



TO HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL NECK BREATHERS

Dear Friends

I am sitting writing this amongst paint and wallpaper as we prepare to decorate the last room since we moved in. It is wonderful to look out onto the flower buds and hear the birds singing as the garden comes alive again after the long winter. I remember one of my mother Lucy's favourite sights was the first glimpse of colour after the grey skies of winter in Halifax. Hope you have managed to keep warm where-ever you have been.

We had a lovely time in Portugal and while there we met Ted, a Larry, who had his operation about 17 years ago. He had been a member but came off the register when he went to live in Spain. Now he is living in England and is a member again. It was a lovely coincidence to meet him. He took part in many activities including a Portuguese card game (see photo on page 4) and was living proof that there are many activities to enjoy after surgery. He was on his own for five days and told us that he had met a lady Larry also from England at another hotel in the resort.

Our next trip is to Greece for the Greek Easter which is much later this year than ours. Lucy was often in Greece at this time visiting our sister who enjoyed telling her about all the local customs. This even included having soup with sheep's eyes in it which she enjoyed telling us about.

Bill and I are hoping to meet some of you at the Summer Lunches although I do hope that sheep's eyes are not on any of the menus!

Best Wishes from all the Trustees
Wendy Thompson

Summer Lunch Invitation

For many years we have enjoyed getting together with laryngectomees from many parts of the country. These gatherings provide an ideal opportunity for larrys and carers to share news and experiences. We will be funding a Summer Lunch in Blackpool on Saturday 18 June 2005 and also one in Bridlington on Sunday 3 July 2005.

If you would like to attend the Blackpool event please contact Malcolm Rothwell, 23 Dorset Road, Atherton, Manchester, M46 9PP Tel 01942 892403.



Wendy Thompson and Ann Keefe at Bridlington

For the Bridlington lunch contact Mrs Ann Keefe, 47 Bonser Gardens, Sutton-in Ashfield, Notts, NG17 1DT Tel 01623 432588. If you have not attended previously we can assure you will be very welcome.



Carole Stainton with The Happy Larrys at Blackpool

**Cancer Laryngectomee Trust
National Association of Neck Breathers
PO Box 618
HALIFAX HX3 8WX
Telephone/Fax 01422 205522
web site: www.cancerlt.org
email: info@cancerlt.org
Charity Registration Number: 326653**

Halifax Buffaloes

In February Carole Stainton represented the Trustees at a meeting of the Halifax branch of the Overseas Association of Buffaloes to receive a cheque from Margaret Turner, who had selected the Cancer Laryngectomee Trust as her fund raising focus. During her year of office Margaret and her supporters, Sheila Turner, whose husband is a Larry, and Hettie Crawshaw arranged many events. A concert was arranged with the Wardle Band opening the proceedings

and a Disco to follow. A Line Dancing evening was held and numerous sessions on a charity stall. As a result of all the excellent work a total of over £2700 was presented to the charity.

In addition to the marvellous amount Carole also received a beautiful bouquet of flowers, she was thrilled. Many thanks to all the wonderful people who work so hard to raise money to support our work.



Margaret Turner (second from left) and some members of the Wardle Band



Carole receiving a cheque on behalf of the CLT from Margaret Turner and supporting members of the Halifax Buffaloes

Trustees Report for the year to January 2005

“Yes, we all take our voice for granted, with it we can talk, laugh, sing or even cry out for help, without giving a second thought to what is going on in our throats.”

Those were the words that were spoken by Martin Jarvis on BBC Radio 4 on the 9th May 2004 when he made the appeal on behalf of the Charity. It marked another step forward in the development of the Charity during what has been an exceptionally exciting year. We were very honoured when Martin Jarvis agreed to become a Patron. When looking over the past year in order to write this report it was a question of what would have to be left out as there was so much material rather than what I could find to put in!

The focus this year has been on improving our own forms of communication within the Charity in a number of different ways. One of these is by attending seminars held for professionals. Here it is possible to provide information about the Charity and its work and meet the professionals who carry out the vital medical and rehabilitative work that is so important. The Rotherham Seminar was featured in the April Newsletter.

Improving the Newsletter is another example of our improved communication. It has undergone a transformation and now comes in a smart glossy format – a long way from the early days when I remember my parents working hard to put together the various items at our much used kitchen table!

Yet another improvement is the web-site which started this year with invaluable help from Tim Baxter and Sophie Panazol. The address is www.cancerlt.org and it provides a wealth of useful information as well as links to other sites.

As a result of the money raised through the appeal and also through other generous donations we have been able to increase the provision of grants to neck breathers where there has been a real need for assistance. We have also been able to undertake a reprint of the book *Laryngectomy is Not a Tragedy* written by our founder Sydney Norgate which has proved so valuable to so many people since it was first written.



Martin Jarvis recording the BBC Radio4 appeal

We are still without any paid employees and most of the extensive work carried out this year has been done by Carole Stainton with the support of Wendy Thompson where appropriate. The year of stability and consolidation which I had hoped for last year in this report has exceeded all expectations and has proved to be one of development and positive feedback as well.

Thank you to all those who have supported us in any way. As a result of your support Race Night raised a total of £3300.

We look forward to 2005 with a sense of a greater and greater need for the Charity as the requests we receive reveal real gaps in health provision in some areas. As a small Charity we cannot hope to fill all of these but we are able to provide an additional source of help to people who have a very real need. We are proud of what we have achieved over the past twenty years and look forward with confidence to the future.

The Trustees remain committed to continuing the work of the Charity so that laryngectomees and their families are supported through what can be a difficult and distressing time.

The Trustees would like to thank Keith Roper, Joanne Hillary and the staff at HSBC, Allan Naylor, Sister Helen Chadwick, John Bramall and Sovereign Healthcare.

Bernard our Buddi

For those of you who do not know him already I would like to introduce one of our more colourful members, Bernard Beetles of Fleetwood. As a child Bernard lived in Lancashire and started work just before WW2 commenced when he volunteered for the RAF and became a gunner in Halifax. He spent the last few months of the war in the Far East where he contracted malaria and enjoyed convalescing in Macao. On return to the UK he commenced work with the Rank Organisation and spent the whole of his working life in the leisure industry also serving the Truste House Forte group. During this time he arranged events and met many stars. His work at Belle Vue Zoo led to many interesting encounters with animals who seemed to prefer human company to staying in their enclosures.

Another of Bernard's colourful interests is his pleasure in water-colour painting. He spends holidays in France with his son and returns with his own creations to remember the scene. Although never a cigarette smoker he did smoke a pipe but thinks his throat cancer was probably due to spending many hours at work in smokey environments.

Becoming a laryngectomee has not prevented Bernard from being a very active fund-raiser



for the League of Friends and his work for the Blackpool Laryngectomy Club. As if that wasn't enough to keep him busy a few years ago he decided to adopt the clown persona of Buddi and take the No Smoking message out to primary school children. He has been having great fun teaching himself the necessary juggling and balloon toy making skills required to entertain the children and enable him to explain what has happened to him and to advise against smoking. As you can see from the photograph he uses one of our T-shirts as a part of one of his colourful costumes.

We wish him well with all his activities. Keep up the Good Work.



Wendy and Ted enjoying a game of cards

Lunch Anyone?

A buffet lunch will be available for local Cancer Laryngectomee Trust members on 7th September at the home of Louise Bass, 9 Grove Road, Milton, Weston super Mare BS 22 8EY.

This invitation is open to Trust members from Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire areas.

Louise looks forward to your replies.

web site: www.cancerlt.org
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