

THE NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN / WINTER 2010



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Cover story: Bath Abbey is once again the venue for our first Light up a Life service, and also features in our 2011 calendar – see page 5.

DOROTHY HOUSE

Dorothy House Hospice Care was set up in 1976 at the Bath home of its founder, Prue Dufour (formerly Clench). In 1995, Dorothy House moved to its present home in Winsley, from where we provide free care and support for 1,500 patients and their families every year in Bath, Wiltshire and parts of Somerset.

CONTACT

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this newsletter, or the work of Dorothy House Hospice Care, please contact Katrina Sudbury during office hours – Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm

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COMMENT



Autumn is in the air and this is our last newsletter of 2010 – a year that seems to have sped by. It certainly doesn't seem as though 12 months have passed since the 2009 Midnight Walk, and yet, as you can see from the pictures on the page opposite, we've just completed the 2010 walk.

The new location – an interesting and picturesque route around central Bath – worked well, and the turnout was wonderful. Special thanks must go to our celebrity starter, BBC TV presenter Ali Vowles – who also went on to complete the walk – to our team of volunteer marshals and everyone else who helped with organisation before and after the event. But most of all, a huge thank you to every one of our walkers – and their generous sponsors: we are so grateful for your efforts. Now all we need is for everyone to send their sponsorship in as soon as possible!

The summer has been eventful all round, with various improvements to the In-Patient Unit completed, our outreach centres going from strength to strength and the COPE programme continuing to provide support to patients and carers. You can read more about all these aspects of Dorothy House services in this edition of the newsletter.

We also have a Focus feature on our important links with the palliative care team at the Royal United Hospital in Bath, which explains how we work in partnership to provide a 'joined up' service to patients. Read all about it on pages 6 and 7.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Light Up a Life services around our area – all the details are on the back page.

Finally, as we were about to go to print with this issue of the newsletter, we were deeply saddened to hear of the sudden death of Veronica Evans, manager of our shop in Midsomer Norton. Veronica was a valued member of the retail team, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

Sarah Whitfield

Sarah Whitfield

Chief Executive

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City stars

More than 1,200 women set off from Bath's SouthGate shopping centre at the stroke of midnight on Saturday 11 September, to take part in this year's Midnight Walk. The 8k walk is the hospice's biggest annual fundraiser, and brought in more than £100,000 last year. This time, with 1,212 people taking part, we hope to have raised £150,000 from this single event.

Now in its fourth year, the Midnight Walk has in the past been held in Winsley and Bradford on Avon, but country lanes and narrow town centre streets meant numbers were restricted to an absolute maximum of 1,000 women. So the decision was made to move the walk to Bath – and the new location proved to be a resounding success.

Once again, the weather was perfect – warm, clear and very starry. The party atmosphere at SouthGate was infectious, with Butlers in the Buff providing some male glamour before the start, and numerous walkers in fancy dress, wearing flashing bunny ears and even pushing vintage prams around the route.

■ More than 1,200 walkers set off from SouthGate, including a team from Snapdragons nurseries, pushing vintage prams, Dorothy House staff (above right), Sally Frawley, Nicola Kotze and Lili Foster (left) and first walker home Judy Horrocks, from Bath, who power-walked the route in under an hour (below centre)



NEWS

Questions, questions

Have you ever thought about holding a fundraising quiz for Dorothy House but not known quite how to go about it? Well, one of our supporters, Paul Hewitt, has all the answers. Paul has already organised a number of fantastic quizzes for the hospice, and he and his team of scorers would be happy to run events for other groups of fundraisers. All they ask is that you sell the tickets, organise the venue and provide the prizes and they will run a personalised quiz for you. For more information, please contact Emily Knight in fundraising on 01225 721480 or get in touch with Paul on 07885 379869.

Show stopper

The Art for Life exhibition held in Bath's Octagon Chapel and Milsom Place in July attracted hundreds of art-lovers and raised more than £6,000 for Dorothy House. Artists from across the area submitted works to the show, ranging from big and bold oil paintings to delicate watercolours and mixed media pieces. Dorothy House received 40 per cent of all picture sales. Phillippa Watson, Dorothy House events organiser, said: "The Octagon is a wonderful gallery space, and we were pleased with the number of visitors who came in over the five days of the show. We're grateful to David Seymour of Art for Life for all his support. It was a popular and successful event and we are planning to do something similar next year."



A day in the life ...

... of Louise Clapton, voluntary services co-ordinator



■ Louise, right, pictured in the voluntary services office with manager Phillippa Huxtable

I joined Dorothy House six months ago and work afternoons in the voluntary services department with voluntary services manager Phillippa Huxtable and Carol Rogers. We are very fortunate to have 257 fabulous volunteers working in all areas of the hospice, most of whom are co-ordinated from our office.

My afternoon begins at 12.30pm, when Carol hands over from the morning and I pick up any messages. Carol largely deals with transport but this is ongoing through the day with requests for volunteers to bring patients, carers and those who have been bereaved in to the hospice or one of the outreach centres. They may be visiting the Day Patient Unit or attending appointments for complementary therapy, lymphoedema, physiotherapy or counselling sessions.

There is a constant stream of requests coming from other departments in the building for volunteer help and it is my job to find the right people for the right task. Recently, following a request from the fundraising department I found six willing volunteers to help at the Sweetland Music Festival in Bath. Over the past six months volunteers have helped with administration, the COPE programme, Art for Life, baking cakes, packing bags at Marks and Spencer, a family fun day, visiting patients at home and on the In-Patient Unit (IPU), awareness stands at various venues and much, much more!

Our volunteers are always obliging, even though they have busy lives.

I spend some of my time supporting Phillippa with administration as well as collating rotas for the unit. We have volunteers coming in every afternoon and evening to make and serve refreshments to patients and their visitors. In the morning and afternoon the unit is supported by volunteers in nursing and other roles.

We shall be hosting our next Volunteers' Conference on Friday 5 November. The day will include topics of general interest, a wide range of workshops, question time with the senior management team and a guest speaker. It will also enable volunteers to socialise with those who work in different areas.

Dorothy House is in the process of introducing a new personnel database – a fresh challenge for me that I am looking forward to. It will really help us organise and update data held on volunteers. We hope to eventually incorporate shop volunteers on to the system.

I was a volunteer for two years before joining the team and gained great satisfaction from my driving role. Now, as a member of the team, that feeling has continued and strengthened and the fact that we as a department help support patients and their families at a time of need, means I go home with a really worthwhile feeling.

Lighting the darkness

Light up a Life services will once again be held right across our area in the run-up to Christmas, starting with an event in Bath Abbey on 30 November. Last year, the Abbey was very well attended for the service, which included music, readings and Christmas carols, as well as the lighting of candles in memory of loved ones.

Light up a Life services will also be held in Frome, Shepton Mallet, Chippenham, Devizes and Trowbridge: dates and times are listed in our diary on the back page. Everyone is welcome to attend any of the

services – you don't need to reserve a place: just come along on the night.

If you would like to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one, it will shine on our Christmas tree at Winsley throughout December. You are welcome to visit Dorothy House at any time during the month to see the tree.

To dedicate a light, please call fundraising on 01225 721480, pick up a form from reception at Winsley or your local Dorothy House shop (listed on page 8) or download one from our website at www.dorothyhouse.co.uk

PCT links

The government has recently made money available to primary care trusts in England and Wales, specifically for end of life education. As a result, each of the local PCTs – B&NES, Wiltshire and Somerset – has commissioned the hospice's education team to work with various groups and agencies around this topic. To date, the team has worked with ambulance and domiciliary care staff, as well as GPs.

One of the areas covered is advance care planning, enabling staff to understand the process, and suggesting ways of starting to talk with people about their end of life care wishes.

Because the PCTs cover a wider area than that served by Dorothy House, the education team is working collaboratively with neighbouring hospices: St Margaret's in Taunton, Salisbury, and Prospect Hospice in Swindon.

Season's greetings

We have an excellent selection of Christmas cards and other seasonal items for sale in our shops and in reception at Winsley. Our 2011 calendar would make an ideal stocking-filler: it features 12 local views, photographed by members of Bath Photographic Society, and includes our fabulous cover image of Bath Abbey, by Ray Grace. You can also order cards and gifts online at www.dorothyhouse.co.uk

Pick a rose

Our lovely Dorothy House rose is available to order again this year – call the fundraising team on 01225 721480. The roses are £10 each – including delivery – and will be delivered, bare root, when they are ready for planting from November.



Smart new look for Unit

A Department of Health grant has been put to excellent use in the In-Patient Unit, providing state-of-the-art hoists in all the bedrooms. The electric hoists run on ceiling tracks, improving accessibility and making it much easier and safer to lift patients with mobility problems.

At the same time, all the rooms have been fitted with new flooring and curtains to conform with stringent infection control standards. Carpets have been

replaced with wood effect non-slip flooring, which is attractive and easy to clean. Light, bright curtains in specially treated fabric have given the rooms a fresh and homely look, with a cosy finishing touch provided by matching fleecy throws.

Ward Sister Ruth Gretton said: "The latest improvements have made the unit look much brighter and airier, and the new hoists make life more comfortable for patients and staff."

Everything in the garden's lovely



■ Everyone agrees that our grounds are looking particularly beautiful this year – and that is thanks to our fantastic team of gardening volunteers who work so hard to make sure everything is at its best.

Photo: Freia Turland

Festive fair

The perfect chance to pick up unusual Christmas gifts, cards and decorations, the Christmas fair at Dorothy House takes place on 3 and 4 December. Flossie Battle, who lives in Bradford on Avon, has organised the fair for several years, raising thousands of pounds for patient care. This year, she is also holding a preview evening on 2 December. Celebrity chef Mary Berry will be talking about Christmas cookery, followed by a pre-sale event. To book your place contact Yvonne in fundraising on 01225 721480. The fair itself is held in the Bloomfield Hall at Dorothy House, selling Christmas gifts, ornaments, candles, gift tags, mistletoe, chutney, fudge and more. Flossie is also running a Christmas raffle, with top prizes including a weekend in London for two people and a £150 White Company voucher. Tickets will be on sale in Dorothy House shops and other outlets in the run-up to Christmas, so do look out for them.

Learning curve

Dorothy House is leading the way on working with people with learning disabilities. The service has been expanded into Bath and North East Somerset, with education facilitator Denise Heals working in B&NES one day a week, in addition to her two days in Wiltshire. Denise works with various organisations on developing end-of-life care for learning disabled people, alongside the continuing in-house education programme based in Winsley. Recent events have included a 'speed-dating' event designed to raise awareness of the particular needs of people with learning disabilities, and a workshop involving service-users.

Light fantastic

Don't forget to reserve your ticket for our next tea dance – it's on 26 November and you can call Yvonne on 01225 721480 to book your place.

Teamwork is key to s

Close links between Dorothy House and the Royal United Hospital help to provide a seamless service to patients; we look at the role of the specialist palliative care team at the RUH

Sharing – whether it be information, expertise or mutual support – is the key to the close relationship between Dorothy House and Bath's Royal United Hospital. It's a partnership that has been in existence for 17 years, ensuring that patients receive the best and most appropriate care and support from both hospital and hospice.

Dorothy House doctors are part of the hospital's palliative care team, with a hospice consultant at the RUH four days a week. The palliative care team supports people at the end of life, whatever the cause – not only cancer patients, but people with heart failure,

neurological disorders, dementia etc, with the aim of providing the best possible care to dying patients in and out of hospital.

The palliative care team was set up in 1993, when Dorothy House medical director Chris Higgs was its sole member, working one morning a week at the RUH. Since then it has expanded to include three nurses, an occupational therapist and a team co-ordinator (see Fact File), and now two more part-time Dorothy House consultants – Dr Trish Needham and Dr Marina Malthouse.

Dr Higgs explains about the role of the Dorothy House doctors: "We provide support and advice to the team and help with difficult problem-solving. Our day may start in the medical assessment unit, with patients who would rather go back home than stay in hospital for their end of life. The team can facilitate this, reassuring people that if they do choose to go home they will have the support they need.

"If people don't want to be in hospital we'll get them out as soon as possible to where they want to be. On the other hand, if they want to stay in hospital, then we will transfer the kind of care we offer at the hospice to the hospital setting as quickly as we can."

The team is very closely linked to the hospice, and a shared palliative care database helps the exchange of information (see opposite). "We have instant communication," says Dr Higgs "as we are all part of the same team."

The palliative care team support Dorothy House patients when they are admitted to the RUH, and link with the Dorothy House specialist nurses when they are discharged home.

Again, it's all very much to do with sharing, says Dr Higgs. "The hospital's

FACT FILE

- The palliative care team comprises a Dorothy House consultant, three palliative care nurses, an occupational therapist and the team co-ordinator.
- Dorothy House consultants visit the RUH all day Tuesday, half days on the others.
- The Dorothy House consultants work with the palliative care nurses, starting each day by going through the caseload, providing support and advice. They see patients on the wards, and visit the oncology ward and medical assessment unit (MAU).
- There are close links between the palliative care team, the pain clinic and the oncology department.
- The hospital palliative care team and the Dorothy House education team share in providing education and training for RUH staff, particularly in communication skills, end-of-life training and symptom control.

Special relationship with RUH



■ The palliative care team at the RUH – back row, Dorothy House medical director Dr Chris Higgs, palliative care nurse Annie Murray and palliative care team occupational therapist Jane Kibblewhite; front row, palliative care nurse Rachel Davis, team co-ordinator Linda Packer and palliative care nurse Caroline Groom

palliative care nurses and occupational therapist do the bulk of the work, assessing patients, advising on symptom control and supporting them to make decisions about their care. They can call on the expertise at Dorothy House at any time for advice and support.

“They hand patients over to us, and we hand them back – this means that the Dorothy House specialist nurses don’t work within the hospital, but there is a seamless continuation of care between hospital and hospice.

“It helps that some of the hospital’s nurses have worked at Dorothy House, and several of the hospice’s specialist nurse team are former RUH nurses.”

The palliative care team can also advise people who may not be terminal patients, explains Dr Higgs. “Dorothy House has always been prepared to support people who may or may not have a terminal diagnosis. Not everyone wants or needs hospice support.”

Shared record system to expand

One aspect of the close relationship that exists between Dorothy House and the specialist palliative care team (SPCT) at the RUH is the use of PalCare by the team’s doctors, nurses and administrative staff.

PalCare is a specialised patient record system used at Dorothy House for recording notes and events, drugs and letters related to patients receiving palliative care.

How does it work? Well, the Dorothy House IT team allow relevant staff at the RUH to connect to a remote access server at Winsley via a secure, encrypted link from their own desktop computers. Users connected to this server can then

open up PalCare and view or enter information.

This two-way flow of information between the RUH and Dorothy House is set to expand very shortly.

Dorothy House Hospice Care has just been given the go-ahead to install a connection to the NHS N3 network. The N3 network is one of the largest private networks in Europe.

We will connect to N3 via the RUH and gain access to pathology and radiology reports and results, along with encrypted NHS email, allowing us to receive patient information electronically from hospitals and GPs, among others.

THERE IS A DOROTHY HOUSE SHOP NEAR YOU

Come along and support your local Dorothy House Hospice Care shop. Our shops always need good quality clothing, bric-a-brac, books, toys, jewellery and home furnishings.

BATH

15 Moorland Road 01225 444695
14 Argyle Street 01225 444991
3 Abbeygate Street 01225 444299
30 Westgate Buildings 01225 482606

BRADFORD ON AVON

2/2A The Shambles 01225 862093

CALNE

1 Phelps Parade 01249 818818

CHIPPENHAM

12 The Bridge 01249 443393

CORSHAM

Unit 20, Martingate Centre
01249 715556

DEVIZES

3 Old Swan Yard 01380 729355

FROME

19 King Street 01373 453484

KEYNSHAM

51 High Street 0117 986 7757

MALMESBURY

3 Market Cross 01666 824710

MELKSHAM

7A Church Street 01225 700990

MELKSHAM Furniture

10-14 Church Street 01225 704244

MIDSOMER NORTON

74 High Street 01761 412196

SALISBURY

11 Catherine Street 01722 411983
(Joint venture with Salisbury Hospicecare)

TROWBRIDGE

15 Silver Street 01225 754237

WARMINSTER

14 Three Horseshoes Walk
01985 215101

WESTBURY

41/43 High Street 01373 858232

NEWS



Day patients rose to the challenge of producing their own Summer Exhibition, writes Ros Stroud



Faced with the prospect of producing a painting, many people react with expressions of dismay: “I can’t draw” and “I can only paint if I copy something” are typical responses.

The sheer joy of painting for its own sake and enjoying the process, rather than fretting over the end result, is an experience many deny themselves for fear of failure. But we have only to look around us to see that art doesn’t have to be bound by materials, subject matter or formal training. Shaking off the ‘rules’ can allow a freedom of expression when physical and mental limitations take their toll.

This became evident when the day patients produced work around the theme of ‘raw’ – taken from this year’s Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Armed with a canvas and acrylic paints, they were asked to respond directly to the theme, with the clear understanding that no rules applied to the chosen content or its execution.

Austin Lewis (main picture) painted his

childhood home of Tonypany at a time of mass unemployment in the late 1920s. For him ‘raw’ stood for the desperate poverty in the Rhondda valley, which resulted in his father putting a sign at the end of their road saying ‘Penniless Corner’ as there was no work or money to be had. His painting (above left) shows wet, slate grey hills and a chapel – typical of so many Welsh towns of that era.

Gail Parker also used childhood memories to depict the snow-capped Sugar Loaf Mountain in Monmouthshire, the beauty of its bleak, ruggedness defining ‘raw’ in her mind (above right). For Carolyn McCormac, ‘raw’ stands for the ‘Rondo Activity Workshop’, from her acting days. She painted stage curtains to frame symbols which represent important people in her life. Other paintings are moving, some are humorous. Colour and content are adventurous and imaginative. Best of all, the process has been as creative as the end result.

Friends’ group offers a warm welcome

Do you live in or near Malmesbury? Would you like to meet new people and help support Dorothy House at the same time? The Malmesbury Friends’ group, which meets at the Roman

Catholic Church Hall in Cross Hayes is keen to recruit new members. The next meeting is on Monday 1 November at 7pm, and newcomers will be made very welcome.

The kids are all right



■ The Frears family, pictured above left with community fundraiser Yvonne Brunton; above right, Betsy, Jordan, Tia, Phoebe and Molly



Our supporters come from all age groups – and we've recently had lovely donations from some very young fundraisers.

The Frears family visited Dorothy House in Winsley recently to present £64.30 in memory of their grandfather, Russell Frears, grandmother Barbara Frears and aunt Frances Frears.

The children – 12-year-old twins Lottie and Eva and 10-year-old Owen, who live in Bristol, and their cousins Cicely, 11, and Hal, 7, from Combe Down – had the idea of putting on a fundraising event after their aunt's funeral last winter.

They decided to present their version of *The Nutcracker*, choreographing the dance performance themselves and rehearsing for several months before presenting the show for an audience of friends and neighbours.

Cicely and Hal's mother, Louisa Frears,

said: "Raising money for Dorothy House has helped the children greatly at a time when they have felt very helpless. I know none of us would have managed as we have without the support of Dorothy House."

Nine-year-olds Sophie Arblaster and Rachel Sampson organised a guessing games night at their school, Bowerhill Primary in Melksham, and raised £60 for Dorothy House.

The girls had the idea and did all the work themselves, inviting their schoolmates to guess the number of sweets in a jar, the length of a piece of string, the name of the teddy and much more. They handed the cheque over to community fundraiser Emily Knight when she attended an assembly at the school.

Ten-year-old Betsy Morrison, her cousins Jordan Morrison, 10, and Tia Johnson, eight, and friends Phoebe and Molly Bygrave, aged eight and nine, organised a fun day for family and friends after hearing about Dorothy House.

Betsy's mother, Lisa Morrison, explained: "Betsy had the idea when she heard about my mum's friend, who became very poorly. Betsy's nanny explained to her all about Dorothy House and what a beautiful place her friend would stay at, which would care for her towards the end of her illness. She was touched by this and wanted to raise money to help.

"Her cousins Jordan and Tia and best friends Molly and Phoebe all got involved by making posters, thinking of game ideas and finding sponsors for their fundraising run – 100 times round the garden!"

Jolly good sports

Dorothy House supporters have raised thousands of pounds over the past few months by taking part in a wide variety of sporting challenges, from marathons and mountain climbs to long-distance walks and sky dives.

The family and friends of Pat Robson raised £3,641 in sponsorship for the Bristol half marathon – a fantastic total for a team that included Pat's son and daughter, Stuart Robson and Kirsten Roberts. On her Justgiving page, Kirsten explained why the family wanted to fundraise in memory of Pat: "Mum spent the last three weeks in Dorothy House. This was a place she felt safe and comfortable. In the midst of what feels like a nightmare it is a refuge; a place of calm and peace. It allowed us to enjoy our last days together without fear. How many people can say that? I do not know what we would have done without them. We are so very grateful for their continued support."

Others who really pulled out all the stops include Owen Vince, who tackled La Marmotte, a 111-mile cycle ride through the Alps; Mark Cleverley and Debz Thompson, whose skydive raised more than £2,000; Sarah Murphy, who completed the gruelling 56-mile London to Brighton run; Peter Leach, who ran the Bath Half, the Neolithic Marathon and the two-day Lake District Mountain Marathon, all within a couple of months; Carole Butler, who recently completed the Inca Trail; Kirsty McMahan and Zoe Kelly, who ran the Edinburgh and Brighton marathons, respectively; Neil Morton, who made a brave attempt at swimming the Channel, raising £2,500 in the process, and Steve Hancock, who did the Three Peaks Challenge against alarming odds.

We simply don't have the space to mention everyone here – but thank you all for your sterling efforts. You can log on to our website to read more about some of the amazing things people have got up to this summer – there are some inspiring stories out there.

Did you know?

the Dorothy House Hospice at Home service provided 20,810 hours of care in 2009/10 – up from 20,020 hours the previous year

NEWS

Extending our outreach

The Dorothy House outreach initiative is continuing to expand, taking a number of services out to patients and carers living in north Wiltshire and Somerset. Alongside our outreach work, the COPE programme is going from strength to strength, with palliative rehabilitation sessions now available at Midsomer Norton and Chippenham, as well as Winsley.

Our licence to occupy the Midsomer Norton centre for one day a week has been extended until December 2011, and we are now running education sessions at both outreach sites, starting with training for shop managers at both Midsomer Norton and Chippenham.

Patient support groups are starting up in Midsomer Norton in October and will be run or facilitated by the Day Patient Unit staff. The carers' support group, which was running fortnightly at Winsley, is now taking place weekly at Winsley and will start up in Midsomer Norton this autumn.

Our specialist nurses are also making use of the outreach centres, with the Mendip team using Midsomer Norton as a base for weekly meetings, and the North Wiltshire team using Chippenham.

Finally, we've made national headlines, with both rehab and carers' support mentioned in the National End of Life Second Annual Report.

Did you know?

Our shops are always looking for more volunteers – if you have a few hours a week to spare, please contact the manager of your local shop (see page 8)



■ The new boules pitch, put in this summer, is being well-used by staff and patients

Sunshine, smiles ... and cream teas

“A wonderful feeling of wellbeing” – was how one carer described a perfect June afternoon spent at Dorothy House. More than 60 carers of Dorothy House patients came to Winsley to have some time for themselves – and they took advantage of everything on offer.

The family support team welcomed this first opportunity in two years to plan the event, with many other staff and volunteers enthusiastically contributing. The theme was to be relaxed and informal and, on the day, that was what people told us they enjoyed.

From the chapel window, the lawns were alive with people playing boules, welly wanging and just strolling, maybe eating an icecream or two.

There was even a yurt to be seen, with complementary therapists busy with people wanting to experience hand and

foot massage, and perhaps talk in a quiet environment if that helped. Many took in a tour of the hospice: a highlight for them.

Inside, a range of stalls selling cakes, bric-a-brac and clothes were popular, as were the stalls on information available for carers. Live music kept everyone entertained as they relaxed with their cream teas.

The similar open day held at Midsomer Norton Outreach Centre was much appreciated by those who attended.

Many of the visitors made donations spontaneously and with generosity.

The stars of the day, of course, were the carers themselves, who took time out from their busy lives to meet and support each other and Dorothy House. Thanks to you all!

Wendy Barker
Family Support Team

Hospice's role in educating public

Educating members of the public about end of life care is one of the tasks undertaken by the education department at Dorothy House.

Under the umbrella of the national Dying Matters initiative, hospice staff have run various public events over the past few months, with a presence at the open day at the West Wilts Crematorium

in Semington, and a stand at Bath Older People's Show, held at the Assembly Rooms in Bath at the end of September.

Head of education Helen de Renzie-Brett said: “Taking part in events like this is very useful from our point of view, as they allow people to raise a lot of issues and to express their wishes about end of life care.”

NEWS



■ Sainsbury's staff took part in the Walk to Remember; inset, Dorothy House chief executive Sarah Whitfield receives a cheque from Steve Packman, manager of the new Sainsbury's store in Trowbridge

Super support

Supermarkets across our area have been enthusiastically supporting Dorothy House over the past few months.

Sainsbury's in Trowbridge has adopted the hospice as its charity of the year, with staff taking part in a number of fundraising events over the last few months.

Before the new store opened, the Trowbridge management team raised £500 by packing bags at another store, and staff raised a further £577 by taking part in April's Walk to Remember. They also held a Dotty Day event and recently took part in the Midnight Walk, providing marshals for the event, as well as a team of walkers.

Sidney Longhurst from Trowbridge was the lucky winner of Elliot the teddy bear, which was raffled at the store, bringing in £88. Collecting tins on the checkouts raised a further £150.

Meanwhile, staff at Morrison's stores in Bath, Chippenham and Warminster have been equally energetic in their support.

Starting off with bucket collections in the local stores earlier this summer,



Morrison's is supporting Dorothy House as part of a UK-wide campaign to raise £1 million for hospice care, through its partnership with Help the Hospices.

Since then, the three supermarkets have organised various fundraising activities under the 'Go Yellow' slogan, with staff at Warminster running a marathon in the foyer – using running machines – and the Bath staff putting in a team for the Midnight Walk.

Could you lend us a hand?

We are very pleased to have been given the opportunity to bag pack in a number of supermarkets and stores and wondered if you had a couple of hours free to help us?

Previously we have been delighted with the very positive response received from customers. Comments include: "You do such a wonderful job" and "I'm very happy to support my local hospice".

We are currently looking for bag packers to do two-hour shifts at Marks & Spencer, Bath, and Sainsbury's, Trowbridge, so if you can spare a little time, please contact Yvonne Brunton on 01225 721480 for more details: she will be delighted to hear from you!

AUTUMN/WINTER 2010

TEN QUESTIONS

Rowena Midgley

Retail team area manager



1 How long have you worked for Dorothy House?

Just over two years.

2 What would you be doing if you weren't working for the hospice?

A very similar role for another charity or something around wildlife conservation.

3 What do you enjoy most about your job?

Working with a variety of people makes no two days the same.

4 What is your favourite book/film/piece of music and why?

I don't have a favourite book, but often go back to particular authors, such as Doris Lessing, Paul Theroux, Graham Greene and Bruce Chatwin.

5 How do you relax outside work?

Outside of work I spend a lot of time laughing and hanging out with my family and friends.

6 Describe your role at Dorothy House in a maximum of ten words.

Raising money via recycling, re-using and re-loving shop donations!

7 What single thing would make your life/job easier?

Improved communication.

8 Who is your hero/heroine?

Nelson Mandela; David Attenborough, for bringing an amazing world into my front room; political comedian Mark Thomas.

9 What has been the highlight of your Dorothy House career so far?

Leading the opening of a temporary shop in Bath, in a very short space of time, with the help of a very committed and diverse team.

10 Describe yourself in three words.

Adventurous, enthusiastic, loyal ... and shoes!!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October - March Bridge Tournament

Organised by the Pip Dewey Friends, this is a friendly competition held in Bath and surrounding villages. New members are most welcome. For further information please contact Joan Donovan on 01225 446465 or Ann Cook on 01225 316251

Sunday 10 October

Wedding Fair Wiltshire College, Lackham, 11am – 3.30pm. Free entry. Collection for Dorothy House

Thursday 14 October Shopping evening at L.K. Bennett, 25 New Bond Street, Bath, 6.30 – 9pm. Tickets £10 (bookable in advance) to include complimentary glass of fizz, fashion show, 20 per cent discount and free goody bag worth over £50 with any full-price purchase made on the night. For more details or to book, call Phillippa on 01225 721480 or visit www.dorothyhouse.co.uk

Wednesday 20 October Sweetland Memorial

Organ Recital Bath Central reformed Church, Argyle Street, Bath, 12.30pm. £8 on the door or by calling 01373 834444. A concert to mark the centenary of William Sweetland's death performed on the church's Sweetland organ. Light refreshments will be available after the recital

Sunday 31 October

Halloween on the Hill Spooky fun at the Little Red Café, Catherine Hill, Frome, 5 – 7pm, with a street collection in aid of Dorothy House

Monday 8 November

Fashion show and luncheon featuring Valerie Anne Fashions, Spencers Sports & Social Club, Melksham. Doors open 12 noon for 12.30pm start. Tickets at £15 (including hot lunch) available from Ann Peirce on 01225 761447 or Brenda Abbot on 01225 700702

Tuesday 16 November

Fashion show Marks & Spencer, Bath. Shows are at 7.30pm and 8.45pm, with tickets limited to 125 for each show. Tickets are £12.50 each, with net proceeds to Dorothy House. Doors open at 7.15pm, with shopping from 7.15-10pm. To book, email malcolm.westgate@btinternet.com or call 01373 467049 and leave a message

Wednesday 24 November

Autumn bazaar and coffee morning, 10.30am-12.30pm, Bradford on Avon Rugby Club. Organised by Bradford on Avon Friends. Free entry. Produce, plants, refreshments, turned wood gifts, cards and much more

Friday 26 November

Tea dance Bloomfield Hall, Dorothy House, Winsley, 2 – 4pm. Tickets £5 to include tea/coffee and cake. Numbers are limited so early booking is advisable - call Yvonne on 01225 721480

Saturday 27 November

60s Music Night with The Spectres, The Corsham Community Centre, 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from Chris Jefferys on 07966 443264

Tuesday 30 November Light Up a Life service

Bath Abbey, 6pm. All welcome

Thursday 2 December Christmas fair open

evening with a guest appearance from celebrity chef Mary Berry talking about Christmas cookery, followed by pre-sale event. Bloomfield Hall, Dorothy House, Winsley, 7.30 – 9pm. Limited tickets available at £12.50, to include mince pie and mulled wine; book by phoning Yvonne on 01225 721480

Friday 3 December

Christmas fair Bloomfield Hall, Dorothy House, Winsley, 10.30am-3pm. Christmas gifts, ornaments, candles, gift tags, mistletoe, chutney, fudge, tombola and more! And do look out in our shops for Christmas raffle tickets to win a weekend in London – two nights for two people, £150 White Company voucher and a pair of tickets to the 2011 Glastonbury Abbey Extravaganza

Saturday 4 December

Christmas fair Bloomfield Hall, Dorothy House, Winsley, 10.30am-3pm. See above for full details

British Sugarcraft

Guild cake sale in aid of Dorothy House, The Shires, Trowbridge, 9am – 3pm

Tuesday 7 December

Light Up a Life Service St John's Church, Frome 6pm. All welcome

Wednesday 8 December

Light Up a Life Service Market Place, Shepton Mallet, 6pm. Open air service, all welcome

Thursday 9 December Light Up a Life service

Market Place, Devizes, 6pm. Open air service, all welcome

Friday 10 December

Christmas Celebration evening concert, Box Methodist Church, 7.30pm. Free entry

Monday 13 December

Light Up a Life service Buttercross, Chippenham, 6pm. Open air service, all welcome

Wednesday 15 December

Light Up a Life service St James' Church, Trowbridge, 6pm. All welcome

Friday 17 December

Ice skating at Brokerswood Country Park, every day until 2 January, apart from Christmas Day, 10.30am-8.30pm. Adults £8, children £5. Support Dorothy House by donating £2 for a decoration to go on the Brokerswood Christmas tree.

Saturday 18 December

Concert with Con Brio Mixed Voice Choir and the Westwood String Quartet. United Church, Bradford on Avon, 7.30pm. Tickets £6 from Lesley Hunt on 01225 863066

Sunday 30 January

Wedding fair The Limpley Stoke Hotel, 11am-4pm; donations from refreshments to Dorothy House

Sunday 6 March

Bath Half Marathon

We have a number of golden bond places available – call Phillippa on 01225 721480 for further details

Saturday 26 March

St Matthew Passion Bath Abbey. For further details, call fundraising on 01225 721480

Want to hold an event for Dorothy House? Call fundraising on 01225 721480