



New Year Greetings



Belated New Year greetings to you all!

We hope you all had a really good Christmas and that 2016 brings you happiness, good health and all that you wish for in life. We, at Crazy Hats, enjoyed a welcomed break but soon

got back into the buzz of things the minute we opened the office door, knowing we had had a wonderful 2015 in reaching the £2 million total and that we are facing another exciting year and a challenge in trying to find bigger and better premises in between holding all our usual events (and more) and attending events kindly put on for us. We look forward to meeting as many of you as we can as the year progresses and to welcoming more people to become part of the unique charity we are. **Happy reading!!!**



New Website

It is a well-known fact, in this world of modern technology, that a good, vibrant website is the flagship of any company, business and, of course, charities. Over the years we have been desperately trying to get it 'right' so now we are thrilled and proud to launch our new site which we think hits all the buttons. It has taken a long time to prepare and to go live, and it has, indeed, been a very steep learning curve having to absorb and remember so much technical information, but it has all been worth it – they do say you are never too old to learn! There is still a lot more we want to put on the site but already we feel it will enhance the work we do and get our name out there to attract more would-be donors and supporters. Please take a look at it

(www.crazyhatsbreastcancerappeal.co.uk) and let us know what you think. We are hoping that in the future most of our news will be reported via the website so as to avoid hefty postage costs. To date, people can enter our walk online and can download membership forms, other publications (e.g newsletters) and can make a donation via Just Giving, Virgin Money or by texting **CHBC09 to 70070** but we are working towards making more of our services available online such as a shop, which many people have asked for. Special thanks to web designer and friend, Mike Featherby, who has worked with us for years; for his hard work and patience in making this happen. Mike helped us to design our sister website: www.breastsreunited.co.uk but as this is somewhat dated we will be updating this and incorporating it into our main site.



Walk No. 14



Preparations are well underway for this year's Walk. Are we really on No. 14? As always, we are hoping for another huge turnout and, of course, hoping for a repeat of last year's sunshine. Hundreds of entry forms have been posted; banners will be everywhere and all the information you need to enter online can now be found on the website. Have a look at our new **"Tips for Fundraising"** on page 11 – it may help you to think of different ways to raise funds – funds that are crucial to us now that we are in the process of trying to secure bigger and better premises (as well as continuing to support the hospitals and run our support and therapy services). We thank you in advance for your support, for together we CAN make a difference. Have a great Walk!!



Special thanks to Avon who, for the 9th year running, have sponsored the Walk to a tune of £10,000 which covers the cost of the t-shirts, medals, certificates and

goody bags. Thank you too, to Wicksteed Park, AO Copy, Premier, Northamptonshire Newspapers, Weetabix, Wardle and Keech and all the other kind-hearted and generous people who all pull together to make sure the day is a good one.

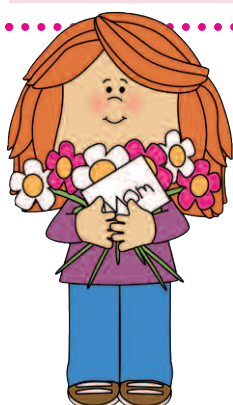
Crazy Hats
Breast Cancer Appeal
Supporting Breast Cancer Care in Northamptonshire

14th Annual Charity Walk
at Wicksteed Park, Kettering
Sunday March 20th 2016 - 10.30am Start

Walk hand-in-hand to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care in Northamptonshire

"Making a difference to breast cancer care in Northamptonshire"
For more details please contact us:
Tel: 01933 442999 crazyhats@btconnect.com
www.crazyhatsbreastcancerappeal.co.uk

Calling all cake makers!!!! Julia and her team will, once again, be running the popular cookie stall at this year's walk. For this she will need an ample supply of cakes – cakes that walkers can easily take away with them to eat whilst they walk. If you would like to donate any home-made cakes we really would be grateful if you could contact us – thank you. xx



"Everyone has a Mum!"

This is a fact that is true of everyone and to celebrate Mothering Sunday this year (Sunday March 6th) and our mums, whether they are with us or not, we will be in the Swansgate Centre in Wellingborough on Saturday March 5th with a very special pink tombola (with mums in mind) selling unique and affordable gifts that children could buy for their mums.



Up and coming events



What do we have planned this year? Already the diary is beginning to fill up with our usual events such as the pink days in the shopping centres, as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) and the summer carnivals but we are also looking at putting on some different events. Back, by popular demand, is our annual Ladies Who Love to Shop evening on April 27th and later in the year we may be having another – with a little twist to it. We always love it when others offer to organise events for us and we do our utmost to attend if possible.

Keep looking at the diary on the website and on our Facebook page to keep updated. If you feel you would like to organise a coffee morning / tea party / table top sale etc. for us please do get in touch. Also, if you are involved in any other fundraising events, raising funds for Crazy Hats by other means, such as running a marathon, doing a skydive, taking part in any sponsored event, again, please let us know so that we can help you. Special thanks to Rushden Golf Club whose men's captain has chosen us as their nominated charity of the year again – thank you to the past captain, Dave Chisholm, for his great support. On Friday May 13th Elaine Henson is organising a coach trip to Springfields (Cost approx. £10.00). Please let us know if you would like to join us.

Date for the diary: Hillside Nurseries Open Weekend - Finedon - 23rd/24th April. On April 9th the spring outing will be to Chatsworth House in Derbyshire and at the time of writing we have 5 tickets available £25 inc. of coach and entry.



Crazy Hats' Christmas:



Fun and games were held at the office and in Wellingborough in December when the Crazy Hats Team celebrated Christmas at the Hind Hotel in Wellingborough – we all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas dinner and the prizes in the crackers were brilliant. Thank you to the Hind management team for this.

The weekly Coffee and Chat morning prior to the Christmas break was a very lively affair with lots of laughter and good cheer. More fun was had when a coach load of supporters descended on London





for what is now an annual event to see a London Show, do a bit of shopping and have a meal. This year went to see The Lion King – superb!! Thank you to Marilyn, who donated a wonderful Christmas cake she won in a “name the lady on the cake” competition at the St. Andrew’s Christmas Fair, Kettering, in December which we had a stall at. Whoever made the cake is to be congratulated – we raffled it off at the office and over £90.00 was raised. Well done to Chris who won it and who enjoyed sharing it with many of her friends, family and visitors over the festive period.



Crazy Cookbook

A lot of charities have done this but we are aiming to produce a cook book that is really different and useful. Details of the project will be announced soon but for now, get your thinking hats on - if you have a favourite recipe that you would like to share with us dig it out and write it down. We will be in touch with you all again soon this is very exciting!



Waitrose / Rotary Trolley Dash



We had a great time standing in Waitrose in the build up to Christmas, standing alongside members of the Rushden Rotary Club, organisers of the event, selling raffle tickets for the lucky winner to win a 3 minute trolley dash around the store to the value of £400. There was a great atmosphere and customers were very generous, not only in purchasing tickets but giving donations too.



We thank all members of the Rushden Rotary Club for choosing us and Air Ambulance to donate the proceeds to and to Waitrose for hosting the week-long event. As yet, we are not sure how much has been raised or if the winner has done the ‘dash’! More news on this as it happens on the website.

Unwanted Gifts



With Christmas out the way we feel sure you have all received gifts that you may not be using over the year and have no need for. If we can help you to ‘declutter’ please bring any unwanted gifts to the office / or we can collect. Throughout the year we have many, many raffles and tombolas for which we need prizes. **Thank you.** xx

Premises/Coffee & Chat/Therapy mornings

In past newsletters we have spoken of our need to find bigger and better premises. We really are at the stage where we have to do this if the charity is going to continue with its support and therapy services. Every week we welcome more and more newly diagnosed ladies with breast cancer, from across the whole of Northamptonshire, who all come for that extra support and companionship hospitals cannot provide. With such a small hospitality area and a small therapy room that we rent across the way and have to set up on a weekly basis, we are struggling to accommodate all our visitors and feel frustrated and embarrassed that we do not have enough space and privacy for them. In addition the need is now there for our services to be made available for more than one morning a week.

Councillors, MP's and health officials have all visited and are of the same opinion but where do we go from here? There appears to be no land that is available for what is needed, and renovating old buildings would not be an option. Plans have been drawn up of our 'ideal haven' for Northamptonshire (thanks to Bob Allen) so we are staying firm with our belief that 'somewhere' out there, there must be a piece of suitable land for us. With that in mind we are now saving hard so that when the time is right we have the necessary funds to make a start and we are talking with various people from other walks of life who are showing an interest and may be able to help. Such a venture has to happen! If you know of any land that is for sale or of landowners/developers who would be sympathetic to our needs please do contact us and point us in their direction.



Here are just a few

Martin Cox	£144.50
Northants County Cricket Club (Beaujolais Lunch)	£3,000.00
Wellingborough United Reform Church	£134.00 + £50.00
Babs Waters	£20.00
Gill Osborne	£20.00
Southfield School	£106.00
Ultimate Physique	£1,321.00
Sheila Jeffreys	£5.00
Roger Bull (RB Travel)	£60.00
Anne & Tom Vickers	£25.00

Thank you for all our latest donations

Over the festive period we have received numerous kind and generous donations, all of which can be clearly seen on our website. It is always lovely that people think of us at this very busy and stressful time of the year; we are truly grateful, knowing that each donation is helping us to continue with the services we provide and give donations, on your behalf, to the hospitals to improve their services.

Elsie Johnson	£15.00
Jackie Kilsby	£20.00
I'Boro Salvation Army	£70.00
Claire Greely	£40.00
Miss J Coles	£20.00
Mrs Throssell	£220.00
Leicester Terrace Surgery	£35.00
KGH Coding Dept.	£15.00
Stanion Ct Group	£200.00
NGH Oncology	£55.84
Mrs Chapman	£25.00
In memory of the late Rita Allen	£660.00
In memory of the late Barbara March ..	£452.00
Fred Harris	£10.00
Mr & Mrs Osborne	£250.00
Tom Smith	£5.00



Hospitals

As always we are working very closely with personnel from both KGH and NGH breast care and oncology units. Over the past year we have welcomed many of them to our premises so they can see what we do and

understand the nature of the charity and why the need to find bigger premises. It has always been our intention to liaise with them to give the patients the support they need, especially during treatment and afterwards. We look forward to building on this aspect of our work. We also look forward to meeting with them to discuss future projects that we can help fund. Our other website: www.breastsreunited.co.uk will be either updated or incorporated into our new website in the near future after discussions with Leicester Royal Infirmary.



Christmas Craft Fair Update

After holding three Christmas Craft Fairs at the Tithe Barn in Wellingborough it is the intention to have a change of venue for 2016 and modify the way we hold this event. We would still love you to make items for us to sell – watch this space and on the website for updates.



Jean's collections

Jean Webb, a lovely lady in her eighties from West Sussex, travelled with her daughter Lorna, to Wellingborough, their car packed with large cardboard boxes full of hand-made knitted items she wanted to donate to Crazy Hats. Jean is well known to the charity having donated hundreds of items before, but this year she surpassed herself. Despite having been poorly, Jean spent the whole year knitting – she says it is her saviour. The boxes were full of knitted sets such as nativity scenes, maypole sets, Noah's Ark, with two of every animal imaginable, and numerous individual items ranging from snowmen, teddies and wonderful characters from the Beatrix Potter books – the list is endless. We are SO grateful Jean and truly appreciate and admire your support and dedication we could not resist surrounding

you with all your finished pieces – which were soon snapped up at our Christmas events, raising a lot more money for the cause. **Thank you!** xx

Quilt Raffle

Not only did Chris Clarke win the stunning Christmas cake that was raffled, she also won the beautiful black and white king-sized quilt that had been made and donated by Pam Hudson. Overall the raffle raised £550.00. Huge thanks to Pam again! Chris tells us she is going to donate it to her niece, together with a story of how the quilt came about and it will then be used as a family heirloom – a lovely idea.

Fashion Show a great SUCCESS!!!!

Sincere thanks to Elaine and Linda, our willing and brave volunteer models, all of whom had gone through the breast cancer journey, and M & Co. (Wellingborough) who put a great deal of work into organising this excellent event – a sell out! The Pemberton Centre in Rushden proved to be an ideal venue and I'm sure we'll be back for another – probably in the spring of 2017.





Behind the scenes, tension was high as the models dressed in their finery and waited to strut their stuff on the catwalk – they were all brilliant and the audience were in good voice to offer support and encouragement. By the time they'd gone down the catwalk three times they looked like naturals and modelled some really nice clothes. So much so, that M& Co. said they had a fantastic day in the shop the day after! With proceeds from an impressive raffle, ticket sales, donations and other sales over £4,100.00 was raised. Special thanks to Terry Benfield who did a fantastic job as our compère for the evening.



Pink Days

October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month) is always a very busy month for Crazy Hats and we loved being out in the shopping centres, raising awareness and selling our wares. Every venue where we stood resulted in higher takings than in previous years. Thank you to everyone who came along to support us.

Swansgate Centre (Wellingborough) (1)	£ 2410.23
Swansgate Centre (Wellingborough) (2)	£ 862.13
Newlands Centre (Kettering)	£ 1443.57
Grosvenor Centre (Northampton)	£ 1454.55
Weston Favell Shopping Centre	£ 719.95
Corby Town Centre	£ 1423.73



In addition to our 'Pink Days' other people around the county organised pink-themed fundraisers for us. We were thrilled that Sir Christopher Hatton School in Wellingborough chose us again as their charity



and the 6th Form organised a school cake sale with many of the students dressing up in pink clothing. It was lovely to go along to the cake sale and to see the youngsters enjoying themselves, but also to hear from them why they were doing it and what it meant to them. At a special presentation at their Christmas Carol Concert it was announced that they had raised over £1,600!!

Vintage Tea Delightful!



Our thanks go to Andrea Curtis and her dad, Barry, President of Wellingborough Cricket Club, for allowing us to use their premises, to put on a vintage afternoon tea for 50 supporters. Not having done one of these before we were not really sure how it would go it was brilliant!! Everyone dressed for the occasion and members of the Crazy Hats

committee and supporters worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and on the day making sandwiches, laying tables and putting up decor to create a memorable afternoon. Thanks go to Julie Rolton for the loan

of her vintage crockery and to others who donated cups, saucers etc. and to everyone who kindly made a multitude of scrumptious cakes suitable for the occasion. Guests certainly enjoyed a good spread and even had goody bags to take home. We think the photos do the event proud!



Talented Sugarcrafters!

Christine Stanford from Finedon, a loyal member and supporter of Crazy Hats is a very talented sugar crafter. Earlier in the year we were invited to one of their monthly meetings to judge a competition they held where members worked on the theme

of "Ascot" to make cake decorations. The exhibits were stunning and judging almost proved impossible, the standards were so high. Having watched a demonstration, those of us who went along were intrigued and thought how





lovely it would be if Christine were to teach a group of our ladies to do basic sprays. We booked two sessions (again at Wellingborough Cricket Club) and were surprised and delighted with our achievements – we were hooked! Christine was, and is, a wonderful (and patient) teacher. Another session is thought to take place in the spring. If you are interested please let us know. Also, if sugarcraft appeals to you, why not get in touch with Christine who will tell you more about her Guild and the classes they organise?

2016 Virgin London Marathon

Once every four years we get just one place in the London Marathon being part of the Bronze Bond Scheme we signed up to a few years ago. We have always protested about this knowing how many places the larger charities get (and often unused). This year we were pleased to see that smaller charities were offered the chance to enter a special ballot to gain a further place for 2016 and delighted to hear we had secured a place. Within minutes of knowing one of our sponsors from Anstee & Co. Ltd in Kettering said they would like to run for Crazy Hats so, come on Andrew!!! We are all behind you as are your friends and family. Anstee have pledged they would like to raise £10,000 and have already organised fundraising events to get the total going. A special Just Giving page will be set up for Andrew if anyone would like to sponsor him. Thank you Andrew! Thank you Anstee & Co.!



Bra Buddies!

Very often people walk through our doors offering their help and support. This comes in many different forms and Ann Payne's offer certainly was very different! Ann is a member of the Billing Parish Knitting Group and she and her team have been meticulously making knitted bra buddies – knitted false boobs that are made of very delicate wool and filling that can be made to suit your size and colour. Ann has been over to the office a few times now and ladies who have had mastectomies have really been impressed with them, have tried them and like them, saying how comfortable and soft they are against the skin, whilst giving a natural look when covered. Ann has left a variety of these 'buddies' with us and has said they are given freely to ladies who need them. Ann has said the buddies can be made to fit to the lady's size. We are very grateful to the knitting group and really appreciate what they are doing to help patients at a very difficult time in their lives. For more information why not contact Ann? Georgina at Jeys the Chemist in Earls Barton has kindly taken a stock but they may not be on open display, so anyone wanting one will have to ask a member of their staff. There is a small changing area for trying them on to ensure they are the right size. Ann is now working on some Aqua Buddies to wear in swim suits.

Email: ann.payne@tesco.net

Tel: 01604 411671 Mobile: 07904041824

Taken too soon...

Through the work we do we often get to know some of our visitors to the office very well so it always hits us hard when, sadly, we hear they have passed away. In particular we would like to offer our sincere condolences and our love to the family and friends of those we have recently lost:

Tania Beck

Sarah Gee

Liz Elliott

Rita Allen

Pauline Doherty



and to others we may not have met or befriended but thought of Crazy Hats by offering donations in lieu of flowers – we are truly grateful. Even though loved ones may have been taken too soon, our door is still open to those left behind.

Fundraising Tips . . .



We hope that when considering raising funds for our charity it is because Crazy Hats is a cause close to your heart and a charity that you care deeply about. We are, of course, very grateful for whatever you donate but to help you raise as much as you can, especially if you are looking to secure sponsors, we have put together a list of fundraising tips that may help you.

Start early!

Set a challenging but attainable goal and continue to raise it

*Create your own fundraising page or simply donate online with either **Just Giving** or **Virgin Money**. Online fundraising is fast, easy and safe. It lets you promote your challenge, contact all your supporters in one go, wherever they are, and raises funds securely. If you fundraise online the money goes direct to Crazy Hats so you don't have to handle it yourself and sponsors are more likely to **Gift Aid** their donation – maybe giving more*

Contact everyone you know. Put together a list of friends, family, co-workers, neighbours, club members, people that you see on a regular basis

Customise your request – include a personal story – why you are raising money – why it is important to you and say where the money is going and how it will be used

Set dates to follow up your sponsors – update them – give them a 'last chance' and a deadline

Ask! Don't be shy – people need to be prompted and reminded

Add social media to the mix ... Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn ... to update friends and with a direct link to your fundraising page. Social media can get your message out to wider audience

Consider creating your own simple fundraising card that has your personal fundraising page details on and give it out to all your contacts – an easy way for donors to donate direct online

Organise as a team to raise funds. Team atmosphere will help foster friendly competition, inspiration, encouragement and participation - spread the word as much as possible

Ask your employers if it is possible to match fund the total, or part total, of the amount raised

Send, give out 'thank you' notes after you have raised your total – a simple thing to do yet very powerful

If you choose to have a hard copy sponsor form take it with you wherever you go

Above all, be happy and confident. Your enthusiasm will persuade others to donate and may even encourage others to take part in the event too

*Remember!!! Donations can be increased by asking people to **Gift Aid** their donations. (This is an extra 25% on every eligible donation)*

*If none of the above are for you and you would like to make a donation
TEXT CHBC09 to 70070*

If you really don't like asking people to sponsor you why not organise a fundraiser of your own? e.g. a cake sale, dress-down day, book sale, table top sale, collect loose change – the possibilities are endless!

XX THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT XX

Welcome new Committee members:

The philosophy of Crazy Hats is that we do not want the charity to get bigger; we want to get better at what we do and what we provide. To do this, ironically, we do need a larger team so we are delighted to welcome aboard new committee members: Leanne Byrne, Chris Clarke and Pat Thomas, all of whom have become friends of Crazy Hats through having had breast cancer and getting to know us by attending the weekly coffee and chat sessions. Having welcomed Sarah Barnes and Megan Ablett recently, the team is becoming stronger. We look forward to exciting times ahead!

Membership

Membership numbers remain steady at around 250 and new members are always welcomed. At £15.00 a year we keep you informed of all our latest news and events and invite you to all that we are doing as well as having an open-door policy at the office. Your membership fee helps Crazy Hats with a lot of its administrative work and office costs. If you know of anyone who would like to join please ask them to get in touch. To all current members we truly value your support and would love to see more of you at our events. We would also love to meet those who have joined by post and are unknown to us why not call in for a coffee?

Finally

Whilst on our Facebook page recently we noticed Crazy Hats had been tagged by member, Lynne Bell, who made a career change and a return to a different kind of work following treatment for breast cancer. She said, ***"Thanks to the Crazy Ladies at the Crazy Hats Breast Cancer Appeal who hugged me, dusted me off, shook off the cobwebs and put me back on my feet – making me laugh again in the process"***.

Thank you Lynne! We wish you all the very best for the future and we are so pleased were able to help you.

Bestbuys (The Great Outdoor Store) in Wellingborough are looking to crown an official "Charity of the year" this Valentines Day who will have their full support during 2016.

Contact: **charity@rocket-creative.com** or post your nomination on their Facebook page. Voting ends on 13th February - winner announced on 14th February.

PLEASE NOMINATE CRAZY HATS!!

We look forward to updating you again soon.

**Please don't be a stranger –
if you are in Wellingborough please
call in to see us.**

Follow us on Facebook

