



Michelle Holland and Blues Brothers

Brilliant Blues Brothers!

A sellout 'Blues Brothers' tribute night was held on 8th March at Minworth Social Club in aid of Breast Friends. The evening was a great success raising £1300 for the funds. The 'Jailhouse Blues Brothers' played an energetic 3-hour set. There was lots of dancing and plenty of laughter.

Thanks so much to the staff of the club for making the room look so pretty and pink, and also for the fab food. A huge thank you to our super supporter **Michelle Holland** for organizing the event assisted by our social secretary **Gill Harris** and to everyone who attended and supported the raffle. All enjoyed a fantastic, fun night.

Christmas Fundraising

From the feedback we have received, Breast Friends members thoroughly enjoyed the 'festive events' that took place in December. Our Christmas Party at Moor Hall was fabulous, our members 'festive evening' meeting was very well attended and the Lotus Group social evening was a great success. Breast Friends also supplied hampers and M&S vouchers for patients in need. **Total outgoings - £1424.38**

Our income from the Grand Christmas Raffle, and profit from

the Festive evening was **£1871.97**

Therefore we achieved a net profit of £447.59 over Christmas. Thank you so much to all members who bought and sold raffle tickets and those who attended and who helped to organise the events. Great result!



Goodbye Dr. Andrea

At our members monthly meeting in February, we sadly said farewell to Good Hope oncology consultant Dr. Andrea Stevens.

Andrea has been a wonderful asset to the Breast Care Team, a very genuine kind, caring doctor, thoroughly dedicated to her work. She has looked after a good many of our members who have been treated at Good Hope, and has also been a great supporter of Breast Friends, giving freely of her time to attend our meetings with regular informative talks and updates.

Andrea will now be solely based at the QE hospital and has handed over the Good Hope reins to new consultant Dr. Jenny Sherriff, who also kindly attended our meeting and was welcomed and introduced to the members present.

Breast Friends presented Andrea with an engraved pen and some flowers on behalf of the group. We thank her and wish her all the very best for the future.

Donations

A big thank you to the many supporters who donated and raised much needed funds for Breast Friends

Jane Lawson imo her sister Sylvia Tafe who died on January 21st 2000
 Kath Morris imo her sister Julie
 Molly Clarke imo her husband Pat
 David Massey & others imo Bridget Massey
 Paul & Jackie Welch Memorial Golf Match imo their son Gareth
 Mary Maund imo her daughter Lisa
 Dons imo Sarah Tasewych
 Dons imo Bobbi Battison
 Dons imo Maria Simmonite
 Dons imo Margaret Sadler
 Don imo Katherine Dunne Purcell
 Doreen Durham
 Martha Elizabeth Little
 Kathleen Bartlett
 Helen P M Lee
 Lynn Martin
 Diane Evans
 Sandra Rowlands
 Meg Harris
 Alice Johnson
 Edwin & Larisa Taylor
 Elsa Mason 80th Birthday
 Jackie Benzecry
 Norma Lynch
 Gillian Bailey in lieu of Christmas Cards
 Joan Preece
 Janet Diamond
 Mike Harrison
 Sutton Coldfield Vesey Rotary Club
 Jenny Abraham
 Falcon Lodge Slimming Club
 Danny Gallagher BUPA half marathon
 Kate Hiscock BUPA half marathon
 The Accidental Choir
 Ooh La La Boutique
 Lisa Vyse Head Shave at the Digby Pub
 West Bromwich Building Society & staff
 Beaverbrooks Jewellers & staff
 Jeannette Compton Good Hope Housekeeping team
 Creative Moments
 Flaxhill Junior Scholl
 QEMS High School
 Dawn Furnell & Imaging Dept. QE Hospital event at Wishaw Golf Club
 Linda Dovey & Janet Jay The Generations Dance School
 Glad Rags Soroptimists
 Lets Do It for the Girls Cross Country Cycle Ride Kevin Borg, V Madanhi, Cragg, CPO on-line, Bake & Co Solicitors
 Coleshill Lodge Clive Simmonds
 Defense Infrastructure
 Shred It Victoria Fox, Tom Swinbourne
 Andrew Mitchell MP £1000
 St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technical College £1000
 Moor Hall Hotel over £2000 (Breast Friends chosen charity for the year)
 Pantomime at the Hippodrome.
 Fox and Dogs, Mere Green (Wild West New Years Party) organised by Lynn Wootton.

Contact

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 Join our **Facebook Group**
'Breast Friends Sutton Coldfield and Tamworth'



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NEWSLETTER

Spring 2013 Issue 48

Pictured is Jackie receiving her award from BBC news presenter Michael Collie



Our Jackie Wins an Award

Proud to announce that Breast Friends Chairman Jackie Benzecry won an award at the 'Heart of England Staff Recognition Awards' back in November. Jackie is one of the founder members of the Breast Friends charity and has also worked in the Oncology Clinic at Good Hope as a hospital volunteer for 17 years.

"The 'Heart of England Charity

Community Award' is to recognize staff who have demonstrated they have made changes to their practice to take account of the needs of the local community and the environment."

This award is so very well deserved; Jackie is a truly inspirational lady who works tirelessly for the charity, and we are all very proud of her.

Great Midlands Fun Run

Delighted that our Great Midlands Fun Run Team 2012, between them raised a massive TEN THOUSAND POUNDS in sponsorship for our charity!!! Pictured is Breast Friends chairman Jackie Benzecry and committee member Sue Mills along with Adrian Simmonite and Sarah Resch from the wonderful 'Team Maria' receiving the cheque. Thank you so much to everyone who walked, jogged or ran in this wonderful event that in 2012 raised a record breaking total of £281,652 for charities and deserving causes in our community.

This year the event is being held on Sunday 2nd June and we would like to encourage our members and their families and friends to support those running for Breast Friends by sponsoring them using JustGiving and Virgin Money websites.

Please email sue-mills@blueyonder.co.uk if you have entered so we can get your T-shirt to you a bit nearer the time. If you are unable to take part do come along and cheer us on! Its always a really fantastic day.





Member Kathy Thorne selling cupcakes

Fundraising at Sainsbury's

A big thank you to all of our members and supporters and staff from Sainsbury's Mere Green who have helped our fundraising efforts over the past months. Our bag packing, raffling, tombola's and sales of cupcakes have to date raised over £9,000 which is fantastic! Breast Friends are the store's 'charity of the year' and our aim is to raise £10,000 if we possibly can.

The next fundraising day is **Thursday 28th March** where we will be selling our special 'Easter Chicks.' The ladies of the WI have been busy knitting the 'chicks' and Sainsbury's have donated the eggs for them to sit on! We will also be holding a raffle for a giant Easter egg. We will be Easter bag packing on **Saturday 30th March**, and our final fundraising day will be held on **Saturday 4th May** where there will be a tombola, cupcakes and bag packing.

We would be really grateful for any volunteers who would be willing to spare an hour or two between 10am and 2pm on either of these days to 'man a till' or sell raffle tickets for us. If Saturday is your shopping day, please come and see us at Sainsbury's and give your support. **Please contact Jackie on 0121 378 3037 if you can help.**

Tribute to Bobbie

Since our last publication, we sadly said goodbye to a lovely friend. Bobbie Battison was a former member of our committee, a fundraiser and lately a member of our 'Lotus Group.' Bobbie was such a beautiful lady, inside and out... always so kind and so positive with such a wonderful smile.



Our condolences to her husband Mike and all her family and friends.

'The Lotus Group' meets at 2.30pm on the first Thursday of the month at the St Giles Centre, Lindridge Road, Sutton Coldfield B75 6JB. It is a friendly, informal group that offers support and information. It is open to patients with any type of secondary cancer and those who have been told that their cancer has returned. Please contact Jackie on 0121 378 3037 for more information.

Healing Clinic at Good Hope

Carol and Jeannie run the 'Healing Clinic' in the Sheldon Unit at Good Hope. This is open to anyone affected by any type of cancer. Healing is a gentle, relaxing therapy using natural energy and gentle touch to restore the balance of mind, body and emotions.

The clinics are held on Mondays, twice a month, each session lasts for ½ hour and there is no charge. **If you would like further information or to book an appointment please ring Jeannie Jones on 0121 351 6017.**

Social Networking

As many of you will already know, Breast Friends have a Facebook group, **'Breast Friends – Sutton Coldfield and Tamworth'** Please join us for regular updates, shared articles of interest and feel free to post any advice, tips and questions.

We are also now on Twitter, so if you have a Twitter account, please follow us **@BreastFriendsSC** and keep up with our news and activities. Tweet, tweet!



A reminder that we will no longer be posting out paper copies of our newsletter unless specifically requested, due to the fact that we have a membership of over 800 and postage costs have increased so considerably. Most people have access to the internet, so the newsletter will be accessible via our website We will also post links on Facebook and Twitter and paper newsletters will be available at our meetings, in doctors surgeries and in the hospital clinic areas. The money saved on postage will be more efficiently spent directly benefitting local breast cancer patients in need of practical help.

A Letter from Laura

(Laura is the granddaughter of Brenda, one of our members)

Hello all, I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all the things you have let me help out with in the past. I love helping the charity so much.

Apologies for not being able to attend many events last year, but I am going to attend some this year. I do appreciate being able to help and I am proud to do so.

Keep up the good work that you do, thank you for your support and hopefully see you soon.

Much love

Laura Hicklin

Diary Dates

Saturday 20th April - " St George's Proms Night' at Ramada Hotel, Penns Lane, Sutton Coldfield. This is a black tie event; enjoy a delicious 3-course meal with concert programme and proms from the City of Lichfield Concert Band. Tickets are £40, contact Jackie 0121 378 3037.



Monday April 29th – Members monthly meeting 7.30pm at the Partnership Learning Centre. Speaker Mr Ellabban, the consultant plastic surgeon at Good Hope Hospital.

Tuesday June 4th – Fashion Show and 3-course lunch at Fairlawns Hotel, Aldridge. This is a really wonderful event; starting with 'elevensies' then Breast Friends members will be modeling some beautiful outfits from the Newlife Foundation Charity, with an opportunity after the meal to buy clothes, shoes and accessories at absolute bargain prices. Profits from the event will benefit both charities. Tickets £40, contact Jackie 0121 378 3037.



Moor Hall Present Cheque

Breast Friends were chosen as one of Moor Hall Hotel's charities of the year. Jackie and Sue were recently delighted to be presented with a cheque for £1250 by chief executive Angela Burns.

Angela and her son also did a sponsored parachute jump for Breast Friends last year, and raised even more funds online. We are so very grateful for this really wonderful support.

The Kennedy Breast Care Review.

Breast Friends recently responded to some of our members who were affected by or worried about national media reports concerning breast surgeon Mr. Ian Paterson. We asked for a public meeting with the 'Heart of England Trust' and meetings have been held with the chief executive, medical director and breast care team members in Sutton Coldfield and Solihull, where members have been able to ask questions.

The Trust has stated that it is committed to examining all aspects of the complex events that have been uncovered within the breast care service, ensuring that lessons are learned and shared within the wider community.

To ensure that this is done openly and impartially an internal review is taking place and its findings will be published in full. Leading healthcare lawyer Sir Ian Kennedy, who conducted the Bristol heart surgery enquiry, is carrying out the review. Information will be shared as it becomes available at we will also give regular updates on our Facebook page.

A specific support group has been set up for patients of Mr. Paterson and will be held at the Arden Hotel, Coventry Road, Solihull. It is anticipated that the meetings will be held quarterly for the duration of the review and beyond if required. **If you would like to attend or need further information, please contact Gillian Waterhouse on 07805 656629 during office hours.**