

Inside this issue:

Issue: May 2012

This Month in Focus	1
Massage for People Living with Cancer	1
Curriculum Update	2
Promoting Iris at the Beatson	2
Next Full Team Meeting	2

"This Month in Focus"

Iris Cancer Partnership held its **first Annual General Meeting** (AGM) on 13th April. The following members were re-elected to the **Board**: Joyce Gillespie (Founding Trustee), Alex Lewis (Chairman), Lorna Forrester (Company Secretary), Grace McGill (Finance), Frances Yuille (Medical), and Anne Williams (Research).

Minutes from the AGM will be sent shortly.



"Massage for People Living with Cancer"

Gayle's second MFPLWC course was run in **Edinburgh on the 13th-15th April**, and was run at Edinburgh Academy Junior School. It proved to be a huge success again with all the cancer patients reporting feeling nurtured and well cared for by the therapists, receiving a good nights' sleep, increased energy levels and an increase in general feeling of well-being. Well done to everyone!

Highlights this Month

- Iris held its **first Annual General Meeting** on 13th April.
- Two more of **Gayle MacDonald's Massage for People Living with Cancer courses** took place in Edinburgh and Ayr.
- **Six members of Iris completed Level 1 of the Iris Curriculum.**
- Gayle MacDonald & Angela Secretan prepare for the first **5 Day Hospital Intensive Course.**
- Iris is **looking for therapists to volunteer** at **Beatson promotional event in Glasgow on 2nd July.**
- Next **Full Team Meeting** will be held **in July.** Date and location to be advised.



Back row: Helen Anstruther, Jane Hunter, Beverley Salway, Brenda McMeechan, Jan Gray, Joanne Harkins, Pat Easton
3rd row: Benedetta Gaetani d'Aragona, Wendy Hope, Janette Gilchrist, Christina Gallagher, Gayle MacDonald (Course Leader), Christine Donaldson, Anja Grunert
2nd row: Natasha Rennie, Katy Master, Janet Brooks, Ruth Toy, Anna Hill, Valeska Andrews
1st row (seated): Fiona Scott-Ennis, Dinaz Manekshaw, **Angela Secretan (Tutor)**, Jillian Reilly, Sandra Fisher

The final MFPLWC course for this year took place in **Ayr with Zana on the 27th-29th April** and was another resounding success, with both therapists and patients expressing delight. In the case of the latter the phrase 'blissed out' was heard one or two times! Gayle has her own way of 'holding' a class and the other comment from the patients was that they felt 'held' by the therapists. Lots of smiling faces at the post-massage cuppa. We were in a new venue this year and the space worked really well.

MFPLWC 2013 - We have already booked for next year. Dates and locations are: **Ayr:** 31st May - 2nd June 2013
Aberdeen: 14th - 16th June 2013
Edinburgh: 28th - 30th June 2013

A **Review Day will be held in Edinburgh on Sat 8th June** for all therapists who have previously attended MFPLWC who wish to revise some of the techniques.



“Curriculum Update” from Zana



After much preparation, Gayle MacDonald and Angela Secretan started the first **5 Day Hospital Intensive Course** on Sunday 6th May at the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh. Gayle is going to tell you all about that in the next newsletter, so watch this space!

The dates for the next round of **Communication Skills and Supporting the Therapist** modules are nearly finalised as well and will be circulated to all those who have completed the Massage for People Living with Cancer courses.

While she was in Ayr, Gayle and I had good chance to chat over some of the points raised in the **Education Sub-Group** at the Full Team Meeting in Edinburgh on 20th April. The development of the curriculum is an organic process with slight adjustments being made as we see what works, what is needed etc. The next newsletter will see a slightly tweaked version of the slide shown at the meeting on the 20th. All good!

At the Team Meeting on 20th April, it was exciting to see **two members of Iris** who were in attendance, **Anna Valente** and **Pascale King**, receiving their **Supporting the Therapist Certificates**, meaning that all their Reflection Papers had been submitted and seen by the course facilitators and Gayle.

Even more exciting, this means that **they are the first people to have completed Level 1 of the Iris Curriculum**. In addition, **Joyce Gillespie, Andrea Baxter, Margaret Lynch** and **June Mathison** have now completed Level 1. Congratulations to them all!

“Promoting IRIS at the Beatson, West of Scotland Cancer Centre” from Bill

IRIS is **looking for some of our therapists to volunteer to support a promotional event at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in Glasgow on Monday 2nd July, 2012.**

We are looking for a minimum of four therapists who will be part of a rota for providing "taster massage sessions" (20 minute sessions) to cancer patients, carers and staff in the Beatson. The day will run from around 10am until 3pm and all equipment will be provided. Travel expenses will be reimbursed as appropriate.

If you are interested in supporting this event please call Bill Stewart on 07932-622952 or send an e-mail to william.stewart@virgin.net.



“Next Full Team Meeting”

The next Full Team Meetings will be held in July and then Oct 2012. The dates and locations will be advised in due course.

