

# Beyond Cancer News

Issue 1

December 2011

**Welcome** to the first issue of Beyond Cancer News. Inside this issue you will find out what we have been up to in our first year.



## Introduction

Beyond Cancer was established in October 2010 by Isola Blair, Pat Case and Rosemary Stapleton, all of whom were diagnosed with Breast Cancer in 2010.

We are a voluntary group whose main aims are to:

- Undertake a range of fundraising activities to support the work of cancer charities, in particular breast cancer charities in the Leeds Area.
- Support the work of overseas cancer charities (in particular breast cancer charities) on the Caribbean Islands of St.Kitts, Nevis, Barbados and Jamaica .
- Raise awareness about the support needs of BME people who have a cancer diagnosis, in particular those with a breast cancer diagnosis.



*Committee members: Isola Blair, Rosemary Stapleton, Paula Swanston, Vicky Johnson, Sharon May, Pat Case, Valerie Francis and Jackie Claxton- Ruddock.*

## Achievements so far in 2011

In our first year we have established a massive support network and we are encouraged by those who want to support us.

**March 2011** kicked off our fundraising events with the Hunslet Warriors Ruby Club who did a sponsored kick and raised **£265.00**. What a great achievement. Our thanks to all who participated.



**May 2011** Our first Charity Fundraising Ball raised in excess of **£5,000** for our chosen charities; Pink Lilly Breast Cancer Care, Haven Breast Cancer and Black Health Initiative (BHI). The event which was held at the Leeds Hilton Hotel, was attended by 250 people from diverse communities.

The keynote speaker Mr Steven Edwards (Regional Development Manager MacMillan Cancer Care) delivered an interesting, powerful and enlightening speech on Breast and Prostate Cancer.

The master of ceremony Mr Elroy Claxton kept the evening running smoothly whilst applying a light hearted flair to the raffle prize draw.

The Auction on the evening was skilfully managed by Mr Ray Evans who used gentle persuasion to encourage everyone to dig deep into their pockets and bid for an array of donated items.

Beyond Cancer was humbled by the level of responses and support they received from local businesses and individuals, who donated their time and raffle prizes, regardless to the pressures of the current financial climate.

*"Thank you to the organisers for a great evening of entertainment. it was the perfect platform for raising awareness of cancer and symptoms that are not traditionally linked to cancer. Thanks also to those who shared their experiences and journey with us all. I look forward to your next event".* **Pat Saunders**

*"Beyond Cancer Ball was just amazing, a very successful night. I learnt even more about breast and prostate Cancer. It is so good that they can share and spread the different experiences that they have encountered. These remarkable woman spoke of there journey through this illness. God bless them all. I believe that as well as these women, more and more will continue to spread the word".* **Carol Small**

"Congratulations to Isola and crew for a wonderful, organised and informative evening. I had a real good time. The organisers and people who gave talks presented the community with what could be some life saving information. They were light hearted but very engaging - it was brilliant. I was moved listening to some of the journeys the ladies had been through and appreciated their willingness to share. I felt so proud looking around the room at all these people who had gathered to support this event, all ladies looking like queens with our kings every where you turned beautiful one and all. We are blessed people and I've not felt so proud in a long time. Congrats again and keep up the good work". **Debz Gillard**

(RIP - Sunrise 26.5.63, Sunset 2011)

### June 2011 Presentation of cheques to Charities.

**Pink Lily** received a donation of £2,000. The donation will be used towards phase 2 of the Pink Lily Breast Screening Programme. Pink Lily has already screened 100 women in Nevis in Phase 1 of the programme and will start Phase 2 in December 2011. This will provide screening and counselling for another 100 women.

**Black Health Initiatives** received a £1,000 donation from Beyond Cancer which has enabled the organisation to resurrect its Complimentary Therapy sessions. These sessions are free to all with a cancer diagnoses and takes place at the BHI office Complimentary Therapy room.

Black Health Initiative Manager, Heather Nelson Thanked Beyond Cancer for the generous contribution and said "we wish Beyond Cancer all the success they deserve for their future fundraising activities".

**The Yorkshire Haven** received a donation of £1,000 from Beyond Cancer. The money is being used to continue providing support to women and men with breast cancer from Yorkshire and beyond, at any point during their experience of the disease.

The Haven aims to provide support and services to help visitors cope with the physical and emotional side effects of breast cancer and its treatment. Since opening in Yorkshire in October 2008, over 900 women and one man have benefited from the Haven programme.



Isola Blair, Debra Horsman, Pat Case

Haven Programme Manager Debra Horsman thanked beyond cancer for their kind donation and said; "It is important that awareness is raised of the different issues faced by women and men from ethnic minority communities when it comes to cancer diagnosis."

### June 2011 Race for Life

Beyond Cancer committee members and friends took part in the 5k Race for Life and raised in excess £600 for Cancer Research. A huge achievement for those who had never done it before.



Race for Life June 2011

### October 2011 Intermediate Care Team Leeds Community Health Care (NE) Grand Raffle Prize Draw



Pat Case Maureen Hall (centre) Isola Blair with colleagues from the care team

During the month of October staff at the Intermediate Care Team Leeds Community Health Care NE, donated prizes for a grand raffle draw to raise funds in support of Beyond Cancer.

The organise Maureen Hall said "In my job as a Clinical Health Care Assistant every day I help people who are living with all kinds of illness including cancer, but when my sister Pat was diagnosed with breast cancer it was a great shock for me. I wanted to do something to help other suffers and support Beyond Cancer in their attempt to raise awareness"

Both Isola and Pat were present at the prize draw and spoke about the work of Beyond Cancer and thanked everyone for their kind support. The event raised £110.00.

### October Cancer Awareness Month

#### Key Stats

Beyond Cancer is determined to raise awareness of breast cancer and its symptoms in black and ethnic minority (BME) women. Research shows that that 56% of BME women don't check their breasts for changes because they are not sure what to look for and 45% of BME women who are of screening age (currently 50 – 70) have never attended a breast screening appointment.

## Beyond Cancer wants to help change these statistics

- 1 in 8 women develops breast cancer
- Over 47,700 women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year
- 250 women will die of breast cancer this week
- Men can get breast cancer too – approximately 300 cases are diagnosed each year
- Breast cancer is now the most common cancer in the UK
- Breast cancer incidence rates have increased by more than 50% over the last twenty-five years
- 8 in 10 breast cancers are diagnosed in women aged 50 and over
- Over 4,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in Yorkshire every year

**References** Cancer Research UK

## November 2011

### Beyond Cancer 1st Birthday Party

Another successful event on the 4th November. Over 300 people attended at The Oracle Bar Leeds, to celebrate our first year.



A celebration with four guest DJ's; Ice Kool, Fluid, Sister P and DJ Mav who played something for everyone keeping them entertained to the early hours.

The serious message behind the event was to raise awareness about breast cancer and prostate cancer, was delivered by Beyond Cancer members; Isola Blair, Pat Case and Rosemary Stapleton. The event raised **£2,500.00** and will go towards supporting Beyond Cancer's on-going activities.

Charities benefiting from the proceeds include; MacMillan Cancer care and Robert Ogden Centre at St James's Hospital.



## What's on....

### Someone Special

Beyond Cancer would like to hear from you if there is someone who you believe deserves a special surprise gift to boost their wellbeing following a cancer diagnosis. Or, someone who you believe deserves a special thank you for their support to a family member or friend following a cancer diagnosis.

In confidence please send in no more than 100 words why you think this person deserves this special gift.

**Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

Contact details are at the bottom of this page.

### Beyond Cancer charity fundraising ball



**Saturday 12th May 2012**

**Don't forget to save the date!**

### Fundraising and Donations

If you would like to support Beyond Cancer by holding a small fundraising event or to make a donation, in the first instance please contact us:

All cheques donations need to be made payable to:  
**Beyond Cancer**

For fundraising events, write to us to let us know what you want to do and when to:



### Beyond Cancer

c/o Worldwide Travel Solutions  
45 Harrogate Road,  
Chapel Allerton  
Leeds  
LS7 3PD

Email: [beyondcancer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:beyondcancer@hotmail.co.uk)

*Beyond Cancer are humbled by the level of response and support so far from local business and individuals regardless of the current financial climate.*

### Useful websites:

[www.blackhealthinitiative.org/Therapy.aspx](http://www.blackhealthinitiative.org/Therapy.aspx)

[www.thehaven.org.uk](http://www.thehaven.org.uk)

[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

For more information about what we have been up to or future events check out our:

**Website:** [www.beyondcancer.org.uk](http://www.beyondcancer.org.uk)

or **Facebook:** [facebook/Living Beyond Cancer](https://www.facebook.com/Living-Beyond-Cancer)