



Plymouth and District Leukaemia Fund Newsletter June 2019

AGM

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 9th April.

Below is a summary from the 2018 PDLF Trustees Annual Report:

Activities in the year

The main focus of activity for the last few years has been supporting the project to extend Bracken Ward which is the inpatient facility for the Peninsula Stem Cell Unit. During its construction the number of inpatient beds was reduced, and this has meant that haematology patients requiring less intensive care were treated on other wards. For several years there has been a intention to create a larger integrated unit to accommodate all the haematology patients in adjacent space. However, this required other wards to be moved first to create the necessary room. By mid-2018, these preliminary steps had been achieved, plans agreed and tenders for the work requested. A contract was placed in January 2019 and work is to commence shortly. PDLF had agreed to fund part of the work but initially were unable to give firm commitment as the full costs and specification were unknown. These have been clarified and PDLF has offered to pay for 50% of the cost (up to a sum of £200,000) and is currently awaiting the response from the Trust.

Fundraising efforts have been primarily aimed at raising money for this project. In addition, PDLF is funding a PhD Studentship whose holder is currently in her second year. Fundraising activities have included a Camping weekend, raffles (for which a licence is held from Plymouth City Council) and there are also numerous donations from patients, carers and memorials to support the work of the Fund.

Public Benefit

PDLF funds improvements in facilities for patients with malignant haematological conditions and which they would not receive in the current state of the NHS. The research contributes to improvements in medical progress, understanding and treatment of these devastating diseases. Any member of the public can develop these diseases, at any age, and their relatives and friends are severely affected. These funds are spent to benefit people living in Plymouth and SW Peninsula geographical area.

Financial Review

Despite the large commitment (£200,000) for the extension of Bracken Ward, because PDLF has been fundraising for several years and there have been delays in the implementation of the project, the funds are available to cover the current commitments (which are outlined in the Financial Statement). There are no debts or loans and the Fund does not own property. We have a Financial Policy which states the employment is via third parties to whom a grant is made and is on a fixed term basis. The investment philosophy is low risk with protection of capital. The capital held by PDLF will substantially fall when the ward project is completed. Expenditure is agreed by Trustees and requires two signatures from nominated Trustees. No funds are held with custodian trustees.

Looking forward

PDLF is hopeful that 2019 will see the completion of the extension of Bracken Ward with benefit to local haematology patients. This will be the culmination of several years' work.

Following the meeting there was a very interesting and informative talk from Sean Carey, Principal Clinical Scientist about Stem Cell Transplants: finding a match.

Fund raising & Donations

London Marathon



Carwyn Lewis ran the London Marathon in memory of his Father-in-law, Malcolm Leftley and raised £971 for PDLF (& rising). The family wanted to thank the nursing staff for their hard work and dedication, as they work tirelessly to look after all the very ill patients. We, in turn thank them for their support.



Asda

For those who do not shop at Asda, you may not be aware that they operate a green token scheme. When a shopper spends a certain amount, they are given green tokens which they can vote for a local charity with. A cheque was recently received by PDLF for the value of £200.00

Trematon WI Coffee Morning

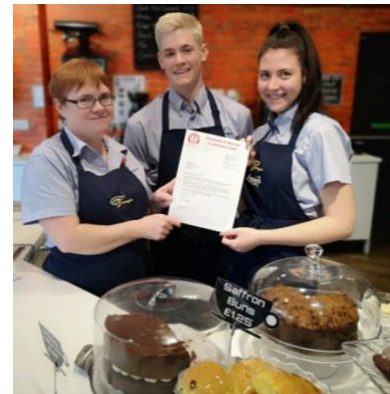
Thank you to Dawn James and the Trematon WI who raised £462 from their coffee morning and raffle.

River Dart Country Park Weekend: 14th – 16th Sept.

To mark the 25th Anniversary of Chris Allen being a trustee of PDLF he



organised a Camping and Caravan weekend at the River Dart Country Park, and raised £451.00 for PDLF including money raised



in collection tins at GT Motorcycles Legends Cafe. Thank you to everyone involved.

Update from the ward extension

As reported in the AGM Extract above, the ward extension work started earlier in the year. These photos were taken in early May and as I type, the first bay is open and being used by patients.



EBMT

PDLF funded the registrations for 3 nurses to attend the 45th Annual Meeting of European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation in Frankfurt, Germany.

Farewells on the Unit

This is a photograph taken at Carole Armitage's retirement in October. Carole is the lady standing third from the left. I asked Carole to write a piece about her very important work as I'm sure you will be interested to know about the work that goes on behind the scenes.



Carole's colleague Lucy Webber, who is standing at the far left of the photograph, will be continuing this important work; Haematology welcomes you to the team. *With the advent of Payment by Results (PBR), the Hospital was paid per patient, so accurate coding of diseases and relevant long term conditions became more important. The expansion of the amount of codes we could assign (there is basically no limit) on the computer systems we use. As a result of this the coding department has now expanded to 24 coders, some of whom specialise in certain areas of medicine i.e. Haematology ,Oncology Paediatric Oncology.*

All coders are now expected to become Accredited Clinical Coders (ACC) after approximately 3 years of coding experience. The qualification started in 1999 and I was one of the first coders in Derriford to take and pass it in 2004. That is not the end of coder's exams. Every 3 years coders have to re-validate their coding knowledge, by undertaking a week's worth of classroom study, followed by a day of examinations, to allow them to continue to practice.

Once I had gained my accredited status, I became the lead coder for Oncology, Haematology & Immunology.

It is a very busy Speciality. Over the years, we as a team have improved the way we record all information related to patients who have had treatment within the department and therefore maximise the amount of information that can be coded which in turn produces more income (under Payment by Results). We as a team realised that we were missing lots of coding data which was resulting not only in

loss of income but more importantly not truly reflecting in how hard the clinical staff were working.

The Haematology staff fully embraced the reasons , on why I used to 'badger' them with explanations about what they do and why they do it (and hopefully don't consider me to a pain). We have become a team all working in our different ways for the patient.

I retired in October and have handed on the coding mantle to Lucy Webber. I know that the Haematology department will continue making sure that with accurate information and team work they receive the due recognition they deserve. I in the meantime will be studying about Anglo-Saxons in Ancient Briton.

Forthcoming Event – A Parish Plod

A scenic 9 mile walk from The White Thorn in Shaugh Prior, taking you via Cadover, the Skylark in Clearbrook to the Royal Oak in Meavy on Saturday 20th July. This has been organised by Alisha West and friends in aid of PDLF in memory of her Grandmother and another lady in Shaugh Prior.

Fundraising from years past

When recently sorting through some old photographs I found these two taken in the late 90's. It was a bed push through the streets of Plymouth to collect money for



PDLF.

Jane Gilliam and I still work on the unit although we both had a break. We had a very enjoyable day and we raised some money along the way. I hope it might inspire others to consider a fund raising activity which I can feature in my newsletter.

Contact details

Jo Farrugia is still updating the membership/contact database. If there are any changes or if we can send the newsletter to you by e-mail rather than a hard copy through the post, then please send her or myself the new contact details. Jo's e-mail address is joanna.farrugia@nhs.net

If anyone has an event which they know is coming up or any photos you'd like uploaded to our Facebook or Twitter pages please email Sarah Bray at sarahbray@nhs.net

If you are holding any events we would also like to put them on our the web site, www.pdf.org.uk

My Contact details are:

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Best Wishes

Lesley