

Friends^{of the}
cancer centre

Newsletter

www.friendsofthecancercentre.com



A diamond is a charity's best friend!

Friends of the Cancer Centre has a special thank you for **Arnold Agnew** of **Diamond Window Solutions**. The Lisburn-based company has come on board to produce our regular newsletter. Arnold is pictured (left) with daughter **Karen Quinn**, Managing Director of **Diamond Window Solutions**, and Friends' Chairman **Gordon McKeown**.

Sponsored by:





Colleen Shaw

Welcome

Hello and welcome to the 2nd edition of the Friends of the Cancer Centre newsletter, which is kindly being sponsored once again by Diamond Window Solutions in Lisburn. Their support is greatly appreciated and we hope you find our 2nd edition interesting and informative.

We continue to celebrate our 25th anniversary this year and look forward to a year packed with fundraising events and initiatives, the proceeds of which, together with many generous donations, will allow us to do undertake some truly meaningful and important work.

There were, and will continue to be, three strands to our work: improving patient comforts and care, purchasing the latest, vital medical equipment for the Cancer Centre and supporting staff there to achieve excellence

by providing funds for medical research. You'll read about some of our projects in this newsletter, while others are just about to roll out.

The scale, nature and the cost of individual projects vary considerably. Some, such as funding for the development of an Information System to support the Northern Ireland Tumour Bank, are technical and complex. Others, such as the provision of dressing gowns in the Brachytherapy Suite, are remarkably simple. All are important and deliver real benefits to cancer patients and their families. In these days of austerity our

Trustees expect to face a record number of requests for help. Working with our professional colleagues from the cancer centre, they will examine every request with their customary rigour, common sense and compassion, responding speedily and appropriately ... but we can do nothing without you and people like you.

The support we have enjoyed over the last 25 years has been nothing short of amazing and speaks volumes for the generosity and commitment of the people of Northern Ireland. To everyone who has played their part we say a whole-hearted thank you and we ask that in 2011 and beyond you will continue to be an important and highly valued Friend of the Cancer Centre.

Colleen Shaw
Director

The support we have enjoyed over the last 25 years has been nothing short of amazing... ”

'Country roads take us home... to the place we belong'

Fintona is the Nashville of the North. So says 'Friends' fundraiser, Eugene Donnelly and he should know. Eugene, himself a Fintona man, has been organising C&W gigs in the town for more years than even he cares to remember and for the last five years he's been putting his musical talents to use, organising and promoting fundraising events in aid of Friends of the Cancer Centre.

His most recent fundraiser, however, was a Truck Run and Eugene was so pleased with the response (65 entrants!) that he's already planning a similar but bigger event for 2011.

Country & Western music however remains his first love and local fans can look forward to a mega-gig featuring Country Harmony and some big name guest artistes this July.

Eugene's 1st and, he says, most memorable, event in support of 'Friends' was his first: a full-scale C&W Weekend in his own home



Eugene Donnelly with friend Micky Colgan at the launch of the 1st annual truck run in Fintona.

town, featuring headliner Hugo Duncan. He says, "Even though I'd always been involved in music I was a bit nervous about that one and really delighted when it did so well. I had been a cancer patient myself and I wanted to put a bit back: raising funds though my love of music seemed the perfect way to do that."

Since he launched his fundraising campaign Eugene has enjoyed the active support of his local community and he says it's been a great way to make new friends. He admits that

fundraising can often be hard work but it's never thankless. He says, "People are not just prepared to give money, they give their time too and they always recognise the effort that you're putting in. I encourage everyone to get involved - give a bit of thanks for life, I say!"

Eugene's enthusiasm shows no sign of fading. As he starts to plan the now annual programme of Fintona fundraising favourites he's also setting an ambitious target to raise £10,000 for the charity in 2011.

Thank you for our Friends

When the going gets tough, the tough (famously!) get going!

This year many hundreds of 'Friends' right across the Province have tackled a sometimes bewildering range of events, raising smiles and spirits as well as much needed funds! Sadly we haven't space to record them all here, but let's raise a toast to everyone who has played a part.

Here are just a few of the fantastic people who volunteer and fundraise for us, committing their actions to support the 9,000 people who are diagnosed with Cancer every year in Northern Ireland.

**To all our Friends:
THANK YOU!**



Leslie Campbell of Kirkistown Castle Golf Club raised £5,400 at his annual golf day



Frances and Jackie Wilson of Galenarm raised £6,259 at their 51st Wedding Anniversary by requesting donations in lieu of gifts

Your help does not go unnoticed!



The village of Rasharkin raised £29,000 with a bike ride from Larne to Ballycastle in memory of the late Eamon Hardy



The Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle raised £15,000 at their 'Ravenhill Rally' in Belfast



The House of Vic-Ryn Lisburn raised £18,000 in a series of events this year including a coffee morning, fashion show and sponsored slim!



Robbie Silcock and Mark Jackson from Tartaraghan raised £6,500 with a 450 mile tandem bike ride from Mizen Head to Malin Head

How your donations make a difference

Glenview: A home from home at hospital...

accompanying friend or relative. The complete refurbishment has brought a homely but stylish new look to Glenview and there is now a kitchen and an informal dining room as well as tea/coffee making facilities in every room plus comfortable areas to relax ... watch tv ... or, perhaps, to chat. No pressure to 'join in' or follow anyone else's agenda: this is, after all, 'home', albeit a temporary one.

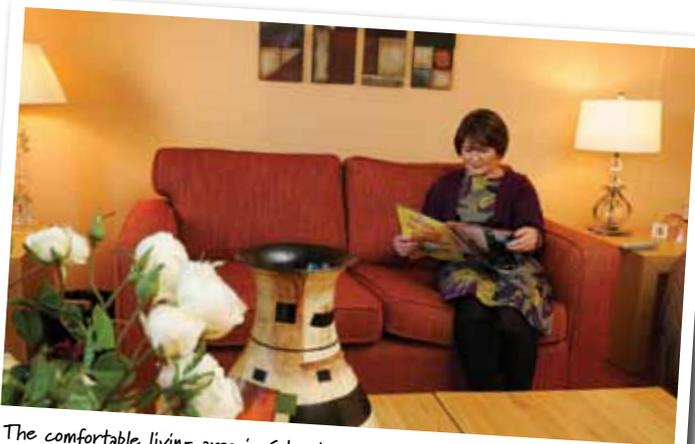
Glenview provides a welcome alternative to a gruelling daily journey which would inevitably add to the mental and physical pressures of treatment which can last many weeks. Ivan Thompson

explains; "I'd have a round trip of 104 miles. That's three or four hours in the car and if you travel by train it's obviously an hour longer so I found it just utterly impossible to think about the travel time and the pain of travel."

'Friends' Director, Colleen Shaw, says, "The importance of Glenview is demonstrated by the fact that it routinely operates at occupancy levels in excess of 89 per cent. We are delighted to support not only the people who use it and their families, but also the excellent staff who work so hard to make everyone's stay as pleasant as possible."

A major project that Friends of the Cancer Centre have recently supported is the complete refurbishment of Glenview: the 'patient hotel' for cancer patients who have long distances to travel whilst undergoing their daily radiotherapy treatments.

Situated just 400 metres from the Cancer Centre, right in the heart of the bustling City Hospital, Glenview is an oasis of tranquillity - a home from home where the emphasis is on a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Here accommodation is provided free of charge for patients and, at a nominal fee, for an



The comfortable living area in Glenview where patients can relax



The kitchen area within Glenview



A typical bedroom in Glenview



Rev Sam Peden with 'Friends' Chairman, Gordon McKeown, at the launch of the new partnership.



Colleen Shaw, Director of 'Friends', welcomes the members of Dromore, 1st Kilmore, Rademon and Ravara.

Nominate us! At home, work or play, consider nominating 'Friends' as your designated charity.

Follow in the footsteps of Rev Sam Peden, Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, who has selected Friends of the Cancer Centre as his nominated charity for his two year term in office.

It is the second time that Rev Peden has served as Moderator and the second time that 'Friends' will benefit from his influential fundraising. Last time he was responsible for raising more than £46,000.

Launching his choice of 'Friends' as Moderator's Chosen Charity, Rev Peden said, "Almost every home in the land - my own included - has been touched by cancer at some stage. There is therefore great empathy for the Friends of the Cancer Centre and a genuine wish to support

and perhaps even extend the nature and number of the valuable projects they fund.

Sam comments, "A hand offered in friendship is always welcome, but particularly so when you or someone close to you is coping with illness. That's not just a message for the pulpit: it's something which should colour all our lives.

"I was very proud to start this new campaign in my home congregations of Dromore, 1st Kilmore, Rademon and Ravara and I look forward to taking the call for fund raising across the whole community of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. I am confident that their Christian ethos, caring attitudes and customary generosity will generate significant support."

Welcoming the news, 'Friends' Director, Colleen Shaw, said, "Sam himself has been a close and generous supporter of the charity for many years. We are thrilled that, as he once again takes up the reins as Moderator of Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, he will be fundraising on our behalf and encouraging others to do the same. In addition we know he will be a persuasive and highly influential Ambassador for us and we are grateful both for his personal support and for the support of his church members across Ireland."

If you're interested in selecting 'Friends' as your nominated charity, please contact the office on Tel: **028 9069 6393** or email: **info@friendsofthecancercentre.com**

Upcoming events 2011



Belfast City Marathon

Monday 2nd May

Marathon run, walk, relay or fun run-the choice is yours! Contact Kelly on the details below to find out how you can participate on behalf of 'Friends'



Belvoir Forest & Lagan Valley 10k Walk

Saturday 4th June

Enjoy a summer stroll along the River Lagan and raise funds for NI cancer patients and their families.

Registration: FREE



River Lagan Zipline

Saturday 25th June

At 40mph, Zip 1000 feet from one side of the River Lagan to the other. We dare you!

Registration: £35



Slieve Donard Challenge

Saturday 10th September

Climb 850m (2,789 ft) and reach the peak of the highest of the Mourne Mountains.

Registration: £10

For more information on any of the events, contact Kelly on 028 9069 9393

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