

The Harmony therapy Trust

AGM 2021

Chair of Trustees Report

We hold this AGM in accordance with our Constitution and Charity Commission rules, but in all fairness we have little to report on since our last AGM. The 2020 AGM was delayed from May 2020, due to Covid. It was finally held on-line at the end of October. The eight months since then has mostly been in further lockdown.

Fund-raising since that time has been minimal, although we do appreciate the fund-raising that therapists and volunteers have done to keep the pennies rolling in. Every penny counts!

Thanks to our Founder, Dawn, who manages our Office base in Sheerness, for her recruiting skills. She ensures the Office is well staffed with volunteers and she has additionally recruited new nominated Trustees.

Please do remember that the volunteers are just that. They have to send out reminders to therapists for paperwork from time to time, and occasionally receive rather intolerant replies. They are only doing their job folks! Respect!

During lockdown we have lost a few therapists who have been forced into more secure employment, but we retain a healthy core base of support, and our therapists now enjoy the improved rate of remuneration.

Our long standing Patron, Dr Charlotte Abson, retired from her position as a Clinical Oncologist this year, but she has kindly agreed to continue as a Patron. She did however recommend that we recruit a serving medical specialist as a co-patron. We are delighted then to welcome Louise Black who is a clinical nurse specialist at Medway Hospital.

Gillie Marshall Howells has brought amazing finance skills to Harmony. She provides us with a monthly detailed financial analysis. This in spite of her own challenging health issues. It was impossible for her to be present today, but she has ensured that we have the audited accounts in addition to her own report.

I have now completed my stint as Chair of Trustees and we will be appointing anew to the position towards the end of the meeting. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support that they have given me over the past few years!

Robert Nelson

27-06-21

## Finance Report Y/E 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Good Afternoon and welcome to everyone. I apologise for my own absence.

Well what can be said about last year? It was a bit of a non-starter really for most of the world as well as for Harmony. I hope we have all come through it relatively unscathed although I am sure nearly every one of us has had our lives made poorer by the loss of someone. For us, it was Grandad. So I send my love and blessings out to all.

Harmony took 75 referrals last year, 65 women and 10 men from throughout Kent. Breast Cancer was by far and away the biggest illness. And reflexology the most requested and provided therapy.

As you can imagine, in terms of finances, not a lot happened. We were unable to hold all the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events that were planned, donations were down on previous years and the events that are often and wonderfully held on our behalf also were unable to go ahead.

We did however receive a £10k grant from Swale Borough Council and a donation of £1800 from Bobbing Crematorium. Other donations from Horton Property Developers, Dover WI, Jeff Payne's enormous fund raising efforts every year, the xmas cake raffle, birthday collections on Facebook and Lyn selling her handmade jewellery meant our income for the year eventually totalled a fairly respectable £16k.

Our outgoings were similarly reduced and payments to therapists that were able to work between lockdowns and submitted invoices totalled £5490. Other unavoidable office expenses took our total outgoings to £7186. And we also paid for half of the CRM that is in delayed development. We are very much hoping, Covid allowing, that the Harlequin CRM will be in and running before this financial year is out. We ended with an excess income over outgoings of £3704 this year and a ring-fence of future payments to therapists of £26,220 based on outstanding sessions.

Fingers crossed for the rest of this year and a return to some sort of normality. I would like to finish by thanking everyone for the continued support you give to The Harmony Therapy Trust. Without you and your efforts on our behalf we and the amazing therapists would not be able to provide the valuable service we do to seriously ill people. I'd also like to thank the bikers that John Stockham has introduced to us – their contribution for the awesome and mindboggling run to Margate (600 plus bikes!!) falls into the new financial year but we are very grateful for both the donation and the publicity they have brought our way. Thanks guys.

Over and out.

Gillie

Treasurer

## FOUNDER'S AGM REPORT

October 2020-June 2021

In these strange times I am writing 2021 report less than 6 months since our very delayed 2020 AGM and you will not be surprised to know that due to the second full lockdown not much has changed . Everything ground to another halt and we were all forced to sit back and just tick over working from home from the administration point of view.

It did however give us all a much needed rest but going back in to catch up on the work, well let's just say when April 12<sup>th</sup> came and went we were still having difficulty getting back into the rhythm of things and catching up on those referrals that had come in during lockdown which were put on hold

Sad to say we have lost several excellent therapists who either have begun retraining in something else, moved away or simply had to give up working as a therapist in order to find a job to pay the bills. Catching up is never easy whatever the reason, and to the therapists that have had to step down for whatever reason, we wish you all the very best for the future and thank you for being part of the Harmony Team for so long. It goes without saying we miss you

All the reports today will be short, but I am pleased to say that during lockdown we have found a new Trustee Dolley Jean White, who hopefully we will be voting onto the board today and once the formalities are through I invite you to give her a hearty Harmony Welcome

With the slow computers we have been having great difficulty in the office making best use of our time in processing referrals and Jean Mackenzie along with her son in law Dave helped put some more oomph into our old (donated PCs) for which help we are so grateful. However knowing that we needed to find a way forward I put out a call amongst my friends on Facebook for help and purely by chance someone responded to my SOS on the IT front. This was important as we needed to have advice about loading our CRM onto a cloud server. Daniel Roberts came to our rescue. Not only has he built a new computer for us, but he has helped with the camera for those of you who will be joining us via Teams, but also speeded up the laptops and shown yours truly how to check one or two things myself. In the meantime he is building the cloud server to take the CRM. Dan, worked for Optivo for a good number of years as their IT Manager and has worked for other well known organisations and businesses as IT *HelpDesk* prior to that. He is kindly donating his time and wealth of knowledge into helping us get the best out of CRM once it is ready to launch and for us to agree a date with Harlequin for training.

We seriously need to look a succession on the Board of Trustees and I am in touch with a lovely young lady that helped John Stockham our unofficial photographer with the Bikers ride Whit Bank Holiday Monday. Tara Riddle has worked with AGE UK as a volunteer and she is currently considering my proposal to join us as a young Trustee looking after our social media (something I do at present). I will keep you

posted if that works out. The Bike ride gathered over £200 in bucket donations by the way so a big thankyou is due to John, Tara and the organizer Rich Clancy of Riptide RiderZ. These Bikers are continuing to raise money for us too! Think I need to find out what it is like riding pillion. I was a Mod in my day not a Rocker!!

Lyn and I have started Line Dancing and enjoying it so much we have persuaded the teacher John and Sheerness East Working Men's club to hold a dance evening on September 10<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping for a great turn out so watch this space as things are at the embryonic stage of organization.

We certainly will have to look to 2022 as being our big fundraising year and I hope you will all be behind us on that in any way that you can.

As always I end this report with so much love and affection for everyone who believed in me at the start when I began this journey to help the seriously ill of Kent, and for those who helped build us to what we are but for one reason or another had to move on, and more still for the wonderful Team I have around me who understand the vital need for our help in what can be the dark night of the soul for so many coping with cancer or other serious life altering illness. You have no idea the difference you all make in their lives, and the joy each and every one of you bring with the help you give whether as a Trustee, Volunteer, therapist or donor of funds.

We are all here to make a difference has always been the words I live by and you certainly have made and continue to make yours

Dawn

## **EVENTS REPORT FOR THE HARMONY THERAPY TRUST AGM 27 June 2021 – Lyn Baseley**

Although we have been unable to hold any fundraising events as such this year, there have still been a few fundraising activities.

There have been several Facebook birthday fundraisers, including Jeff Payne, and Dawn Cockburn, thank you to all who arranged and contributed to those. Apologies to anyone I haven't named, unfortunately Facebook doesn't show the dates.

We had two fantastic cake raffles - we're very grateful to Jeff Payne for organising and Janet Steele for baking the lovely Christmas and Easter cakes. The Christmas one raised just over £200 and the Easter one £120.

In May this year the riders in the Coastal Boyz Margate Takeover took out a couple of our collection buckets. Thanks here to John Stockham, who was a photographer at the event and sells his photos for a donation to Harmony.

We're always looking for new ways to fundraise and spread awareness and lockdown did present an opportunity. I provided some quiz questions for an online quiz run by the Admirals arm micropub. They promoted the Trust and posted a link to the Harmony donate button on our Facebook page.

Looking forwards, we hope to have another stall in Sheerness High Street in August. With potential for another in the new Queenborough Harbour Market, again in August. We've booked a Line Dancing Party for the 10<sup>th</sup> September at the Sheerness East Working Mens Club.

We await announcements of further lifting of restrictions to enable us to re-visit plans we'd made for events in 2020 – our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year.

As always, if anyone has any ideas for events, whether they be for fundraising or raising awareness, do contact me, Dawn or Jean and we will support with advice, posters and help on the day where we can.