



# The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust

*(registered charity number 1069269)*

## Annual Report January – December 2015

### **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 being 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 however available to consider any other worthy request, funds permitting.

### **Trustee Board**

The Trust is managed by Trustees and as on 1st January 2015 they consisted of the following:-

Mr Nigel Smith (Chairman)

Mr Peter Vale (Vice Chairman)

Mrs Ann Oakes

Mrs Margaret Bayley (minute secretary)

Mrs Debbie Edmondson

Mrs Vivien Bentley

Mrs Helen Gray

Mr Roger Warrington

Mrs Sue Sollis (Founder Member)

## Resignations

During the later-part of the year and due to work commitments the following Trustee resignations were received:-

Mr Nigel Smith, September 2015

Mrs Helen Gray, November 2015

## Changes in Administration

The role of Treasurer, previously held by Mrs Angela Harper, was officially taken over by Accountant Mrs Ann Davies during October 2015.

## The Fleece Inn Venue

The Fleece Inn Bretforton has been very good to us over the year. Not only have they provided a wonderful venue for Gordon Giltrap's Concerts and The Trust's AGM but they have been actively involved with fundraising. They raised £284.56 in collection boxes placed on the bar and held an event called Formula 1 which raised a further £73. Another event held at the venue was the pre-Cheltenham Gold Cup. Many thanks to panellists Phil Smith, Sam Twiston Davies, Dan Skelton, Richard Phillips and Andy Smith. The proceeds received were split between The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust and the Injured Jockeys Fund. The Trust received £150 from the occasion.

## Car Park Duties

A big fundraiser for The Trust has been the manning of car parks for various organisations. Voluntary donations from the public are received on these occasions. One of The biggest events is the Asparafest which runs over two days at Ashdown Farm. This provided the grand total of £1,095.20. An increased amount on the previous year of £139.18

Bretforton Silver Band held its annual Proms in the Park and the car park brought in £423.10. This was again an increase on the previous occasion by an amazing £218.05 - *almost doubled!*

The third car park duty was Bretforton Flower Show held at Bretforton Manor. This raised £190.48 plus a further donation of £110 received from Mr Mark Chambers. This made an accumulated total of £348.48. An increase of £59.52.

## Talks

Sue Sollis gave several talks during the year including Aston Somerville & Wormington WI £35 Sedgeberrow British Legion £40, The Stroke Association £30, Badsey Friendship Club £58.31, Comer Ladies Group £73 and St Mary's Church Group £75. The total amount raised from these groups totalled £311.31

## Hilda Farr Trust

The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia trust was privileged and delighted to receive a grant from the Hilda Farr Trust for an amazing £5,000.00. The amount was requested to be used either towards research equipment for The Tracy Sollis Laboratory or to help local leukaemia patients.

## Furniture Shop Opening

There was an exciting start to the year with the official opening of The Trust's new furniture store situated next to The Trust's existing shop and headquarters in the Library Arcade High Street, Evesham. Patron Gordon Giltrap undertook the honours of declaring the shop officially open with members of the press and a team of supporters in attendance.

It was a very memorable day especially with Claire Sandalls home baked cupcakes for all to enjoy.

The Trust is very lucky to have the amazing support of two local businesses who have undoubtedly played a major role in The Trust's success during the year of 2015. They are namely Evesham Self Drive and Bradfords Carpets and Beds.

Bradfords regularly donate beds and carpets and Evesham Self Drive supply a vehicle on request for the weekly delivery and collections of customer goods. These two businesses have contributed vastly and cannot be thanked enough. Bradfords generated over £3,000 through donated beds and carpets during 2015 and Evesham Self Drive loaned out a van on no less than 48 occasions.

A second shop meant that someone needed to be taken on to cover the extra work load involved. We are delighted to say that Andrew Bailey has now settled into the position of acting manager. Andrew has impressed us all with his loyalty and dedication. He will always travel that extra mile in the interest of the charity.

One of the ways this was shown was when he entered and undertook the Evesham 10k. Andrew ran together with the Trust's mascot 'Harry Hedgehog' raising £191.40 in sponsorship.

## Shop 5

Most charity shops seem to be struggling to receive donated goods. Happily this is not something the Trust is experiencing. Public support is tremendous with a large stream of donations received on a daily basis. The shop has a team of happy volunteers who work extremely hard to keep on top of the sorting and pricing of goods with the shop very successful in raising funds.

## Signage

The overall presentation of the charity is extremely important and we have been lucky enough to secure a top class volunteer whose work for The Trust has been of an exceptional standard. Callum Salter joined as a volunteer when he was a student at Prince Henry's High School. He is now studying at Gloucester University but continues to visit us when he has a free moment. He designs all our promotional material and we are very proud to have him on the team.

## AGM 2015

The Trust's AGM was held in The Fleece Inn's Medieval Barn on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May with special guest speakers who were representing The Anthony Nolan Research Institute and Tracy Sollis Laboratory. Divya Shah (Postdoctoral Research Scientist) discussed the Plate Reader purchased by The Trust and Nicola Brosna (Clinical Scientist) explained the Fragment Analyser which was also donated. This was followed by a question and answer session.

## Events 2015

Gordon Giltrap is a much valued Patron of The Trust and always readily at hand to help. Gordon's Annual Concert took place on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 and was held once again in the Fleece Inn's Mediaeval Barn. With a capacity audience of 60 maximum there is always a demand for tickets. Once again the venue was sold out and resulted in the wonderful sum of £1,208.65 raised.

## Fun Day Pig Roast

The generosity of Sandra and Dave Topley South Littleton together with support from the local community led to an amazing £2,283.07 being raised.

Sandra and Dave Topley of 'Rainbows End Equine Services' generously offered their facilities to hold a Charity Fun Day and Pig Roast when they heard about Jake Wilks from Evesham being diagnosed with leukaemia.

Sandra and Dave together with members of Jakes family rallied round to source raffle prizes.

Besides the raffle an auction took place which included a pair of racing breeches signed by numerous National Hunt jockeys and donated by jockey Killian Moore, also a morning on the gallops including champagne breakfast donated by Graham McPherson Racing and two exclusive tickets to Blenheim Horse Trials donated by Jackie McDowell.

A huge thank you to Sandra and Dave Topley, Jake, Jes and all members of Jakes family.

## Brass Band Concert

Avonbank Brass Band and Stour Concert Brass performed for the charity with the Event officially opened by Evesham's Mayor Councillor Fred Kaler.

The evening was special to all band members as they fondly remembered two of their former players connected with the charity.

Tracy Sollis, after whom the Trust is founded, played tenor horn prior to being diagnosed with leukaemia, and secondly David Turner who played trombone and a former Trustee of the charity before passing away suddenly.

Avonbank Brass Band's tenor horn player, Carole Lane, provided a very special moment when she played a solo on Tracy's tenor horn which had remained in its case for the last 21 years. It needed some renovation after such a long time and thanks to the band's Musical Director, Nick Smith, who carries out musical repairs, it was returned to pristine condition.

There were several other highlights during the evening including a solo by 13yr old Luke Barker who is principal cornet for Stour Concert Brass. The Band's musical director is Dave Birch and Luke is just one of his many young talented players. Luke has already gained music grade 8 with distinction.

The Brass Band Concert held at St Peters Church, Bengeworth raised a total amount of £618.75 for The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust.

## Lygonian Singers

The Lygonian Singers have supported The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust for many years and 2015 was no exception. Thanks to the Singers musical talent The Trust was once again one of the beneficiary's receiving £450. There have been many other activities and donations which have added to The Trust's funds. These include:-

- One Stop (Evesham High Street Shop) £140
- Anchor Inn, Fladbury (St Georges Day Event) £95
- Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Fund £100
- Lenches Club £66
- Specsavers Easter Raffle £50
- Thomson and Bankcs £98.36
- St Peter's Church Pebworth £200
- DHL Red Shift (3 peaks challenge) £276
- Leedons coffee morning £176

We wish to thank the late Nora Usher's family for the much appreciated donation of £1,000 received in her memory.

## Award

The Anthony Nolan Trust notified The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust that it had been nominated by Anthony Nolan Research Staff as 'Organisational Fundraiser of the Year'.

The Trust made it to the final top three position and was presented with a Highly Commended Award at The House Of Commons. In attendance was Sue Sollis (Tracy Sollis Founder Member), Carrie Adams (Tracy Sollis Complementary Therapist) plus volunteers Gill Gregg and Sheila Davis.

## Complementary Therapy

The Trust's Complementary Therapist, Carrie Adams, has had a busy year seeing a total of 584 patients.

The feedback from Worcester Hospital and leukaemia patients has been extremely complementary. Carrie has a special ability to relate to a patients worries or concerns and patients find it reassuring to have someone who can take time to listen.

## Short Term Breaks

During the later half of 2015 we had the unfortunate news that due to a business take over at Farncombe Estate, Broadway, short term breaks for patients would no longer be available for patients.

A new contract would have to be drawn up with the new owners if they were willing or The Trust would need to be seek alternative arrangements.

## Laboratory Visit

During the month of October a visit to The Tracy Sollis Laboratory was organised for volunteers. Also invited to the trip was Kim Carter from the Helen Farr Trust and two students from Prince Henry's High School.

All who attended the visit returned very impressed and inspired.

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*On behalf of The Tracy Sollis Leukaemia Trust*

*I wish to say A BIG THANK YOU*

*To all volunteers who have given so generously of their time*

*- Sue Sollis*

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