



The Bubble

The NCSF Newsletter

Issue 4
June 2009

helping parents cope with cancer

“Wow” from Wotton Ladies



Jane presenting the cheque to NCSF... many thanks to all the Wotton Ladies for their hard work and support this year!

Wotton Ladies Circle has had a fantastic year of fundraising for NCSF raising a grand total of £2,000. Events included a fashion show with Nicola Brown of Wotton, a showing of Dirty Dancing at Wotton Electric Picture House, and an

evening of jewellery making. Jane Howell, Chair of the Ladies Circle 08/09 says, “After recently losing a good friend to cancer and with NCSF being such a local charity, I decided to choose NCSF as our charity of the year”.

A friendly and fun group of ladies, they are always keen to welcome new local members who are willing to join in and have a go at all sorts! This year they have enjoyed pamper evenings, pub walks and even abseiling and raft racing!



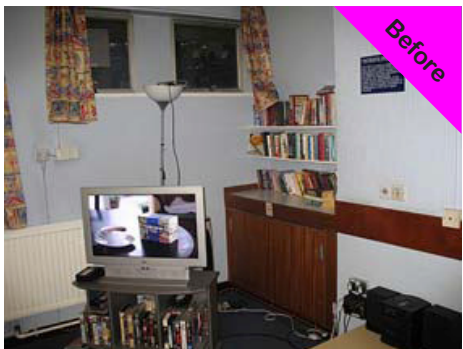
Committed NCSF members spent a weekend in early April armed with

paint brushes, renovating the day room on Ward 61 of the Bristol Oncology Unit.

Working closely with University Hospitals Bristol the day room has now not only had a lick of paint but also a new ceiling, lighting, laminate flooring and a kitchen sink unit with fridge and microwave.

Plans are now underway to introduce furniture, soft furnishings and baby facilities to add the finishing touches.

These improvements are something that NCSF has been working towards for a long time. Nicola Corry spent a lot of time herself in Ward 61 with her baby son Alfie, highlighting the vast lack of facilities for people in her situation.



Website: www.ncsf.org.uk Email: info@ncsf.org.uk
Tel: 0845 2573754 Registered Charity No: 1114679

Future Diary Dates:

Thursday 23 July
Afternoon Cream Tea
Henleaze

Sunday 30 August
Family Fun Day
Manor Farm Campsite,
Seaton, Devon
10am onwards

Saturday 5 September
Classic Car Show
Kingswood, Wotton under
Edge

Sunday 6 September
Bristol Half Marathon
NCSF places available

Saturday 19 September
Pamper Night
Kingswood, Bristol

Friday 23 October
Rock n Raise
Colston Hall, Bristol
7.30pm

Saturday 23 January
BurnsNight
Rose Green Centre,
Whitehall



“Your Money Talks!”

Apart from the great work that is happening with the Oncology Day Room in Bristol, the money you raise for NCSF is also going a long way to supporting families that are living with cancer. We constantly receive encouraging feedback from families which shows just how your money really does make a difference...

“ Thank you for your kind donation towards childcare for my daughter. It has meant I can take time out for appointments and rest without worrying about how I can meet the cost.”

“ Thank you as this money will be such a great help to us all - we can go ahead and book a break away.”

“Thank you again for all your help, we are so grateful to you. It’s so good to know that there are people out there that are willing to help us.”

“Thank you so much for the money. It has been such a help to decorate our bedroom. It is hard spending a lot of time in bed but being in a nice room makes a lot of difference....it’s nice to know that you understand how difficult life can be not only physically but also financially.”



Right: Claire, Neil and Lewis spending some quality family time together.

The quote just above is from a family of three—Claire and Neil with 2 year old son Lewis. Father, Neil, is fighting against secondary lung cancer and they have described their experience as “constantly hitting a brick wall” until they approached NCSF. In need of childcare for Lewis, Claire says, “we had no government help with this at all and NCSF were the only people that helped us. Thanks to you we can spend time together as a family and also Neil and I now get a day each week together on our own”.

This day also gives Claire a well deserved break each week—caring for both Neil and Lewis no doubt takes its toll and therefore an opportunity for Claire to re-charge her batteries is of benefit to them all! But for Claire the one that is reaping most benefit is little Lewis. Desperately trying to keep his life as ‘normal’ as possible, Claire says, “Lewis is a bright child and very active. He really loves being with other children and will now get the interaction he needs.”

Pontoon Pays Off



The football pontoon now with 49 loyal members has now ended its second season, raking up a massive profit of almost £2,500. HUGE thanks to all the members but also to Ken Humphries who not only dreamed up this clever fundraiser, but also manages the game, keeping up to date with the football scores each week.

Not content with taking a rest through the summer, he has now adapted the game, linking it to National Lottery Bonus Ball each month— just until football kicks off again in September!

Festive Fundraisers

Before Christmas we held a number of Christmas parties in member’s homes selling handmade jewellery, scarves, preserves, cards and other Christmas merchandise. All goods were under £10, making particularly attractive Christmas gifts during the credit crunch. Approximately £2,000 was raised for NCSF— thanks to all those who have used their creative talents as well as those who supported the events. We will be building on this success as we approach the festive period this year and therefore are busy building up the stocks. As always we welcome more willing volunteers to make handmade jewellery and cards, knit scarves and make preserves.

Dancing Delights

Salsa Success

A chilly November night was warmed up the Latin way with a Salsa Night held in the Jubilee Centre, Bradley Stoke, Bristol. Organised by Sally and Wendy Gillard, Cresida Childs did an excellent job of teaching a group of novices how to salsa! Along with a group of experienced dancers the whole group managed to perform a variety of Salsa routines throughout the night.



£650 was raised from the night which included a Spanish buffet and raffle. A great night was had by all—although many felt the ache of muscles that they did not they had the next day!!

* A massive well done to **Alison Taylor** who completed the Paris Marathon in 4 hours and 16 minutes, raising £355 for NCSF.

* Thanks to **Tim Salter** and **Mandy Carpenter** for raising funds for NCSF by running 'The Grizzly' - 8 miles getting wet and muddy along East Devon coastline!

* Thanks to **Ella Price** and **Victoria Collar** for their very kind donation of £600 in 2008.

* Thanks to **Julie Haydon** and **David Brady** who held the first Cook n Raise of the season at Manor Farm in Seaton. A 'TV dinners' night was held raising £100.

* Thanks to **Rosie Jones, age 13 and her friends at Gordano School** who held a Christmas sale raising over £100 for NCSF.

* Thanks to **Matilda Tenant**, age 15 who is currently doing her Duke of Edinburgh award and has opted for NCSF as her chosen charity. She has been busy making jewellery and even held a cook 'n' raise to fundraise. Thank you Tildy!

* Thanks to all at **Manor Farm Campsite in Seaton** — they recently celebrated their 50th anniversary holding a raffle which raised a fantastic £165 for NCSF!

Burns Bash

Oh what a night! Held at the Rose Green Centre in Whitehall, Bristol a great night of fine food, entertainment and dancing was had by all. Thanks to Mary Pearce, Wendy Gillard and Carole Hunter for organising the lovely food - haggis, tatties and neeps like you've never tasted before; huge thanks too to Heather and Andy Nicol and Isobel Kelly for their professional native input!



With a ceilidigh band and whiskey flowing, everyone was swinging their kilts by the end of the night! Thanks to all who supported us—£450 was raised and we look forward to seeing you— and your friends— next year!

BIG Hits of 2008



and thanks to all those making donations and bidding!

A **PROMISE AUCTION** was held in Kingswood, Wotton under Edge on 10 October 2008 raising £2,700. Thanks to Lindsay, Shona and Kathryn Kelly for organising this success,



ROCK 'n' RAISE 2008 was held at Bristol Colston Hall on 19 September raising a huge £5,000. This, the second Rock n Raise to be held, was again a fantastic night with a brilliant line up of bands, hosted by the infamous Daz. Many thanks to Daz, and to Helen Walwin for her hard work and devotion in the organisation. Thanks too to all the bands involved and all those who supported the event. Rock 'n' Raise 2009 is going to be held on Friday 23 October— tickets available NOW!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Introducing Mary Pearce, NCSF Member

Mary Pearce, mother of Nicola Corry tells us how the experience with Nicola has shaped the work of the charity and what the charity means to her.

“It was really difficult when Nic was receiving treatment. She needed to spend long periods in hospital when Alfie was a baby and even when she was at home she wanted to spend time with Alfie but was often not strong enough to cope on her own. Alfie’s Dad had to continue working full time for obvious reasons and I too had a full time job - although my employer was very supportive in terms of allowing me time off to care for Nic and Alfie. Our extended family and friends were so helpful too—I’m not sure how we would have managed without this support. We used to have a weekly rota of helpers! There was no state support at all to assist with childcare for Alfie and the facilities in the hospital for babies and young children were so limited”.

“This is when a group of friends rallied together and began fundraising for Nic, forming the Nicola Corry Support Fund to assist with childcare costs and the complimentary therapies that Nic was receiving at the time”.

“This ‘fund’ for Nicola continued until she passed away and it was then that we decided to expand the good work in her name. We realised that there was a real gap in the market for others in a similar situation and we wanted to do something about it—I know that Nic would have wanted to do this as well”.

“The charity has since involved me in all sorts of activities which are fun, sociable and rewarding. Amongst organising and helping with events, I lead the craft activities ensuring that we maintain supplies of jewellery, preserves, cards, scarves etc. I’m always seeking out new recruits too!”



“As a parent losing a child is something you think you will never have to cope with and is something you will never get over. However my involvement with the charity , knowing that something so good is coming out of something so tragic, has really helped me to keep going and remain positive.”



Sign up to NCSF Gold places in the Bristol Half Marathon on 6 September 2009 and we will reimburse the full registration fee of £30 if you can commit to raising just £75 for NCSF. And we’ll even give you a t-shirt! Go on and get those running shoes out—there is still time to train!!

How Can I Help?

Make a Donation
(Cheques payable to NCSF)

Leave a Legacy

Hold a NCSF Craft Party

Become a Volunteer

Set Up Standing Order

Buy NCSF Christmas Cards

Become a Friend
(you may apply online)

Organise an Event

There are many ways in which you can help. If you would like to help, or to find out more information please complete this form and return to 42 Two Mile Hill Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 1BP or email lindsay@ncsf.org.uk

Full Name:

Telephone:

Email:

‘Helping Parents Cope with Cancer’

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Registered Charity No: 1114679