Supporting people living with HIV or Hepatitis C in Scotland

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positive interest

THE CHARITY NEWSLETTER OF WAVERLEY CARE

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Welcome to my first edition of Positive Interest. I’m delighted to have taken on the role of Director of Waverley Care and I look forward to meeting many of the charity’s supporters, volunteers and service users over the coming months.

I join the charity at a time when we’re receiving great support from so many individuals, groups, companies, charitable trusts, NHS boards, councils and the Scottish Government and it is still very much needed. New diagnoses of HIV and Hepatitis C continue, along with the ever present stigma and discrimination faced by those living with the conditions. The need for the prevention, information and support services we offer is as great as ever. With your support, I’ll be working hard to ensure that we continue to offer quality services that make a real difference to people’s lives and that adapt to changing needs.

You can find out a little bit more about me and my hopes and fears for Waverley Care on page 5 of this edition of Positive Interest. You can also read more about our African Health Project and find out about one of our long-term supporters, Martin Hunt. Finally, don’t forget our World AIDS Day round up on page 6 and a huge thank you to all those that supported us.

With warmest wishes for 2012

Grant Sugden, Director

P.S. I’ve just signed up to run in the Edinburgh Marathon as part of a Waverley Care staff relay team. See advert [left] if you’d like to take part. Or, please sponsor us at: www.justgiving.com/tartantearaways
Supporter Profile

Martin Hunt, Managing Director of Edinburgh based PR firm, Tartan Silk, has been a supporter of Waverley Care for around 20 years. He has pledged a legacy gift in his will to Waverley Care and is keen to encourage others to lend their support.

Q: Why did you first become involved with Waverley Care?
A: I had witnessed the excellent services that Waverley Care was offering and I wanted to contribute to that work and give something back to the local community.

Q: Which of Waverley Care’s services stands out to you the most?
A: Definitely the Buddy Service. When people are feeling vulnerable, such as when they’re diagnosed HIV or Hepatitis C positive, they need someone to talk to; someone who will be there and who they can rely on.

Q: What is your favourite film?
A: ‘Out of Africa’. I adore Meryl Streep. I once found myself next to her on a ski lift in America and we had a brief but memorable conversation about the weather and skiing.

Q: What are you currently reading?
A: Robin Harper’s Memoirs. It is very enjoyable and stimulating. I have a great affection for Robin as I believe he did a lot in the Scottish Parliament to bring balance between political factions.

Q: Why do you encourage other people to support Waverley Care?
A: I think it is important to support charities where you can see the work being carried out. Also, there are a lot of people in the gay community who, I believe, should consider leaving a gift to Waverley Care in their will, particularly as most don’t have children to consider. It is a difficult thing for people to think about but it is certain that we will all die one day and it is therefore necessary. People should be clear about what they want to be done with their assets at the end of their life.

Q: Who inspires you?
A: Those who inspire me most are the young members of my team at work who are always coming up with new ideas and concepts. Currently we discuss a lot to do with social media which is very important for communications and communicating effectively.

Q: Name 3 things you have still yet to do in life?
A: My passions are travel and art. I’m already painting so, for travel, I would have to say visiting Patagonia, visiting New Zealand, where I spent the first 10 years of my life but where I haven’t been back to, and a round-the-world trip. I am partly fulfilling the last ambition next year with a trip taking in China, South Korea, Japan, Russia and Canada to name a few places. I’m very excited!

Lothian’s New Sexual Health Centre

The new Chalmers Sexual Health Centre has opened its doors to the public.

The centre, supporting the NHS Lothian region, is a purpose built ‘one-stop-shop’ for sexual health services, combining Family Planning and Genitourinary Medicine.

The modern and spacious new building is a conversion of the 140 year old historic Chalmers Hospital. The aim of the new centre is to offer people access to fast and effective care and advice.

The clinic can be found at: 2A Chalmers Street, Edinburgh EH3 9ES. Tel: 0131 536 1070.
Amah

Amah is a 35 year old woman who lives in Glasgow and is originally from Rwanda. She came with her young daughter to Scotland seeking asylum from persecution in her home country.

Amah tested HIV positive a few months after arriving in Scotland but struggled to accept her diagnosis. She felt isolated and unhappy in an unfamiliar country, especially as she now felt she faced a new threat to her life.

Amah was referred to Waverley Care by her hospital consultant. She joined the women’s support group and thrived on being able to meet other African women also living with HIV and hear their fears, concerns and solutions. She gained new confidence through this shared support and also through gaining a clearer understanding of HIV. She began to move forward in her life, making new friends and also supporting other women through Waverley Care’s befrienders scheme.

Amah is now a different woman from when she was first diagnosed. She is in a new relationship and has a healthy 4 month old baby who she takes to our new mothers and babies group.

For more information on our African Health Project, call 0131 556 9710.
Introducing... Grant Sugden

Waverley Care’s new Director is three months into his new role. We found out more about the new man at the top.

Q: Why did you choose to work for Waverley Care?
A: Growing up in the 1980s when HIV emerged meant that I was always aware of the condition and always had an interest in the issues for those living with HIV. Waverley Care stood out as a vibrant and dynamic organisation that was doing great work and I wanted to be part of it.

Q: Tell us about life before Waverley Care.
A: I was born and brought up in Bishopbriggs, Glasgow before moving to Troon where I spent the rest of my childhood. After studying Economics and Politics at Edinburgh University I knew I wanted to have a career that involved helping people rather than going into business. So, after a year being a helper for a disabled student, I trained and qualified as a social worker. I first worked as a children and families social worker before moving into the voluntary sector and working at a charity called Circle where I was Operations Director. My next move was here to Waverley Care.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in your new job?
A: I love that service users and volunteers are actually heavily involved in the organisation and so I’m looking forward to getting to know lots of them. Also I’m looking forward to continuing and developing services that make a difference to people’s lives. Waverley Care has a culture of everyone’s ideas being listened to and seriously considered and I want to continue that.

Q: What are you least looking forward to?
A: It would have to be the major challenge of the review of our Milestone respite unit and the possibility that the review could keep dragging on. Whilst I believe there is still a strong need for residential care, we need a decision made to allow staff and service users to move forward.

Q: What are you currently reading?
A: Michael Connelly ‘The Fifth Witness’. I’m into crime novels at the moment and it is a nice easy read which is just what I need as my head is very full of Waverley Care information.

Q: What is your favourite food and drink?
A: Spaghetti bolognaise and a glass of red wine.

Q: Who inspires you?
A: I’d love to say someone intellectual and groundbreaking but I have to say Debbie Harry. I’ve been a huge Blondie fan since I was about 7 or 8 and think she is fabulous!

Q: Where would we find you on your ideal holiday?
A: I’m not sure what my ideal holiday would be but it would be along the lines of the cooking holiday I’ve got booked in Sicily in June.
World AIDS Day 2011

Thank you to everyone who supported us on 1st December, World AIDS Day.

Waverley Care hosted our annual World AIDS Day Community Gatherings in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness.

The cast of We Will Rock you and staff at Edinburgh Playhouse raised £8,323.

Broughton St Mary’s Church in Edinburgh stood out for the week of World AIDS Day by being lit up in red.

Students at Heriot Watt’s campus in the Borders surprised diners when they staged a lunchtime ‘flashmob’ dance routine in a students’ cafeteria.

Broughton Street businesses and Edinburgh’s LGBT venues displayed red ribbons and fundraised. Over £1500 was raised. Thanks to Jonathan MacBride for his hard work.

World AIDS Day fundraising thank yous to...

Artisan Roast, Barony Bar, Blue Moon Café, Broughton Delicatessan, Café Nom de Plume, CC Blooms, Chequers Too, Crollas, Crombies of Edinburgh, Curiouser and Curiouser, Dragonfly, Fishers Restaurant Group, Frenchies Bar, GHQ, Café Habana, Lifescan Scotland Ltd, Mathers Bar, New Town Bar, North Edinburgh Drug Advice Centre, Phoenix Bar, Planet Bar, Priscilla’s, Q Store, Real Foods, Regent Bar, SCVO, Siam Thani, Smoke Stack, Something Fishy, Starbucks, The Street, The Village, Villeneuve Wines and Vino Wines.

Braidburn School, Carnegie College, Edinburgh Students’ Charities Appeal, George Watson’s College, Heriot-Watt University, Inveralmond Community High School, James Gillespie’s High School, Kingsussie High School, Milburn Academy, Royal High School, St Augustine’s High School and Telford College.

Broughton St Mary’s Church, Church of the Good Shepherd Murrayfield, Colinton Parish Church, Community of the Transfiguration, Ibrox Parish Church and St Peter’s Episcopal Church.
Other Activities

The Gyle Shopping Centre played host to a Christmas Card Stall in November. We raised £370.39 which was generously matched funded by Lloyds Banking Group, as employee Gillian Graham volunteered for the day.

Blair Kelly raised £125 by hosting an acoustic night in December with performances by him, Stevie Adams, Rosemary Stanford and friends. Thank you all.

Congratulations to Mark Mclver and Donald MacInnes for winning awards at the Lloyds Banking Group Day to Make a Difference Awards in London for their volunteering and fundraising work with Waverley Care. Thanks to them and Lloyds Banking Group for their ongoing support.

Singers from Royal High School sang carols at various locations across Edinburgh raising a fabulous £1200. A dress down day in November also raised £1,044. Thank you all.

Fundraising Diary

Sunday 19th February 2012, 7.45pm
Edinburgh Charity Orchestra in Concert
St Cuthbert’s Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh
Tickets £10 (£7 conc) on the door, or £9 (£6 conc) from www.xtspro.com

Sunday 27th May 2012
Edinburgh Marathon
Raise funds for Waverley Care. Full, half-marathon and team relay places available.
Contact Jane in the fundraising team
0131 556 9710 / admin@waverleycare.org

Sunday 10th June 2012
Forth Rail Bridge Sponsored Abseil
South Queensferry, Edinburgh
Raise funds for Waverley Care. Freefall abseil 165ft!
Contact Jane in the fundraising team
0131 556 9710 / admin@waverleycare.org

Saturday 25th August, 8.30pm
Loud & Proud on the Fringe
Stockbridge Parish Church, Edinburgh
A sparkling evening of a cappella music
Tickets £12 (£9 conc) from Waverley Care Fundraising Team
Tel 0131 556 9710

For more details go to: www.waverleycare.org
Alternatively, call 0131 556 9710 or email fund@waverleycare.org

March 2012 Positive Interest
Supporting Our Work

Please consider making a donation towards our work.

Title
Forename(s)
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Address
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I would like to:

☐ give a single gift of £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ other £

(please make cheques payable to ‘Waverley Care’ or to donate by credit / debit card go to www.waverleycare.org and click ‘donate now’)

☐ tick here if you do not want to receive an acknowledgement of your donation.

☐ give a regular donation

To the manager of (bank) Address

Postcode

Bank Sort Code / / Account No.

Please pay Waverley Care, Royal Bank of Scotland, 61 Forrest Road, Edinburgh EH1 1QP (Sort Code 83-19-09, Account No. 00286995) the sum of £ monthly starting on  /  / 20 until further notice.

With Gift Aid for every £1 you give Waverley Care can get an extra 25p from HM Revenue & Customs at no cost to you.

☐ I wish to treat all donations I make to Waverley Care as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.

Signature

Date  /  / 20

Please return this form to:
Waverley Care, FREEPOST RSBX-RZUK-EBRZ, 1 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh EH3 6NB

* By providing your email address you agree to Waverley Care contacting you by email. Waverley Care will process your personal information for administration purposes, to further our charitable aims and to keep you updated with our work. We will not share your information with any other agencies or organisations.

‡ Waverley Care will claim Gift Aid tax relief of 25p on every £1 you give. You must pay an amount of UK Income Tax, and/or Capital Gains tax, at least equal to the tax that we will reclaim on your donations.

Donate in celebration:

Birthday... Retirement... Wedding... Civil Partnership...
Make your special occasion extra special by asking friends and family to donate to Waverley Care instead of giving presents.

Call Karen on 0131 556 9710 for more information.