

Hope for Tomorrow & Tenovus Update – May 2011

Fellow Lions,

Although there is no updated total to give you this month, there is still plenty of news to give you.

Now let's find out what is going on within Hope for Tomorrow.

Belinda Bertie writes:-

“Our first Mobile Chemotherapy Unit is now back, fully operational – and looking fabulous following the recent refurbishment mentioned in my last up-date to Lions. The nurses tell us that they – and of course the patients - are already noticing the benefits of the improvements made to the Unit. The new chemotherapy chairs look very smart too!”

By the time the June 105W Lions News Update is published our third full size Mobile Chemotherapy Unit will have arrived with us ready for its first public appearance at the Hope for Tomorrow Charity Polo Day on Saturday 25th June at Beaufort Polo Club – prior to becoming operational! I hope to be able to give you good news on its destination shortly!”

Enough funds have been raised for a nurses Support Vehicle to accompany the new Mobile Chemotherapy Unit which will save much valuable treatment time as the nurses will be able to travel direct to meet the Unit and give treatment straight away.

Thank you all again for your generous continued support”.

Thank you, Belinda.

Now let's hear from Natalie Kell of Tenovus. Natalie writes:-

Tenovus is delighted to be able to provide you with several updates about the mobile unit activity and other fundraising and health awareness initiatives that have taken place over the last couple of months.

In addition to the weekly support clinics and chemotherapy treatments the unit provides, we recently launched the first of our ‘Mobile Mondays’ which took place in Barry near Cardiff. The mobile Mondays will take place on a monthly basis and allow us to take our unit to various locations in Wales to promote cancer awareness in the community. The day in Barry was a huge success with local MPs, GPs, local schools and the general public coming on board to view the facility as well as engaging with our staff on various issues.

After visiting the Tenovus team and the mobile unit in Barry Island, Alun Cairns MP said: “This is a fantastic facility, and I will do everything I can to encourage the NHS to work with Tenovus and use their mobile cancer support unit at every opportunity.

“The Tenovus mobile unit can help provide support and cancer treatments to people in their own communities, without having to visit a hospital that may not be local or convenient for them to travel to and from.

“I was really impressed to find out that the on-board services offered at the mobile centre included cancer treatments, counselling, welfare rights advice and an on-board health check.

“I will be encouraging more schools in the Vale to invite the mobile centre to visit them, as I think it’s a great way of informing children and young people about the importance of skincare – by using sun creams and of course the dangers of using sunbeds, and helping educate about moles and other skin issues. The Unit of course can also be a point of contact and much needed support to help those who may have family members who are suffering from cancer.“

We are delighted at the response we received and have scheduled dates in the counties of Swansea, RCT and Powys over the next few months.

Last Saturday the Lions club in Carmarthen helped promote the work that Tenovus undertakes by holding a health awareness day in the town. We offered free health checks and advice on lifestyle factors that can affect people’s risk of getting cancer. We were also able to signpost people to other organisations such as Stop Smoking Wales. The Lions club provided people with information on diabetes as well as a presentation on the wonderful work that the Lions Clubs are part of on a worldwide basis.

Fundraising for Male Cancer Awareness month campaign is well under way with many teams already signed up for this year’s ‘It’s A Knockout’ challenge in Cardiff on June 18th. During the rest of the month-long campaign we have various events planned from football tournaments in Cwmbran through to sponsored bike rides in Pembrokeshire and even a tractor run in Bronllys in Powys. If any of the clubs would like more information on events in their area during this campaign, please do let us know.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of several new cancer support advisors, some of whom will be based on the unit and others in more rural communities across Wales. These roles will provide patients and their families with information and practical advice on money matters if they find themselves off work for a period of time as well as offering emotional support to those who need it from diagnosis, through treatment and beyond.

We are exceptionally grateful for the support we have received from many of the Lions clubs in Wales, it is thanks to organisations such as yours that we are able to constantly develop the services that we provide. If you would like a member of the Tenovus team to talk to your club in more detail about the work we do, please contact me on 07889682388.

I look forward to giving you more great news next month.

Lion Tony Buchan
District Advisor
Mobile Chemotherapy & Oncology Units