards. Also to J Chadwick who sent £20 and Anne Osborne for £12. Mr Tarr ran the London Marathon and presented us with a cheque for £609 from Sponsorship which he chose to donate to BCUSG so a big thank you and well done to him. Chris Brooks, Chef at Red or White, has stopped smoking and sent us £56 – well done Chris, keep it up.

Around 70 guests attended Barbara & Ken Pickard's annual fund raising event enjoying coffee and mince pies and purchasing lots of bargains from the sales table. As well as raising £420 they enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with old friends. Thank you Barbara & Ken and of course all those who helped on the day.



Trowbridge Lions are great supporters of BCUSG as is the Concorde Lodge. We've received £200 from the Lions from the 10K Fun Run plus BBQ. Concorde Lodge sent us £155 in August and more recently presented us with a further cheque for £1,250. Thanks to all those involved and we wish both organisations continued success in the work they do in the community.

You all know who you are that make donations via collecting boxes at Rode Post Office; the Mill at Rode; Picturesque, Frome; Saxon Garage, Bradford on Avon; T & M Brent at Hinton Charterhouse; Yarnbrook Garage and West Wilts Conservative Club as well as those not yet emptied. Those pennies really do help as collectively you donated over £225. Many thanks once again. Please contact us if you would like to display one of our tins.

Committee Members and friends have also been busy out and about with collecting boxes. Raising £652 from shoppers in Trowbridge. Devizes folk put £514 into our tins. Those attending the West Wilts 2005 Show contributed £922 through a Grand Draw. And again those visiting the June Floral Fair in Trowbridge bought almost £400 of items from our stall. It was a cold damp day for the Trowbridge Lights switch on but that did not prevent our intrepid band of helpers who we call on so often for support, from raising £155. Being well into November we were thankful that the next events were indoors. So, whilst Robin was doing brisk sales of the 2005 Quiz a further £31 was added from the sale of wrapping paper at the Cheese & Grain Hall in Frome and we collected £107 and £118 in the Castle Precinct and the Shires respectively. Finally, in December shoppers at Budgens, Hilperton put £172 into the boxes. A big thank you to everybody. We don't always look forward to standing with a tin or behind a stall on a Saturday especially when the weather is unkind but when we look at the figures it makes it worthwhile. However it doesn't mean we wouldn't like more help to spread the load so please call **Ros on 01373 830149** if you can spare us a little time during the coming year. Go on **DO IT NOW** as we do have events already booked.

The 2005 Quiz found in many pubs and shops around the area is going extremely well and Robin Dallimore is confident of record sales this year.

Having lost at least one member of their Group plus close friends to cancer in 2005 Bath Gilbert & Sullivan Society nominated BCUSG as their Charity for 2005 and invited us to make a retiring collection at their performance of 'The Mikado' at the Rondo Theatre in Bath. Thanks to audience and cast we collected almost £480 over the three nights and have subsequently received a further donation of £75 from Group Funds plus £50 from the sale of a piano. Thanks to you all and carry on singing and entertaining others for many years. We certainly enjoyed your performance.

The weather could not have been worse for our annual 'International Night' and we were forced to retreat inside to avoid the torrential rain as well as

thunder and lightening which started shortly before the event was due to start. However, Marco and staff at Red or White somehow managed to accommodate 12 display tables, a raffle table plus space for musical entertainment and around 120 guests and who knows how many umbrellas!! The restaurant, coffee lounge; wine cellars and display areas were all absolutely buzzing with guests sampling all the wonderful traditional food and drink on offer from the various countries as well as those prepared by the chef. Two Committee Members had a very difficult task selecting a winner for the 'Best Presentation' but finally awarded 'Kenya' the winners. This really is a most enjoyable way to raise £655 for BCUSG. (In fact I should book now if you would like to be there in 2006).

Bette Bullus from Fome wrote just a few days prior to my report inviting us to collect a cheque, proceeds from a Karaoke evening in memory of husband Robin which she hoped would be at least £700, however it turned out to be almost £1,400. Grateful thanks to Bette, family and friends I'm sure you had a great evening. Thank you too to members of the Shining Light Awareness Centre in Westbury who have just presented us with a further cheque for £300.

And finally, we said goodbye to 2005 with a collection at ASDA, Trowbridge with a collection on 30th & 31st December which resulted in over £1.150 being added to the year's total. Thanks to Staff and customers for their generosity.

Our thanks yet again to Mathew James of Bradford on Avon for the £104 that he and his Bath Young Farmer friends collected carol singing in local inns!!

Pam Gough at WCC donated £23 from her department which was raised, in lieu of Christmas cards, a great idea Pam and gratefully received.

Trowbridge Committee would like to acknowledge all the help and support Kate Preece has given BCUSG whilst working as Secretary to our Chairman, Tino at Tam Developments. Kate has now moved on but I'm sure will continue to support whenever the opportunity arises. On the other hand I'm delighted to report that we now have three new faces on Trowbridge Committee and they are already working hard. They are David Birch; Ian Grant and Ian Mason. Always room for more members though!

As usual I'm appealing for any bric a brac, jewellery or new toiletries for our stalls in 2006. At the moment we have absolutely nothing to sell so **PLEASE, PLEASE** remember us if you are cleaning out drawers and cupboards or have unwanted Christmas presents and call me Jeanne on 01225 769016. **HAVE TRANSPORT AND WILLING TO COLLECT.**

Trowbridge Committee send sincere best wishes to everyone for 2006 but especially all those for whom we raise this money.

*Jeanne Ingham-Law – Secretary,
Trowbridge Committee*

InMemoryofAnnieMead

In 2002 Sue Dodd organised a 24 hour cycle marathon at her beauty/fitness salon in Trowbridge when members as well as staff pedalled in relays throughout the day and night at TLC (The Lookgood Co). This was as a thank you for the care her long time best friend Annie Mead had received following her diagnosis of breast cancer. As a result of this Trowbridge Committee received a cheque for £3,135. Annie was present at that presentation and was very positive for the future. Unfortunately the cancer returned and sadly she lost her fight in July 2005.

Once again Sue decided to raise money as a memorial to Annie and in October last year with the help of her daughter Emma and

staff member Tara a second sponsored 24 hour cycle marathon was held. Thanks to all those who took part we received a cheque for another wonderful £3,013.

At the cheque presentation Sue said TLC was a small independent company where everyone was part of a family so everyone felt the loss of Annie. She thanked all those who had taken part including Annie's family the many friends/members and her staff. It was a wonderful tribute to Annie who will always be

remembered by everyone at TLC Trowbridge.

The Dursley Arms, Trowbridge has also raised almost £1,000 through raffles and quiz nights in memory of Annie. A big thank you to them too.

*Jeanne Ingham-Law – Secretary,
Trowbridge Committee*



Singing To Support BCUSG

On Wednesday 16th November 2005 the Bullus family and friends presented a cheque for £1,387.14 to BCUSG, which was raised at a karaoke evening.

The evening, held in Nunney Village Hall at the beginning of November, was a huge success.

Bette Bullus would like to say a big thank you to all the local people and businesses who donated raffle prizes, the people who sold the raffle tickets and those who supported the event on the evening.



Reminders

Bequests should be made to the Bath Cancer Unit Support Group, C/O Tom Travers, 16 Bargates, Box, Wilts . SN13 8LT.

Donations under gift aid give us Income Tax benefit and add the Chancellor of the Exchequer to our list of donors. Please contact John Carter, the Chairman or Tom Travers the Treasurer.

Please make cheques payable to Bath Cancer Unit Support Group.

Collection boxes for pubs, clubs, shops and garages are available from our Treasurer.

Financial Report

for the Year Ending 31st December 2005

**Bath Cancer Unit Support Group
Registered Charity No.292643
Support Group No – 38**

The Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2005 have been forwarded for examination. They will be presented at the A.G.M on Wednesday 10th May 2006. The balance to be carried forward to 2006 is:-

The breakdown of money held at HSBC is:-

Current Account -	£32,505.92
No Notice Account -	£328.89
Money Market Account -	£195,000.00

Tom Travers - Hon Treasurer

Well Done To....

Emily & Laura Smith aged 12 and 10 and Alice Gibbs aged 12 are three friends from Chippenham. During the summer holidays the girls organised a sale of toys, books and cakes and raised £67.81 for Bath Cancer Unit Support Group.

They presented the cheque to the Chairman BCUSG, John Carter.



AreaEvents

N.B. - EVENTS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING ARRANGED AND WILL BE ADVERTISED - WHEN CONFIRMED

Sunday 9th April

The Trowbridge Lions have again nominated the Bath Cancer Unit as one of the beneficiaries of its 10k ANNUAL RUN. Starting from Studley Green School at 1100hrs., the course will include two laps in Southwick Park, before returning to the school. Anyone and Everyone (over 16) are invited to compete over this certified multi-terrain course, be it for fun reasons (best fancy dress prize) or to see how the winter regime has shaped you up or as a preliminary to more serious stuff.

Entry forms and further details can be obtained from:- Lion; Richard Loverock on 01225 762838.

Sunday 23rd April

The day of the LONDON MARATHON and John Stickley of Trowbridge will be running to raise funds for the Bath Cancer Unit. John is no stranger to the rigours of the race and because the day is actually his 69th birthday he hopes to make it a double celebration with his fund raising. To support John and the Unit please call 01225 754789 and make your pledge. Remember for every pound raised for the Unit, less than 5p is swallowed up in expenses.



STOP PRESS - Wednesday 5th July

The Trowbridge Branch of BCUSG will again be staging their renowned "International Alfresco Evening" which is held at "Red or White" Castle Street, Trowbridge. Here the local and various communities of Poland, Italy, India etc. will be dispensing the cuisine, wines and beers from their regions. This is proving to be a very popular fund raising event and you are advised to apply early for admission tickets from Jeanne on 01225 769136 or 07742 493388.

STOP PRESS - Friday 7th July

The Bullus family of Frome are fund raising again this year. They are arranging a PINK BALL which will be held at the BATH RACECOURSE. With a Champagne reception, three course meal, raffle and auction, this promises to be yet another good

night. Details have yet to be finalised but for further information please call Jasmin on 01373 826492 or Nick on 01373 471013.

Saturday 15th July

It's "Community Spotlight on Trowbridge" time. Held in Fore Street & Trowbridge Park, this popular annual event always draws the crowds. The Trowbridge Branch stall can be found in the Park where as usual, bric a brac and plants will be available at bargain prices. Please be sure to support their fund raising efforts for the Bath Cancer Unit.

Saturday 15th July

Jean and Ian Robertson will be staging yet another of their bi-annual event BARN DANCES at Ashton Hill Farm on the A350 Nr. Trowbridge. Heading the bill is the ceilidh band "The Blazing Saddles" and caller plus Fred Wedlock putting in a guest appearance. With a Hog Roast, Raffle, Bar and an Auction by Trevor Heeks, a large covered yard, plenty of parking what more could one wish for. The event is a charity raising function for three local causes, West Ashton Church, Larkrise Community Centre and the Bath Cancer Unit. This evening event is normally a sell out and you are advised to apply for your £8.50 tickets or if you seek further information please call Jean or Ian on 01225 760368.

STOP PRESS - Friday 13th October

The Trowbridge Branch of BCUSG are holding a Dinner Dance at the Civic Hall in Trowbridge. Dancing will be to the renowned Park Lane Big Band and their vocalists, so ladies a chance to dress up again!! Numbers are limited so you are advised to call Jean on 01225 769136 or 07742 493388 for tickets and further information.

N.B. Anyone wishing to use Supportline or our website to advertise their day/event/organization are asked to contact Reg on 01225 774044 or email info@bcusg.org. This information will then be published in our Supportline Magazine, the Oncology Notice Boards, the BCUSG website plus the Bath Chronicle Community website.

MAY WE ALL AT THE BATH CANCER UNIT SUPPORT GROUP TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERYONE ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR FUND RAISING EFFORTS AND SUPPORT IN THIS PAST YEAR AND LONG MAY IT CONTINUE.

BCUSG 21st Anniversary Dinner & Ball

Trowbridge Committee was delighted to be asked to organise a celebration to mark twenty one years of fundraising by Bath Cancer Unit Support Group. Planning started almost twelve months in advance when it had been hoped to organise a suitably grand event in Bath, however it soon became apparent that venues and catering would prove very expensive and parking would also be an issue. So, it was decided to hold the event at The Civic Hall Trowbridge on Saturday 22nd October 2005.

Guests included Lord & Lady Bath, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, John Bush OBE, the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Mr Margesson MBE DL together with his wife, Cllr. Arthur Ransom, Mayor of Trowbridge and of course John and Sue Carter. We were also delighted to have former jockey Bob Champion MBE as a guest. As most of you will remember Bob Champion fought a personal battle with cancer before returning to win the 1981 Grand National on Aldaniti. We were also able to welcome the Chairman of RUH Mike Roy and his wife Olive as well as one or two other members of staff.

A Champagne Reception provided by Red or White Trowbridge set the scene for the evening before the 300 guests were called to dinner by Trowbridge Town Crier, Trevor Heeks. There was much chatter and laughter over a traditional English Roast Beef dinner provided by Mrs B's Catering, with cheese boards, generously donated by the Ilchester Cheese Co.

After dinner John Carter gave a potted history of how and why BCUSG came into being. He explained how the £2.6 Million pounds had been raised and more importantly how it had been spent. He paid tribute to those who had had the courage and foresight to set up the Trust 21 years ago which resulted in the excellent facilities available to local cancer sufferers today. He also paid tribute to the staff at the Unit and assured everyone that there is still a need to fundraise in order to provide new treatments, new equipment and up to date training as well as making the time patients spend at the RUH more comfortable. Finally he thanked everyone for their support and Trowbridge Committee for organising the evening.

Bob Champion was then invited to speak and gave a 'full' account of how he started his career as a jockey and how being told he had cancer in 1979 was the worst day of his life. His battle against cancer is well documented in book and on film, a little of which we were treated to at the end of his talk. His comeback to racing two years later to win the Grand National on Aldaniti was testament to his belief that all battles can be won. He has since gone on to establish the Bob Champion Cancer Trust which supports cancer sufferers at the Royal Marsden Hospital where he himself was treated.

By this time, and rather later than planned, guests were invited to bid for a variety of items generously donated by local businesses whilst many guests were itching to get onto the dance floor. Eventually their time did come and the sparkling evening concluded with a packed floor rocked to the sounds of the brilliant Park Lane Big Band.

Throughout the evening the local air cadets were on hand to guide and escort guests as well as selling raffle tickets for the Grand Draw. Black Tie Portraits did brisk business in the photographic studio from which BCUSG received a donation.

At long past midnight the organising Committee went home happy that the evening had been a success and very grateful to all those who had provided sponsorship, prizes or helped in any way. The icing on the cake was that over £4,500 had been raised on the night.

*Jeanne Ingham-Law
Secretary – BCUSG Trowbridge Committee*



Tino Polledri Chairman Trowbridge Branch of BCUSG, Bob Champion Speaker & John Carter Chairman of BCUSG

ThanksToOneAndAll

Letter with donations from regulars and newcomers often express gratitude to the Medical, Nursing and Support Staff.

We are aware that whilst thanking Donors by name, many more remain both generous and anonymous.

- John Petit £35.91
- K Cowdrey £10.00
- Audrey Mowes £125.00
- R Stevens £74.00
- Mr & Mrs N Bullus £1200.00
- Mr & Mrs Ovens £520.00 – In lieu of Ruby Wedding presents
- Raymond Burton £197.80
- J M Henborough £100.00
- M J Francis £30.00
- J Handy £950.00 – Poulshot Farming Club & Friends
- Miss Jane Reeve £30.00
- Corsham Masonic Lodge £150.00
- Mrs E Crook £300.00 – In lieu of Golden Wedding Presents – Golden Wedding of Alan & Audrey Grist
- Miss A J Barrett £100.00
- Ann Janes & Diane Doble £300.00 – In lieu of 60th Birthday presents
- M.M Fairclough £200.00
- Mrs E M James £100.00
- Mrs M Dyke £16.00
- Abbey Mill Steam Rally Ltd £100.00
- Mrs A Gibbs £67.00
- The Griffin, Frome £79.77
- D B Wood £105.00
- Diane Thompson £187.36
- D Naish £30.00
- A Goacher £505.00
- K Priddy £25.00
- Di Buckland £40.00
- Residents of St Johns Hospital £25.00
- Avon Bratton Hospital £50.00
- G R Wilmott £100.00
- Miss F H McWatters £152.00

- Mendip Shooting Club £8235.00
- Freemasons Grand Charity £1000.00
- Mrs Audrey Scotford £100.00
- P R Dimmer £25.00
- Mrs P Price £20.00
- Box Moonrakers Club £10.00
- Bath Festival Committee Trust £26.40
- Karen Griggs £20.00
- Jacqueline Evans & Miss G Berry £30.00

Donations in Gratitude

Donations came with letters and cards expressing gratitude for the care and kindness received at the Unit.

- W H Smith PLC 500.00
- Center Parcs £1206.00

Donations arising from events

- Valerie Legg £175.00 – Coffee Morning
- Mrs E Coles £1840.00 – Various Events
- Gladstone Liberal Club Chippenham £1645.00 – Skittles Evening
- Mr & Mrs P smith £700.00
- Mr C Weaver £75.00 – Book Sale
- Mr & Mrs J Handy £175.00 – Garden Party
- Mr & Mrs P J Hyden £132.47
- Melksham Ladies Darts League £2324.68 – Sponsored Darts Evening
- Paul Millard – Edington Fair £4000,000
- Eileen Bradbury £20.00 – Knitting Toys
- Bob Lavender £73.05 – Skittles at Longs Arms
- Red Lion Woolverton £778.00 – Clay Pigeon Shoot
- Mrs Bax £233.00 – Knitting
- K Owens – Bath Golf Club £1750.00
- Critchell School £113.00 – In lieu of Christmas Cards
- Jason Mowe £400.00 – Golf Day
- Bath Police Choir £853.00 – Carol Singing

Supportline Distribution

Once again thank you to all our supporters who save postage by delivering Supportline in their areas. A big thank you to Jean & Joe Margetts who valiantly took on the major task of stuffing and mailing envelopes to over 1,200 readers. Our thanks as usual go to the Trowbridge Group, Jane Reeves in Chippenham, Sharron Evans in Westbury, Spencer Drinkwater in Wells, Pam Gough in Bradford on Avon and Jane Bullas in Frome.

We are always looking for volunteers who can spare a few hours of their time in assisting with distribution. If you feel that you can help please contact Jane Margetts on 07813786462

FundRaisingBranches

Bath Cancer Unit Support Group Trowbridge & District Branch

Welcome new members and are pleased to receive help and assistance in any form and at any time. Your contacts are:- Jeanne on 01225 769136, June on 01225 763428 or E-mail: trowbridgefrb@bcusg.org



ADS

Anyone wishing to use Supportline or our website to advertise their day/event/organisation are asked to contact Jane on 07813 786462 or Reg on 01225 774044 or by e-mail: info@bcusg.org - This information will then be included on our Area Events Diary and in the BCUSG Diary. We hope to hear from you.

FinalCopyDate

For July Supportline will be 15th June 2006.

Please tell us in good time about events needing publicity.

Jane Margetts



I would very much like to make a donation to **The Bath Cancer Unit Support Group.**

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Title..... Forename(s)

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

I wish the charity to treat the enclosed donation of £..... as a Gift Aid donation and I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer in the amount mentioned above.

Signature Date.....

Please return this form to:

The Honorary Treasurer

Tom Travers, 16 Bargates, Box SN13 8LT

Tel: 01225 742903

Who'sWho



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UsedStamps& ForeignCoins

We are always pleased to receive used stamps, both British and Foreign and Foreign Coins. Periodically these are sold on and bring in worthwhile amounts to augment our finances.

We would be most grateful if the stamps can be trimmed to 1/8th or a 1/4 of an inch before handing them in.