

Ardgowan Matters

Keeping you up to date
with everything happening
at Ardgowan Hospice

www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk

ISSUE 5 June 2008

Tesco turns Yellow

Supermarket giants Tesco get involved in the Hospice Go Yellow Initiative

Ladies get together for Lunch

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CEO Welcome

Quality of care and developing patient focused services are at the heart of what we do best at Ardgowan Hospice.

Our entry in the recent Care Commission report, which looked at the quality of care in voluntary Hospices, showed that we are one of only six out of twelve Hospices in Scotland to have a totally clean bill of health following recent inspections.

This is a very high standard to keep up, however our staff pride themselves in making sure that the patient's experience is the best it possibly can be and they will all be working hard to maintain this.

To focus our thoughts on service provision and guide our plans for the future, the senior management team has been working closely with a new Council member to develop our strategy for the next five years.

Amongst other things, we aim to become a leading employer and being voted by our own Nurses into the Nursing Times Top 100 for the third year running seems like a good indication that we are on the right lines.



Chief Executive Officer



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Tesco Turns Yellow

May Bank Holiday weekend at Tesco Extra in Port Glasgow had a distinctly yellow feel to it with Tesco staff getting involved with the Hospice Go Yellow Initiative.

During the course of the weekend staff donated £1.00 to wear yellow with all the proceeds coming directly to



Ardgowan Hospice. Almost £500 was raised from this as well as collections from customers at the checkouts.

Ardgowan would like to thank Tesco for all their support and especially Carol McCallion for her assistance in organising this event.

Mellow Yellow

Many schools and nurseries in Inverclyde supported our Go Yellow Campaign this May raising around £3000 so far for the Hospice.

The Bluebird Family Centre held their fantastic event on 21st May and the fundraising team were on hand to soak up the atmosphere.

Some of the activities included a mini Olympics event, bric-a-brac stall, home baking and a burger and hot dog stand. A big thank you to all the kids and staff at the centre for organising this fun day.

Bluebird Family Centre



Living The High Life

Wemyss Bay man Scott Paul recently raised more than £1000 for Ardgowan Hospice on an adventure packed trek through the mountainous Inca Trail in Peru. The 26-year-old volunteered to tackle the trails around the famous Macchu Picchu region, one of the seven new wonders of the world.

He said: "It was something I always wanted to do and the four-day trek was amazing, the highlight was probably the climb up Dead Woman's Pass which was about 4000m above sea level as we were actually above the clouds and the view was unbelievable."

Although Scott and his fellow travellers were smitten by a sickness bug in the last stages of the trek, it didn't spoil one of the most stunning views on the plane which was sunset over Macchu Picchu itself, home to the spectacular ruins of the Temple of the Sun.

Scott Paul

A big thank you to Scott from everyone at the Hospice for all his efforts on this trip and for choosing to support Ardgowan Hospice.



Fundraising Update

Abbey Goes Yellow for Ardgowan

Ardgowan Hospice was extremely fortunate recently to be invited to attend the Abbey Building in Glasgow who very kindly agreed to support our Go Yellow initiative.

It was an early start for the Fundraising Team who were on duty at the entrance from 7:00am to catch the staff on arrival who were all looking bright and sunny in yellow.

Staff were very generous on the day placing their donations in bright yellow collecting buckets at a fantastic rate of around £10 per minute at one point, resulting in almost £1,300 being raised.

This was a tremendous effort from all the staff and we are extremely grateful for their continued support and a special thanks to Alison Bennett for her assistance in organising this event.



Ladies Get Together for Lunch

Almost 150 women got together for lunch recently at the Tontine Hotel and raised £8,000 in aid of Ardgowan Hospice and Breast Cancer Care, Scotland.

The compere for the day was Christine Bills, a local woman who devotes much of her own time to charity work. Speakers from both charities were also present to benefit as well - Allison Smith from Ardgowan Hospice, and Lorraine Dallas from Breast Cancer Care, Scotland. Libby McArthur, actress in the BBC soap opera River City, provided the entertainment and laughter, with Bill McCready piping the guests in for lunch.

As well as a fabulous lunch, the guests enjoyed a fashion show featuring Kute Kidz and Barbara Ann. A fantastic prize draw and silent auction were also on offer to entice the ladies.

Claire Snoddy who organised the event was inspired to do so by the courage of her mother-in-law Wilma, who was first diagnosed with breast cancer seven years ago. Ardgowan Hospice and Breast Cancer Care have been a huge support not only to Wilma but to all the family. The purpose of the event was to raise not only money but awareness of the services that both these charities offer.

Ardgowan Hospice is extremely grateful to Claire and all her team for organising this event and is delighted to be one of the recipients of the funds raised.

The Ladies at The Tontine Hotel



Fundraising Update

New Merchandise on Sale

Ardgowan Hospice has recently introduced some new lines of merchandise to their range.

Blue and white lapel ribbons are now available for only £1 as well as fantastic new air fresheners for your car priced £1.50. These items can be purchased at both Hospice receptions.

Don't forget that you can also still pick-up a copy of our Picture Inverclyde book for only £9.99.

Heartfelt Thanks

Everyone at Ardgowan Hospice is extremely grateful to the community of Inverclyde for their continued support of our work. Lots of people have been busy raising funds on our behalf, too many to mention, here are just a few examples.

Ina Breckenridge who has raised £100 completing our refurbishment appeal coin cards, Jenna Sweeney and customers of Monty's Bar in Port Glasgow who raised £650, Phoenix Health Project who raised £50, Inverclyde Yoga Group who raised £200, all the schools who got behind our Go Yellow campaign as well as all of those who made donations to all our runners in the Women's 10K.

Dates for the Diary

Ladies Day

The Chartroom, Inverkip

Sunday 24th August

Tickets priced £25

Halloween Party

The Chartroom, Inverkip

Friday 31st October

Tickets priced £20

Valentine Ball 2009

Mariott Hotel, Glasgow

Saturday 14 February

Tickets priced £60

Helping Hands

The fundraising team at Ardgowan are always on the lookout for volunteers to help them in their efforts.

There are many ways in which you can help such as assisting with our collection can programme, training to be a cashier to assist with counting our donations or helping out at our fundraising events.

If you are interested in becoming a fundraising volunteer please contact a member of the team on 726830.

Let's Hear it for the Ladies

Ardgowan Hospice is pleased to announce that its 2008 Ladies Day will be held in the Chartroom, Inverkip Marina on Sunday 24th August.

The day will begin at 2.00pm with a champagne reception, after which you will have the opportunity to view our fantastic fashion show with clothes provided by Alison's of Gourrock. The fashion show will be followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea and the chance to browse through the clothes and the other stalls on offer.

Quigley & Co of Gourrock will also be on hand to

provide you with some beauty hints and tips as well as offering some taster sessions.

Tickets are £25 each and are expected to sell out quickly if the success of last year's event is anything to go by. There will also be a lucky dip available throughout the day as well as a charity raffle with some great prizes.

If you would like to join us at this fabulous day, please call the fundraising team on 01475 726830 to reserve your tickets or why not buy online at www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk.

Ardgowan is Top of the List

Ardgowan has once again been voted one of the top employers in the UK by the Nursing Times unique survey of the Top 100 organisations for nurses to work. This is a fantastic achievement for the staff here in Greenock who received this accolade for the third year running and is the only Scottish Hospice to do so.

Staff at the Hospice submitted information via a survey from which the data was collected. Feedback from the survey results at Ardgowan reported high levels of job satisfaction in an environment where patient and family care come first. The lack of bureaucracy was also praised, as staff are actively encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions and to get involved in driving the organisation forward in the future.

The common theme amongst this year's winners was strong leaders and Ardgowan is fortunate to have a forward thinking management team in place that support the staff by providing opportunities for career development and training as well as flexible working and a healthy work-life balance.

Dorothy McElroy, Ardgowan Hospice Chief Executive commented: "The Nursing Times Top 100 awards honour the best in employment practice and Ardgowan Hospice is delighted to be acknowledged in this way. We are fortunate to have very loyal and hard working staff and to be recognised in this manner is a testament to their commitment. Our staff ensure that everyone who makes contact with the Hospice has access to the best possible care and support available."



Hospice Refurbishment Programme Update

The Hospice unveiled its new look In-Patient unit this month after a major revamp was completed.

The re-opened unit now has more en-suite and treatment rooms, a new walk-in shower and laundry, extra storage and a gleaming new drug preparation area.

Dorothy McElroy, hospice Chief Executive, said: "This has been a huge undertaking and a significant development for the hospice. We took on board what our staff said and worked to improve facilities for patients and carers. We're absolutely delighted with it."

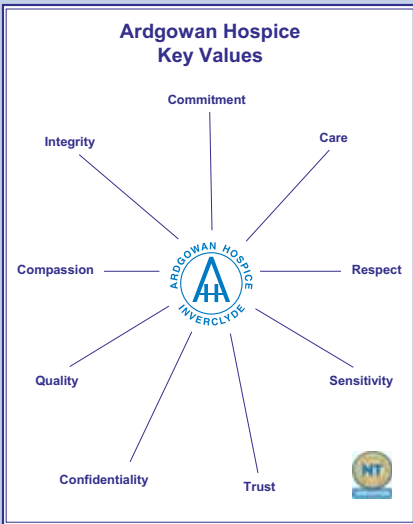
The development marks the second stage of the hospice refurbishment programme, following earlier completion of work in the Access Centre.

The third and last phase of the refurbishment programme has now commenced and will feature overnight accommodation for relatives of patients.



Vision for the Future

The Management Team at Ardgowan have been working hard over the past year implementing a new organisational strategy and philosophy. This process was extremely beneficial and in consultation with the staff we have come up with a very comprehensive package which we would like to introduce to you.



ARDGOWAN HOSPICE

Aims

1. Meet the demands of the Care Commission and any other governing body.
2. Raise sufficient income and live within our resources.
3. Recruit, retain and continuously develop staff and volunteers with appropriate skill, knowledge, commitment and aptitude.
4. Meet the 10SCR requirements.
5. Encourage involvement of the Community and endeavour to be open and transparent.
6. Strive to maintain our facilities and physical resources so that they will be fit for purpose.
7. Encourage user involvement and act on, where appropriate, the feedback generated through this.
8. Promote and facilitate the provision of Palliative Care by other healthcare professionals.
9. Be supported by a management structure appropriate to the diverse needs of the organisation.

ARDGOWAN HOSPICE

Vision

Access to the best possible care and support for everyone living with a life limiting illness

ARDGOWAN HOSPICE

Mission

Ardgowan Hospice, supported by the local community, aims to provide the highest quality care for patients and families living with a life limiting illness. We value quality of life, dignity, privacy and individual choice.





How you can help us

If you would like to make a donation to Hospice services, please complete the form below.

Title

First Name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone

E-mail

I would like to make a donation of: £

Tick box for amount of cheque/postal order to be added, or box for donating by credit card

If you would like additional information on any of the events in the Newsletter, please specify:

Cheque/PO Credit Card Number

3 digit security code (this can be found on the reverse of your Debit/Credit card)

Expiry Date

Issue Date/Number

If cardholder's name differs from the donor, please provide their name and address

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