



Alison Fracella
research trust



Newsletter May 2019

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS: ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!

A very warm welcome to our latest newsletter and a huge, huge thank you to everyone who continues to support our cause.

A Tribute to our lovely Suzanne



The loss of our dear friend and fellow Trustee Sue Death after a brave fight with cancer has left a void in all our lives that can never be filled. Her beautiful smile, her kindness and her courage will live on in the hearts of everyone who knew her. Sue always had time to listen, to

support and to offer words of comfort and advice. We are

so very privileged to have had Sue as a close family friend for forty five years. Our children grew up together and our families enjoyed so many happy times and share wonderful memories. She was so much a part of our lives. Sue loved us as her own family and stood by us through Alison's illness feeling her loss as we did. Sue was instrumental and inspirational in the formation of the Trust. She worked tirelessly, never missing an event. Sue was most proud of organising renewals for our 59 Club lottery, helping to raise a considerable amount over the years for research into the deadliest of cancers. She was passionate about the Trust and our aims. We can never thank Sue enough for all that she has done for us.

Always a giver, Sue was so generous with her time and with her unconditional love for her family and for us all. Our hearts go out to Roy, to Amber, to Kern and to Truan and to their lovely families. Sue cherished and loved them so very much and they her. Her legacy will live on forever in them all.



Coming so very soon after the loss of Sue, Roy and his family have had another bitter blow in the sad loss of his Mum Agnes Death. Alison's Trust had a special place in her heart. Agnes has been a wonderful, generous and loyal supporter. A visit to see Agnes was always a delight. She was always happy to share with us stories, experiences and knowledge. She was a lovely lady.

The matriarch of her loving family she will be sorely missed by the very many people who knew and loved her.

On the 15th April 2019 the Trustees met with the Neuro Oncology Research Team at the Royal Marsden. As always we were made very welcome and given an informative and inspirational presentation and an update of the work they are currently undertaking. We were able to present a cheque to them of an amazing £6000 towards the continuation of their vital work. There is no government funding for research and so every donation really counts. Your kindness and compassion in continuing to support us is helping to make a real difference to the furthering of research into a disease which claims the lives of more people under the age of 40 than any other cancer. Brain tumours really are cancer's last taboo. A huge thank you to you all for helping us to raise this money which, as always, will go to the "sharp end" of research into this most deadliest of cancers.



Philanthropy Manager Stephen Harvey-Cook, Consultant Clinical Oncologist Liam Walsh, Clinical Trial Manager Kathy Greenwood, tissue collector Aasia Hussain and Trustees Sue and Rob Kettlewell at our recent cheque presentation.



This certificate has
been awarded to

The Alison Fracella Research Trust

on

15 April 2019

for raising

£6,000

in support of



Registered Charity No. 1095197

Stephen Harvey-Cook
Philanthropy Manager
at the Royal Marsden
says in his letter of
thanks:

"Dear Trustees,
Thank you so much for
your generous donation
of £6000. Your gift
will support the
incredible research led
by Dr Liam Walsh and
the Neuro-Oncology
team here at the Royal
Marsden.

This potentially life
changing work would
not be possible without
your dedicated
support. On behalf of
everyone here we
really appreciate all

your hard work and efforts over the year to raise such a wonderful
contribution to support the team. Thank you."

Update for the Alison Fracella Research Trust

The Alison Fracella Research Trust is supporting the work of the neuro-oncology research team led by Dr Liam Welsh at The Royal Marsden Hospital and the Institute for Cancer Research. The team are researching new treatment opportunities for glioblastomas and other brain tumours. Their work covers the whole research process from laboratory testing all the way through to delivering clinical trials.

In past years, your support helped deliver the team's clinical trials of new treatments. This year your donation will help develop their laboratory work, enabling them to better explore the use of targeting drugs in treating brain tumours.

Analysing the genetic characteristics of brain tumours

Increasingly, new treatments are targeting specific cancer-causing genetic mutations. The same mutations can be found in many different tumour types, so drugs which are already being used for other types of cancer may also target brain tumours. Dr Welsh and his team are therefore looking into the specific genetic make-up of brain tumours, including

glioblastoma, in order to find targeted treatments that will have an effect against these aggressive types of cancer.

The team have successfully established a Tissue Bank in partnership with St George's Hospital (where brain surgery is performed) to facilitate their research. The Tissue Bank contains cancerous tissue samples from brain tumours which have been taken from patients during surgery. The samples allow our researchers to reliably test new treatments in a lab environment, greatly expanding their ability to classify the genetic make-up of glioblastoma and other brain tumours.

The Alison Fracella Research Trust's donation this year is funding a specialist Tissue Collector, whose job is to work with neuro-surgeons to secure, collate and store tumour samples so that they are ready for use by our researchers. This is a new position which has been made possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

How your support is helping

Thanks to your donations, the Tissue Bank is now growing and research into the specific genetic characteristics of brain tumours is underway. This new resource gives our research team the ability to test theories and think creatively about ways in which they might be able to target treatments to different types of brain tumour.

For example, a particular gene called EGFR is known to be mutated in 57% of glioblastomas, suggesting that this mutation plays a significant role in causing these tumours. We know that existing drugs which target and inhibit the EGFR gene have been successful in treating lung cancer patients with this mutation. However, all previous trials which attempted to use these drugs for glioblastoma patients with this same mutation have not been convincing.

Our team are looking into the reason for these negative results by experimenting on samples in the Tissue Bank. They are using different types of EGFR inhibitors and increasing the dose to higher levels – a flexible way of working that is not possible to achieve in clinical trials for safety reasons. These experiments are beginning to show positive results that have the potential to translate into new clinical trials at a more effective dose. This could, in turn, bring a new targeted treatment option for patients with glioblastoma. .

Going forward, the team will be looking for new genetic characteristics of brain tumours, so that they can continue to identify and develop new personalised treatments. They are particularly interested identifying effective drugs that have failed in clinical trials due to dose size and are therefore currently being ignored.

Thank you

The neuro-oncology research team at The Royal Marsden would like to thank the supporters of the Alison Fracella Research Trust for helping to provide much-needed funding for research into glioblastoma and other brain tumours. The investigations that you are making possible are at the forefront of brain tumour research worldwide, and have the potential to bring more effective personalised treatments to patients everywhere.

Thank you for your generous support.

Fundraising: Coffee Morning at Great Bentley



On a beautiful sunny and warm day last May the kind people of Great Bentley Methodist Church held a coffee morning for the Trust. We were invited to go along and

were made so very welcome. It was a great morning with delicious fruit and cheese scones served with our coffee. The cake stall was laden with a great variety of produce (the home-made marmalade was a particular favourite!) The event was very well attended and we spent a lovely time chatting to everyone and having a go at the tombola and raffle (everyone won a prize and some lucky people even two!) Rob was invited to speak about the Trust, why it had been formed and a little about how the money we raise is directed and used. At the end of the morning we were presented with a staggering £332. 8p. Thank you all so very much and special thanks to Jane and John Allison for organising everything for us.

59 Club Lottery

Our monthly lottery continues to go from strength to strength and helps to raise a considerable amount for us. It's success is very much because of the hours of work that our lovely Sue Death has put in to collect renewals, to seek out new members (on the rare occurrence of a ticket becoming vacant!) and to gently remind members when subs were due! Sue was very proud of her role in doing this and we are so grateful to her and to Roy for everything that they have done.

A Huge Thank You to Angel Delights Outside Catering



Everyone at the Alison Fracella Research Trust would like to say a sincere thank you to Helen Golland, to her daughter Charlotte and to husband Simon for once again providing us with a fabulous Cream Tea at the Ansell Centre on July 15th. It was a splendid afternoon and everyone enjoyed Helen's delicious scones with cream and her homemade jam. Helen's tells us that her secret scone recipe (given to her by her Grandma) won her a competition when she was 16 and she has used it

unchanged ever since! The hall looked amazing with the tables laid with Helen's vintage china and cake stands and with the beautiful bunting (thank you so much Ruth) adding to the occasion. Everyone said that they had a wonderful time. Thank you so much to everyone who came and gave us such generous support. Special thanks to Carol, to Sue and Roy and to Emma and David for all their help and hard work on the day. A big thank you also to Avis Newsagents for printing posters for us and for selling tickets in the shop. Helen, so kindly and so generously, has donated all the ticket money to our cause. This together with the raffle and cake stall has raised us £802 which is a fantastic amount. Every penny will go to the Royal Marsden Hospital where the Trust is supporting brain tumour research. Thank you all so very much.

Some happy snaps of the occasion!!





I'm really loving this Cream Tea!!

The sale of the delicious homemade cakes together with the raffle brought us £263. Wow!! Many thanks to Windmills florists at Woodbrige for the beautiful flowers.



A fun day for a family get together. The little ones were as good as gold and everyone enjoyed a good chat!!





A good time was had by all!

Our 7th Annual Quiz Night !!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to the Ansell Centre on Saturday 24th November to give us, once again, such wonderful support at our 7th joint Quiz Night. The Centre was packed for the event, we had 19 teams! Everyone said what a great evening it was with lots of fun and laughter. The anagram round was quite a challenge although our winners (for the second year running!) scored an amazing 100%! As usual the Ploughman's Supper went down well! On the night, after all expenses, we raised a fantastic £1,120 which we have divided between our two charities. Almost every penny raised will go towards the work we are supporting as our charities have minimal administration costs. The Brendan Oakes Trust supports teenagers facing cancer and the Alison Fracella Research Trust is helping to fund research into brain cancer, especially in young people, at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

A big thank you to Avis Printers for printing our tickets and for selling them for us in the shop. Special thanks to Sue and Roy, to Kathy, to Heather, to Maria and Paul, to Jenny and Brian, to Neil and Carol, to Graham and Lindsay and to Emma and David for all their hard work. Many thanks also to the people who were so generous in their donations of the many fantastic raffle prizes too numerous to mention. A huge thank you to Hadleigh Tyres, to the Barber Stop, to Coes, to Mercedes Benz, to the Beauty Gallery at Lavenham and to Paul and Marion of "Wakey Wakey" . It would be fantastic to see everyone again next year! Please save the date- Saturday 23rd November 2019! A big thank you again to everyone who gave us such very generous support



Congratulations to the Winning Team

Donations

We are grateful for the many kind donations we have received over the year. Special thanks must go to the late Beryl Marcham for her generous legacy to the Trust. Such a lovely lady, the time we knew her was far too short but we will always remember her concern for others and her beautiful smile. In October Sue was invited to Pam Farrow's lovely birthday party which was great fun. Pam asked for donations to Alison's Trust in lieu of presents which was so kind of her. As one of Pam's many Godchildren Alison has a special place in Pam's heart. The magnolia tree Pam planted in her garden in Alison's memory bloomed particularly beautifully this year. Thank you Pam so much.



Quiz Night 2018

