

Beyond Cancer News

ISSUE 3 WINTER 2013

Welcome to the annual issue of Beyond Cancer News. Inside this issue you will find out what we have been up to in our third year and plans for 2014.

As a small Registered Charity, we appreciate your help and support, without which we would not be able to achieve our goals to help those diagnosed with cancer, their families and fund research.



Celebration of Life Event

This year on the 29th September, over 150 people attended our first Celebration of Life event held at St Aidan's Church, Leeds. In partnership with other local churches including St Martins, New Testament Church of God and Chapeltown Community Church. The event was organised to celebrate the life of survivors, remember those we have loved and lost to the impact and effects of cancer and raise awareness of Cancer Research. The evening featured an eclectic mix of personal journeys from cancer survivors, family members and friends, prayers, music and song. Keeping the celebratory theme alive the local performers such as Voices in Praise, The Visionaires and Shekinah Glory had everyone uplifted and mesmerised with their amazing and poignant selections of songs.

The message from Guest Speaker Chloe Williams (Fundraising Manager Cancer Research) was clear "that we all hope for a cure for cancer and working together to raise awareness and fund research, one day we will". Stephen Edwards (Regional Manager for McMillan Cancer Care) focused on raising awareness of Prostate Cancer and encouraging men to look after their health. The evening culminated with the presentation of White Butterflies (symbolising freedom and new life) and the reflection of written messages and the names of those affected by cancer. These touching messages from family and friends were then hung on the "**Beyond Cancer Tree of Life**" symbolising the strength anchored through its roots and which we all need to get through our day to day lives.

Those who shared their personal journeys and messages of encouragement were very clear; whilst reminding everyone that you do not choose cancer, cancer chooses you.

- ❖ If you feel something is wrong seek help from your doctor at the earliest opportunity.
- ❖ Be persistent, because you know your body better than anyone else.
- ❖ Get to know and understand your family health history.
- ❖ Speak to others about your concerns.
- ❖ Get a health check, you're never too young.
- ❖ Attend screening checks when you are invited.
- ❖ If you are diagnosed with cancer there is plenty of help available.



Donations on the evening raised an amazing **£550.00** for Cancer Research UK, to support the research work taking place in Leeds.



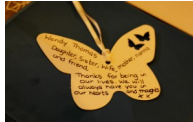
Personal Stories Shared

Throughout the evening, a few personal journeys were shared by cancer survivors and family members and also friends of those who lost their fight against cancer.

- Marian's battle with Ovarian Cancer
- Clifford's battle with Prostate Cancer
- Wendy's fight with Cervical Cancer

Please [CLICK HERE](#) or go to:

www.beyondcancer.org.uk/storiesshared.html



Marian Campbell

"Thank you for creating a warm and calm space where people felt able to speak freely"

"I did not know what to expect but listening to other people's experiences made me think"

A Poem Dedicated to The Celebration of Life

Butterflies are dancing, way up in the sky, moving to such a peaceful beat,
Whilst celebrating people's lives.
Representing colourful ribbons, generating awareness for you and me,
There's so many types of cancer affecting so many.
Prostate cancer, and breast cancer too, colon cancer, childhood cancer, to name but a few.
So let's celebrate the lives of all survivors, and special loved ones we have lost,
Today's such a special day, and that's all because,
We're celebrating here together, we have all become as one,
Such a joyful social activity, simply here for everyone.

Butterflies are fluttering, making a sound so sweet,
Singing songs of harmony with beautiful words making everything complete,
Shredding flamboyant colours, giving out such a beautiful glow
Because the loved ones we lost are now in heaven, they're
at rest and at peace, and letting everybody know.

The tree stands tall and steadfast to the ground,
Butterflies surround in many numbers, making blissful sounds.
Their wings gently kiss the sun,
As they dance above the tree of life, a rainbow of colours have just begun.
What a joyful occasion and collection of positive thoughts for you and I,
If we look back over the years,
We realise just how quick time has passed us by.

Just reminisce for a minute and reflect to the past,
Your brother, your mother, your sister, your father, someone's Dad.
Just hold unto them treasured memories for a moment and let them last.
So every time you remember that special butterfly, just remember all those
sweet memories too, and remember all the good times that special person spent with you.
The butterflies have now settled, and are now somehow fastened to the tree,
Oh well, I guess that's just where they're meant to be.
So hold unto them special memories, although it's so hard, sing a happy song,
And the everlasting memories will be sure to live on and on.



The Celebration Tree of Life

By Patricia Jones

Annual Charity Ball

Beyond Cancer held its now well established Annual Charity Fundraising Ball on 25th May 2013 at Leeds Marriott Hotel. Attended by 260 people, the event was an amazing success. Back again by popular demand for the second year was the Abbey Grange Academy "Soul Band" who gave renditions of several well-known soul songs which kept the dance floor rocking into the night.

Guest Speaker Austin Swanston (aged 54) provided a humorous and thought provoking presentation sharing his personal journey of being diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. He shared some statistics; research shows "that one in every four black men in the UK will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in his lifetime". He encouraged all men present and particularly black men, to have their prostate checked, as early detection gives you the best chance.

Guest Speaker Tara Greatorex, (Senior Community Fundraiser St Gemma's Hospice) spoke about the valuable work of the Hospice. She shared the cost of running such a well needed resource (in excess of £23,000 per day) and the range of services they provide to support patients, their families and friends. She went on to thank Beyond Cancer for their support and our developing partnership. The £4,164.00 proceeds from the evening was shared amongst the following nominated charities; St Gemma's Hospice, MacMillan Cancer Support (Leeds Robert Ogden Centre), Prostate Cancer UK and The Beyond Cancer Special Wishes Programme.



Guest Speaker Austin Swanston



The Annual Charity Ball also provides a platform to recognise the support so many of us give to families and friends during their difficult time of dealing with a cancer diagnosis .

Vicky Johnson is one such person and the second recipient of the **Beyond Cancer Listening Ears and Hands that Hold Award** in recognition of her unwavering listening ear and kind hands that have reached out to her family and friends.

One of her nominators said *"I cannot put into words the amount of help and support Vicky has given me and my children before and since the death of my lovely, young wife (Vicky's sister) last year. We are so privileged and lucky to have her in our lives and we want to thank her for all that she has done and still does for us. Her sister Wendy would have been so very proud"*.

Well done Vicky and thank you for all that you do.



Vicky Johnson
2013 Award Winner

Remembering Carol Thomas



Photo courtesy of The Thomas-Blair Family

Sunrise: 26th September 1965 – Sunset: 3rd May 2013

In memory of Carol Thomas, the 2014 and future "Beyond Cancer Listening Ear and Hands that Hold Award", will be known as the "**Carol Thomas Listening Ear and Hands that Hold Award**". This award will be given to an individual who has been nominated because of the support he or she has given to others with a cancer diagnosis.

Carol Thomas was a loving wife and mother who at the age of only 47, lost her fight against breast cancer. Carol embodied many wonderful qualities. She was full of enthusiasm and had a great willingness to listen, help and support others despite her own illness.

The newly named award will be made at the Beyond Cancer Charity Ball on 31st May 2014.

Hope for a Cure

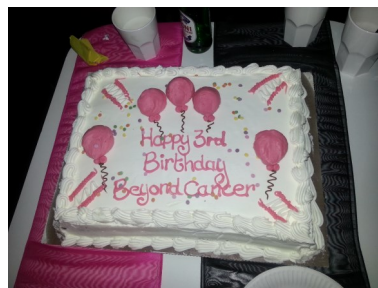
The impact of cancer has not been more greatly felt within our community as it has been over the past few years. We hear much more about people between the ages of 40 to 55 being diagnosed with some form of cancer and for some, the outcome has not been positive. So, when members of the Beyond Cancer Board were invited to Leeds Cancer Research Centre, we took the opportunity to see how your kind donations have contributed to the funding of valuable research to help find a cure for all types of cancer. As we remember some of these very special people like Primrose James (Sister P) and Carol Thomas whom we have lost to this terrible disease, we continue to hope for a cure some day.



Third Year Anniversary Celebrations

On Friday 1st November 2013 we returned to The Oracle to celebrate our 3rd Anniversary, marking the end of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the start of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

The event was a celebration party, mixed with the serious message of raising awareness of breast and prostate cancer for the 300 people who attended. The **£1,500** raised will go towards the continued work of the **Beyond Cancer Special Wishes Programme** and the charity's further development.



Upcoming Events

- ❖ Beyond Cancer Annual Fundraising Ball - 31st May 2014
- ❖ Celebration of Life Event - 27th September 2014
- ❖ 4th Birthday Celebration— 7th November 2014

*Beyond
Cancer*

Please visit our website for more information : www.beyondcancer.org.uk

How We Have Used Money Raised Throughout 2013

With your support, we have donated to the following charities:

- ❖ **St Gemma's Hospice Leeds** received **£1,500** to help provide the best possible care and quality of life for local people with cancer and other life threatening illnesses. Along with family and friends, we also supported the St Gemma's Annual Midnight Walk, raising a fantastic **£416.45**.
- ❖ **The Robert Ogden Macmillan Centre Leeds** received **£600** to improve and develop services for cancer patients and their families.
- ❖ **Prostate Cancer UK** received **£1,000** to support the valuable work of the Prostate Cancer Helpline.
- ❖ **Cancer Research UK** received **£550** towards work around research, in the hope that a cure will be found for all cancers one day. Along with family and friends, we also supported the Cancer Research Race for Life raising **£215**.
- ❖ **Beyond Cancer Special Wishes Programme** received **£1,000** towards granting special wishes to nominated women, men and families following a cancer diagnosis.



*Presentation of cheque to Chloe Williams,
Local Fundraising Manager, Cancer Research UK*



*Presentation of cheque to
St Gemma's Hospice*



*Presentation of cheque to
The Robert Ogden Centre*

Local community doing their bit to help raise awareness

Stuart Bailey from Wetherby Veterans and Andy Blair from Brazilian Soccer School dedicated some time to raise money for The Charity by organising a football tournament. Men of all ages came forward to support the cause on 26th May and raised an amazing £200 for Beyond Cancer. The tournament winners received a Cancer Awareness Trophy.



The Chapeltown Veterans football team showed their support by having the Beyond Cancer logo printed on their new season football kit. Pete Travis, sponsor of the team said "This is our way of showing support to the work of Beyond Cancer and raising awareness."

At the Caribbean Cricket Club's 65th Anniversary Dinner & Dance on Saturday 16th November 2013, Mr Harwood Williams (Chairman), generously donated £75 towards the Beyond Cancer Special Wishes Programme.



If you would like to support Beyond Cancer by holding a fundraising event e.g. coffee morning, bake sale etc. please contact us at beyondcancer@hotmail.co.uk



Beyond Cancer Board Members & Volunteers

Volunteers

Thank you to all our volunteers who give their time generously, supporting us throughout the year.

"Being a volunteer for Beyond Cancer was not an option for me, but a must. Not only am I offering my support to the organisation, I've learnt a vast amount of information that has helped me understand my Grandfather's passing to prostate cancer. Beyond Cancer Committee Members are a god-send in supporting the community. I'm not only proud to volunteer; I am honoured."

Michelle Hamilton

Special Wishes

We all hope that we can do something special for someone following a cancer diagnosis that brings a smile to their face. The **Beyond Cancer Special Wishes Programme** is now in its second year and has granted 30 wishes to nominated men, women and families who are coping with the impact of cancer.

We would like to hear from you if there is someone who you would like to receive a special gift, bouquet of flowers, a pampering treat or a family treat.

Our criteria:

- ❖ Recipients must live in the Leeds Metropolitan Area
- ❖ Recipients must have a cancer diagnosis or be a family member or friend of the person diagnosed.

Positive messages received from grateful recipients include:

"Fighting this battle is hard; my flowers gave me a warm feeling knowing how much people cared"

"Thank you for a great day out the children had a great time and a space to just to be a normal family"



The **Special Wishes Programme** is dependant on donations and available funds. To nominate someone go to: www.beyondcancer.org.uk/specialwishes.html

Contact Us



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Beyond Cancer

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