



The Newsletter

SUMMER 2011

Contents

- 2 Comment
- 3 Walk to Remember
- 4 'My Dorothy House'
- 5 Gardens galore
- 6-7 **Focus:** Two decades of care
- 8 Van-tastic gift
- 9 Bath Rugby visit
- 10-11 Fundraisers' support
- 12 Events diary

Dorothy House

Dorothy House Hospice Care was set up in 1976 at the Bath home of its founder, Prue Dufour (formerly Clench). In 1995, Dorothy House moved to its present home in Winsley, from where we provide free care and support for 700 patients and their families every day in Bath, Wiltshire and parts of Somerset.

Contact

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this newsletter, or the work of Dorothy House Hospice Care, please contact Katrina Sudbury during office hours – Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm

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Comment



As I write this letter, the sun is shining as though it's midsummer and the grounds at Dorothy House are looking very beautiful. Our family of ducks has once again taken up residence in the newly refurbished courtyard pond, as you can see from the picture on page 8, and our new tulip garden, pictured above, is looking lovely.

Here's hoping we're in for a good summer: we have a lot of events planned over the next few months that will be much more enjoyable if the weather is kind – from open gardens and Tea at Three parties to sporting challenges and, of course, our Midnight Walk on 10 September.

This summer sees the retirement of our medical director, Dr Chris Higgs. Chris has made a tremendous contribution to Dorothy House, both as a highly skilled and experienced senior consultant with patients and their families and to the organisation as a whole in developing our services over the last eighteen and a half years. We are very grateful to him for all that he has given and we wish him many happy years of retirement. He looks back over his Dorothy House career – and makes some timely observations about the future – on our centre pages.

One of the things Chris remarks on is the continuing high standard of care provided by all the teams at Dorothy House, whether here at Winsley or out in the community. That high standard also impressed the inspector from the Care Quality Commission, who visited earlier this year – find out more on page 11.

I do hope you enjoy this edition of *The Newsletter* – and that you can find time to support some of the events listed in our back page Diary. Have a lovely summer!

Sarah Whitfield

Sarah Whitfield
Chief Executive

sarah.whitfield@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk



On the cover ...

Corsham Court will be opening its fine landscaped gardens in aid of Dorothy House on Sunday 12 June. Find out more about this year's open gardens season on page 5.

Families and friends *walk to remember*

Glorious weather and beautiful surroundings made this year's Walk to Remember events at Westonbirt and Southwick truly memorable. The sponsored walks – which took place on Sunday 17 April – attracted more than 100 people at each location, with families and friends taking the opportunity to pay tribute to loved ones, enjoy a stroll in the spring sunshine – and raise money for Dorothy House.

Community fundraiser Yvonne Brunton said: "This year, we decided to hold a walk at Westonbirt, home of the National Arboretum, as well as our usual venue at Southwick Country Park, near Trowbridge.

"The grounds at Westonbirt are absolutely beautiful at this time of year, and we couldn't have asked for better weather. We had lots of families taking part, picnicking in the grounds and really making the most of the day.

"It was a very positive and enjoyable event, and of course the weather was just perfect"

"It was lovely to meet so many people who had been helped by Dorothy House, and to hear how much they appreciate the work of the hospice. One lady even thanked us for enabling families to remember their loved ones in such a positive way, through events such as the Walk to Remember and our Light Up a Life services at Christmas."

Director of fundraising Katrina Sudbury added: "The walk at Southwick was absolutely wonderful. It was lovely to see several generations walking together in memory of a loved one – from grandparents to babies in buggies, and even the family dogs.

"People were so kind and enthusiastic about the hospice services – it was a very positive and enjoyable event, and of



ABOVE: The generations walked together in memory of loved ones at Westonbirt Arboretum

BELOW: Tinies came along too at Southwick Country Park, near Trowbridge



course the weather was just perfect."

We have already received £6,197.98 in sponsorship from the two walks, but our aim is to raise £25,000 for patient care.

• You can see more pictures from

Westonbirt and Southwick on our Facebook page – <http://www.facebook.com/dottyhouse> – along with lots of photos of other fundraising events and sporting challenges.

News

Carers supported

Once again we will be celebrating Carers' Week, with an event at Winsley on 15 June for families of Dorothy House patients. The afternoon will be hosted by the family support team and other staff and volunteers.

Following on from last summer's celebration, we are aiming to acknowledge the contribution made by patients' families by holding an afternoon of relaxation, entertainment and pampering.

Last year we hosted 60 invited family carers and we hope to repeat the success of the day by providing cream teas, stalls, complementary hand massage, games and more. We are extending the scope of the event this year, by inviting young family carers – up to age 18 – later in the afternoon and hope they will enjoy the entertainments we have lined up especially for them.

Fingers crossed for another beautiful June afternoon!

Wendy Barker family support team

TV star entertains

Yes, we know it's only June – but since the first day of January Florence Battle has been busy buying, sewing and creating items to sell at this year's December craft fair. Florence works tirelessly – and raised £7,475.39 in 2010: an amazing sum.



This year, she's not only creating marvellous items for the fair, but has also organised An Evening with Paul Martin – of *Flog It!* fame – on Friday 25 November at St Michael's Church, Bath. Tickets are £15, to include a free glass of wine. After the talk, there will be an opportunity to have small 'portable' items assessed by local antique valuers – unfortunately, we can't accept large pieces. Contact Yvonne on 01225 721480, to book your tickets.

My Dorothy House

In the first of a new series focussing on the people who work at Dorothy House, we find out what the hospice means to volunteer David Fruen



David Fruen's relationship with Dorothy House goes back 14 years – when he began attending the lymphoedema clinic as an out-patient, after surgery for cancer. Now, he volunteers as a driver, lends a hand in the finance department and is chairman of the very lively Devizes Friends group, of which he's a founder member.

Devizes born and bred, David worked all his life in the building and contracting industry, retiring at 66. Now 71 – and putting his youthful appearance and high energy down to "thirty years of being very well looked after by my wife Jill" – he finds volunteering at the hospice a rewarding experience.

"Over the past two and a half years, I've brought all kinds of people to the Day Patient Unit," he says. "On the first visit,

they don't quite know what to expect, and are rather apprehensive – but once they've been to one session, you can't keep them away!"

David fills the time between drop-off at 10.30am and afternoon pick-up time by making himself very useful in the finance department – "counting money from collection boxes, photocopying, whatever's needed".

The Friends also take up a good deal of his time. Set up three years ago, it's an active group, organising everything from very successful handbag sales – which David admits he leaves to the ladies – to quiz nights, Dotty Day street collections and helping at events. "We do what we can – it's a friendly group and we get on well, and enjoy working together," says David.

Will-making service offered

Making a will is something many of us put off, but it is an important piece of 'personal admin' that will ensure your money and possessions are distributed according to your wishes.

Your loved ones will, naturally, be your first priority. But once you have made sure your family is provided for, even a small proportion of what is left over would make a huge difference to Dorothy House, enabling us to plan

realistically for the future.

We have teamed up with two firms of solicitors, Mogers in Bath and FDC Law in Frome and Midsomer Norton, who are offering a free will-making service to all Dorothy House supporters, whether or not you decide to make a legacy to the hospice.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please contact Katrina Sudbury on 01225 721480.

A glorious bunch of gardens



ABOVE: The garden at Hill Lodge, Northend
LEFT: One of the gardens open at Avoncliff

Even though I've been the organiser of our Open Gardens season now for three years, I never fail to be amazed at the generosity of all those who are willing to put on show the very private world that is their garden.

Hazelbury Manor, with its magnificent laburnum arch, set the standard in late May, continuing through the summer with a wonderful variety of gardens including Hanham Court, a new addition this season, with its deeply romantic scented gardens, as well as a stream, pools, magnolias and temples.

Weston village once again offers a wonderful variety of 14 gardens (11 new ones for 2011) plus live entertainment, while Corsham Court (pictured on our cover) has majestic historic gardens, some of which were laid out by Capability Brown. The Garden House, Dyrham, is idyllically situated, with a river running through it.

The garden at 8 Trossachs Drive, Bathampton, has terraced gardens with wonderful views over Bath – and for a Sunday

outing with a difference, why not catch the train to Avoncliff to see seven gorgeous gardens in one tiny hamlet near Bradford on Avon?

Spindle Cottage, near Wells, is described as 'unique and magical' and the cottage style garden at Edgecombe in Trowbridge also offers a rose garden and water feature.

The three-acre garden at Hill Lodge, Northend, has woodland, a lake, stream and pond, while the quaintly named Honey Pot, in Malmesbury, boasts a treasure trove of cottage garden delights including a gypsy caravan.

Finally, Somerfoss in Radstock is hidden in a peaceful valley and designed to encourage wildlife.

The only dilemma I can see with any of these gardens is just how to choose which ones to visit!

• For dates and times, see our events diary on the back page, or check for updates on our website – www.dorothyhouse.co.uk

Yvonne Brunton community fundraiser

Tulip garden is blooming

Our tulip garden is looking absolutely beautiful now the planting is complete. The garden, which features several varieties of tulip, including the lovely Angelique, inset, is to be officially opened later this summer, but is already proving popular with patients, visitors and staff. Our grateful thanks go to Dave and Karin Embleton, who so generously funded the work, to the four sponsors of the handsome benches, and of course to the garden designers, Marc and Vickie of Native Spaces, whose commitment includes volunteering a day a month to maintain the garden.



Improvements granted

In April last year, Dorothy House received a Department of Health grant totalling £345,000, to be spent on 'improving the hospice experience for patients, their families and carers'. Since then, various improvements have been made, including:

- Private phones in each of the in-patient bedrooms
- Improved nurse call system, with one phone for each nurse on duty, covering nurse call, normal phone calls and door entry systems



- Hoists in all bedrooms, allowing patients to be moved comfortably and safely
- New flooring and curtains in all patient bedrooms – not only looking more homely and comfortable, but also meeting infection control, health and safety and fire safety standards
- One en-suite bathroom has been converted to a wetroom, enabling patients to shower safely while maintaining independence, privacy and dignity
- A new phone network has improved communication for staff and volunteers
- An entry card system is designed to improve security
- And last but not least, a fully refurbished reception area provides better disabled access and improved confidentiality.

All the works have achieved the aim of improving facilities for patients and visitors, and improving systems and communications for staff and volunteers.

Focus

Taking the long view – two decades of caring

Dorothy House medical director Dr Chris Higgs retires this summer, after 18 years at the hospice. Over nearly two decades, much has changed – but the core values remain the same

Dorothy House has, in many ways, changed beyond recognition since Dr Chris Higgs first walked through its doors. Over the intervening years, the hospice has relocated, grown and developed. Its services have expanded, along with the number of patients on its books. Palliative care has become an accepted part of looking after people with a terminal illness. Things have moved on – but the core values of the hospice movement, and Dorothy House itself, remain the same.

“When I arrived at Dorothy House in January 1993, it occupied a pair of Victorian townhouses in Bloomfield Road,” Dr Higgs recalls. “There were superb views over Bath – but the hall was rather dark, with a volunteer receptionist stuck under the stairwell.

“Once you got past that, though, the atmosphere was completely different. Day care was in the basement, opening out into the garden, and the in-patient rooms were on the ground floor: two rooms, each with three beds.

“At that time there were 64 employees, most of them part-time, and only seven were men. We had about 250 patients and their families on our books at any one time – it was already a pretty sizeable organisation. It had undergone a very rapid expansion over the previous five years, and had only had its own doctor since 1989: before that, a local GP was called in when necessary and the drugs were all supplied by the chemist down the road.

“I came in when it was expanding, when hospice care – palliative care as it's known in the NHS – was becoming

a much more accepted and recognised specialism, with its own status. It was a very exciting time, because we were developing – and continued to develop over the next ten to 15 years – not only in terms of size, scope and services, but also coming up with new ideas about how to care for our patients, both medically and non-medically.

“I regard myself as exceptionally lucky to have joined at a time when this was a very exciting, cutting edge branch of medicine. We were working alongside the NHS, helping to improve standards – which was what Dame Cicely Saunders, who founded the hospice movement, had always seen as our role.

“We are constantly looking outwards, which is one of the great things about Dorothy House”

“At that time there was no Dorothy House input into the RUH – and that was one of the crucial reasons for my appointment. Because I'd worked in the hospital, I could set up a team there, as I had the contacts and knew the people involved.

“As far as my role at the hospice is concerned, I've always seen the doctors as being there to support all the other teams. Dorothy House has always been a nurse-led organisation – and I certainly couldn't have survived without their input and expertise. This isn't confined to the hospice, but rolls over into our work in the community, where our



nurses support GPs and other health professionals, and carry out an important educational role.

“We've pioneered that aspect of our work, and remain one of the only hospices in the UK to make sure that all trainee GPs starting work in our area spend a week at Dorothy House, getting an idea of how we work, and how they can transmit that to their patients.”

During the 1990s, the hospice expanded its services – adding the Hospice at Home service (originally known, rather more prosaically as 'the sitting service'), a full-time chaplain, and a social worker who was instrumental in setting up a bereavement service and sowed the seeds of the current family support team, which includes two specialised workers for children and young people.



Dr Chris Higgs has seen many changes at Dorothy House since he joined the organisation – then based in Bloomfield Road, Bath (inset) – 18 years ago

“The great thing,” Dr Higgs says, “is that Dorothy House has always looked to see where there is a need and tried to meet it.”

This is not something that is confined to the local area, either. “There is good communication between hospices,” says Dr Higgs. “We tend to share and develop good practice, which benefits everyone.

“Another important development of the past two decades is the establishment of a fundraising team – essential to maintain the financial independence that allows us to get things done much faster and more effectively than if we had to rely on the NHS.”

The move to Winsley in 1995 provided much-needed space, and took the hospice closer to the centre of its catchment area. More importantly, according to Dr Higgs: “It brought a feeling of openness and welcome. It's a place people could visit for all sorts of reasons, and has helped to break down a lot of the myths about hospices.”

As far as the future is concerned, Dr

Higgs is confident that the hospice will continue to develop innovative services both at Winsley and in the community – such as the outreach centres in Midsomer Norton and Chippenham, the COPE programmes, and work with minorities including ethnic groups, travellers, people with learning disabilities and prisoners.

“We are still progressing – largely because we are still able to bring in the money for development. We are constantly looking outwards, which is one of the great things about Dorothy House.

“I've been lucky enough to have spent 18 years building a medical team of people who work well and move forward together, and can support the rest of the teams here at the hospice and in partnership with the NHS.

“In future, we need to maintain our high standards of care and expertise, and never forget that people come to work here because they want to do their best for patients in need.” ■

There is a Dorothy House shop near you

Come along and support your local Dorothy House shop: we always need good quality clothing, bric-a-brac, books, toys, jewellery and home furnishings.

BATH

15 Moorland Road 01225 444695

14 Argyle Street 01225 444991

3 Abbeygate Street 01225 444299

115a High Street, Twerton 01225 469653

BRADFORD ON AVON

2/2A The Shambles 01225 862093

CALNE

1 Phelps Parade 01249 818818

CHIPPENHAM

12 The Bridge 01249 443393

CORSHAM

Unit 20, Martingate Centre
01249 715556

DEVIZES

3 Old Swan Yard 01380 729355

FROME

19 King Street 01373 453484

KEYNSHAM

51 High Street 0117 986 7757

MALMESBURY

3 Market Cross 01666 824710

MELKSHAM

7A Church Street 01225 700990

MELKSHAM Furniture

10-14 Church Street 01225 704244

MIDSOMER NORTON

74 High Street 01761 412196

SALISBURY

11 Catherine Street 01722 411983
(Joint venture with Salisbury Hospicecare)

TROWBRIDGE

15 Silver Street 01225 754237

WARMINSTER

14 Three Horseshoes Walk
01985 215101

WESTBURY

41/43 High Street 01373 858232

News



Simply the best

Readers of the *Wiltshire Times* voted the Dorothy House shop in The Shambles, Bradford on Avon, as the best charity shop in Wiltshire. Pictured are some of the shop's 42 volunteers, celebrating their win with tea and cakes in the Roper Room at Dorothy House.

Van-tastic support from Hitachi

RIGHT: Jon Lawes of Hitachi, far right, hands over the keys to James McDonald and Katrina Sudbury of Dorothy House

Photo: Glenn Phillips/
Wiltshire Times



We have a smart new Dorothy House van – thanks to Hitachi Capital. The company, based on the Canal Road Industrial Estate in Trowbridge, presented the 2004 Vauxhall Combo van to head of retail James McDonald and director of fundraising Katrina Sudbury. Hitachi Capital Commercial Vehicle Services' office administrator Theresa Dawson and managing director Jon Lawes came up with the initial idea of donating a van to the hospice.

Jon said: "We consulted our staff, who had already said they wanted to have more presence and do something for the

local community. We did a survey and all our staff members had friends or family who'd been touched by Dorothy House.

"Being a vehicle company we decided to actually donate a van, and they were delighted when we got in touch."

The van, which Hitachi has customised with our logos, will be used around the county – so look out for it in your area.

James McDonald said: "We're going to use it on the retail and fundraising side, for the collection of donations, and moving stock between shops.

"It's going to save us a tremendous amount of money. We're hugely appreciative."

Quacking fun

Our resident ducks are back! Mrs Mallard currently has a brood of ducklings splashing happily in the ornamental pool in the courtyard – to the delight of patients, visitors and staff.



News

The unexpected benefits of Bath Rugby

When the call came asking if we would like some of the Bath Rugby players to come in and visit patients attending the Day Patient Unit, the staff thought very hard for almost three seconds before jumping at the idea!

As a result we have enjoyed four visits during the last year when patients were able to ask the players about their sport and, just as importantly, enlighten players about Dorothy House, as many of them have had no experience of hospices.

After one visit, a volunteer said: "The whole of the DPU Friday group were really uplifted by this visit, not only being able to hear about Bath Rugby but being able to tell their stories to the players."

Another very quiet, self-contained, patient told his whole cancer story to the rugby players. It was the first time he had opened up about his experience of his disease and it signified a breakthrough

for him and the hospice team. From that day onwards, he was able to express his feelings, worries and concerns, allowing us to support him fully.

We witnessed another patient smile for the first time since he had started coming to the Day Patient Unit after simply having his photo taken with the players.

Every member of the Bath Rugby team who has given up their time to visit the Dorothy House patients has been engaging, informative and approachable. They are all great ambassadors for their sport – and their level of health and fitness gives an added dimension to their visits which seems to rejuvenate patients, volunteers and staff – especially the female ones!

What a fantastic community link for both the hospice and the Bath Rugby team. Long may it last!

Ros Stroud *creative co-ordinator* and
Chris Krajniewski *Day Patient Unit leader*



Bath Rugby player Matt Carraro demonstrated a flair for quite a different sport when he visited Winsley in April to present us with a cheque for £2,500. Matt, pictured with In-Patient Unit nurse Agata Czerwinska and Charlie Burke from BMI Bath Clinic, was one of the players who took part in the Bath Rugby Charity Open, held in the spring at the Manor House Golf Club in Castle Combe and sponsored by BMI Bath Clinic. The event was a great success, raising a total of £5,000 for Orchid, Bath Rugby's charity of the year, and Dorothy House, BMI Bath Clinic's nominated charity.

Photo: Kevin Bates/Bath Chronicle

10 Questions



Dan Berry
Chef

1 How long have you been involved with Dorothy House?

Three and a half years.

2 What would you be doing if you weren't working for the hospice?

When I was a child, I really wanted to be a deep sea diver!

3 What do you enjoy most about your job?

Preparing tasty, nutritious and, hopefully, imaginative meals for our patients. Oh, and feeding the staff too, of course.

4 What is your favourite book?

War and Peace, by Leo Tolstoy – a classic of 19th century literature.

5 How do you relax outside work?

Walking the dog, playing golf and spending too much time on computer games.

6 Describe your role in a maximum of ten words.

Preparing food; serving food; eating food.

7 What single thing would make your life/job easier?

A butler!

8 Who is your hero?

Peter Cook – a comedy genius.

9 What has been the highlight of your Dorothy House career so far?

Achieving my NVQ in catering – as part of a five-star team.

10 Describe yourself in three words.

Caring, thoughtful, cheeky.

News

Growing support



Keen gardener Peter Kilmister will be raising money for Dorothy House this summer by selling produce from his allotment. Peter, who lives in Pickwick, near Corsham, raised £1,000 last year by selling his excess fruit and vegetables to friends and neighbours. He also made preserves and pickles, using home-grown produce, which added to the total raised.

Remembering Rowly



The family and friends of Rowly Boys, who died earlier this year aged just 31, have paid tribute to a brave and much-loved young man by raising thousands of pounds in his memory. After Rowly's funeral, a group of his friends did an impromptu fundraising pub crawl around his home town of Melksham, raising more than £600, while donations at his funeral, sporting challenges and other events have brought the total to £3,124.18. The next big fundraising effort in Rowly's memory is on 5 June, when nearly fifty of his friends and family will be climbing Ben Nevis – a challenge Rowly himself completed only last year. www.justgiving.com/rowly

All together now ...

Our supporters have organised some fantastic events and taken on all kinds of challenges over the past three months, helping to raise the £7,000 a day we need to bring in to keep our services running at their present level.

Although space restrictions mean we can only highlight a few events, we want to say a very big thank you to everyone who has helped us to go on caring for our patients and their families. The long list includes Bath Rag who chose Dorothy House as one of their Big Four charities for 2010/11. Their Rag Week fundraising made a fantastic £1,234.84 for Dorothy House; ten Raggies took to the streets of Bath on our annual street collection raising £859.43, and the university's Sabbaticals all ran the Bath Half Marathon for Team Dotty.

Jacky Page, from Warminster, walked the Great Wall of China last year, raising a fantastic £2,372. This year, she's decided to take part in five 26-mile 'Trekathons' around England, to raise funds in memory of her mother, Audrey Jenkins.

The family of Vicky Strong, from Horningsham, have really pushed out the fundraising boat – as well as organising a village fun day and cream tea, Vicky's friends and family were due to 'sail' a



Despite all her classmates' efforts to make her laugh, ten-year-old Megan Pickford kept a straight face for a whole day and raised £350 for Dorothy House. Megan, who goes to Sambourne Primary School in Warminster, came up with the idea and organised the event herself: well done Megan – and thank you!



George Cashell and George Moss, from Bradford on Avon, competed in the gruelling Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race on Easter Monday. The pair finished the race in 29 hours 25 minutes, raising about £1,000 for Dorothy House – a fantastic achievement.

Photo: Trevor Porter/Wiltshire Times

pedalo along the Kennet & Avon Canal over the late May bank holiday weekend!

The family and friends of James Eyers, who died in a traffic accident in March 2007, are now close to their target of raising £50,000 in five years. James' mum Sue Edwards recently visited Dorothy House to present a cheque for £2,000 raised by the amazing Team James Eyers in the 2011 Bath Half.

A number of local businesses have come up with some great fundraising ideas over the past few months: Grapevine Telecom is putting on a host of events as part of its charity of the year support, including a golf day planned for September, while TBT Ltd has taken part in Dotty Day and Tea at Three.

Stonewood Builders' (male) employees raised £3,553.17 with the 'Tache for Kevin' challenge – a great tribute to their colleague Kevin Whittaker.

As you can see, people come up with all kinds of wonderful ideas for raising money: you can read about many more of them (and see pictures too) at www.dorothyhouse.co.uk

News

Midnight Walk *poised to break records*

With three months still to go before the big night, we already have more than 200 women signed up for the 2011 Bath Midnight Walk.

For some, the event is a great girls' night out, as well as a chance to raise much-needed funds for Dorothy House. Others have a more personal reason for taking part.

Walking this year in memory of Kate Scully are her daughter Charlotte Cox and a group of friends and relatives. Kate, whose long career in youth work inspired a whole generation of young people in and around Bath, died earlier this year. Awarded the MBE for her services to youth work, Kate met HRH the Princess Royal when she visited the hospice last summer.

Bath Business Women's Association is putting in a team of walkers – they have adopted Dorothy House as their charity of the year for 2011. Also taking



The family of Kate Scully, pictured here with HRH the Princess Royal, will be walking in her memory

part are a team from the *Bath Chronicle*, our media partners for this year's walk – the original and best of the charity night walks taking place in the city this summer.

To sign up for the Bath Midnight Walk, call Phillippa on 01225 721480 or visit www.bathmidnightwalk.co.uk

JustTextGiving is here! You can now donate up to £10 at a time to Dorothy House by text, without incurring any extra charges. Find out how at www.dorothyhouse.co.uk

Making a song and dance about Tea at Three

Cast members from Bath Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of *Guys and Dolls* gave their backing to this summer's Tea at Three appeal during a break from rehearsals at the Theatre Royal.

Fundraiser Emily Knight said: "The BODS guys and dolls are exactly what Tea at Three is all about: having fun and a cuppa wherever you like – from a theatre stage to your own back garden – and raising funds for patient care."

• If you'd like to hold a Tea at Three event



any time this summer, just call 01225 721480 or log on to www.dorothyhouse.co.uk for more information.

Star turn

Anyone who has tasted the delicious meals served at Dorothy House knows our catering staff are a class act – and now it's official! Earlier this year we had a surprise visit from the health inspector and were awarded top marks under Wiltshire Council's food hygiene star rating scheme. Head chef Marcus Whittock and the team were complimented on keeping key areas to a very high standard. The inspector examined the main kitchen, patient kitchen and Bloomfield suite kitchen. All were praised for their outstanding cleanliness, food safety and hygiene, and we were awarded the highest rating, of five stars.

Running total

Huge thanks and congratulations to our seventeen marvellous runners in this year's Virgin London Marathon. Every year, our supporters raise thousands of pounds by taking part in running events, and we're delighted that so many of you chose to pound the streets of the capital for us this year. We had seven golden bond runners, plus a further ten competitors who had their own places and chose to raise funds for us. We are so grateful to all of them for taking on such a big challenge on our behalf.

An inspector calls

The hospice came through its recent Care Quality Commission inspection with flying colours – and no recommendations for improvement. The inspector started his day at our outreach centre in Midsomer Norton, before coming to Winsley, and his report makes very encouraging reading. He found that Dorothy House not only meets all the essential standards of quality and safety reviewed, but also takes great care to make patients and carers feel included in all decision-making. The full report can be read online at www.cqc.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 5 June

Hanham Court Gardens open garden

Ferry Road, Hanham
Abbots, Bristol, BS15 3NT,
£6.50 (Children £3.50);
11am – 2.30pm

Tuesday 7 June

Fashion Show

Douling Village Hall (St
Aldhelm's School Hall),
near Shepton Mallet. 7pm.
Tickets £5 from 01749
880811/880248

Sunday 12 June

Sunday afternoon at Emblems Farm, Frome

Cream teas, live music,
stalls, face painting, treasure
hunt. 2.30pm – 6pm.
Donations for Dorothy
House

Corsham Court open garden

Corsham, SN13 0BZ,
£2.50 (seniors £2, children
£1.50), 2pm – 6pm.
Refreshments available at St
Bartholemew's Church

The Garden House, Dyrham, open garden

Dyrham, Chippenham,
SN14 8EZ, £3.50,
2pm – 5pm

Weston village open gardens

Weston, Bath; 14 gardens
open in the village, £5 on
the day (£4 advance from
Kit Johnson or Weston Fruit
Stores), 1pm – 5pm

Thursday 16 June

Ascot Ladies' Day

Spencers Sports & Social
Club, Melksham. Wear your
posh frocks and hats while
watching the races live on

a big screen, 12 noon for
12.30pm. Tickets, £12 to
include lunch, from Ann
Peirce on 01225 761447 or
Brenda Abbott on 01225
700702

Friday 17 June

An Evening of Music

Con Brio Mixed Voice Choir
and the Westwood String
Quartet, United Church,
Bradford on Avon, 7.30pm.
Tickets £6 from Lesley Hunt
on 01225 863066

Sunday 19 June

Bathampton open garden

8 Trossachs Drive,
Bathampton, BA2 6RP, £5,
2pm – 6pm

Sunday 26 June

Avoncliff open gardens

Bradford on Avon, BA15
2HD, £4, 2pm – 6pm. Why
not catch the train for a fun
Sunday afternoon treat?

Spindle Cottage open garden

Binegar Green, near Wells,
BA3 4UE, £3,
2.30pm – 5.30pm

Edgecombe open garden

138 Wyke Road,
Trowbridge, BA14 7NT, £3,
2pm – 6pm

Sunday 3 July

Hill Lodge open garden

Northend, Batheaston, BA1
8EN, £4, 2pm – 5pm

Saturday 9 July

Orchestra of St John's, Bathaston

Concert at St John's
Church, Bathaston,

7.30pm. Tickets £8 on the
door

Saturday 16 July

The Honey Pot open garden

46 Bristol Street,
Malmesbury, SN16 0AX,
£3.50, 1pm – 5pm

Thursday 21 July

The Marriage of Figaro

Bath Opera presents
Mozart's opera, sung
in English, The Pound,
Corsham. 7.30pm, £10
(students £8) from 01249
701628 or email
box.office@poundarts.org.uk

Wednesday 17 August

Somerfoss open garden

Oakhill, Radstock, BA3 5AG
£4, 2pm – 6pm

Saturday 10 September



10k women-only sponsored
walk around Bath. For more
details or to register, call
Phillippa on 01225 721480
or go to the website at:
www.bathmidnightwalk.co.uk

Sunday 11 September

Bristol Half Marathon

If you have your own place,
why not run for Dorothy
House? Call Emily on 01225
721480

Chippenham Half Marathon

If you have your own place,
why not run for Dorothy
House? Call Emily on 01225
721480

Saturday 8 October

Voices for Hospices

Melksham Assembly Hall,
Market Place, Melksham
7.30pm, tickets £14 from
01225 708121

Sunday 16 October

Cardiff Half Marathon

If you have your own place,
why not run for Dorothy
House? Call Emily on 01225
721480

Tuesday 18 October

Quiz Night

Organised by the Devizes
Friends of Dorothy House,
Devizes Conservative Club
7.30pm start, £10 per team
of four. Tel: 01380 725523

Friday 25 November

An Evening with Paul Martin of 'Flog It!' fame

St Michael's Church, Bath.
7.30pm. Tickets £15, to
include a free glass of wine,
from 01225 721480. Why
not bring a small (portable)
item for valuation by local
valuers?

**SAVE
THE DATE
Dorothy House
Christmas Fair
2-3 December**

Check our website www.dorothyhouse.co.uk for an up-to-date list of all Dorothy House events