

## **Chairman's Speech, AGM 2008**

I would like to warmly welcome you to the 2008 AGM of the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. We have again enjoyed a successful 12 months and this is likely to be one of our busiest years to date. Fundraising continues to flourish and we have been fortunate recipients of several large fundraising events this year; including the Conservative Party Summer Social Event attended by our Patron David Cameron. We benefited from an extremely generous "Auction of Promises" which raised a five figure sum and also an outstanding effort from a team of the Witney Harriers who all ran the London Marathon on our behalf. We enjoy widespread and committed support from all quarters of the community and there continues to be a steady income from a very wide diversity of sources. We all appreciate so much the efforts made on our behalf.

Community based palliative care continues to grow in profile nationally and is set to become the gold standard model of care for the future. In April the Oxfordshire PCT announced its commitment to support such services and I understand that under the leadership of Bernadette Ross, Katharine House Hospice is setting up a pilot scheme to offer home nursing care for patients in Banbury and surrounding areas. Having been established now for nearly 10 years we are seen as an important resource to future developments and after all their help it has been a joy to lend some of our experience back to Katharine House!

This year I am sad to announce that two of our most pivotal Trustees have decided that now is the right time for them to step down. Both Rosemary Moss and Peter Davison have been very actively involved with the service from its earliest inception and were key to getting the service off the ground to the very well established organisation we see today.

Rosemary had already retired from her position as manager of Chipping Norton Community Hospital, but brought with her a wealth of experience which was vital to our early success. I have always been immensely impressed how up to date Rosemary's knowledge of all aspects of nursing have remained, both in the clinical & political areas, despite having been retired from front line nursing for a long time. She has offered us invaluable advice and practical help in so many ways during the past nine years and her influence will be greatly missed. I am delighted that Jane Cannon, a practice nurse in Stow-on-the-Wold, and very well known to many of us, has agreed to join our medical group with a view to taking over Rosemary's role when and if the time is right.

Dr Peter Davison was senior partner at Whitehouse surgery when we founded. We were extremely fortunate that he had a special interest in Terminal Care and during his sabbatical in the run up to his retirement, used the time to develop his skills and undergo further training in palliative care in New Zealand. For several years after finishing in General Practice he continued to work as a Clinical Assistant in Palliative Care for the Sue Ryder Hospice just outside Cheltenham. Peter has always been a wise and steadfast influence both in matters clinical but also for the many other aspects of running a charitable organisation. We valued his time as Chairman and his advice and sound judgement, at difficult times, has been greatly appreciated by all of us. He has promised to continue to support us and we all wish him well for the future.

It has been a very difficult year for our nursing co-ordinator Jenny Nolan with the unexpected death of her father and recently further family sadness. We all greatly appreciate her tremendous professionalism and continued commitment to staff and patients despite these personal challenges. On a lighter note I was very pleased by the news that our local Rotary has successfully nominated Cicely Maunder and Nicky Knott for awards for their outstanding contributions to the work for the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. These are so richly deserved as both have been EQUALLY (...an absolute dead heat!!!) towering influences and hugely contributed to the fantastic achievements of the past nine years. I would also like to thank the many other people who year by year make regular but vital contributions. In particular Mr & Mrs Blake and Ronald Speirs who collect the collection boxes from the many far flung locations.

As I continue to maintain our primary objective remains being in a position to rapidly respond to any referral in our catchment area and, wherever possible, to allow that person to die at home with the very best possible quality of nursing care. However, we continue to wish to work with any group or organisation that can help us achieve or improve our service. I am therefore delighted that George Hedges from ROSY has agreed to share with us the work that his organisation does. We look forward to hearing from him. There is no question that there is increasing desire to see community based palliative care services as the preferred model for the future. Although the PCT have pledged support, and despite being an ideal blueprint for this sort of care, we have as yet not been approached to help implement this service more widely. We would be very happy to share our expertise to enable others to emulate our achievement.

Last month I was interviewed on Radio Oxford about the Lawrence Home Nursing Team. Although I was promised it would not be a John Humphries

style experience the interviewer did ask me a question that I feel very passionate about: "Why do you think you should be responsible for all the effort of raising money for a service that should rightly be provided by the NHS". My answer remains unequivocal: If the LHNT had to compete for resources in the same way that other NHS services do then we simply could not guarantee the standard of care that we provide. Due to the exceptional fundraising of this fantastic community we are in the wonderful position of providing exactly the care we want, without the possible financial constraints often experienced by other health services. This is something the team, nurses, family members and patients, all deeply appreciate. It is the key to our success and something we cherish beyond anything else.

My thanks for all your support and my very best wishes again this coming year.

**Dr Jonathan Moore**