

The Peter Culverhouse Memorial Trust has just finished its second year. We have had a great year and have continued to grow in size.

The combination of a highly successful golf day on 9 June at Clandon Regis Golf Club, plus an increase in the number and size of individual donations, mean that when we closed the books on our second year at the end of October 2005 the PCMT had raised £10,985, up from £10,044.77 the previous year. Notable individual donations came from Legal and General, and from Mark and Trish Shepherd's wedding (in lieu of wedding favours, as well as being raised in a sweepstake at the reception, on the length of the best man's speech).

As well as the donations of money, we must also thank everyone who donated raffle prizes and auction items for the golf day. The golf day itself is run as a social event, to bring together family, friends and supporters of the PCMT - and although (through Dave Culverhouse's careful management) we made a profit again this year, it is the auction and the raffle that drive the fund raising side of the day. The founders of the PCMT must also again thank Dave and Yvonne, who put in the enormous amount of work required to arrange the day. Justin Mitchell of indium design continues to maintain our website (from Australia).

Full details of the accounts can be found on the website www.pgmt.org. The Trust is set up to provide an endowment for future years as well as donations now, and half of all donations are invested for the future. Our investment income last year rose to £681.46 after charges, and the investment income is wholly distributed to the SDRT and the Princess Alice Hospice. This all means that our two chosen charities will each receive £2916.62 - an increase of over 11% on last year. The endowment stands (very broadly) at £20,000 - earning an income for future years.

If anyone would like to donate who is not already doing so, details of how to go about giving are on the website www.pgmt.org. If you have any problems, contact Paul at pauldonovanuk@hotmail.com. We have another golf day already booked for 9 June next year (a Friday) at Clandon Regis once again, and we are looking to arrange a London based fundraiser as well.

If anyone is not on this email list who you think should be, or if addresses are not up to date, please feel free to forward, or contact pauldonovanuk@hotmail.com to be added on for future newsletters.

On behalf of the founders of the PCMT and David and Yvonne, many thanks to everyone who has contributed over the past year. We are all very proud to have kept the momentum of the PCMT going, and hope that we can maintain this level of support in the year ahead.

Mark, Nick, Paul and Tom

Our beneficiaries: The Princess Alice Hospice, Esher

The Princess Alice Hospice cared for Peter at the end of his illness, and receives half of the funds dispersed by the PCMT.

The last year has seen a great deal of change as far as the Princess Alice Hospice is concerned. The hospice buildings were no longer up to the task of providing the care needed for the patients. As a result the medical facilities of the old hospice were demolished shortly after we presented our initial donation last year, and rebuilding is now well under way. Once the new facilities are completed, there will be 28 beds in total of which 22 will be in single rooms with en-suite bathrooms, thus providing privacy, dignity and better infection control. This means The Princess Alice Hospice will be able to admit 25% more patients. There will also be a larger Day Hospice with greatly improved facilities, as well as space for the entire 20 strong community nursing team.

The cost of the redevelopment is estimated at £8.75 million. However, the Princess Alice Hospice Trustees have carefully set aside over £5m towards this development. The Dig Deep Appeal was launched by TV presenter Chris Tarrant at the topping out ceremony earlier this month. This appeal is hoping to raise £3 million for the new Hospice.

Building work will continue at Esher until Summer of 2006. Until then the Hospice has in-patients at wards in nearby Leatherhead and Weybridge Hospitals. Weybridge is also housing the Day Hospice, while community nurses are continuing to care for many hundreds of patients in their own homes.

An Open Day will be held next summer before staff and patients move in so fund-raisers may view the new facilities.

Further information can be found on the website www.pah.org.uk.

Our beneficiaries: The Samantha Dickinson Research Trust

The PCMT trustees wanted to help fund research into brain tumours, and do so through the SDRT, which receives half of our annual dispersal of funds.

The Samantha Dickinson Research Trust Fund has become the largest single funder of laboratory based brain tumour research in the UK. its aim is to fund research into low grade gliomas, which Peter suffered from. Having completed another record breaking eighth year of continued growth the SDRT has produced a three year plan which looks not only to further increase laboratory and clinical brain tumour research, but to increase its patient support service for both children and adults.

On the specialist support side, a telephone conference support calls system has been set up and the first Astro Fund Conference Support facilitators have just finished training. Telephone conference support calls, will be hosted by specialist health professionals, such as Neuro-Oncology Nurses, MacMillan Cancer Nurses and Epilepsy Nurse Specialists will offer an opportunity to share emotions and experiences in a caring and knowledgeable environment, whilst avoiding the inconvenience of travel. Calls will last for one hour and can accommodate up to 5 patients or carers at a time in their own homes. All phone calls will be met by SDRT Astro Fund and people will be grouped according to their individual needs and interests. The service will be available to patients and carers from December 2005.

Part of the PCTM donation to the SDRT goes to fund research by Dr. Jeremy Rees of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London. He is studying the growth kinetics of low-grade gliomas, something which has not been systematically explored by any other group in the world. In doing so has gathered data unequalled in any previous research projects of this type. Some exciting results from this work have been published, which may lead to the tailoring of treatment for individual patients - some details are in the case studies section of www.pcmnt.org.

For further information the website address is www.sdrct.co.uk.