

SPRING

2014



DONOR FAMILY NETWORK

CONNEXIONS

Registered charity
1098781



The
Gift of Life
Memorial



Welcome to the Donor Family Network Spring 2014 Newsletter

We hope that you all coped with the festive period and wish you well for a peaceful 2014.

Before long spring will be upon us and we will be able to see shoots of new life in our garden and the countryside as life renews itself. Hopefully you will be able to absorb this renewal and use it to find peace with your loss.

Over the years the pain of living with the loss of our loved one softens. There will always be times that are harder than others and out of the blue tears will come. In time we learn to experience the fullness, the richness and the joy that life can bring.

The Trustees of the DFN are always happy to talk to any of our members and share their experiences. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can offer any support.



These lovely photographs have been sent to us by DFN member Jenny Matthews who planted a packet of DFN seeds and now has a beautiful display of forget-me-nots every year which remind her of her sister. What a fabulous way of remembering!

If you have any photos which remind you of your loved one please send them to us so that we can include them in a future newsletter.



NHS Blood and Transplant News

NHS Blood and Transplant has developed a plan to support the delivery of taking organ donation to 2020. The UK strategy sets out the aspiration for the UK to match world class performance in organ donation and transplantation by 2020 by:

- Improving consent rates to organ donation to above 80%.
- Bringing UK deceased donor rate up to 26 per million of the population.
- Transplanting 5% more of the organs offered from consented, actual donors.
- Increasing the number of patients receiving a transplant to 74 per million of the population.

NHSBT agree that this will depend on a collaborative approach involving NHSBT, UK Health Departments, professional organisations and commissioners working together plus a change in attitudes in society. There will be a phased approach to implementation, the priorities for the next couple of years being developing the Organ Donor Register and establishing a National Referral Service to improve support to hospitals.



The **National BAME Transplant Alliance (NBTA)** brings NHS Blood and Transplant together with a number of charities to increase donor numbers and change attitudes to donation and transplantation within black and minority ethnic communities. The group considers issues including the high demand for organ donations among black and minority ethnic communities, the low number of donors amongst these groups and the problems of donor compatibility. The NBTA aims to facilitate discussion, promote awareness campaigns and support projects which help overcome the barriers that exist.

C Y M R U



Presumed Consent in Wales

Following the official sealing of the Human Transplantation (Wales) Bill people in Wales will be presumed to have agreed for their organs to be donated after death from 1st December 2015 unless they have opted out. The aim of the presumed consent law in Wales is to increase the number of organs available by 25%. Under the Bill, people aged 18 or over who have been resident in Wales for more than 12 months will have to put into place a clear indication of their wish not to donate their organs for them to be excluded from donation after death, otherwise their consent will be deemed to have been given. Although organs donated in Wales can be given to recipients across the UK, as is presently the case, the Welsh Government expects to see an increase of 25% available in Wales alone. The Welsh Government hopes that the new law will not only help reduce the waiting list but save lives by reducing the number of people dying needlessly whilst waiting for transplants.



Virtual Bouquets

- * Sheila Chew, a member of the DFN, and the Eccleshall Wives Club in which she is involved, have raised £200 and kindly chosen the DFN to receive the proceeds of their fund raising efforts.
- * Nigel Chew and the Trinity Men's Fellowship for their donation of £30.
- * Karen Chevalier for donating the £205 proceeds of a social dance to the DFN.
- * Simon Brown who has cycled from London to Brighton in memory of a friend and raised money for the DFN.
- * Simon Steward who has taken part in SIX half marathons and by doing so has raised over £10,000 for the Charity! He started in February 2013 in Watford (1hr 41m); Reading in March (1hr 36m); on to St Albans in June (1hr 36m); Dublin came next in August (1hr 45m); London Parks in October (1hr 36) and Cheshire in November (1hr 13). What a fantastic achievement.
- * The East Coast Ladies Darts Team from Whitley Bay, which includes a DFN member, Carla Melling, for raising £1,000.



The success of the ***Donate Life Concert*** has encouraged Transplant Sport UK to plan a further concert for the Bolton Transplant Games 2014. More choir members are needed so if you are interested in taking part please get in touch for information.

One of our younger fund raisers

Joseph Bland is the nephew of DFN family member, Liz Mclean. He is only nine years old. Firstly his uncle died and donated, then tragically his father died who was unfortunately unable to donate through his illness. Joseph has raised an amazing £160 for the Network. Thank you Joseph, your dad would be so proud of you.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter

Don't forget to let us know if you have taken part in an event or are raising funds for the Charity so that we can add details to our Face book page and help you to set up a JustGiving page



JustGiving™



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Events

Donate Life Concert in Bolton- Saturday 12 July 2014

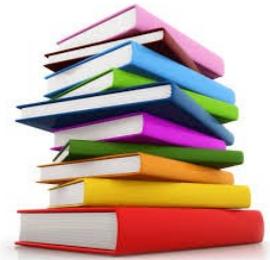
Donor Family Network Service of Remembrance - Sunday 6th July 2014

British Transplant Games - to be held in Bolton – 7th to 10th August 2014 (Opening Ceremony will commence outside the Council House – everybody is welcome) . Please also join us and present medals to the athletes throughout the Games

DFN Fundraising Ball – to be held at the Tally Ho, Birmingham - Saturday 18th October 2014

Please contact us with details of any events which may be of interest to other DFN members.

The DFN bereavement library holds a wide selection of books which are available to borrow free of charge – all we ask is that you return them in good condition when you have finished with them. A list of titles can be found on our website or by request.



When Goodbye is forever by Lois Rock-This short colourfully illustrated book would be useful to read with a young child dealing with the sadness of saying a final goodbye to one they loved. It explains the normal feelings of grief and encourages the importance of remembering happy times.

I Miss You - A first look at death by Pat Thomas - This book is also suitable for reading with young children, giving a clear explanation of death as a natural thing. The author concentrates on the feelings that children have to deal with and encourages them to express those feelings. At the end of the book the author provides ideas as to how to help children deal with the grieving process.

Organ Donation

Since 1st April 2013

- 1052 people have donated organs
- An additional 2176 people have donated corneas
- 2798 people have received the gift of sight
- 2775 people have received transplants
- 6976 people are still waiting for transplants



May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at you back,
May the sunshine be warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand