

# **OLDHAM CANCER** **SUPPORT CENTRE**

## **NEWS**

(Issue 15, January 2019)

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### **Message from our Chairman, Cllr**

**Norman Briggs:**



*The last six months have been extremely busy at OCSC.*

*We celebrated our Tenth Anniversary in September and what a great day that was. A group of our Volunteers worked so hard to make the day such a success and we thank them very much for that.*

*Since July we have also been working towards opening our new Charity Shop on Ashton Road East in Failsworth, and the grand opening finally took place on December 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*You will read more about these two events further on in the Newsletter.*

*Fundraising continues as always, and as always we must thank the hard-working group which meets regularly and also organises all the events.*

*The group could use some more members, so if anyone is interested in joining they will be very welcome. Just ring the Centre to find out when the next meeting will be held.*

*We are hoping to run another of our two-week 'Back To The Future' programmes in the coming months - possibly starting towards the end of April 2019. Further information will be available as soon as possible.*

*On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I must, as always, thank all our Volunteers and Staff at OCSC for their continuing loyalty and ongoing hard work. I've said it many times before but it needs saying again - we couldn't keep going without you.*

*I will close by wishing you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.*

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## **THANK YOU**

- to Margaret and Barry Heap for yet another very generous donation and also for goods donated to us for selling in the Charity Shop. Margaret and Barry continue to be two of our longest-standing supporters.
- to Elaine Everett, another loyal supporter of OCSC, for two donations made during the past six months

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**OCSC Tel No:**

**0161 770 8751**

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## Tenth Year Celebration

### The history:

A lot has happened in the ten years since OCSC first opened its doors to people whose lives are adversely affected by cancer. Our services are offered not only to those people with cancer but also to their close family members/primary carers and to those who have been bereaved by cancer.

Members of the group who started OCSC first met as a support system for each other after they had finished their cancer treatment. The fantastic support they had received during their treatment suddenly wasn't there any more, and they wondered "What now?"

After a while they realised that the support they gave to each other was so positive that they decided that they wanted to offer that same support to others in a similar situation in Oldham.

A lot of hard work and much fundraising later, and with the support of the NHS, OCSC opened its doors for the first time in the Failsworth Health Centre.

Unfortunately, a few years later the rent for these rooms became prohibitive, but with help from the local Councillors we were offered rooms in the Ena Hughes Centre. With financial help also being provided by the Oldham Public Health Department to renovate the rooms, we were able to open in October 2013. With help from our Volunteers we moved during one weekend – our last patient was seen on the Friday afternoon in our old premises and we were open again in our new premises on the Monday morning.

We knew almost immediately that we had made the right move. Patients and clients were delighted with the new premises, describing them as "more homely", "less clinical", "very restful and calming" and "very welcoming". The only negative

comments we have ever received have been about the lack of sufficient parking – and we manage to live with that!

### The celebration plans:

It was decided that we would have a day of celebration on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. OCSC would be open from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and tea, coffee and home-made cake would be available all day. Tables in the Age UK Clock Café and in the large meeting room would be set out afternoon tea style.

The Mayor was invited and promised to come at 11.00 a.m. and the Age UK Choir agreed to provide entertainment at 11.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

Invitations were to be sent to past and present patients, clients, volunteers, therapists and counsellors.

Scores of photos taken over the ten years were to be displayed in both main rooms and also in the adjoining corridor.

### The day!

To successfully reach 10.00 a.m. on September 22<sup>nd</sup> was a mammoth task – which was undertaken by a group of volunteers who worked their socks off during the previous few weeks. (You know who you are and you know how much the Board of Trustees appreciated all that hard work.) The fact that the Centre looked absolutely fantastic is testament to them all.

On the day itself they were joined by more volunteers who helped to take care of our visitors and who served drinks and cake.

At this point we need to thank Lynn Kershaw, who has a florist shop on Propps Hall Drive, Failsworth, for six beautiful floral displays which decorated some of the tables.

The Mayor arrived just before 11.00 a.m. and immediately joined in the spirit of the

day, chatting to visitors and volunteers. We then came to the 'formal' part of the day when our Chairman welcomed everyone, the Mayor said a few words and then our patron, Jim McMahon MP, spoke about his involvement with OCSC.

The Mayor then presented volunteers and staff who had been with us for at least five years with certificates of recognition and appreciation:

Sandra Abbott	Christine Beltran
Sheila Bowman	Carole Bradbury
Anita Brown	Anne Davidson
Jenny Fretwell	Pat Rigby
David Williams	Pam Williams

Jim McMahon concluded the proceedings by presenting those people who had been with OCSC for the whole ten years with their certificates:

Ann Bennett	Shirley Hynes
Suzanne Nebreda	Lilian Potts
Pauline Robinson	Ros Royle
Denis Ryder	Shirley Ryder
Joan Swindells	

Diane Taylor, Head of Centre, joined us and presented us with a cheque for £500 from Miocare. What a very unexpected and generous gesture – which certainly was the icing on the cake for OCSC!

The Age UK Choir then entertained us with a selection of popular songs, both old and new. At 12.30 p.m. they returned with another selection and this time visitors and volunteers alike were up on their feet dancing. What a fantastic atmosphere.

It was really good to see so many faces from the past and to listen to comments as people spotted photographs that obviously brought back many memories.

All in all it was agreed that the day had been both remarkable and unforgettable.



**The Café**



**The Meeting Room**



**Almost ready to open**





**Jim McMahon MP, The Mayor and OCSC Chairman, Cllr Norman Briggs**



**Suzanne – 10 years**



**Anita receiving her 5 year certificate**



**Cutting the Celebration Cake**



**Pat – 5 years**



**£500 cheque being presented by Miocare's Diane Taylor (end on right)**



**Ann – 10 years**



**Age UK Choir**



**The dancers!**



**Celebration cake – made by Pat Rigby**



**Table flowers – thanks to Lynn Kershaw**

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## **THANK YOU**

- to Dorothy and Keith Lawson for a very generous donation to mark our Ten Year Celebration.
- to all those people who sent cards to commemorate the occasion.
- to all members of the Age UK Choir who gave up their Saturday to entertain us.

## **Carers' Drop-in Group**

The Carers' group also celebrated its tenth anniversary this year and members marked the occasion on July 30th with a special afternoon tea at the Little Teashop on the Corner in Failsworth.

This was a lovely occasion and they were joined by Marie Walmsey, who had helped Shirley and Denis Ryder to facilitate the group for many years.

The Group meets at the Centre on the last Monday of each month (unless it is a bank holiday, when it meets the previous week), from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. and a light lunch is provided. **The next meeting is on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

If anyone reading this is a carer and you are able to take a few hours for yourself each month, then please do join us – you will be made very welcome. Please remember that you don't have to be caring for someone with cancer, just caring for someone with any illness.



**Shirley, Denis and Marie**

## Patients' Support Group

The Patients' Support Group continues to be very popular, particularly with ladies – although men are also very welcome!

We meet at the Centre on the last Wednesday of each month from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. Tea and coffee are always available and a light lunch is served. (This would be a good time to say a big thank you to Angela Simms, one of the Group members, who makes beautiful and delicious cakes for our monthly meetings).

The group was set up six years ago and has grown from strength to strength. The facilitators are Ros Royle and Eileen Garner.

Anyone who has, or has had, a diagnosis with cancer, is welcome to come to the group. If it helps, you can bring a friend or relative with you for support.

The monthly activities include craft work such as card making, jewellery making, art therapy, make-up demonstrations, speakers on various subjects – and if possible we also try to have a trip out once or twice a year. We are always looking for new ideas.

Sometimes we just have a “sit and chat” session. Members are very comfortable with each other and we have some who have made new friends for life.

### July:

We had a lovely day trip on a canal boat from Ashton's Portland Basin to Hyde and back. It was a beautiful warm summer's day – the weather couldn't have been more perfect.

The canal boat was called “Community Spirit”. The three volunteer crew members made us very welcome and gave us lots of interesting information about the history of the canal. We sailed at a leisurely pace along the canal; it was approximately a two hour journey taking in lovely scenery and wildlife along the way. We all enjoyed it so much and took lots of photos.

On our return we looked round the Portland Basin Museum which was really interesting. Then to finish the day off we all enjoyed afternoon tea and scones in the Museum Cafe. What a fabulous day out.



**Linda in Titanic mode!**



## August:

This month we had a quieter day making cards. Eileen demonstrated how to make a themed card e.g. birthday or thank you. One of the ladies in the group had just returned home after undergoing major surgery so we made her a get well card from all of us and sent it with a bouquet of flowers.



Eileen then showed us how to make some simple jewellery:



## September:

Group members today enjoyed a manicure session and experimented with a variety of different colours and types of varnish.



This was a very relaxing session when lots of tea, coffee, biscuits and chat were enjoyed.

## October and November:

Earlier in the year we had successfully applied for a grant for patients, carers and volunteers to enjoy two full days of craft activities (together with lunch). These were held on the Patients' Group usual meeting days.

### October:

The day was held at Failsworth Town Hall from 9.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. 30 people took part (each in a group of 10) and each group was taught three different craft activities over the day. Facilitators were Joan Swindells, Veronica Crean, Margaret Smith and a tutor from Oldham Council's Life Long Learning Service.

The crafts were: card making, making quilled gift tags and glass decoration.





**November:**

A day of Christmas Crafts: box cards, gift tags and jewellery.



**bracelets**



A Christmas raffle also held today made £57 for the Group.

**December:**

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December members of the Patients' Group went to the pantomime at the Oldham Coliseum to see "Cinderella". We had a really good afternoon of fun and laughter which lifted everyone's spirits.

This rounded off 2018 very nicely.

**The next Patients' Support Group Meeting will be on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019.**

**Annual 10K Walk/Run**

On August 18<sup>th</sup> we held our Annual 10K Walk/Run in Brookdale Park.

The weather was kind to us and the entrants were in good spirits.



**Ernie, Norman and Paul haven't quite grasped the concept of a "Walk/Run"!!**



**Veronica and her dog have got the idea – and they've just finished.**

## Others who successfully completed:



Denis



Ruth



Kathy

The sponsored event raised **£758.00** which is an incredible amount.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who took part and/or helped to organise the day.

## THANK YOU

- to **Steven Shepley** for a donation of £346 which was collected in lieu of flowers at his wife, Joyce's, funeral. It is particularly kind of Steven to remember us in this way at such a very sad time.
- to **Pauline and Eddie Hurrell** for a donation of £40 in lieu of a Christmas present for their friends Pam and David Williams
- to **Pam and David Williams** for the same in reverse!
- to **David and Jean McGealey** for a donation at Christmas
- to **Tracy Acton and family** for a generous donation plus chocolates for staff and volunteers.
- to **Jean Denby** and her **Womens' Institute** branch for a donation at Christmas.
- to **Anita Brown** for a donation in lieu of sending Christmas cards to friends and colleagues at the Centre.
- to **Michelle Dobson** for a very generous donation.
- to **Pat Rigby** for a donation, again in lieu of sending cards to friends at the Centre.
- to **Maura Ryan** for the donation of a lovely Christmas hamper to use as the prize in a free raffle for all staff and volunteers at OCSC. This is the third time that Maura has done this for us and this year the hamper was won by David Williams.
- to **Dorothy Lynch** who made a generous donation in memory of her friend Christine Mary Dean.
- to **Helen Ashworth** who made two donations recently, one to OCSC and one to the Patients' Group.
- to **Maureen Dean** for her recent donation to the Patients' Group and also for all the knitted baby clothes she makes for us to sell.

## Quiz Night

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November Janet and Geoff Iles organised another Quiz Night for us at The Millgate.

These quiz evenings are very popular and this one was no exception. It was very well attended and we were still 'quizzing' at 11.30 p.m.!

Together with a raffle the evening raised £331 – so thanks once again to Janet and Geoff and to our Volunteers who helped at the event.



~ the winning team ~



~ the wooden spoon team! ~



~raffle prize winners ~

David Heyes, one of our Trustees, won the first prize in the raffle which was a bottle of whisky from Westminster donated by Jim McMahon MP. He decided to auction it and made a further £20 for us – thanks David.



~ auctioneer ~

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## Fundraising:

*A Coffee Morning on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August raised £131.81*

*The Therapy Day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October raised £278.*

*An orchid donated by Jacqui Burkinshaw raised £40 in a raffle which was won by Moriam Yarwood, one of our Counsellors.*

*A Christmas hamper kindly donated by Samantha, one of our receptionists, raised £127 in a raffle. It was won by another receptionist, Anita Brown, who was absolutely delighted.*

*A big thank you to everyone who helped with any of the above.*

## Future Events

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019** – Coffee Morning. This will not include a table-top sale but just be a coffee morning for the local community.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – Fancy Dress, Bingo and Potato Pie Supper at the Home Guard Club. This will be attended by the Mayor.

*Other events are at the discussion and/or planning stage. Watch out for details.*

## Autumn Fair

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

This was the first time that our Autumn Fair has been held as late as November. It did, however, have a lovely Christmassy feel and in future we think that we will hold Christmas Fairs rather than Autumn Fairs.



Just before opening



Jean and Anita



Anne and Christine

We raised an amazing **£616.45** – thanks everyone for all your hard work

## Meetings:

### Trustee Meetings:

These are held on the second Tuesday evening of each month. If anyone wants an item included in the agenda please see any Trustee two weeks before the date.

Dates of next 4 meetings:

8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

12<sup>th</sup> February 2019

12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

9<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### Fundraising Meetings:

These are usually held on Monday evenings at the Centre at 6.30 p.m. The next meeting is:

4<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### Annual General Meeting:

The next AGM will be held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 a.m. at the Centre

Coffee available from 9.30 a.m.

### Receptionists' Meetings:

These are held every 3 months. The date of the next meeting is:

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February following the AGM

### Full Staff/Volunteer Meetings:

Held six-monthly on Saturday mornings at the Centre. The date of the next meeting is:

6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 10.30 a.m.

Coffee available from 10.00 a.m.

### Charity Shop Steering Group Meetings:

The date and venue of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

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## Volunteer

*My name is Rene Burlinson and I have been a receptionist at the Oldham Cancer Support Centre since April 2017. I applied to become a Volunteer when I saw an advertisement as I passed through the building on my way to the Age UK choir practice which used to be held in the Clock Café.*

*I joined the Women's Royal Army Corp when I was seventeen because I wanted to travel. I served for four years and then married a soldier. I travelled with my husband as an army wife and then also as the mother of two children. As a Veteran I still meet up with other WRAC association members in Oldham for a meal once a month. This year we were invited to Buckingham Palace for a garden party which was attended by the Princess Royal and numerous celebrities.*

*As a "newby" to OCSC I have been made to feel welcome by all the other staff and volunteers. I have also enjoyed meeting all the patients and clients. So far I have also helped on one of the stalls at one of our coffee mornings and table-top sales - and I even volunteered to be a model at one of our fundraising events which included a fashion parade.*

*My daughter was born with Athatoïd Cerebral Palsy and has special needs and I have now been her carer for 45 years. Her father*

*died of cancer two years ago. As a carer I know how difficult things can be when you are looking after someone close who is seriously ill, and I hope that my experience in this field can be useful to others. I am also a member of the OCSC Carers' Drop-in Group where we meet once a month for coffee, cake and lunch. The group is run by Shirley and Denis and members are able to give support to each other if needed.*

*I am still a member of the Age UK Choir which has now moved out of the Clock Café. Although I am not a very good singer it is considered to be good for the heart and lungs. I find it a good stress buster and I enjoy the companionship.*

*When I look back on my life and count how many places and addresses where I have lived, I am amazed that at the last count I find I have lived at 26 different addresses! I am pleased to say, however, that I am now back home in Oldham and I think that I have found my "niche" with the OCSC team.*



## Charity Shop

During the summer we started to recruit Volunteers to work in our new charity shop on Ashton Road East in Failsworth.

Earlier in the year the Labour Party had kindly offered OCSC the opportunity to use the front part of their premises in the Spinners Hall building. This was absolutely ideal as we already used the upstairs of the building as storage.

By the end of August we had appointed several Volunteers and this was the first time they had been inside the premises:



Also on board was Tesco in Failsworth and their Community Champion, Rose Knipe. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support during this time.

There was, however, still a lot to be done, and it wasn't until Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December that we were able to open to the public.

The Mayor cut the ribbon; Tesco supplied festive balloons, mince pies and drinks; and OCSC staff and volunteers came along and supported the event as did members of the local community.

To reach this point a group of volunteers from both the Centre and the shop had worked extremely hard. The Board of Trustees would again like to thank this group for making the whole thing happen.

It was well worth it – what a brilliant day!



**Initially the shop will open on Thursdays and Fridays (9.15a.m. – 4.00) and Saturdays (10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.)**



## OCSC Christmas Lunch

*On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December we held our annual Christmas lunch, this year at the Woodhouse Gardens.*

*It was enjoyed by all. The food was good as was the service, and there was a lovely atmosphere.*

*There was also a free raffle for a Christmas cake, made and donated by Pat Rigby - thanks very much Pat.*





*Pat's cake was won by a delighted Shirley Rowe.*



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## **THANK YOU**

- yet again to Angela Rayner MP (Ashton-u-Lyne), who has once more been generous enough to have these Newsletters printed for us.

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*And finally a huge thank you to those supporters who give regularly via the 'Be a Friend of Oldham Cancer Support Centre'*

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**What can one say?**

