

## Cancer Care Club Spring Newsletter May 2009

At last that long, cold dismal winter is over. Let's hope the Met Office forecast of a good summer is correct.

### **Congratulations to Leonard Hynds**

Club member Len has been awarded the Sir Ashley Bramall Memorial Award for accomplishment in education. Len has battled heart problems and throat cancer and cannot speak without a voice aid. Nevertheless, he went on a writing course funded by the Southern Housing Group's regeneration arm, the Foundation, and his debut novel, 'Mind the Assegai Wounds', is due out this summer.

*[Have you, or has a Club member you know, found inspiration and achievement in a new activity? Do let us know so that we can pass the news on.]*

### **Thank you to Ray and Mavis Tewkesbury**

Mr and Mrs Tewkesbury celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and donated a £50 present from Mr and Mrs Hills to the Cancer Care Club.

### **Forthcoming events**

#### **Kent and Medway Cancer Network**

The next meeting will be on **6<sup>th</sup> June at Hall Place, Harbledown, Canterbury**. Probable start time 9.30am (arrival and coffee) for 10am. The last meeting in November finished about 1pm, followed by a sandwich and buffet style lunch. There is plenty of parking on the site. For further information contact: Madeline Stuart on 01622 713146 – **email:** [Madeline.Stuart@btinternet.com](mailto:Madeline.Stuart@btinternet.com).

Following a complaint from the Cancer Care Club about all meetings being held in Maidstone, it was agreed to alternate meetings between Maidstone and East Kent. These meetings are friendly and sociable, and give us an opportunity to receive valuable information and to voice our opinions on cancer services in Kent so we hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend. The last meeting at Hall Place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November was reasonably well attended but **we could do with a few more members turning up, otherwise there is a danger that meetings will revert to Maidstone only.**

#### **Des Connolly's Bubbles and Batter Party**

Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm-9pm at the Kent & Canterbury Club, Old Dover Road, Canterbury. There will be a bar and a raffle. Funds raised will be split between the Cancer Care Club and the Pilgrims Hospice. Tickets £15 from Jacky Guyver, 7 Stone Cross Leas, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0BZ. Tel: 01304 617975 (not Sundays) Cheques payable to the Cancer Care Club please.

#### **Summer Barbeque**

This will be on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August** at Pfizers Social Club in Sandwich. Further details will be available soon. The Committee is looking at ways of sorting out transport for those who might find the site difficult to get to.

**Next Evening Talks** will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and 1st July

**Next Lunchtime Meetings** will be on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> July

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> March was well attended. The existing Committee members were re-elected with the exception of Junetta Whorwell, who did not stand this year. Two new members were elected, Eve Twyford and Malcolm Hodgson. We are grateful to them for coming forward and would be happy to hear from any other potential new Committee members.

The Chairman, Nick Goodger, pointed out the importance to the survival of the Club of having new members and asked everyone to do their best to spread the word about the Club and encourage friends and relatives to join and to attend meetings. He asked for members to give some feedback about what sort of meetings and events they would like the Club to organise. He also asked members for ideas for donations for services or equipment that could be used by cancer patients in East Kent. If you have any constructive suggestions, or if you would like to join the Committee and help us organise things, phone Ann Clewer on 01227 455260.

## Write a History of the Club

Does anyone fancy writing a short history of the Cancer Care Club? The Club has been in existence for more than 30 years. It was the first cancer support group in this area and we would like to record its activities and achievements over the years. Committee members have many relevant documents to help with this and it would probably also involve talking to some of the founding members. We could use the history to help with publicity and fundraising, so if you are interested in this, phone Ann Clewer on 01227 455260

## The Trip to Pashley Manor - a report by Donald Eldridge

The weather gods smiled kindly on members of the Cancer Care Club and their friends on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> for their visit to Pashley manor and its festival of tulips; what a glorious and delightful day it was to be.

The journey through the countryside became a kaleidoscope of colour with the blossom of flowering cherry, wisteria, of giant horse chestnut trees alight with magnificent candles of bloom and all against a backdrop of a landscape coloured with every shade of green that nature ever conceived.

Our stop for morning coffee was in that delightful little town of Tenterden whai still retains much of its old world character and atmosphere. I even discovered in the church that for 90p you can buy half a dozen eggs from the vicar's free range chicken; now that can be called 'looking after his flock'.

And so to Pashley Manor. Almost tucked away amongst the rolling Sussex countryside, it is a delightful oasis of tranquillity and colour enhanced by its mixture of gardens linking one with the other; its plethora of statues of every shape and size from human beings to animals and placed in appropriate settings. Perhaps the most delightful was that of St Francis with the birds. The day was enriched by the vast number of tulips being grown in the gardens but also displayed within the house. The range of colours, sizes and shapes was quite staggering which made a choice (if you wished to buy) very difficult indeed.

Our journey home was highlighted by the driver making a detour through Kings Wood to see the spectacular sight of thousands of bluebells. A most delightful ending to a day that had been enjoyable from start to finish thanks in no small measure to Jacky and the work she had carried out to ensure that everything went without any mishap!

## Free Prescriptions - Reminder

If you are receiving treatment for cancer, you are now entitled to free prescriptions. Ask your doctor or oncologist for an application form.