

# CHILDREN

## WITH CANCER FUND

### NEWSLETTER



**FULL STORIES INSIDE**

**BASED IN  
POLEGATE**



CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND  
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# CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly I must apologise for the delay in this newsletter coming out, as things have taken over a bit. We had an inspection from the Inland Revenue followed almost directly by the Charity Commission wanting to waste our time. I am pleased to say that they went away giving us compliments on what we are doing and the way we do it.

There has been a lot of changes in CWCF - we're moving forward in many ways. Caroline has taken on three mornings a week and Paula is doing the other two mornings, with Anna assisting on the events side of things each Tuesday morning. It means that, even when Ursula and I are at work, you can speak to someone regarding CWCF every morning.

With 90 families that we are supporting locally events are getting bigger, and more families are making connections with other families who are going through the same as they are, this is proving the worth of CWCF and what we do.

Last year one of our caravans got flooded and luckily it was replaced by the insurance company. A lot of people got behind us and we got it back ready for families to

have a break at Easter. We thought that was bad enough but to have a phone call again this year saying both of the caravans were floating was even worse. See the full story inside but as we go to print the replacement caravans have just arrived.

Along with the downs this year we have had plenty of ups, the family 'get togethers' have gone well and the individual wishes have shown us just what lovely people there are out there, with some companies making our children feel like real stars or special people. The biggest thing we have ever done was the Ball, it was an amazing evening (full story inside).

Finally after 16 years CWCF has its own office and a new phone number, although the phone still comes to the house and we will still be here 24/7 for our families. It has got to the point where we need to get more organised and not be cramped up in our small box room: again there is a full write up in the newsletter, which I think this year is going to be bigger and better now we have a dedicated team sorting it out. Enjoy reading it and please feel free to come back to us with any comments you would like to make about the newsletter or any of the stories in it.

Take care, be good and have FUN!

*Chris Downton*

## AIMS

Our aim is to grant wishes to children up to the age of eighteen, and their families, who have/have had cancer and who primarily live in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove. Wishes can be practical, medical or fun and made to individual families as well as supporting a group together by giving them quality family time. We can also support local hospitals/community nurses who assist in the care of the children under our remit.

## ABOUT US

CWCF was formed in July 1998 and is made up of a small voluntary group of family and friends with the main thought being to enable the children, and families of the children with cancer, to have a quality of life that we would hope to have ourselves. Most of the time it means giving them treats or buying them something they have missed out on, normally due to the fact that their money has been spent fighting the illness or burning up petrol going to and fro to the hospital for treatment.

## WISHES

Most of our referrals come directly to us through the community nurses/social workers who are treating

the child. After we have introduced ourselves we have a talk with the family about their wishes.

Over the years we have gone from strength to strength granting wishes such as laptops, trips, theatre breaks, football tickets, bedroom makeovers, providing cookers, dishwashers – the list goes on. In addition to individual wishes we now annually take a number of families away for a short break, over recent years to the Isle of Wight. We also have two ten-berth caravans where families go on holiday, this as well as numerous outings for all our families, which, in particular gives them the opportunity to get together with others going through similar experiences and where they are able to build friendships and support networks.

However, the only reason we have been able to do this is because "you" the local community have supported us so well. But! We say we get the best "bit", and that is the "bit" no money can buy: the granting of wishes. Sometimes a simple thing like an England Football Kit has lit up the eyes of a child and a million pounds can't buy that. But! We couldn't do it without you, so to all who read this a BIG, BIG THANK YOU from C.W.C.F.

**Reg Charity No: 1110644**

## **WHO WE ARE!**

CWCF is a registered charity. We are supported by many, we are not religious based, yet we are supported by many of the local churches. We are not politically minded, yet all the various parties have made small donations in different ways. We are not directed by ourselves. We are directed by the wishes and guidance of the families and nurses that we support. BUT without your support we could not have that direction. So to all those that give CWCF our direction THANK YOU, plus those that believe in our dream - to help children and their families who are suffering, or have suffered, from cancer.

## **INTRODUCTION TO NEW FAMILIES**

When we get a family referred to us the first thing we do is to send them an introductory letter about CWCF, a £50 Tesco Voucher and our 'Family Newsletter' which tells families our programme of events for the year.

The reason we respond in this way is that, when a family is first told that their child has cancer, their world falls apart. However, they still need to get to the hospital and the rest of the family still needs to eat, so by doing what we do we have covered both, as the voucher can be used for either petrol or food. The response we got when we first started doing this was very positive, with loads of 'thank-you's' and e-mails telling us how useful it was. We have therefore continued to give families this little boost to help them when they first need it.

### **Are you free for 10 minutes?**

We are looking for people to deliver our newsletter to their own street/road. We are not asking you to do loads, just your local area. If you are interested, please contact us on 01323 488561 or e-mail us please.

**Once again this year we have had the support of 14 special companies, who have advertised in the centre pages, please support them if you can and mention that you saw it in this booklet.**



## **THE ANDY KNIGHT MEMORIAL TROPHY**

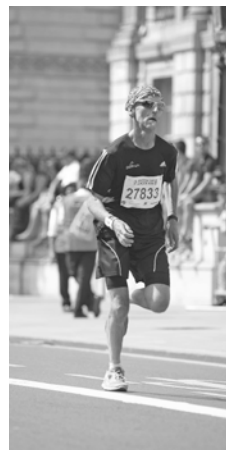
### **VETERAN'S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT & FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE OVAL EASTBOURNE**

Despite early rain a bumper crowd turned out to enjoy the reluctant sunshine and watch the group games contested by Eastbourne Utd, Herstmonceux FC, DB Domestics, Magham Down, The Allstars, Willingdon Vets and Knighty's Gunners. The curse of the winners struck for a second year running as last year's victors, DB Domestics, fell at the first hurdle. Newcomers Willingdon Vets made it all the way to the final but failed to overcome a determined Eastbourne side who lifted the cup after a 3 - 2 victory. The final was kicked off by Andy Knight's daughter, Caitlin Knight, following an observation of one minute of applause by all present. Dave Moore of Eastbourne Utd won the 'Man of the Match' award.

The crowd was entertained by the ever popular local band, Devil's Queen, sponsored by The Martello Inn. There was face painting, soft play and a penalty shoot-out competition to entertain the children and an all day BBQ. A very successful tombola and raffle were held, a great day was had by all and we are delighted to have raised £3025.81 for the Children with Cancer Fund which includes a generous donation from Santander.

## **DAD RUNS FOR CWCF**

David, one of our cancer Dads, ran the British 10K in aid of CWCF. One thing we always say is: we never give expecting to receive back, but I think all of the runners and their supporters/sponsors had a great time with the crowds cheering them on all the way round and David said, 'It was nice to be able to give something back after all we did for his family'. Thank you to David and all the 10K runners for supporting CWCF.



## *A Dad's determination with a group of friends*



Lee (one of our cancer children's Dad), and a team of friends wanted to do something for us. While they were busy doing it, we at CWCF were kept up to date via Facebook, and then when Lee got home he took 5 mins out from bathing his blistered feet to write this:

Back in December 2012, I decided enough was enough and it was time to do something for CWCF for a change. Our daughter Lottie was diagnosed with Leukaemia (A.L.L) back in 2006 and, from the start, the team at CWCF were there to lend a hand and provide relief where they could. So, what to do? Sit in a bath of beans? Run a marathon (not after seeing the state of Chris

after his efforts). Instead, I decided to put a team together to take on the 3 Peaks Challenge. If you're not familiar with it, it involves climbing the three highest mountains in the

UK, Ben Nevis (Scotland), Scafell Pike (England) and Snowdon (Wales) in 24 hours. After numerous requests and plenty of 'Thanks for asking but you must be joking...' responses, the final team of four climbers and two support team members was complete. Daryn Nicholson, Jake Gibbons, Jay Redmond, Nathan Jones and Steve Stroud were the unfortunate chosen to embark on a total of 27 miles of climbing and 500 miles driving in a single day.

28th June 2013 was the chosen date to make the attempt. After a 10 hour drive to Fort William in the Scottish Highlands, the team of climbers set off for the Ben Nevis summit at 3pm and the clock was ticking. 14°C and sunny at the bottom and -5°C, 42mph winds and icy at the summit meant that all manner of clothing and equipment needed to be carried up to cope with conditions at all stages. With Ben Nevis conquered in 6 hours, it was straight in the car for a 6 hour drive to the Peak District and on to Scafell Pike. Pitch black on arrival it was all out,

head torches on and up you go. Whilst being the smallest of the 3 Peaks, this was by far the hardest. Broken and needing some TLC, we cracked Scafell Pike in 4 hours then once again we were back in the car for the 5 hour drive to Snowdon. 11am Saturday and we arrived at Snowdon. With no sleep in 30 hours and faced with another 4 hour climb, I think we were all secretly thinking the same thing . . . Let's get the train up . . . no-one will ever know!'. With no-one brave enough to raise the subject of getting the train, the support team forced us out of the car and sped off to the comfort of a local hostelry for a warm cuppa. I had allowed myself to think that Snowdon was the easy climb knowing that I'd been up it as a child. Not the case when climbing with a heavy pack and the train firmly out of bounds. However, that said, after a windy and wet climb, we were soon back in the car park having group hugs and all very grateful that the challenge was successfully completed.

While we were climbing, the support team had done an amazing job making sure that all forms of social media were being flooded with pleas for donations and when all the pennies had been counted, we had managed to raise £3,762 for CWCF which made all the pain worthwhile.

## *Hailsham Choral Society*

*Ken and Vicky represented CWCF at the Hailsham Choral Society Christmas concert (held at Hailsham Civic Centre) to give a presentation of the charity work and were invited to hold a retiring collection at the end of the evening.*

*The concert was a great success, encouraging audience participation and combining traditional and modern carols along with a reading and a very witty poem about a polar bear, which earned much applause and laughter.*

*Everybody was extremely generous and a sum of £235.27 was collected.*

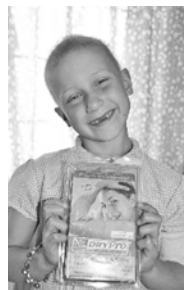
*A big thank you to Hailsham Choral Society and the lovely lady who donated the handmade patchwork quilt.*

## ELIN'S PICC PROTECTOR

Dear CWCF

Thank you so much for Elin's PICC Protector! It arrived so quickly after we spoke about it with Lucy (one of the lovely community nursing team from Eastbourne) and we are so grateful! We are still perfecting the best way to fit it but Elin has been able to go swimming at Lewes pool - incredibly special as she has missed swimming so much. Even just 10 minutes in the pool means the world!

Thank you so much again.  
The W family



# GRACE'S JOURNEY

Dear CWCF,

Many thanks for all the wonderful events you have arranged for our family, and for the Tesco voucher too. It is very much appreciated.

We had a wonderful time at the Drusillas Dream Night - it was a lovely atmosphere and Ellie and Grace enjoyed themselves - a real treat being at the zoo at bedtime!

The pony club that you very kindly



arranged was wonderful. Selina and Toni were very accommodating and went to great lengths to make us feel welcome. Ellie and Grace had a great time! They brushed the pony and led her out to the sand school where they both had a ride. This was followed by a picnic - and even the sun shone! I enclose some photos of the day for you.

I took Grace to Masterpiece pottery studio on Wednesday. It is a lovely place to go - very friendly staff. Grace did a beautiful tile with her hand

print and wrote her name, and then decorated a spoon! The location there is very peaceful and we enjoyed sitting outside for a drink afterwards and watching the peacocks and baby moorhens in the sunshine. We will certainly be returning there in the very near future.

Many thanks again for your generosity at this difficult time. We really appreciate it all - thank you.

Best wishes, L & M



**Grace passed away - sadly she lost her battle against cancer.**

## RHYS'S LAPTOP

When going through treatment the most important thing to a child is keeping in touch with friends and family - and school for homework! Rhys was poorly and spending a lot of time in hospital or on the sofa, so a laptop proved to be a great contact ('apart from when his sisters nicked it', his words). Late at night he would be 'facebooking' and was always willing to chat - which showed the use it was getting.

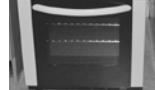
Unfortunately he lost his fight and boy was he a fighter!

Another star up there shining down on us. R.I.P. little man.



## SMILES ALL ROUND!

Nowadays when we ask for a wish list you can guarantee something electrical will be on it. Well nothing was different when we asked for Olivia's wish list. She wanted an i-Pad and her brother and sister wanted a Hudl (little flat computers to you and I). Well we granted their wishes and even got some "Days Out" vouchers so the whole family could go out together. Mum and Dad: what did they want? Well what made them happy was a cooker that cooked the food evenly and not one that burnt one side and left the other side raw!



That was easy and now the whole family are happily fed and having fun on their gadgets.





## Jamie's iPad

One of the latest things are i-Pads and that is what Jamie wanted (although he never thought he would get one). The look on his face was unforgettable when we gave it to him. But we did not forget his sister, and as she was studying at Lewes College we thought a voucher to buy some arty bits would come in handy and it did.

and . . . this is what Jamie wrote:

*Before I was diagnosed with Leukaemia last November I was quite active. I played football for Seaford Town Football Club and I would always go over the park to play with my friends. But now, due to my treatment, I have to spend most of my time indoors and all I really do now is play on my X-box or my i-Pod. Because of my treatment I get quite shaky hands and so it's quite hard for me to use my i-Pod because of the small screen. I really wanted to get an i-Pad and thanks to Children with Cancer Fund, they have kindly given me one, which has a bigger screen and is much easier to use. It not only helps me when I'm at home but when I have long days at the hospital for treatment as it keeps me entertained. I am very grateful to everyone who helped me to get this - it means a lot. Children with Cancer Fund has also helped my sister with her Art degree course by giving money for art materials, and I know that she is very pleased and grateful too. Thanks to Chris, Ursula and everyone at Children with Cancer Fund.*



## THANK YOU CWCF

From time to time we get a small e-mail that brings home how we are able to support the families thanks to people like you, the readers of this newsletter. Below is one of those emails and the smile says it all.

*Hi CWCF. 'L' is nearing the end of her treatment for cancer.*

*We just want to thank you for all the amazing support and incredible events that your charity made possible and the smiles it puts on everyone's faces 'J' xxxxx*



## BOWLING FOR PARENTS

Bowling is the kind of event that brings families together, and a night out is often the kind of break parents need. It doesn't matter who wins (as long as it's the blokes). These sort of events have often started, what turns out to be, long and ongoing friendships, which is something that everyone needs, but even more so for families that are going through cancer.



### POEM by JOS

*Mixing medicines - it's so fun,  
It tastes horrible on my tongue.  
But some are so powerful and some aren't so nice,  
I just have to take them and hope that they are nice.*

Jos . . . Aged 7

## JASMINE'S 'NIGHT AWAY'



A pamper session for Mum and Daughter was their wish. We made some investigations and the East Sussex National Hotel at Uckfield could fit in a pamper session, room and meal just at the right time, so off they went. The menu was vast but all Jaz wanted was cheesy chips! We knew what time they had booked dinner for, so we took the opportunity to pop up with some flowers to make the break even more special. Their treatment went well and the ladies left relaxed with beautiful nails and lovely smiles.

Unfortunately Jaz didn't make it, but she had one of those smiles you will never forget. R.I.P. young lady x x



## TREAT FOR MUM

'No children, Pete away working for the weekend, think I will have a relaxing weekend'. Those were the words I heard Holly say when I was at a fund-raising event with her for CWCF. I knew she had not had a wish so my mind started working on what we could do and, before very long, with the help of our friends at Cavendish Chauffeur Services and The Hydro Hotel, we arranged a little break with some relaxing treatments for Holly and a friend. Andy Harmer, the David Beckham look-a-like even popped in with some flowers for her during the evening meal.

This sort of thing is always so nice to be able to put together for people caring for 'the poorly child'. Mums & Dads are normally the ones slaving away and never having any time for themselves, so thank you to everyone who donated to CWCF for making this wish possible.



## Seahaven Dance School Presentation

The Seahaven Dance School in Seaford (pupils aged from 3 to 73!) put on a show at Christmas and ran raffles at each performance. Two of our families have pupils at the school and so the School very kindly decided to donate the proceeds to CWCF.

We collected a cheque for a whopping £625 at a recent presentation.

Thank you Seahaven Dance School.

## LODGE'S SUPPORT CONTINUES

We had been lucky enough to have been supported by Verity Lodge before, but it was always an honour to meet and gain the respect of such wonderful people. Shortly after our meeting with them we received the e-mail below which was really lovely.

Before meeting CWCF I had read their website and was of course amazed at the wishes granted so far; from a Euro Disney trip and theme park tickets to more serious wishes like a syringe pump for a community nurse, help with funeral bills and so much more.

Then I met them; even after all these years, their energy and enthusiasm is as fresh as ever. I'd also like to congratulate the rest of the team, well done guys.

Local charities like CWCF need support and I am very proud that the members of Verity Lodge gave so generously and also to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex for match funding.

Verity Lodge, Eastbourne.



## Joshua Horscroft

On a summer's day Ryan and I rode from the Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath, to the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital, Brighton for CWCF. This was a rough 18 miles on various sorts of terrain - it certainly put myself and Ryan through our paces on our bikes. However, we managed to do it in 1 hour 15 minutes. I'd like to say a big thank you to all those who sponsored us and to Children with Cancer Fund for helping get sponsors too.



# LAUREN W

## Lauren Widgery's Story

I was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. It all started in June 2012 when I got Bell's Palsy in the right side of my face, the doctors hadn't seen it in a teenager before and were worried because of my age. I had various hospital visits to ENT and my local doctor's surgery when they decided to do a blood test for glandular fever. Throughout the week we waited I kept deteriorating and getting worse, I wasn't eating yet my stomach was distending and I was going jaundice and dehydrated.

The results came back negative so we went to a different doctor who sent us straight to the Royal Alex Children's Hospital. I had various blood tests and was put on a drip to hydrate me and we were all told in the early hours of the morning that it could be as serious as Leukaemia. We were rushed up to St George's Hospital where I was



officially diagnosed and chemotherapy begun. I spent four nights in ICU before we got moved to the Royal Marsden, I spent two - three weeks at the Marsden before we came home. Not long after

being diagnosed my PICC line was removed due to a clot, this was to be only one of the 11 admittances to a hospital in less than 8 months. I reached Maintenance in March 2013, which (fingers crossed) has ended the long hospital stays for various infections and reactions to chemotherapy!

We were put into contact with the Children With Cancer Fund while we were at the Marsden the first time. We heard about the work they did and we were grateful to receive the help with the car parking at the Marsden and the Tesco's vouchers we were sent, it was comforting to know that there was help out there for us.

We were asked by CWCF to choose a 'wish', we asked



for a Freeview+ Box, so we could record television programmes, etc. This was helpful, especially for me on the long days I spent at home unable to go out to school!

CWCF have arranged many opportunities for us to meet other families throughout my treatment but so far we have not been able to attend very many. However, we spent the best part of a week in the Isle of Wight with the CWCF and other families and it was great to meet families in similar situations and get away on holiday for a break.

CWCF has always been very keen to help out our family in any way they can, and they managed to arrange a car for my Prom at short notice. I was very grateful to have the Mercedes for my prom car, and there were ribbons on the door handles to match my dress which was very sweet and a lovely touch. Also Sam the chauffeur had a matching blue tie!

As a family we are thankful to be in contact with CWCF, they have made our journey easier, and they are amazing people!

Many thanks!

Lauren, Mary, Nigel & Emma. Xx



## LUCKY 'DEL BOY'

**Big thank you to 'Del Boy' a patron of the British Queen at Willingdon. Every time he wins the bonus ball game he donates his winnings to CWCF. Del has been very lucky during the past few months.**

Thanks Del!

## YOU NEVER KNOW WHO YOU ARE TALKING TO!

The newspaper article read:-

*"An employment and training specialist supported a charity with a £500 donation from its Staff Payroll Giving Fund".*

CWCF received the cash after Eastbourne business Pertemps People Development Group learned of our work providing help and support to local families.

Operations manager Terry Horton made the suggestion to support the charity after a chance meeting with its chairman, Chris Downton during a networking event.

Mr Horton, who has offices in Eastbourne and Hastings, said: *"Chris impressed me so much with his passion and drive, I knew I had to help."*

My reply to them was: *"Thank you, I didn't realise I had done anything special but what you guys did for us was special and it certainly made a lot of children happy".*





## MANOR TWIGLETS

This is the e-mail we received from Carine Roberts regarding fundraising events held at the Manor Twiglets Nursery:

'My youngest goes to Manor Twiglets Nursery and I was invited to a lovely evening of Pimms & nibbles and to see the Nursery hand over various cheques from their fundraising events to Chris, from the local charity: Children with Cancer Fund.

Holly Draper and six others braved a sky dive and raised £2300.

Manor Twiglets raised £1300 by holding a Charity disco at the Cinque Ports where Danielle Roberts (Administrative Director, Manor Twiglets) shaved her hair off and raised a further £755.

Manor Twiglets would like to thank their staff, parents/carers, family and friends for all their help and very kind donations to support Harry and other children with cancer'.

Carine Roberts

## FROM 'OLD' TO 'YOUNG' SUPPORT FOR CWCF

The children of St Gregory's Montessori Nursery School in Eastbourne performed their nativity play called 'Busy Busy Bethlehem' at St Gregory's Church in Eastbourne.

The children enjoyed making their own costumes and props and also had to learn six songs.

They really enjoyed taking part in the nativity and sang enthusiastically. After the performance the parents and Grandparents enjoyed mince pies and tea and coffee and raised over £100 which was split between the Children with Cancer Fund Polegate and the East Sussex Foster Care Association.



## MELISSA'S NEW ROOM

Hi, my name's Melissa and I'm fourteen. I was diagnosed with pelvic osteosarcoma in June 2012. I've had a lot of chemotherapy and a major operation and am now having more chemo, but am on the road to recovery. When me and my family got told that I wouldn't be able to walk upstairs after the operation we decided to turn the garage into an en-suite bedroom for me. Because my room was upstairs, the Children With Cancer Fund kindly said they would pay for it! After a lot of work, it was finished! I now have my new room and I love it!



*Before*



*After*



## ST. MARY'S CHURCH WILLINGDON

We at CWCF would like to say a really big Thank You to all at St Mary's, Willingdon, who over a period of many years now have supported the Charity by donating part of the collection from their Church Concerts to us.

A particular thank you should go to Michael Stumbles, St. Mary's organist and choirmaster, who must spend many, many hours putting these concerts together. Toni and Ray who attend them regularly on CWCF'S behalf would highly recommend them.

## SKYE'S LAPTOP

A letter from Skye's

Mum & Dad.

Bless them, they are  
such a lovely family...

Our wonderful Community Nurse Louise first put us in contact with Chris and Ursula from the Children with Cancer Fund and we first met them at Pottery Painting in September.



We had a fantastic day, Skye painted pottery whilst I chatted to parents of children suffering from various forms of this terrible disease. Chris and Ursula spoke to me about granting wishes, not just for Skye, but for us parents too.

In December a trip to the Pantomime was organised by CWCF with an after-show party with a Lady Gaga tribute act. Skye still believes she has met the REAL Lady Gaga and loved having her picture taken with her. A fantastic surprise for me was the delivery of a new mattress for our bed. Chris had spoken to my partner and between them they had conspired to surprise me. I don't do surprises but this one was so very much needed and appreciated. Skye has received a laptop from the fund with a built in DVD player, this is a fantastic gift as she is now able to have contact with her class through a special website they have, play her much loved Monster High Dress-up games and watch DVDs when we spend time in hospital. It's given her a new way of keeping in contact with family who live abroad.

We are so enormously grateful to the CWCF and the people who support and donate to them. This special charity gives our children the opportunity to mix with children who have similar anxieties and enables them to socialise and make new friends. It gives us parents a chance to relax, chat and meet like-minded people who share the scariest of journeys but can offer each other support, understanding and a compassion for the bravest children we have the honour of loving.



## FANTASTIC MUSIC & LOTS OF FUN!

That's the secret to the Eastbourne & District Trade Union Club's fundraising events which raised £500 for us. For several years now the club has supported us whilst bringing lots of smiles to the faces of our poorly children and their families. Thank you Guys and Girls.



## SUSSEX WINGS CHOOSE CWCF AS THEIR CHARITY

Ken and Vicky attended one of the regular meetings of 'Sussex Wings', the Sussex division of the Goldwing Club, to give a presentation and talk about some of the work 'Children With Cancer Fund' does. One of their members has experienced this first hand as she is the Grandmother of one of the poorly children the charity has worked with in the past and we thank her for nominating us.

Since this initial meeting the group have raised a total of £2563.72 through various fundraising events. This has included a weekend camp at the Eastbourne Borough Football ground and was attended by Goldwing Owners from all over the country. The Saturday in question was a particularly warm day and the camping area did not provide much shade, but everyone was in good spirits and very happy to talk about their bikes and some of the trips they had taken on them.

CWCF had an information stand at this event and we would like to thank the Sovereign Harbour Rotary Club who manned this on our behalf.

A huge thank you to everybody at 'Sussex Wings' for all your fundraising efforts and the huge donation you have made to CWCF.

## THE INNER WHEEL OF UCKFIELD

The Inner Wheel of Uckfield wrote:

Thank you very much for your recent talk you gave to us - it was very informative and enjoyable.

Below is a photo of yourself and Ann Dunmore (President) handing you a cheque for your charity "with a promise of more to come!" The money was raised by turning 'Water into Wine' on the Luxford Field and a Roll a 10p - followed by a Cheese and Wine event that everyone enjoyed.

They also held a Coronation Jubilee Tea with a fantastic raffle and lovely cakes which brought the total up even more.



## TIM IZZARD - LONDON 10K



This is an email we received from one of our cancer children's Dad, who took part in the London 10k for CWCF:

*'I did it! I completed the British 10k, yes British, in 1 hour and 4 minutes . . . not a winning time for the race but a win for me personally and for CWCF.*

*It was fun, hot, exciting and joyous to run with 30,000 others, many of whom were running for charity.*

*The charities and public support from the sidelines was far more than I expected. Katrina of Katrina and the Waves even sang at the start!*



*Through on-line and off-line sponsorship we have raised over £650 for CWCF with pledges still being made. So I thank you all very much'.*

*Best wishes, Tim.*

## THE 'PENNY BOX BRIGADE'

A special 'Thank You' must surely go to the dozens of people who have one of our Penny Boxes in their homes, or Red Collecting pots in their shop or office.

There are now over ninety in circulation and the amount of money being generated in this way has now reached the fantastic sum of over two thousand eight hundred pounds every year.

When people say to Ray when he collects a box, there are only pennies in there, he always reminds them that Pennies make Pounds. What a fantastic amount of money you are all raising in this way.



**TOYS FOR THE ALEX HOSPITAL**  
From time to time we top up the toys and activity packs in our local hospitals and the Royal Alex Hospital Brighton was next in line. Ordered and done, that day we received this Facebook message:-

*Thank you for the fantastic delivery at the Royal Alex today. We were lucky enough to help unpack some of the lovely toys and games. It really helped cheer 'N' up as she was feeling a bit rough when we arrived. We played Mask and Ask - Great fun! and Connect 4 as well. 'G.D'*



## LOCAL SUPPORT

'If you dare use a bad word the swear box is shoved under your nose and you're made to pay up, but "it's all for a good cause", commented one of the regulars at the Junction Tavern in Polegate. Various events have taken place there and all the money raised has come to us at CWCF. A knock on the door and an envelope was passed over with £777. That's the support we have been getting from the local people of Polegate, no wonder we are proud to be based in Polegate. Thank you everyone.



## YEW TREE INN ARLINGTON

Although it sounds cheesy, we are just the middle men, so many people, such as holidaymakers and the locals, who pop into the Yew Tree Inn, they are the real



ones that make it possible for us to do what we do. Peter and Joan Laws again continued their support for CWCF by presenting us with a cheque for £1,010. The pub continuously raises money for various charities and we were lucky enough to have been one of them.

## THE ROTARY CLUB OF SOVEREIGN HARBOUR

*The Rotary Club of Sovereign Harbour took us under their wing again and supported us by: auctioning a football shirt signed by John Terry, a sponsored dog walk, and two days of bucket shaking outside Boots to name just a few things they did to raise money for CWCF. Thank you to all their members and to people who donated at these events.*



## DREAM MEET UP FOR AIDAN



When the Children With Cancer Fund approached my family and asked what they could buy for us, we were both surprised and amazed by the offer. We thought long and hard about what we wanted, and eventually came to the decision that we thought it was far more important to have a day out as a family than having more electronic devices in the house. My Mum came up with the brilliant idea of going to watch an England cricket match at the Ageas Rosebowl as my Dad and I both really enjoy cricket. When the day finally came, I was in hospital with fever and so couldn't go to the game. We called the CWCF to tell them this, and they managed to arrange with the people at the Rosebowl that we could come to a game on a different day to watch England vs South Africa.

As the day arrived, we found out that not only had the CWCF changed the day so that I could actually get to the game, they had also got us hospitality tickets, which meant: front of stadium parking, champagne (not for me!) and nibbles on arrival, buffet lunch, free programmes, signed team pictures, free drinks and prime location seats. They also organised, with the people at the

Rosebowl, a chance to meet one of the best spin bowlers in the world, Graeme Swann. In addition while we were there I asked if I could meet Sir Ian Botham, as he is my inspiration because not only is he one of the world's greatest cricketers, but he has also raised twelve million pounds for Children with Leukaemia by walking 8000 miles up and down the country over 23 years.



So at tea time my dad and I got taken up to the Sky box, where Sir Ian was one of the many famous ex-cricketers commenting, and he gave me a tour of the Sky box, introducing me to everyone and spending some time with me.

Even though England lost to South Africa, overall the day was one of the most memorable I have ever had and probably will ever have. I can think of nothing better and I want to say a huge thank you to the Children With Cancer Fund for making me happy in this tough time!!

At the time of this going to print Aidan is very poorly, let's hope these memories help him fight on.



## WEEKEND IN LONDON WITH A SHOW



Words sent to us after we treated a family to a weekend treat for quality time together.

*'The most amazing weekend CWCF, we walked our feet off, lots of smiles and a few tears - they were happy tears though. Thank you so much for helping us make her birthday treat so very special.' xx*



## A SPECIAL TRIP TO SEE HIS ARSENAL

We recently sent one family to see their beloved Arsenal and this is the e-mail we received. As you can tell from the e-mail, your money we spent on this wish was well spent on giving a family 'quality time together'. Thank you Cavendish Chauffeur Services, Eastbourne 0800 907 8687.



Hi ya,

Here is just a photo from yesterday to give you a flavour of how wonderful our time was. Unfortunately heavy traffic delayed us a bit so our time in the marvellous restaurant was cut a bit short but it really was absolutely completely fabulous from the moment Chris arrived at our house to the sad moment Paul dropped us off as the time went much too fast and we just wanted to soak every moment up.

We would have been completely happy making our own way to the stadium, but the journey to and from Arsenal with Paul was just lovely and we really appreciate the whole fabulous experience, we really cannot come anywhere near thanking you enough.

Kind regards,  
Helen, Graham  
& Ben



## AMBER'S NEW FRIEND

We often get given things for our cancer children and their families, so when the call went out to find a good home for a giant teddy bear that was donated to CWCF, one lucky girl duly obliged to home him for us. She was absolutely delighted to receive the bear which was delivered to her door amid beaming smiles. Many thanks to Don Robinson of 'Winning Look'.

## ARTIST AT WORK

As part of the ongoing support for our cancer children we continue to purchase items for the Royal Alex Hospital at Brighton. Here is an example:

Below is Claire from CLIC Sargent standing next to the blank canvasses that CWCF purchased to spruce up the bland corridors - the idea being that children will do their own artwork on large canvasses to hang on the wall. Children will also be able to paint on small ones and take them home as a memento of their bravery.



## BUPA NURSING HOME POLEGATE

A 'BIG THANK YOU' to the staff at the BUPA Nursing Home in Polegate for raising and presenting us with a cheque for £126. We really appreciate your ongoing support.



## CAMERA PLEASE

"Hello, this is Arthur - we spoke on the phone tonight. My passion is photography / media, and the Canon 600D is perfect"! This camera was the wish we got him when we asked Arthur what he wanted.

With the money we received from the Junction Tavern in Polegate, we were able to get Arthur's camera, and also wishes for the rest of the family. Thank you to everyone involved.

It saddens us to say that cancer took Arthur away from this lovely family, but he enjoyed taking some really nice pictures while he could.



## CARAVAN HOLIDAY

Hello, We just wanted to let you know that Samuel has enjoyed the last evening, here at the CWCF caravan, at Combe Haven. He has had a wonderful week, enjoying all the facilities available to him: playing football, swimming, plus dancing to the music at the 'Live Lounge'. It has been a plus to have some other members of his family with him, on the first holiday since his diagnosis.

*It was great to feel normal again!*

This was a message we had from one of our families who were staying in one of our two caravans.

Unfortunately in February 2014 we had a phone call saying both our caravans were flooded, one of them had river water coming in under the door but the water had soaked into the walls and cupboards, the other



one had water coming in through the windows and everything was totally ruined! So everyone's holiday break was put on hold. But... with the help of the team at Combe Haven we had all the forms filled out and the insurance company agreed to replace both of them. Then at this point the team at the Beckett Newspaper Group printed a big spread in their papers and offers of help and donations from people rolled in to replace the contents of the caravans. Sainsbury's at Hastings filled the cupboards again with mugs, cooking tins and bedding, and other donated money was used to replace the toys, games and DVDs, etc., so the families had entertainment in the caravans on a wet day. So again with the help of many kind people we had, in time for the summer holidays, two new caravans up and running AGAIN, thank you to everyone who helped out.



## CANCER CHARITY GETS WELCOME BOOST

Children with Cancer Fund was given a boost when The Rattonians presented us with a cheque for £1,000.

The theatre company donated the money from the sale of programmes at their production of the musical 'Fame'.

The show's producer, Mark Adams presented a cheque to Chris Downton, one of the original founders of the charity.

## CARLOS'S STORY

We get all sorts of e-mails, but with the families permission we would like to share this one with you: the reader of this newsletter. Because thanks to your support we are able to support families like this...



*"After months of bad stomach aches, coughs and colds, Carlos was eventually admitted to hospital with pneumonia. Unfortunately, blood tests revealed he was very unwell and following further tests, he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. The gruelling chemotherapy treatment lasted over 3 years but, finally we were given the brilliant news that Carlos's cancer was now in remission.*

*Carlos is now 14 years old, back at school full time and enjoying life. Throughout this very stressful journey, CWCF and its supporters carried not just Carlos but the whole family along, with trips out to look forward to, the chance to chat to others in the same position, and we simply cannot thank all of them enough".*

*Love Alyson, Tony, Carlos and Luis*



## REES MEETS HIS IDOL

A trip to Chelsea is one thing but when you get to meet John Terry and go down into the tunnel and shake hands with all of the team that is something else, but that is what Chelsea did for us. Rees's Mum wrote:

*Hi CWCF, we would like to thank you so very much for the wonderful opportunity you gave Rees and Brandon to spend the day at Chelsea. It was spectacular! The children loved it!!! And to top the day as well, the club let us all in, not just 'The poorly one' . . . the food, entertainment, the "box" itself, the view, meeting the players . . . it has left a permanent smile and positive impact and memory on all of us . . . THANK YOU SO, SO MUCH*

*Children With Cancer Fund & Chelsea Football Club!!!!  
Mel, Rees & Brandon*



## SKYE AT MASTERPIECE STUDIOS

**We wanted to say a big thank you to all at CWCF and their supporters for Skye's EOT party treat. Skye and some of her friends celebrated at Masterpiece Studios where they made Mermaid Mosaics and had some tea after. They had a really fantastic time with lots of giggly, girly fun.**



## Fishing Fun

Carp were the order of the day at the Children With Cancer Fund Fishing day out at Hailsham fishing complex Falkenvil - otherwise known as the Mushroom Farm.

Three families tried their hand at fishing, Mum and Dad even had a go as well. Lots of fish were caught and with everyone catching fish, the day produced a few budding anglers



who said they would like to try it as a hobby. Special thanks must go to Les Foy and his fishing colleagues, members of the Roselands Angling Club who gave up their time to give tuition to the families, also Keith Knight from Falkenvil and local supermarket ASDA who provided a splendid picnic for all of the children.



## OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND

Would we like to do the teas, coffee & cake at an open garden with Alfriston Heartstart? Well there are open gardens, and there are open gardens and we were being asked to do the weekend at 'Follers Manor,' Alfriston.

Follers Manor is not just any old open garden: it's a garden with structure, hidden secrets, an amazing pond and views to cherish, mix all that with a sunny day and friendly people. The result was fantastic, there were happy people walking out with their "bellies" full of the home made cakes which people had kindly made for us to sell, and pictures in their minds of splendid views.

The money raised that day enabled us to take some of our cancer children out for a pizza and then on to the Bandstand in Eastbourne where they saw the "1 Direction" look-a-likes. A big thank you to everyone who came, to everyone who made cakes, to those who helped out and to Anne & Geoff for allowing us into their garden.





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## TRIP TO THE ZOO

Thank you for a very special time at Drusillas. The children, plus "US" of course, really enjoyed the evening. The weather was good and the animals were lovely to see. I have to say the children loved "The Farm Animals" - they could touch the pigs and the donkeys and lovely little ponies. They milked the cow, the cow was not real but I'm not sure they noticed. The monkeys and all the animals were well worth seeing, lots of things to see and read as you went round, lots of things to try out. The play area was something else. We had nearly run out of time but got the last trip on Thomas the Tank engine. The children loved the hotdogs and orange provided free, oh, and they went on the biggest slide I have ever seen, at least as high as a house, well they loved it all. The best time we have all had for a long time.

THANK YOU, Penny and Steve x



Staff at Hart Reade Solicitors nominated Children with Cancer Fund as their 2013 charity. A variety of events held throughout the year included a puddings 'n' pie day, raffle, a Hallowe'en treat sale, sale of old computer equipment and donations instead of sending Christmas cards. The fund raising was completed with a stall at Polegate's Dickensian event in December. Staff from Hart Reade's three branches at Eastbourne, Polegate and Hailsham raised a total of £525.52 and Alexandra Funnell, Partner with Hart Reade, was delighted to present a cheque for this amount to Chris Downton from Children with Cancer Fund.



Each year, if money allows, we take 10 families for a 4-day break away to the Isle of Wight. The families are normally at a reasonable point in their treatment and are ready to relax with other cancer families. Treatment can be long and drawn out and some of the families come when they are half way through their treatment, giving them the vital boost to carry on when they get back (to this country!) We chose the Isle of Wight because there are a lot of things to do in a small area for families, and also there is a boat trip to get there, which for the younger ones means we are going to another country! On this year's trip all the children and some of the big children (Mum's & Dad's) even got to go up on the bridge of the ferry to see the captain, which was a great highlight for the journey home.

During the day, the families do as they wish, and normally in the evening we organise games for the children so the parents can have time to talk. Above is a picture of two of the families we caught up with 'HAVING FUN' and that's what the trip is all about, families getting together and having fun.



## JACK'S 18TH PRESENT

When a child becomes eighteen he/she has to leave the CWCF fold because our constitution is set out that way, but it is always hard, especially when you have known the family for a long time. To ease the separation we normally give the child a leaving present or pay towards a party for them, Jack's Mum knew just what Jack needed.

*Hi, thanks again for a lovely time at the panto and party afterwards. I knew it would be sad to say goodbye but we are forever grateful for all that you have done for us as a family and for Jack. We have met some wonderful people because of you. I must say I was 'gob smacked' when Adrian told me of your generous offer for Jack's birthday and hope he didn't hear it wrong. Jack is currently studying graphics and media at college and loves the idea of making animations like Wallace and Grommit, etc. We have got him some software for Xmas but it would be great if he could have a new laptop as his is 4 years old now (which apparently is old for technology). Thank you for offering to get Jack an 18th birthday/leaving CWCF present XX*

Below you can see a picture of Jack with his new laptop that will take him through college, we hope! Good luck Jack, it has been lovely to be able to help you and your family through the journey of cancer.





Dear Friends,  
Well, I'm still alive!!

It was euphoric and hilarious; emotional, extremely muddy and very wet; cold (freezing at times), scary and soggy!!! Like the Somme - but infinitely more fun, I'm sure.

In my best Oscar style speech - I'd like to thank all of you lovely, generous people who have made a donation to this very worthy cause; I really, really appreciate it. I'd like to thank my good buddies, Steph and Helen who soldiered through the mud with me on Saturday and gave me a hand whenever it was needed. I couldn't have done it without you ladies!! Thanks also for all the Wednesday morning training sessions Steph; and I mustn't forget to mention the lovely Jane at the sailing club café who fuelled us with cake and BLT's. Thanks to my Dad for the impersonal training!! Well done Nicki next door and Tracy; fellow competitors - next time I hope we're running on the same wave! (did I just say next time??!!) Thank you Trevor; chauffeur extraordinaire, who has yet to complain about all the mud in the car! My apologies to anyone that I have inadvertently forgotten! Always on my mind, the brave boy who continues to inspire us; we love you, Rhys. Love Nikki xxxxxx

## KEEP HIM OCCUPIED



When you have a long journey ahead of you, sometimes several times a week, how do you keep a little man content? We found the answer with the help of his Mum & Dad . . . a portable DVD player so he can watch his favourite DVD.

Thank you to those who made a donation into our Paypal account, which

is the donation link from the [www.childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk](http://www.childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk) web page, you bought this for the family.



## Wishes, Wishes, Wishes

A lot of the items we get requests for are, let's say, modern day electronics, from tower computers to laptops and i-Pads, the TV for the oncology room, the i-Pod to be able to listen to music while waiting for an appointment at hospital, this is an ongoing wish list and although Caroline spends a lot of time researching who has the best product at the best price it would be nice to have a direct link to some of the bigger companies who would supply it cheaper all the time. So if you know anyone who you think fits this criteria please contact us with their details, or ask them to ring us so Caroline can spend less time researching, but knowing then we will be getting the right thing at the right price. Thank you.

*Chris Downton (Chairman)*





## JUMMMMMMP

We had granted a wish for Carol's cousin and she wanted to do something for us. The e-mail will explain all!

Just thought I would share a picture of my lunacy with you!

I did the sky dive on an amazing day near Brisbane, Australia, with the fantastic Dusan of Jump the Beach! For some unknown reason I had no nerves and when the family left me at the Jump Beach office I sat and watched a few people come and go, some looked terrified and some looked excited! The family all headed back off to the beach where I was to land, with the champagne! There were seven of us, ages ranged from two people doing 21st birthday jumps, myself, and a father of one of the 21 year olds! Only two females though!

We were all harnessed up at the office and had a briefing of around 15 minutes to tell us how and when to do certain things and then we met our jump mates whose names were all up on the board. I was sure I didn't want to be attached to anyone called 'Splash' and thankfully I wasn't!

Dusan was my instructor and he was a lovely guy who explained everything again to me! These guys can do up to 10 jumps a day.....what a job!

We all got into the mini-bus for the 15 minute drive to the airstrip. The instructors are all very chatty at this point and laughing and joking with each other whilst all the customers are contemplating whether this is a good thing to do! Too late, we have arrived and I think I heard someone say 'who wants to go first' - it went very quiet at this stage!

The views were amazing - we could see the whole of the peninsula as we climbed to 14000ft!

But all too soon, as I was enjoying the view, the jump door was opened.....now there was nothing more we could do but Jummmmmmp....."oh my word", not quite what I said, but close enough! It was the most amazing feeling to freefall at 120 miles an hour, don't ask me how long it took as I have no idea, all I know was it was amazingly fast and exciting! When the canopy is opened it becomes suddenly so quiet and I could hear Dusan talking to me just as if we were standing on the ground!

As we came down the views were just incredible and then I could see all 21 of the family standing on the beach shouting and waving, what a wonderful site!

Dusan landed us by the 'x marks the spot' and that was it - "over"! Now all I have to do is watch all the others come down and then go and get hugs from my wonderful husband Trevor and the Aussie family! Then eggs, bacon and champagne. Barbie on the beach, nothing better!

I have to thank my Auntie Ann, without who I would never have done this, "haha" - at the end of the day I loved it and would do it again!

I am so pleased that I have managed to raise £500 for CWCF and will now need to find something else completely nuts to do for you! Carol.

## MARTELO CONTINUES TO SUPPORT

A fantastic amount of money was raised by the Martello Pub regular Mick Morton who, by his own admission, enjoys a good pint or two most evenings! He managed a staggering 3 months without his beloved pint and was duly sponsored by friends and regulars of the Martello who generously raised the money that was split between Children With Cancer Fund of Polegate and the Eastbourne Alzheimer's Society. To make matters worse Mick tortured himself by still going to the pub each night to enjoy a pint of blackcurrant! But all

was not lost because Mick had lost weight in the process. Many thanks go, of course, to Mick and his mates and to Dawn, the landlady, who helped make it all happen. To keep up Martello's great fund raising tradition Dawn was presented with a bouquet of flowers.



## WIN A CAR FOR CHRISTMAS CHARITY DRAW

Once again the Arndale Centre supported us by allowing us to take part in their 'Charity Car Draw'. For two years running now we have been supported by our families and the general public, all hoping to win that shiny new car.

# MAISIE'S END OF TREATMENT PARTY

Below are the words we received from Masie's Mum regarding their journey dealing with cancer and how little things, like swimming with a dolphin, can put closure to what had been a hard time.

## Maisie's Thanksgiving & Celebration Service

On 5th May 2011, we were told Maisie had acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Chemotherapy treatment began straight away and was eventually successfully completed 27 months later, on 14 July 2013. This included 8 bone marrow aspirates, 21 lumbar punctures, approximately 200 blood tests, countless doses of intravenous chemo, over 3000 tablets, and a whole raft of tests and procedures along the way. So, it was quite a journey to say the least and we wanted to have a special occasion to be able to say 'thank you' for Maisie's safe journey through her treatment.

So on Sunday 26th January 2014, we invited special friends and close family to help us celebrate at a Thanksgiving Service held at Kings Church, Eastbourne, conducted by Steve Blaber. The Service was quite emotional, particularly when Maisie took to the podium and read out her own words of thanks which she had put together herself! It was a wonderful afternoon, made so special not only because we were actually in a position to celebrate, but also because we were joined by so many special people, including some of the nursing team who had looked after her, friends

made with the Children With Cancer Fund members and some of the amazing children who are experiencing their own journeys with childhood cancer.

The Kings Church team made us feel so welcome and supported and afterwards we had a delicious spread of food, topped off with a surprise treat

for Maisie in the form of a Choccywoccydoodah cake for the children. Maisie wanted to say a special thank you to the CWCF for all their support and asked that a collection was made for them at the Service.

## Swimming with Dolphins

As Maisie has been such an amazing little girl throughout her treatment, we decided that as a family we would have a special holiday to Orlando. One of the things Maisie wanted to do more than anything was to swim with a dolphin, so we arranged to do this as a special surprise at Discovery Cove while we were out there. When Chris and Ursula heard about our trip and Maisie's treat, they had a further surprise for us and said that the CWCF would like to make a gift of the dolphin experience for all of us.

On Friday 21 February Maisie had the experience of a lifetime and was introduced to the very special and



very beautiful Maraya the dolphin. If a mermaid had swum up to her I do not think she could have been more thrilled! It was actually an incredibly moving moment, and to see the expression on Maisie's face; I confess to shedding a couple of tears. It was actually quite a symbolic moment, all the weeks and months of enduring her treatment, and here she was, successfully at the other end of this part of her journey and able to enjoy such a 'WOW' experience. Our day spent at Discovery Cove was a highlight of our trip, we were there for 10½ hours, 9 of which were spent in the water!! It definitely was a trip of a lifetime for all of us and memories were made that we can treasure forever.



## POND TO REMEMBER

Sometimes we get a really lovely request, and this particular one was one of them. The family wanted a pond, well it was something the poorly child had always wanted before he passed away, so this made it all the more special.

The family got some quotes and we agreed to fulfil his wish, giving the family somewhere to sit and reflect for a long time to come.



## NEW OFFICE FOR CWCF - IN THE GARDEN!



In the 16 years CWCF has been going we have been lucky to have the support of many people, the charity has grown and the work load has increased beyond belief. This has meant our little office has been outgrown, there is no space for another filing cabinet, and no space for all the files/folders and paperwork that is needed with the 90+ families supported by CWCF. Drastic measures were needed, so the veg bed and chicken run had to go! And in its place we would build a big shed ...'Garden office', with insulation and heating, so the



paperwork didn't go mouldy and with desks and filing cabinets so we could fit everything in. We got various quotes and then spoke to the Trustees and 'Friends Secretary' Karen to see if we could use the money 'The Friends' had in their account to build it. Everyone agreed and work started. Step by step it went up and before too long with the help of a fine team we



had it built, insulated, electrified and painted. The furniture arrived and then, all it needed, was for the ladies to settle in. It didn't take long and they were very appreciative of the fact that they had their own filing cabinets thanks to Aspen at Hailsham, for events and admin, even accounts had its own cabinet.

An alarm was installed by Priceguard Alarms and the job was complete. A good job done by all. Thank you.

But it doesn't mean we aren't here to answer the phone for you - 01323 488561 - the number has changed, but it is still in the house as well as in the garden office! CWCF has always been there and always will be there with the personal touch.



## NEW FAMILY PARKING PASSES

In partnership with the Royal Marsden Hospital at Sutton, we have worked out a way to help relieve some of the families' stress right from the start. Parking is £20 plus a day at the Royal Marsden Hospital but, with the help of the team, we have been buying a year's parking pass, which costs £100, right from the time of referral, for our East Sussex Brighton and Hove families.

Below is an extract of an e-mail we received recently from one of our newest families. The simple things in life are often what they worry about and it's great to be able to do this for them.

*Thank you for the car parking permit that you so kindly gave us. It was a great help not having to worry about the cost of parking, particularly when we were still in shock over her diagnosis.*



## MEMORIAL STONE

The memorial stone we have by the train station in Polegate, to remember the children we have lost, looked a bit different this spring. With the help of Dominic & Masie hundreds of tulip bulbs were planted up the side of the path, which we hope will complement the flower troughs that Debbie does so nicely for us. The stone stands tall with a wooden board bearing the names of all the children we have lost in the last sixteen years. We will never forget them and if you have time, just stop to look at the flowers or the name plaques and think how lucky we are that our children, however naughty they are sometimes, are at least still with us.



## LOCAL FIRM'S SUPPORT FOR CWCF

While working hard to offer the very best recruitment service for candidates and clients alike across the UK, the team at Kirkham Young is always delighted to be able to support more local causes.

The founding directors were pleased to be able to take some "time out" to present CWCF, in the run-up to Christmas, with a donation and some much needed toys as gifts for the children suffering with cancer, and their families.



## A LOCAL ESTATE AGENT LOOKING AFTER A LOCAL CHARITY

*Thank you guys/girls.*

Move Sussex Estate Agents - Fees From 0.75%

Sell or let your property with Polegate's local estate agent Move Sussex, and they will donate HALF of their fees to the Children With Cancer Fund. Just contact Adam or Rachael on 01233 482234 or visit their office in Polegate High Street for a free market appraisal quoting reference CWCF. Once you have sold or let your property Move Sussex will donate half of the fee to CWCF! Visit [movesussex.com](http://movesussex.com) or email [info@movesussex.com](mailto:info@movesussex.com) for further information. Covering all areas of East Sussex.



## POTTERY PAINTING

'A September special', that's what we think the pottery painting afternoon out is, because it's that time of year when the summer holidays are over and there is often a long cold, wet slog to get through until Christmas. So we book out Masterpiece Studios and let the families have a bit of fun painting plates or cups and sometimes even little orange dinosaurs. It's great fun and there is time to "natter" and if it's fine the children can play outside and everyone just relaxes for an afternoon among friends.



## ROTARY CLUB GOLF DAY

On a bright and breezy day 24 teams entered the Rotary Charity Golf Day. The event was held at the Seaford Blatchington Golf Course and was sponsored by Tomsett Distribution Ltd, Barwells Quality Solicitors, the White Lion Hotel, David Jordan Estate Agents, Swindells LLP and JXP Consultancy.

A total of £3214 was raised which was equally divided between President Isla Sitwell's Charity, namely Hospice in the Home and Vice-President Paul Vaesen's charity and Children With Cancer Fund in Polegate, pictured below receiving their cheque.



## RUBY'S OFF TO THE ZOO

*"Proud mother of Ruby. This is the second time she is battling brain cancer. Her smile and love inspires me to stay strong."*

That is Ruby's Mum's Twitter statement, they are such a fab family and so full of life, especially Ruby's brother. Their wishes were fun and useful, with Ruby wanting Drusillas passes for her family, her brother wanted an i-Pad, Dad was up for a fun day driving fast cars whilst Mum wanted to pass her driving test so she didn't have to rely on other people. Fun and practical, it was a pleasure to grant these wishes.



## HASTINGS HALF, BRIGHTON FULL & LONDON 10k

There are some really nice supporters of CWCF like Trevor, Erica, Chloe and the team running the London 10K for us. This is to name just a few and interest is growing. The only thing is that if we want to have guaranteed places we have to buy them and that's a bit 'Big Boy Charity Stuff', but if there is a group of you or enough individuals that want to

take part in an event for CWCF, please feel free to contact us and we will see about getting places for you. We are getting T-shirts for CWCF so we will be able to supply them if you are doing an event for us. I mentioned some names but 'Thank You' to everyone who has run, swam, cycled or done any sponsored event for us.



### SAM'S DREAM COMES TRUE

Dear All

We've finally managed to upload some photos so you can see who Sam met on his fabulous trip to Chelsea. He hasn't stopped talking about it, truly it will be one of the most memorable days of his life, so thank you all so much for organising this. Sam felt so special and it really was a lovely day too, following his final chemotherapy.

We have some very good news, Sam's oncologist advised him yesterday that he is in complete remission. Needless to say we are all absolutely delighted.

Once again thank you so much for your help, it came at a time when we didn't really know whether we were coming or going so was very much appreciated by us all.

Best wishes Kathy,  
Sam and John



## THE MUSEUM OF LONDON TRIP



A very kind lady won a year's membership to the Museum but instead of keeping it for herself, she gave it to us. We made contact with the Museum and they offered us a day out for our families instead of a year's membership.

We took the Museum up on their offer and there were 80 set to go, although due to the 'nature of the beast' we deal with, some had to drop out on the day. The Museum welcomed us with refreshments & biscuits, then put on a fantastic show including hands-on candle holder making, even allowing us to handle some artefacts over 500 years old, and how to make cups as they did in the old days. Then lunch arrived, which it is only fair to say was 'a banquet' with sandwiches filled with salmon and cream cheese, BLT's, avocado and salad and loads more fillings, fruit bowls, home made sausage rolls and 'posh' crisps, then in came the four trays of cakes.

Yes, everyone had a lovely lunch, then we were taken into the Museum where a Charles Dickens actor told us all about his books and put the children through their acting skills.

One family sent us these words saying, 'Thank you for a lovely family day out today, we had a great day. It was good to see you all'.



### SAMANTHA KEYLOCK FROM BONGO BASH WRITES:

During the Bongo Bash we had a celebrity discreetly join us. Did you spot him? JOE MARLER, Harlequin & England International rugby player. Joe donated several team signed items: a Harlequin shirt, 2012 South African tour player shorts, a 2011 England Six Nations Ball. These we gave directly to the CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND, which were used at their 'Ball' and for fund raising. Thank you Joe.



### WASHING MACHINE WISH

We put out a message to our families saying did anyone need a washing machine, knowing one family did, but to our surprise we got seven families replying saying "yes please", with comments like: "mine jumps across the kitchen when I use it". So we spoke to the nice people at DB Domestic in Eastbourne and together we got it sorted.

One letter came in saying . . .

You are truly marvellous CWCF people and supporters. I am sitting here looking awestruck at our new washing machine. I don't know how to thank you except to say 'thank you' and to continue singing your names from the rafters to all and sundry. Thank you so very much. xxx

It's the simple things in life that make all the difference and I know I keep saying it, but without the support of you good people we wouldn't be able to do what we do, so those words above are meant for you.





# 18th BIRTHDAY & 'DREAM WISH'

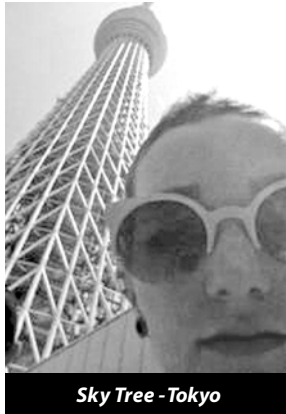
A wish and an 18th Birthday present from CWCF for one of our children/young ladies was the flight to see her friends in Japan. We told the family we had to pay the company direct and that we would pay part of the money towards her return flight, little did they know 'we had a plan!'

After sorting the bill out we got this lovely e-mail:

*Dear CWCF, We are all still stunned and speechless at your utter generosity. We did not expect this, especially as flights are so expensive at the moment! Unfortunately we were unable to book this any earlier as we had to have the go-ahead from the consultant this morning. We were simply delighted that we were able to get a flight at all. Josie booked the final seat outgoing. It is such a huge amount of money! We cannot thank you enough. Josie is so excited. She will be well looked after there by our dear friends who live in Tokyo. She will write all about her adventures on her return. You are amazing people with an equally amazing charity. You will probably never know just how much you do. A huge blessing to all the families you support.*

*A million thanks.*

*David, Annie, Josie and Thomas. x x x x*



Sky Tree - Tokyo

so generous and helpful, as all your families know how expensive it can be having a sick child in the family. What is special about CWCF is that you view us as families often with siblings, not just a sick child within the family. Unfortunately we could not always partake in CWCF planned events as Josie's treatment was at times intense. As Mum I was treated to a spa day at the Hilton Metropole Brighton which was very much appreciated. My husband and Josie's brother enjoyed football matches at the Albion, a treat for the sibling being very important as they are

often last in line for the little scraps of energy left at the end of the day. I had a fantastic evening with my son watching my first ever live football match at the fantastic Falmer stadium - I loved it! I had a special evening with my son together with Pete and his lovely son, shame Albion lost! The last three years have been intense, gruelling, very up and down, especially for Josie. Yet we have to say it has also been strangely very special; it has changed us all as a family and as individuals. So Josie is now 18, her most recent scans have been 'stable' which is unbelievably positive. Her journey is not over but she has remained strong and as positive as she could have been through all the surgery, chemo and radiotherapy, we are so proud of her. Josie has always had a love of all things Japanese, so last year she went to Tokyo with her Dad staying with Japanese friends that live there. Josie said she felt like she had arrived home. So now she is 18 we felt it would be good for her to go there again, travelling on her own, good for the independence she has lost over the last three years. We had to wait until the very last minute to book flights after scans and getting the OK from consultants. As a final treat from CWCF you have so generously helped towards her being able to get away. This was unexpected, we cannot thank you enough. Josie is delighted and excited; she will write telling you all about her trip on her return. Again we will probably never fully appreciate the importance of your charity but you are a small ray of warm sunshine on a road that is often dark, hard and at times bleak. When everything seems so distant you provide positive and practical support very near to home.

Thank you.



## Letter from Mum

Well, here we are at the point where our path with CWCF 'diverges' as our brave and gorgeous daughter Josie has recently had her 18th birthday. A massive milestone and a celebration particularly as there were many times we did not think that this would have been possible. It is in this celebratory spirit that we would like to say a huge, huge thank you to all at CWCF. As a family we met you first when Josie was 15 and diagnosed with a very rare tumour, thus we began the long and gruelling journey which all of your families face. CWCF have helped and supported us in so many ways. You provided us with treats when times were bleak, with all the details and planning taken care of as we had no energy to even think about arranging such an event.

A massive highlight for Josie early on was a trip to Chichester Theatre to see the musical production of Sweeney Todd, a favourite of Josie's. Josie was invited to go behind the scenes to see the stage set and meet the cast. It was thrilling and really inspired Josie at a low time in treatment. The vouchers we received were



# WHO RAISES THE

Fundraising is done by lots of different people with lots of different events. These are special people, those who organise it, run it, and then present us with a cheque at the end so we can carry on supporting the CWCF families



**Lloyds Bank Community Fund Winners**



**Beer mat mania**



**Eastbourne Mayor & Sheikh Gulzar supporting CWCF**



**Opening Tesco Express, Hailsham**



**Eastbourne Bonfire Society**



**Beachy Head Rotary Club**



**Fundraising at Polegate's Dickensian Event**



**Princess Diana Memorial Garden, Hampden Park**



**Support comes from many children's charities**

# MONEY FOR CWCF?

the way we do. Please support them, or even better, take two seconds out to say thank you to them for supporting CWCF, because the smiles you see in this newsletter are thanks to these people and the ones around them.



*Rotary Club Christmas collection*



*"Your Phone" fundraising day*



*Eastbourne TU Club*



*Star Inn, Old Town, Eastbourne*



*Yorkshire Building Society*



*Seaford Bonfire Society Presentation*



*Fashion Show in Brighton*



*Team Lillie donating money*

# Family W

With a generous donation CWCF were able to put on a ball fit for Cinderella who, along with her carriage, did make it to the ball, along with our CWCF children and families. In fact the princesses travelled from far and wide and didn't charge a farthing. The fabulous Eastbourne based 'Pentacle Drummers' opened the evening by drumming the guests into the dining room through arches of balloons, the room itself was decorated with chair covers from Glynde flower shop and the tables decorated by the Bongo Bash team. Table magicians, balloon artists and Captain Jack helped out



*'Maybe GaGa' having a great time, but the children had an even better time!*

# Winter Ball

**FEEDBACK**  
See next page for comments  
left on Facebook and e-mails

with any bored children until music from the band Hot Detroit's filled the room whilst guests ate. After dinner blackjack and roulette tables opened for fun, the sweet cart and chocolate fountain started flowing, and our special amazing guest appeared; Maybe GaGa. She entered the room and entertained from the heart, allowing the children to be her backing artists. Captain Jack had sword fights with balloon swords and everyone enjoyed themselves as the evening ended with the Kevin Walker Disco. A truly amazing night and one where special memories were made.





# Family Winter Ball



Comments left on Facebook and e-mails

## Comments from Families

What a lovely evening we had, thank you so much. It was lovely to get the chance to meet some of the other parents. And I loved playing Black Jack.

Thank you so very, very, very, very much for giving all of us such an amazing evening at the ball last night! Everything had been planned so beautifully and it was lovely to see all the children and families having such a great time together. It was an evening we will always remember, thanks to you both, and we want to thank you once again for everything you have done for us.  
Best wishes to you and your fantastic team.

Thank you all very much for the fantastic night you hosted on Saturday, we had a thoroughly great time. The room was lovely, the company wonderful and it made me very happy to see all the children so excited. C liked Maybe Gaga and Captain Jack and H enjoyed the FIFA challenge. (I think another challenge along those lines for teenagers in the future would go down well with H). Please could you forward a copy of this email to the Bongo Bash gentleman because it is important to me to let them know that all the hard work they do does make a difference to a family with a child with cancer, of course that applies to the hard work that the Children With Cancer Fund does as well.  
Thank you all so very much.

Just wanted to say a very big thank you for all your hard work to make last night such a great success. We had such a lovely time, it was a real treat and the children are full of all that went on, and the excitement of it, they can't decide which was the best bit although as we have a lot of photos of the chocolate fountain I think that would come in the top three!

Please thank all the sponsors from us and everyone who contributed to making the evening such a success. So lovely to meet up with everyone again and V was very excited to see the nurses from The Alex all dressed up.  
You're absolute stars - thank you.

Oh what a night!  
Thanks so much once again for a magical, extra special evening last night. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and felt extra special,

like celebrities!

Thank you so much for all your hard work in organising this event, it went seamlessly and we know that doesn't come without a huge amount of very meticulous planning and attention to detail.

Our huge thanks to yourselves, Anna, Bongo Bash and everyone at CWCF who made this amazing event possible. We love you all.

We would just like to say a big thank you for all the effort you and your team put into Saturday night. It was a great evening and we all really enjoyed it. The children had a great time and I'm sure they'll remember it for a long time.

Thank you so much CWCF for the most amazing evening ...totally blown away with how fantastic tonight was, a huge thanks to you all.

Big thank you to all the CWCF team for a lovely evening full of sparkle and surprise - we had a fantastic time. x

Thank you so much for organising such a great night, we all had a brilliant time.

Thank you so much for a fab evening we really enjoyed ourselves and seeing S so happy made our evening. The work you all do is simply amazing - keep it up.

Thank you for a fabulous evening! Wonderful to catch up with friends old and new and such lovely memories to treasure. Xxxx

We had such a great time, blown away by the generosity of all you marvellous CWCF people and your fabulous sponsors. Thanks so much Chris and Ursula and team for working so long and hard to create a truly memorable evening. Lots of love. Xxxx

Thank you so much to all who organised the CWCF Winter Ball, we had so much fun and loved everything about it, you truly do make dreams come true.

## Comments from Invited Guests

Thank you for inviting us to your ball last night. Everyone enjoyed it especially the children.

Well done for arranging it. You should feel very proud.

Just to say I had a thoroughly good time. I thought the whole evening was fantastic. You should be very proud of yourselves

for organising such an event.

It was lovely to watch the children enjoying themselves, and the parents relaxing.

Although I didn't get my X-Box training, I made up for it with a "workout" on the dance floor.....

Thank you all once again for the invitation. (Comment from Accountants)

Just wanted to thank you both for a lovely evening - we really enjoyed it. Despite all that the families are going through they were happy which shows that the compassion and care that you show them really makes a difference to their lives. Although a lot of people say thank you to you, I would like to say that it is difficult to measure what you do for these families and you should be proud of yourselves.

Thank you so much for inviting us to your amazing ball last night, it truly was the most fantastic night, every single little detail had been thought of and was in place. Such an honour to have been invited and share this special event with some of our families thank you, thank you, thank you - a night to always be remembered (comment from Conquest Community Nurse).

Hey lovely people

Firstly just want to say what a fabulous evening, we felt extremely humbled to be with so many young people and parents who were so happy and having a fantastic time. It was organised extremely well and so much to do.

Thanks so much for inviting us - it makes us want to do more!

I said to P that if we won the lottery big time, we would certainly get behind the charity and certainly would fund a big event yearly for all these wonderful children and parents.

A HUGE WELL DONE TO YOU GUYS AND YOUR SUPPORTING TEAM (Comment from a Hired Co)

Thank you so much for inviting us, we had an amazing time! Love from the Demelza girls.

Huge thank you to all the organisers of tonight's event! Good job you folks! Best Wishes from 'The Bongo Bash' gang.

Thank you for booking us, it was an absolute honour to attend such an amazing event for truly amazing people. (Comment from a Hired Co)

## WHO WE ARE!



**NEIL PRINGLE** Patron  
(BBC Southern Counties Radio)

## OUR COMMITTEE



**CHRIS** Chairman  
**URSULA** Treasurer  
Founders/Trustees



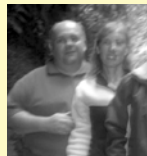
**TONI** Trustee  
**RAY**



**ASHLEY**  
Vice-Chairman



**KAREN & RICHARD**  
'Friends of CWCF'  
Secretary



**JAMES** Founder/Trustee  
**KIRSTY** Founder



**PETE** Trustee  
**BEV**



**VICKY** Trustee



**PAULINE**

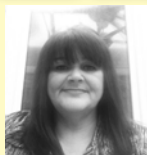


**ANNA**

## IN THE OFFICE



**CAROLINE**



**PAULA**



**KEVIN**  
IT Support

# CHILDREN

## WITH CANCER FUND

### NEWSLETTER



## THANK YOU

There are so many people, groups and businesses that have helped CWCF this year and for this we are truly grateful. Unfortunately we only have a limited number of pages in the newsletter so we can't do stories on everyone of you, but we really do appreciate all of your efforts. Please accept this as a personal thank you from all of us and the families we have supported thanks to your money.

For those that don't know CWCF was set up in 1998 by Ursula & Chris Downton with Kirsty (Ursula's sister) & James Denny. We wanted to do something but could not decide what, so one evening we went around the table saying what we believed in. Two themes came out of the conversation and they were children and cancer. So from that night on we decided to marry the two together and call ourselves "CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND". Now with the help of other friends and family we still go out having fun raising funds to grant wishes to local children and their families who have had or are suffering from cancer.

## FRIENDS OF CWCF

If you would like to receive your next newsletter by post please fill out a form, just in case your street gets missed next time.

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EAST SUSSEX BN26 6EP

Telephone:  
01323 488561

Email:  
info@childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk

Web:  
www.childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk

### Please enrol me as a FRIEND of CWCF

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Date.....

I can deliver your newsletter in my area

I enclose a donation of £..... for my "Friends" membership (optional)

Please tick this box if you would like to gift aid your donation