



A Day To Remember

In April, a group of 12 bereaved children and young people aged between 4 and 15 years met at St. Gemma's Hospice to spend a day together remembering their special person who had died. All the children and young people were connected with the Hospices in Leeds.

As you can see by the photos, the children and staff had an enjoyable and memorable day. A variety of activities were undertaken including discussing their feelings after a bereavement, activities to help remember the person who had died and a session called 'Ask The Doctor' where the young people could ask medical related questions to Dr Jenny Smith, a palliative care doctor at St. Gemma's Hospice. Feedback from one of the five-year-olds included, "I like this place, it is fun."



The event was organised by Dan Bordoley, the Children's Bereavement Development Worker. Dan works at both St. Gemma's and Sue Ryder Care Wheatfields. His post is funded by a grant from Children in Need. Special thanks go to all the staff and volunteers who helped on the day and the hospitality staff for providing excellent pizza and chips!

A poem by one of the children who attended:

Today - I made lots of things,
and lots of friends,
it was really fun, and
wish it never ends!

So we have lots of fun the
pizza is so yummy I have a
lovely feeling deep inside my tummy!

So if you are invited, you
should not be sad, just walk
out the door and you will
be so glad!

Zoe, aged 10



The St. Gemma's Hospice Newsletter is produced four times a year and is sent to over 30,000 of our supporters. We hope you find it interesting and informative and if you have any comments we would love to hear from you. If you have a friend or relative who would like to receive a copy of our Newsletter, or if for any reason you would prefer not to receive this or other mail from St. Gemma's, please contact us. You can email: suel@st-gemma.co.uk, call: 0113 218 5555, or write to: Sue Lakie, St Gemma's Hospice, Freepost NEA 9320, Moortown, Leeds, LS17 7YY.

St. Gemma's Hospice Summer Garden Party

Sunday 6th July from 1 to 4.30 p.m. in the Hospice grounds – good food, stalls, entertainment, tombolas, face painting, bouncy castle, Irish music, Flamenco dancing and more!



Welcome to Cath Miller Director of Nursing



Cath joined St. Gemma's at the end of March and will be a valued asset to the Hospice Leadership Team, providing a voice for nursing and allied health care professionals (AHP). Cath has specific interests in extending nursing and AHP roles, recognising the extensive knowledge and skills of the staff at St. Gemma's.

“My nursing career began at St. George's Hospital in London where I developed my interest for cancer and palliative care, recognising the contribution high quality nursing made to the patient and carers' experience. I moved to Leeds in 1993 and was able to pursue my chosen career at Cookridge Hospital. During this time I undertook specialist training in cancer nursing and as part of the programme completed a placement at St. Gemma's in 1996. The building may have been different but the ethos and high standards of care were very visible. Since then I have worked in a variety of specialist palliative care nursing roles and it is a privilege to return to St. Gemma's to lead a highly committed nursing and AHP team; I look forward to releasing the team's potential and being a part of the future developments.”

The Medical Team

As many of you will know there are a number of doctors working at St. Gemma's. You may also have seen on the news over the last year talk of a restructuring programme for medical training commonly known as Modernising Medical Careers (MMC). There has been much debate and discussion over this programme of change and there have been some good points, but there have also been considerable challenges for St. Gemma's.

With all this in mind it seems valuable to explain the current structure of the medical team at St. Gemma's Hospice, the future vision and how this will contribute to the continued improvements in patient care.

The Staff

The permanent members of the team are Dr Mike Stockton, Consultant and Director of Medicine, Dr Jason Ward, Consultant with a special interest in education and research, Dr Mandy Dwyer, Staff Grade Doctor with a particular focus within Day Services, Out-Patients and community services.

There is also a group of doctors at St. Gemma's who are in training. These

doctors are all qualified and are in post-graduate medical training. They provide an excellent medical service to St. Gemma's both within the In-Patient Unit, Out-Patients' department and community support. They also provide a medical on-call service throughout the evening, over night and across the weekend. There is a doctor available at all times.

The Vision

The key aims within the medical team and the broader clinical team are:

1. To increase the number of Out-Patient clinics and to enable expert care without the need for admission.
2. To increase the number of medical home assessments.
3. To further strengthen medical services within the In-Patient Unit.
4. To develop new models of education and research to further improve our knowledge base and its implementation in medical practice.

At the heart of the medical and clinical service, and the current changes, is the drive towards continued improvement in patient and family care, and to enable real choices in where and how one is cared for and treated.

Volunteer Profile – Mike Saunders



Mike Saunders has been a volunteer for St. Gemma's since the Hospice opened in 1978. So as St. Gemma's Hospice commemorates 30 years of caring for the people of Leeds, Mike also reflects on his three decades of volunteering.

“I was involved with the Hospice from the very beginning. I was asked by one of the founding Sisters if I could lend a hand for a few months when the Hospice first opened, and 30 years later I am still here! I helped to raise funds initially and enjoyed launching

new events such as the Hospice Garden Party. I have really enjoyed volunteering in a variety of roles across the Hospice. For almost 20 years I have worked as part of the evening security team and I also regularly help at the Memorial Services and I am heavily involved in the running of the Hospice Gift Shop from unpacking stock, to merchandising and selling. I feel it's really important that people are welcomed into the Hospice so I try to help in the Reception area whenever possible. I like to think that I provide a friendly welcome and cheery smile and support the Hospice team in any way I can. I very much enjoy working as part of the Hospice 'family' and I'm grateful that I can give something back.”

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution that all our volunteers provide to St. Gemma's. The Hospice is very proud and privileged to have a dedicated and hardworking team of around 500 volunteers working in a variety of roles supporting departments throughout the organisation. Thanks to you all.

120 Years of Caring



Sister Brigid, Diane, Mary and Judy – photo courtesy of Yorkshire Evening Post

In our 30th Anniversary year, we focus on four very dedicated staff members. So dedicated, that they've spent virtually the last three decades working for St. Gemma's Hospice.

Ward Manager Judy Hustwit, Day Hospice Sister Mary Curl, Finance Manager Diane Coulson, and Director of Spiritual Care Sister Brigid Murphy have contributed to the work of St. Gemma's for the best part of 30 years, caring for patients and ensuring the Hospice runs smoothly.

The Hospice, which opened with nine beds in 1978, has grown enormously thanks to the generosity of our supporters who raise millions of pounds for our cause each year.

Sister Brigid recalls, "From the very beginning the community embraced St. Gemma's Hospice. That embrace has got bigger as we've grown and needed more funding. There were 1000 people at the first public meeting at the town hall in 1977. There was a definite need for the Hospice and I think that was recognised."

'Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?'

This line from Mary Oliver's poem 'A Summer Day' is both significant and challenging because it raises an important question about life. In poems summer is often referred to as the time for rest. James Dent expresses it well when he says, "A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken!" Summer holidays offer us some distance from the reality of busy lives when we can reflect on our priorities. We have time and space to listen to ourselves and those closest to us, to grow in relationship and to find meaning in the simple pleasures that often bypass us when we are busy.

We now have a 32 bed In-Patient Unit, a specialist community team and our new Day Services and Out-Patients facilities, and we care for around 1000 local people and their families each year. There may have been lots of changes, but the care of our patients has always been and remains our priority.

Judy said, "We are meeting people's needs much earlier now. We treat their symptoms and then discharge them so they can go back into the community. And whilst they are with us, we pride ourselves on providing a 'home from home' and individualised care."

Mary added, "We once cared for a patient who said he'd like a nice ice cream. We took him to Bridlington and he said it made him feel like a king!"

Diane recalls, "St. Gemma's was like an extended family to start with. It's grown bigger but we still hold on to our values. It's a home from home and it's never lost that. However much we've grown, we're still one family, it's just the family got bigger."



For the retired, summer may give more time to cherish relationships with grandchildren and with friends. For the bereaved, summer brings cherished memories but also longer, brighter days to lift the spirit. Summer is a time for rest, for listening and for observing the magic of nature. It gives us an opportunity to pay attention to life within and without so that we can hear the music in the trees, the song of the birds, and the sound of the running stream or the gentle breeze. We hope all our readers may enjoy rest time over the summer so that you can find meaning in your 'one precious life'. Sr Brigid Murphy.

Tree of Life

The Tree of Life is situated in the Memory Garden at St. Gemma's Hospice. Our Memory Garden is an oasis of calm by the Dales Ward. It provides a tranquil space where relatives, friends and carers can sit and reflect, receiving strength for the present and hope for the future.

The Tree of Life is sculpted in steel and copper. It has detachable copper leaves which can be engraved in memory of loved ones providing a lasting tribute.

In 2001 a long standing volunteer of the Hospice, Sheila Miller, had the idea to create the Tree of Life and began a fundraising campaign to raise enough money to create the Memory Garden and Tree of Life.

Sheila's fundraising efforts received a massive boost when she was shopping in Leeds and walked past the window of Harvey Nichols. The display in the window was surrounded by copper wire. Not to miss an opportunity, Sheila paid a very successful visit to the Store Manager. Harvey Nichols kindly agreed to donate all the copper which was used in their display to the Hospice. The copper wire was smelted down and used to create the copper leaves which are engraved and hang on the tree.

A bereaved relative recently said that she likes the peace and tranquillity in the Memory Garden, but she knows that if she is distressed and upset, someone will come and sit with her. One gentleman has added a codicil in his Will requesting that a leaf is bought and placed on the Tree next to his wife's leaf when he dies.

Leaves on the Tree of Life are available for a donation towards the work of the Hospice, if you would like further information, please contact Gail on 0113 218 5506.



St. Gemma's Day Serv

As we mentioned in the last Newsletter, the St. Gemma's Day Hospice has had a major refurbishment and we were very proud to recently welcome patients back to the fantastic new 'St Gemma's Day Services.'

St. Gemma's Day Services includes the beautiful and newly extended Day Hospice as well as a new Out-Patients' facility to enable more people to access our services.

The Day Hospice has now increased patient places available as well as additional rooms to provide therapies including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and complementary therapies. The main Day Hospice room has a stunning conservatory which overlooks the Hospice's award winning gardens, and covered access to the Victorian greenhouse where patients enjoy gardening therapies. The new counselling room, which is used by bereaved people including children, is particularly attractive.

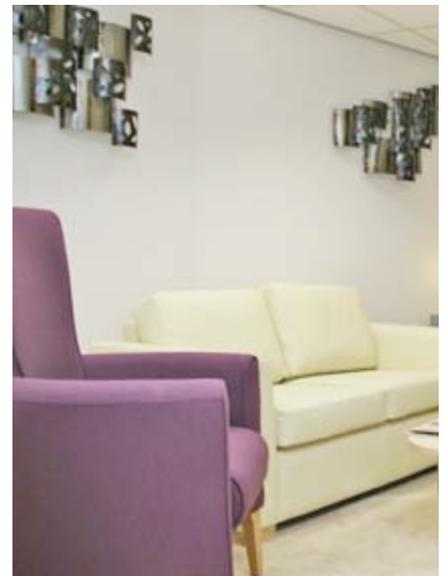
The Out-Patients' department, next to the Day Hospice, now offers a variety of services such as a lymphoedema clinic, breathlessness clinic and a drop-in facility. We can also provide a number of medical interventions such as blood transfusions and continue extending our services to patients with a diagnosis other than cancer. The St. Gemma's community nursing team can now offer these extra day services, in addition to the Day Hospice, to support those patients maintaining their lives at home.

Here's what a couple of the patients to the new St Gemma's Day Services had to say about our new facilities:

Albert Golding – 'I come to the Day Hospice one day a week. The new surroundings are really lovely and it is relaxing here. It was great before, but now it is better! I have never had time to take much interest in art, but when I visit I've been doing sculpture, mosaic and painting. I am a joiner by trade so a bit of a perfectionist, so I take time over my creations. The wonderful surroundings and the great staff and volunteers mean that I can relax, make friends and spend time with different people. It takes your mind off things for a while.'

Wendy Brookes – 'What can I say? It's like arriving at a 5 star hotel for a day of pampering. I've only been coming to the Day Hospice for a short time but I thoroughly enjoy it. You feel better the minute you arrive here. The furnishings are just beautiful, it's given me some tips for my own home! It's great to sit in the conservatory and overlook the gardens. It really brightens my day. I usually see the Doctor and then have an aromatherapy massage when I visit, and today I've had my nails done which is marvellous. Not to mention the wonderful food we are served. The team are amazing, they wait on you hand and foot and we have lots of fun. When you're feeling fed up, a visit here really lifts your spirits.'

This project has only been possible thanks to a £406,000 grant from the Department of Health and generous contributions from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Henry Smith Charity, the Leeds Primary Care Trust and other supporters.



Albert Golding



Wendy Brookes



ces Opens to Patients



Day Hospice Lounge



Art Room



Out-Patients Lounge



Day Services Conservatory

Sponsor a Day Services Nurse

You can see from reading and learning about our newly refurbished Day Services that hospice care is based on a simple idea, that the person is more than the illness.

St. Gemma's specialist Day Hospice nurses do more than control symptoms and pain, they offer care and support, helping individuals to deal with and cope with the difficulties that a serious illness can bring. Our Day Hospice nurses are able to welcome patients every day, allowing them to sustain an improved quality of life whilst living in their own homes. The environment the nurses create is based on a home from home approach, so that our day patients feel as comfortable as possible whilst visiting the Hospice.

We would like to invite you to show your generosity by ensuring that our nurses continue to make everyday count. It costs the Hospice £90 per day to employ a nurse.

Could you sponsor a nurse working in our Day Hospice? If you would like to, send a donation to the:

Sponsor a Nurse Appeal,
St. Gemma's Hospice,
329 Harrogate Road,
Leeds, LS17 6QD

or visit www.st-gemma.co.uk,
to donate online.

Thank you so much for your support.



Wood-Mitchell Building Group Plc

Shopfitting - Joinery - Construction - Decorators
Flooring - Plumbing - Facilities Management - Design

Wood-Mitchell are very proud to be the Principal Contractor for the newly refurbished and extended Day Hospice & Out-Patient Unit & we wish St. Gemma's much success. We are also showing our support for the Hospice by sponsoring the printing of this newsletter.

Wood-Mitchell Building Group Plc, Sunnyfield Works, Lowtown, Pudsey, LS28 9DB. Tel: 0113 257 1727. www.woodmitchell.co.uk

Forthcoming events

Leeds 10K Run For All – Sunday 22 June

If you have a place in this year's Leeds 10K Run For All, organised by Jane Tomlinson's Appeal and would like to use it to support St. Gemma's Hospice then please call Laura.

Garden Party – Sunday 6 July

See our advert on the front page. Stalls are available to book for this event by calling Andrew.

Sponsored Abseil – Sunday 6 July

St. Gemma's are looking for adventurous supporters to commemorate our 30th Anniversary by tackling a 30 metre abseil down one of the Leeds Met University buildings in Leeds city centre. Contact Laura.

Open Gardens – Summer 2008



Thank you to everyone who has kindly offered to open their gardens this year, allowing us to once again be able to offer a full programme of Open Gardens over the summer months. The Hospice's award winning gardens will be opening on Saturday 19th July when our head gardener, Denis and his team will be on hand to show you around and give expert tips. Any volunteers to serve refreshments or help with plant sales at various gardens across Leeds would be very welcome. For further details or a programme detailing which gardens are open when, contact Anne.

Sponsored Zip Slide – September 2008

Zip slide from the new Carnegie stand at the Headingley Carnegie Stadium, across the pitch at 30 mph. Another opportunity to help us raise funds during our 30th Birthday year! Contact Laura.

Family Sports Day – Sunday 21 September

Join us for a brand new event, incorporating 2 mile, 5 mile and 10 mile sponsored walks, family friendly or challenging sponsored bike rides, a 5 mile sponsored fun run, school sports day races and stalls with games, refreshments and fun activities for kids and adults alike. The

event will take place in three beautiful Leeds parks – Temple Newsam, Lotherton Hall and Roundhay. For more information or to register your interest in the event please contact Laura.



Annual Golf Day

– Wednesday 24th September

Our annual Golf Day will take place at Moor Allerton Golf Club. The day will consist of soup and sandwiches in the Club House before playing 18 holes on this stunning course – one of the best in the area. After the golf it is back to the Club House for a buffet meal and then presentations of the prizes to the winning teams. Teams are for 4 players. Please register early to avoid disappointment by calling Elizabeth.

The BUPA Great North Run

– Sunday 5th October

Join St. Gemma's team to secure your place in the Great North Run, for which the official entry ballot is now closed. All we ask is that you set your fundraising target at £300. Our fundraising team will be on hand to give you any help and advice you might need to do so. Places are being allocated on a first come, first served basis so don't delay. Contact Laura.

Annual Art Exhibition 2008

The exhibition has traditionally been held in July at Leeds Grammar School which has proved to be an excellent venue for this event. Unfortunately, owing to building work taking place at the school, we are unable to hold the exhibition in July this year. However, we are pleased to confirm that we will be holding our 8th annual Art Exhibition from Wednesday 29 October to Saturday 1 November 2008 at the Grammar School. Please visit our website at www.st-gemma.co.uk or contact Andrew for further information.

Make a leap of faith for St. Gemma's

St. Gemma's would like to call upon their supporters to make a leap of faith for the Hospice and take part in a sponsored

parachute jump. Jumps can be arranged on a date to suit you throughout the year. Contact Laura.

Collectors

We are always looking for volunteers to spend an hour or two of their time to collect for us at various venues from sports stadiums to supermarkets, mainly at weekends. If you can help, Anne would love to hear from you.

Coins for Caring

Many thanks to everyone who has already returned the small box we enclosed in the last Newsletter, the response we have received so far has been astounding. If you have any queries about your Coins for Caring box, please contact Anne.

Contact Numbers: (Area Code 0113)

Anne: 218 5565
or annem@st-gemma.co.uk
Laura: 218 5570
or laurar@st-gemma.co.uk
Elizabeth: 218 5575
or elizabethhb@st-gemma.co.uk
Andrew: 218 5280
or andrews@st-gemma.co.uk
General Fundraising enquiries: 218 5555
or fundraising@st-gemma.co.uk

30th Anniversary Raffle

Our raffle this summer is in celebration of our 30th birthday, so we're offering amazing cash prizes to 13 lucky winners.

The first prize is £1000, second is £500 and the third prize is for £250. A further 10 lucky winners will each win a prize of £25. We are very fortunate to have had all of our cash prizes donated by a local business, Orthosolutions, who provide specialist orthodontic care.

We hope to raise as much money as possible from the 30th Anniversary Raffle, so that we can continue providing specialist care to the people of Leeds.

Each ticket costs £1 and there are 10 tickets in the book you will have received. Please buy or sell as many as you can. Please make any cheques payable to St. Gemma's Hospice and return any completed stubs and monies to the Hospice no later than Friday 29 August. Thank you for your support and good luck!



Cash in your trash!

Did you know that St. Gemma's Hospice can recycle unused, unwanted and even broken items, converting them into cash to buy things like meals, sheets and art room equipment!

The fundraising team can help you go greener and de-clutter in aid of a fantastic local cause. Your broken jewellery could be our hidden treasure and your old keys could unlock a whole world of opportunities.

- ❖ For every unwanted mobile phone you donate, we receive £5, whether broken or in full working order.
- ❖ Do you have a home computer or use computers at work? Do you throw your empty printer cartridges away? Donate them to St. Gemma's instead!
- ❖ How many of us have old keys around the house and have forgotten what they unlock? St. Gemma's are able to get the keys recycled for their metal content and raise funds to open the door to more patients each year.
- ❖ Are you going on holiday this summer? We can recycle your pesos in to pounds, turning foreign currency into money that makes a real difference to local people with life threatening illnesses.
- ❖ Have you ever collected stamps or postcards and now find that they're just gathering dust? Or would you mind taking the time to take stamps off your daily post?

These small steps really do make a big difference both to the environment and to St. Gemma's. Please help turn trash in to treasure.

It couldn't be easier to recycle for St. Gemma's Hospice:

- ❖ Any items you wish to recycle can be brought to St. Gemma's Hospice or to any of our 16 charity shops throughout the Leeds area.
- ❖ Perhaps you work in an office where you could display a box for your colleagues to place their unwanted mobile phones or printer cartridges in? We can provide you with boxes and arrange for their collection when full.

For further details contact Anne:
218 5565 or annem@st-gemma.co.uk

Amanda & Gill Tackle Thailand

Amanda Keighley and Gill Haque have just returned from a jungle trek in Thailand to raise money for St. Gemma's Hospice. The intrepid duo raised £2,270 for the Hospice and had the experience of a lifetime to go with it. Well, it was their second experience of a lifetime; in 2005, Amanda & Gill, who run our Pudsey charity shop, took part in a horse riding expedition in Mongolia for the Hospice. Guided by local hill tribes people, Amanda and Gill's Thailand jungle expedition took them trekking, rafting, kayaking and riding elephants through the forests and mountains of the Thung Yai Nareusan Wildlife Sanctuary. Despite finding it a real physical challenge, they both had a superb time and are already looking into where they can go next time. Amanda said, "There was a real sense of camaraderie amongst all of us on the trek and it helped make the physical challenge so much fun. It was a fantastic experience and totally different from our last horse riding trek in Mongolia – there were much bigger insects in the jungle!"



If you are interested in following in Amanda and Gill's footsteps and would like to take on an overseas challenge please contact Laura. This year you could enjoy a fiery Icelandic lava trek, visit one of the seven wonders of the world on a Great Wall of China trek, make like Indiana Jones on a Sahara Desert trek, or tackle the ultimate goal of a trip to Everest Base Camp.

Questions of Sport Celebrity Quiz & Dinner 2008

Guests were treated to a fantastic night of sporting entertainment, excellently hosted by ITV's Duncan Wood, with rounds of sport presented by cricketers Anthony McGrath and Ashley Metcalfe, golfer Howard Clark, rugby's Barry Noble, LUFC Manager Gary McAllister and Mike Tomlinson.

Thanks also to main sponsors Clarion Solicitors, organisers Deian Tecwyn, Sara Rogers and Steve Bond and congratulations to the team from International Personal Finance who took home the trophy. Over £32,000 was raised for the Hospice.



Pictured are:- Barry Noble, Ashley Metcalfe, Gary McAllister, Anthony McGrath, Howard Clark and Mike Tomlinson.

Heartfelt thanks go to:

Parkland Girls School, The Dexter Pub, St Peter's Church of England primary School, The Irish Centre, The Yew Tree pub, John Jamieson School, St Cuthbert's and First Martyrs Church for helping with the Bradford Flag Day, The Leeds Medics, The Roundhay Friends, OLSCC team for taking part in the Yellow Box Challenge, Ray of Light, Allerton High School, St Theresa's R C Primary School, The North Leeds Community Choir for hosting the winter concert and for selling CDs, those people who ran the London Marathon for us and all those who came along to the Wedding Exhibition, everyone who has taken part in their own sponsored event for us: Mitchell Reed & Martin Hey who climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for us, David Crollick who completed the Barcelona Marathon and Ben & Paul Freeman and Amanda Newton who took part in the Coyote Rally for the Hospice. Thanks to John White, Stan Julien, the White Rose

Shopping Centre and Soccer City for organising the White Rose Shopping Centre 5 a Side Football Challenge which raised over £5,000 for St. Gemma's. Thanks to Malcolm Moss for hosting the Saturday Night Fever 70's/80's Ball at LUFC, Raceway Karting & Lee Kellett from Class Office Equipment for their Go Karting event, all those who took part in our second It's A Knockout competition, Nichola Major for her sterling fundraising efforts and Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation. Thanks also to employees from the following companies for raising magnificent amounts of money for St. Gemma's in recent weeks: British Gas, Carlsberg UK, First Direct, HSBC Bank, KPMG, Royal Bank of Scotland, Skipton Building Society at Yeadon, Yorkshire Water at Bradford and to Skipton Castle for 22 years of generous support. And finally, a huge thank you to all of the ladies who took part in the Leeds Hospices Midnight Walk and everyone who helped with the event – we couldn't have done it without you.

Corporate Connections

Our heartfelt thanks go to The Queens Hotel for their very kind support this year. All guests who stay at the Queens Hotel will be asked if they wish to make a £1 voluntary donation to St. Gemma's and it is hoped that this fantastic initiative, at Leeds's premier hotel, will raise many thousands of pounds for the Hospice. Pictured is Hospice Chief Executive, Bill Kilgallon (R) with Mark Platt, General Manager at The Queens Hotel (L).



Is Your Company Looking to Entertain Clients or Staff this Year? If so, look no further than two forthcoming events in aid of St. Gemma's Hospice.

You could treat your clients to a round of golf at Moor Allerton Golf Course – one of the best courses in the region, by entering a team at the annual St. Gemma's Golf Day on September 24th. Enter a team of 4 and be treated to 18 holes of golf on this stunning course followed by a meal and prize presentation to the winning teams.

Or perhaps you are looking for a fun event for your staff Christmas party? Then come along to the annual Winter Ball at LUFC on Saturday, 29th November. Be treated to a fizz reception, three course meal and dancing to a live thirteen piece jazz/swing band and DJ until the early hours. Only £38 per ticket!

If you are interested in these events contact Elizabeth on: 0113 218 5575 or e-mail: elizabethb@st-gemma.co.uk. All profits from both these events benefit St. Gemma's and our patients.

Where There's a Will...

Did you know that in the last financial year legacy income contributed more than £1million to St. Gemma's Hospice?

Legacy income is one of the most important factors in helping us lay the foundations for our future. Any gift, whatever its size, enables us to plan ahead and helps us to continue our work and develop and extend the range of services we provide.

If you would like further information about leaving a gift in your will to St. Gemma's Hospice, please contact Gail Chapman on 0113 218 5506.

Gift Aid Update

In our previous Newsletter we mentioned that due to the change in the rate of income tax, the amount we can claim in Gift Aid will reduce from 28p for every £1 given to 25p. However, in the March budget the Chancellor announced that the Government will be providing Transitional Relief until 2011 to help charities adjust to the drop in Gift Aid income. This means that St. Gemma's Hospice will still claim 25p for every £1 donated from HMRC, but the Government will provide the extra 3p per £1 in Transitional Relief, meaning charities such as St. Gemma's will still receive 28p for every £1 donated from donations made by people who have made a Gift Aid Declaration.

Shops News

Bags For Life

In order to do our bit for the environment, St. Gemma's Hospice has produced a 'Bag For Life'. These are available in all our shops for just £1.

Our shops already recycle hundreds of thousands of items every year by re-selling unwanted goods and we believe that we should recycle other items where possible. Encouraging people to re-use their own plastic bags is one way of doing this.

Therefore, since 1st March 2008, we have stopped issuing free plastic carrier bags with our customers' purchases. They are available to buy in our shops but we encourage people to bring their own bags or buy a Bag For Life.

As well as helping the environment, charging for carriers will save the Hospice up to £5,000 per year – all money that goes directly to caring for our patients, their families and carers.

Our Newest Shop

Our newest shop opened at 207 Butcher Hill, West Park on 17th April. The shop looked beautiful, thanks to the hard work of a number of the shops team, and the first customers were delighted to have it as an addition to the parade. The team would be delighted to welcome any donations, offers of

help or call in as a customer next time you're passing. To contact the shop, call Julie or Cathryn on 0113 274 4746.

Summer Reads



If you find yourself at a loose end over the summer and you're looking for some mental stimulation, why not have a nice day out in Ilkley and call into our shop there? Located on Brook Street in the centre of the town, the shop specialises in books and music and caters for all tastes and ages. The Shop Manager, Hannah, and her team pride themselves on providing a wide range of high quality books, covering authors from Douglas Adams to Emile Zola and everyone else in between! The non-fiction section features local history, biographies, arts and crafts and many more besides, plus we have a wonderful selection of collectable and signed books.

For some time now the shop has run a book group which meets every month to discuss their chosen read. The Crescent Hotel is kind enough to provide us with a room and free tea and coffee for our meetings and the group meet on the last Friday of every month from 2 to 4 p.m. So far some of the books discussed are: 'Rebecca', 'The Lady's Maid', 'The Other Boleyn Girl', and 'Atonement' and up and coming for June and July are 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime' by Mark Haddon and 'The Island' by Victoria Hislop. New members are welcome to join at any time and the meetings are always full of interesting discussion and lively debate. Membership is free, but donations are welcome.

The shop is open 7 days a week as well as Bank Holidays, so if you need a book for you, your family or your children, why not make St. Gemma's your first port of call this summer?