

# Ardgowan Matters

Keeping you up to date  
with everything happening  
at Ardgowan Hospice

[www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk](http://www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk)

ISSUE 14 October 2011

## Ardgowan Wishes

If you know someone who seems to have everything or if you can't think what to buy as a gift why not give the gift to us?

## Christmas Cards

Our new range of Christmas cards and merchandise is now on sale at the Hospice receptions.

## Ardgowan Hospice 30th Anniversary Year



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**ARDGOWAN  
HOSPICE**  
Together We Care

## A Word From The Chairman

It caught my eye (if you pardon the pun) for the first time the other day; the engraving at the entrance to the Hospice which reads "The Gift of Anderson Rodger Ship Builder, Port Glasgow". I wondered about Mr Anderson Rodger and what led him to be associated with our building, the former Eye Infirmary. Behind the inscription lies a story that links Greenock and Port Glasgow as well as sugar refining and ship building.

It turns out that the history behind our much loved hospice building starts not with Mr Rodger but with a Greenock Merchant and Sugar Refiner, Mr James Ferguson.

When Mr Ferguson died in 1865 he left £6,000 to fund the founding of an Eye Infirmary in Greenock. The interest from the bequest was sufficient to allow a special department for ophthalmic work to be opened in Greenock Infirmary and pay for the appointment of an oculist. During the next fourteen years, Dr N.G.Cluckie, the appointed oculist, treated some 35,000 patients thanks to the Ferguson Eye Bequest. By then it had become clear that larger premises were needed. As luck would have it, one of Dr Cluckie's friends was a certain Mr Anderson Rodger. Mr. Rodger was a Port Glasgow Ship Builder who took great interest in the welfare of his home town and who suffered from eye problems of his own. He very generously offered to meet the cost of building and equipping a new Eye Infirmary in Greenock. On 27th February 1893 the Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette congratulated the town of Greenock "upon receiving from a native of Port Glasgow such a handsome monument of Christian benevolence". The new Eye Infirmary, which was of particular benefit to the working men of the district, cost £2,100.

Mr Rodger was quite a man, born in Port Glasgow, he lived with his family in King Street. In 1861 he was a ships joiner, within ten years he had become a Fish Merchant before becoming a Master Shipbuilder. For many years he was associated with Mr Joseph Russell and Mr W.T. Lithgow in the world famous ship building concerns of Messrs Russell and Company, Port Glasgow. Eventually, he took over the dry dock and the Bay Yard in Port Glasgow. In November

1895 he was elected as Provost of the Burgh of Port Glasgow.

When he died in September 1909 his firm continued under the management of his son Anderson Rodger Jr. before it finally reverted back to Lithgow's and associated yards in 1912.

Until 1921 the new Infirmary built by Mr Rodger catered for both eye and ENT patients. Just like our Hospice today, the new Infirmary depended on donations and legacies from local people.

With the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948, the Eye Infirmary joined the Board of Management for the Greenock and District Hospitals. In 1974 it transferred to the Inverclyde District of the newly created Argyll and Clyde Health Board. The Eye Infirmary closed in 1979 when Inverclyde Royal Hospital opened.

In 1981, Inverclyde Council bought Greenock Eye Infirmary from Argyll & Clyde Health Board along with Gateside Hospital, Broadstone Hospital and Greenock Royal Infirmary and very kindly agreed to lease the building to Ardgowan Hospice for a nominal rent.

It seems entirely fitting that since then the building, first envisaged as far back as 1865, has been our much loved home and has continued to serve the people of Greenock and Port Glasgow and beyond. I imagine that Mr Ferguson and Mr Rodger would be delighted.

Both of these men sought to improve the lot of local working men and women and left behind them a legacy that has benefitted our community for almost 150 years. As we think of them, let us take a moment to remember local solicitor Frank Maguire who campaigned tirelessly on behalf of ordinary working people and who passed away recently at a tragically young age after a long illness and whose life's work will also stand the test of time.

*Together we care*

Duncan Galbraith - Chairman



## Fundraising Roundup

Everyone at Ardgowan would like to thank the Inverclyde community for their support. It costs over £2 million a year to provide our services of which we receive less than 50% from the

**Agnes Provan walked the West Highland Way and raised a total of £2,691.50**

**Stuart McFarlane cycled from London to Paris and has raised a total of £3,334 so far!**

NHS which means we rely heavily on our local supporters, donors, businesses and charitable trusts. We cannot thank you enough for your support but here are some examples of your generosity:

**Two employees of Chaplins Bar, Patricia Brogan and Eileen Kane took part in the Waterfront 5K and also held a charity event raising £1700.**

**Gordon Burn's held an all day summer festival and raised £1240.29**

## Inside this Issue of Ardgowan Matters

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## Fashion & Fizz



During the summer Ardgowan Hospice hosted it's extremely popular Ladies Day event at The Chartroom in Inverkip. It was another fantastic day with great food and entertainment, despite the weather. However the cover of the magnificent marquee kept everyone's glad rags dry and warm!!

Entertainment was provided by guest speaker Joyce Falconer and talented local singer Michael Frizzel, we also had magician Ryan Davidson as well as Coco & Claude previewing some of their gorgeous fashion from their boutique in Gourrock.

A fantastic raffle, tombola and silent auction were also on offer to tempt the ladies as well as various stalls from many local supportive vendors.

Almost £14,000.00 was raised at this event which is fantastic. Ladies Day has become one of the highlights on the Hospice Social Calendar with tickets snapped up as soon as they go on sale.

We would like to thank all our guests, donors and supporters for coming along on the day.



## Ardgowan Wishes

At Ardgowan Hospice we specialise in providing very special care, designed to meet the needs of each of our patients and their families. We pride ourselves on going that extra mile to deliver the right service at the right time and we are widely known for the quality of care delivered.

We are an independent hospice and all of our care is provided free of charge. Whilst we receive nearly half of our funding from the NHS, we have to raise approx £7900 per day to carry on providing our first class care. We rely on the generosity of our supporters to meet this challenge.

You can help us by purchasing an Ardgowan wish. The gift will be a service or practical item that we use for the benefit of patients.

### It works like this...

If you know someone who seems to have everything or if you can't think what to buy as a gift why not give the gift to us? In return for your payment we will give you a card illustrating your gift to the Hospice which you can send to friends or family instead of a gift for their own use.

Our range of gifts gives you the opportunity to give a present, small or large and as appropriate as possible. Send afternoon tea for a lady who likes to lunch...transport for a man who is car crazy ...send arts and crafts materials for someone who is creative.

Each card has a photo of the gift and an explanation of just how helpful this gift is to us. Why not pop into the Hospice to collect a leaflet or log on to our website!



## A New Media Age...

*Celebrating 30 Years of Care*

Gone are the days where we relied on the newspapers and radio in the morning for our daily local and national news. We have now moved into a new and exciting digital media age where social media websites such as Facebook and Twitter have revolutionised how we keep up to date with what's going on in our world.

We at the Hospice realise many of you are Facebook users so have created our own profile page to keep in touch and update you of all the Hospice happenings. We are keen for you to post your own personal experiences or friends/family experiences

of the Hospice on our page but also appreciate any suggestions for improvements at the Hospice - we are always open to new ideas!

To celebrate our 30th Anniversary we are hoping to reach a target of 3,000 page 'likes' and to mark the special number our lucky 3,000th 'like' will receive a bottle of bubbly to celebrate. So find us on Facebook and get involved in our celebrations!

Don't forget to check out our website [www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk](http://www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk) for information on our extensive care for patients and families and also how YOU can get involved through volunteering.

# Fundraising Update

## Creative Countdown to Christmas



The Art Show is back and this year we are extending the show over three days from 18th - 20th November to give Hospice supporters a greater chance to browse the art, treat yourself to an artistic investment or start your Christmas shopping with a wide range of unique Scottish products.

Tall Ships artist William Dobbie has generously donated an auction prize with a difference, a Giclée print of his iconic Greenock scenes which he will personalise. William will work with the winning bidder to create a completely unique piece of work that will be special to your family for years to come. The event is being supported by McTears and Brian Clements will host the auction.

Alongside this tremendous auction opportunity there will be over 50 pieces of art available to buy with the Hospice receiving 50% of any sales. All artists are from Scotland and the price of work ranges from £100 to £3000 so there should be something to suit every budget.

Artists include Kevin Hunter, Robert Kelsey, Sibyl Kadel, Lin Patullo, Cate Inglis, Gordon Cheape, Karen Orr, Gary Morrow and many more.

And if you are looking for inspiration for Christmas gifts there will be a variety of independent Scottish retailers selling jewellery, bath products, stained glass, affordable art prints and much more. From Gourock boutique Coco and Claude to award winning jeweler Bonnie Bling there will be present finds there for even the hardest to please.

The show opens on Friday night at 7pm with a wine and nibbles reception and continues over the weekend with the Gallery open between 10-5. The event is being held at Inverclyde's Rig-Art (Pottery Street, Greenock [www.rig-art.co.uk](http://www.rig-art.co.uk)) who were excellent hosts last year and we are delighted to be working with them again.

The exhibition is free all weekend, and invitations are available for opening night. If you wish an invitation to opening night, which will feature a wine reception, our auction and our raffle featuring a range of art themed prizes, please contact Sarah Nottingham on **sarah.nottingham@ardhosp.co.uk** or on **01475 726830**.



## Over the Moon

We are delighted to report that our total income from this year's Moonlight Walk has reached over £81k which we are absolutely overwhelmed by.

Building on this success we are already in the planning stages for next year's event and our provisional date is Saturday 5th May 2012 at 10pm (subject to planning approval). Entries will open in January so don't be late; you don't want to miss out! Entries will be limited to 750 participants. Further information will be published nearer the time.

## The Recruit's busiest programme to date!



34 young people from across Inverclyde battled it out to win a job on Inverclyde's very own version of the hit TV show The Apprentice – **The Recruit**.

Every year the young 'would be business leaders' undertake a demanding schedule of events during the summer months but this year was busier than ever. More businesses offered support to the programme offering new challenges, speaker sessions and motivational workshops.

The young people have to develop the skills necessary to succeed in business such as leadership, teamwork, communication, problem solving, time management, creativity and show what they have to offer potential employers.

Throughout the programme the young people were involved in supporting crew events at Tall

Ships, developing marketing ideas with Phoenix Car Company, delivering a film/media project with Babygrand Productions, hearing from top entrepreneurs and running various business ventures. From all challenges undertaken, the young people spent approximately 500 hours on the programme.

A spokesperson for the programme said: "All the Recruits displayed talents, demonstrated their determination and enthusiasm and represented Inverclyde as positive role models and leaders of the future"

As a result of their entrepreneur challenge together with the raffle and auction held at the black tie Finale Dinner in August £9,500 was raised to support the Hospice.

## Room For Improvement

Recently we had the opportunity to review the use of two of our rooms in the In-Patient Unit against the National Care Standards. The National Care

standards are based upon the principles of dignity, privacy, choice, safety, realizing potential and equality and diversity. We took this opportunity to provide additional space for patients and families away from the bedside.

We created a café style area where patients and their families can spend time together as well as with staff. Having access to such areas can often be a significant factor in encouraging patients to maintain their independence and mobility as well as providing a choice of

environment. This area provides a space for larger family gatherings as well as a focus on information.

Leaflets for hospice and community services will be available here and our Patient and Family Support Team are located beside the café to be on hand if required.



## Lighting up Lives

Ardgowan Hospice invites you to join us in remembering loved ones by illuminating a light on the Christmas tree at Westburn Church, Nelson Street, Greenock. On Sunday 27th November at 6.00pm we will be illuminating the lights on our tree and would be delighted if you would be able to join us at this special event as we remember our loved ones at this time of year. The dedication will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the church hall where there will be an opportunity to purchase Christmas cards and merchandise from our festive range.

If you would like to dedicate a light to someone please return the enclosed card to Ardgowan Hospice or visit our website [www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk](http://www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk).

All names will be entered into Ardgowan Hospice's



Book of Remembrance, which will be displayed at our annual Remembrance Service in May and thereafter, in the Hospice.

On behalf of everyone at Ardgowan Hospice may we take this opportunity to wish you and your family best wishes for the forthcoming festive season.

## Christmas Cards

Our new range of Christmas cards and merchandise is now on sale from both Hospice receptions and will soon be available in our shops in Gourrock, Greenock, Port Glasgow and Kilmacolm. We have introduced a fabulous festive range of merchandise which make ideal stocking fillers.

There are great gift ideas for all the family during the festive period and all the money raised will benefit the Hospice and ensure that we meet the needs of our patients and families and enable us to continue to provide a high level of care and develop our services or the Inverclyde community.



## Ardgowan Matters offers email

We would like to start delivering our newsletter by email to as many of you as possible. This will not only save the Hospice money on printing and postage but will also help us do our bit for the environment! Can you please email me at [allison.smith@ardhosp.co.uk](mailto:allison.smith@ardhosp.co.uk) with your name and address if you would like to sign up for this service.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter please contact Allison Smith, Marketing & Communications Manager via email at [Allison.smith@ardhosp.co.uk](mailto:Allison.smith@ardhosp.co.uk) or call **01475 726830**

## Dates for the Diary

Ardgowan Hospice has a calendar of events planned to raise funds:

Art Show **18-20th November** Riverside Inverclyde Gallery (RIG) **Contact Sarah Nottigham for tickets**

Fashion Show **Tue 22 Nov** Greenock Town Hall **Contact Evelyn Sinclair for tickets**

Carol Concert **11th December** Greenock Town Hall **Contact Cathie Thompson for tickets**

Call fundraising on **01475 726830** or visit [www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk](http://www.ardgowanhospice.org.uk) for further details on any of these events.

# Money Matters

## 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)

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Date/Number \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

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



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