

# The Gloucestershire Chest Fund Ltd

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give with confidence

## Newsletter 3/2010

Dear Friends,

*I believe we should always try to explain why we are raising money, what the equipment does and why it is needed. Since I don't have the medical knowledge needed to do this properly I usually call on Dr. Ian Mortimore of Cheltenham General Hospital and ask him to put the project into layman's language. This is how he explains portable Ultrasound scanners:*

### Chest Ultrasound: Portable Sonosite Equipment

A common problem in respiratory medicine is the development of a pleural effusion. This is fluid which accumulates between the outside of the lung and the inside of the chest wall. The overall effect is to gradually compress the lung which can cause shortness of breath/discomfort.

There are many causes of pleural effusions and it is, therefore, important to be able to find the cause in each individual patient. In order to do this, we may need to sample the pleural fluid and / or drain it off completely. Until recently, these procedures were performed blind, based purely on clinical assessment with respect to the site and size of the pleural effusion. Ultrasound scanners allow us to visualise the effusion before we aspirate fluid or drain fluid off and we can then be sure we are passing needles and chest drains through the chest wall in the correct position. The ultrasound equipment should, therefore, improve patient safety with respect to investigation and treatment of pleural effusions. The improved patient safety associated with chest ultrasound has been recognised by The National Patient Safety Agency who now recommends its use.

Ian Mortimore  
Consultant Chest physician

*I'm delighted to report that, thanks to your generosity and hard work two of our medical Trustees, Dr. Mortimore and Dr Raghuram together with our Vice Chairman of Trustees, Fiona Miles and I presented the first of these scanners to Cheltenham General Hospital on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>. September. Well done everyone!*

### How about E.B.U.S.?

*There can be no denying that this has dragged on a bit but I am happy to report that the project has been approved by NHS and the equipment will shortly be presented. The various Committees of the Primary Care Trust have completed their investigations and the equipment will be purchased and presented in the near future.*

### Good Bye to a lovely lady

*Vera Evans, a staunch supporter of the Gloucestershire Chest Fund from its beginning passed quietly away on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>. August 2010. She was 83. Always cheerful and helpful she was carried from the church to the crematorium in typical Vera fashion – to the strains of Gracie Fields singing 'Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye.*



#### Vera Evans – One of a kind!

*Vera was never found wanting in her support. She collected money, she saved money, and she raised money. She also solicited prizes for every draw and she did it with a smile. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her*

### Now on to Christmas

*Once a year we ask you to sell draw tickets. Now is the time. Once again the prizes are excellent with the two major prizes being donated by the Chairman of Trustees, Bernard Cooper. Please sell your allocation and ask for a*

few more if you can. Please make a note of the date of the Christmas Social when we will do the draw, be fed and entertained for a very modest charge. All we want is your company!

**Friday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, St. Georges Hall, Court Road, Brockworth, Gloucester 7.00pm till 10.00pm**

### **Good News and Good News!**

#### **Fundraising Round up**

*It's been a busy year. We have conducted store and street collections most weekends. We've had several sponsored events. The Cheltenham Circular Challenge went well, the sponsored skittles match at the Rising Sun, Hartpury was a most enjoyable evening except that we lost the match! However the Chest Fund wins because it seems likely that when the sponsorship is all collected we will raise £700.00. Simon and Matt Smith and Heather Somerville completed the Cheltenham Lido Triathlon on the 12<sup>th</sup>. September and although it is still too early to know how much they raise I would imagine it will approach £500.00*

*The great thing about fundraising is that it is fun. The people we meet are always supportive and friendly. The equipment we provide is needed and not currently available from NHS sources. The satisfaction of helping patients less fortunate than ourselves is priceless. Why not contact me and give it a try?*

#### **Collecting Box Gallery**

**Food Court 1 Eastgate Mall Food Court 2**

**Sweet Success (St. John's Lane) Comfy Pew (College St.)**



Terry Adams, one of our most active Trustees, has always believed that we could make more of our collecting boxes. The four sites pictured above were placed by Pat Dowling and you'd have to agree they look happy to be supporting the Gloucestershire Chest Fund. What about it? Can you find a successful site? I have plenty of boxes!

#### **Loose Change Boxes.**

Earlier this year we sent you all a 'Loose Change Box'. The result more than covered the cost but activity now seems to have quietened off. Did you fill yours? Do you need me to come and collect the money? I'm always willing to do that! They do 'recycle' but perhaps not more than two or three times so if you need a replacement please let me know, I have a fresh supply.

#### **Please Help**



The picture on the left shows Carol Dowling collecting in Cheltenham. That on the right shows Carol collecting in Cirencester assisted by Bernard Cooper, Chairman of Trustees. They seem to be enjoying it!  
**Will you help please?**

#### **Volunteers Needed**

It's generally agreed that current T.V. programs leave much to be desired. Gloucester are not playing good rugby and Cheltenham Robins have played better football. You may as well come out, enjoy yourselves and help us raise money to help our hospitals to help you. All it takes is a phone call. Ron Hannam, 01452 300212 (Office) 01452 536202 (Home) 07767 014937 (mob). I'd love to speak with you.

Take care and thank you for all your support

Ron Hannam