



Sir Michael Nairn

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this second PATCH newsletter and to have the opportunity to share how the charity has evolved in recent months. Since March 2017 and the launch of our inaugural newsletter PATCH has received a greater level of interest and enquiry from initiatives right across Scotland. With new applications submitted from projects in Fife, Perthshire, Greater Glasgow and Lothian, we can really see the positive response to PATCH and its founding principles.

As we continue to grow as a national Scottish charity our emphasis remains on supporting projects which enhance or improve education, training and research into the provision of palliative care in hospitals.

We remain committed to supporting enthusiasts, encouraging new models of care which otherwise may not find funding and helping clinical staff to deliver a far higher level of palliative care across the hospital setting. This commitment has been well reflected by the creation of the Dundas Medal in collaboration with The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Launched in February 2017 we were delighted to receive applications from across the UK highlighting much of the exciting work that is ongoing in the palliative care specialism. The first winners

of the Dundas Medal were the Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow and our best congratulations go to them.

For PATCH to be able to support a growing number of projects and initiatives across Scotland, fundraising is an essential element of what we must do. This year we have delivered a varied and successful events calendar from Highland Cattle gatherings in Perthshire to dinners with rugby legends and musical and baking extravaganzas in the Borders. We have also created a PATCH bespoke Christmas card for the second year running, with the help of The Dragonfly Agency.

We could not continue to operate and grow the charity without the generosity, enthusiasm and kindness of our supporters and Friends of PATCH. It is they who have helped make this possible, enabling PATCH to show tangible evidence that our initiatives are beginning to make a difference as to how palliative care is being delivered in hospitals in Scotland. We are extremely grateful to them all.

With most sincere thanks,
Sir Michael Nairn Bt
Chairman, PATCH

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PATCH PROJECTS.

The core purpose of PATCH is to provide support and funding for projects and initiatives which will enable 24/7 specialist palliative care for patients in hospital. We have shared here an update on some of the projects we have supported from across Scotland.



Inaugural Dundas Medal awarded to Glasgow team

The Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow (QEUH) was the first team to be awarded the Dundas Medal. This annual award is a joint initiative between PATCH and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

The Glasgow team supports ward staff caring for patients with life limiting and progressive illnesses, whatever the diagnosis. This includes the management of difficult physical symptoms such as pain and breathlessness, as well as helping to manage psychological and family distress.

The team works closely with local hospices and with cancer and non-cancer services. Dr Alistair McKeown, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, QEUH, said: "We are delighted to be awarded the Dundas Medal, and grateful to both the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and PATCH for the recognition of our service.

"Our team helps patients and families not just at end-of-life, but also in optimising quality of life over days, weeks, months and years."

Dr Pamela Levack, Medical Director of PATCH said: "We are delighted to have had such a positive response to the launch of the Dundas Medal. The level of the entries, as would be imagined, was very high. This is an excellent example of a busy hospital palliative care team rising to the challenge of hospitals merging – creating a huge workload. It is important to support and encourage palliative care teams in the wonderful work they do."



Signing the memorandum of understanding for the Dundas Medal

PATCH training for nurses in the Borders

Over £10,000 raised by Friends of PATCH in the Borders was combined with grants of £15,000 each from the Reekie and J Macdonald Menzies Trusts to enable PATCH to fund a joint project with NHS Borders, St Columba's Hospice and Queen Margaret University. The aim is to enhance the knowledge and skills of a group of nurses to provide palliative and end-of-life care primarily in district and community hospitals.

Since the training began 12 nurses have had PATCH training, which involves one-week full time followed by six months of mentoring by St Columba's staff. Feedback has been very positive and the benefits are being carefully evaluated with the intention of providing PATCH training for as many nurses as we can.



The use of emergency care by patients with cancer in Tayside



For people who are ill, it can be frightening to run into problems at night or over the weekend. Added to this, they may be seen and cared for by doctors who do not know them or their medical history which can cause fragmented care.

Dr Sarah Mills, Academic Fellow in General Practice in Tayside, was funded by PATCH to look at the clinical, demographic and prescribing data for a group of people who had cancer and needed to use out-of-hours care.

Sarah commented: "Thanks to PATCH funding I have collected information about every clinical encounter they have had with out-of-hours health staff or Accident & Emergency (A&E) services in their last year of life and all the medicines patients are prescribed. By matching up this information we can see how often and why patients ill with cancer use out-of-hours care. The research which is still in progress, is the first study of its kind to look at both GP out-of-hours and A&E."

"The research which is still in progress, is the first study of its kind."

Dr Sarah Mills

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS IN PALLIATIVE CARE FOR NURSES IN LOTHIAN

Two nurses in Lothian were funded by PATCH to complete an MSc or postgraduate certificate qualifications in palliative care. Both courses are organised by St Columba's Hospice and Queen Margaret University, both in Edinburgh.

Jane Davis is one of the nurses who started her MSc in 2015, when working in the surgical gastrointestinal ward of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE).

She has since moved to the Intensive Care Unit at the RIE where the skills she learned during her MSc course are especially relevant. Intensive Care Units throughout the country look after the sickest patients in the hospital and involve staff in some of the most difficult conversations.



Jane commented: "I'm excited to find ways to link what I've learnt from my MSc into intensive care. The importance of communication with family members cannot be highlighted enough with these critically ill patients. With the training received from the hospice, I feel so much more equipped to deal with situations. Frequently bad news is broken, care is withdrawn from patients and highly emotive situations abound. I feel so much more confident and competent to deal with these situations than I ever would've done before I started studying for my Masters – and I hope this is reflected by how patients and families feel in my manner with them.

"I have found end-of-life care in intensive care to be outstanding – this is of course helped by one to one nursing and the wonderful team of nurses that work here. However, there are always areas of improvement and I look to pursue a work based intervention as part of my dissertation which will further the way we deal with patients approaching end-of-life in this unique environment."

"I feel so much more confident and competent to deal with these situations."

Jane Davis

PATCH PEOPLE

In each edition we share stories and updates on some of the latest fundraising activities carried out by the Friends of PATCH. With lots of activity underway, the enthusiasm, generosity and baking talent continues to amaze us!

Best in show for PATCH

Balnabroich Farm in Blairgowrie, Perthshire was the setting for a wonderful gathering of Scotland's finest pedigree Highland Cattle on Saturday 9th September. Over 400 members of the public, as well as local MSP John Swinney, attended the event, which brought together eighteen breeders and over fifty cattle, raising in excess of £50,000 for PATCH.

The event was organised by Sir Michael and Lady Sally Nairn as a fund and awareness raiser for PATCH. Sir Michael Nairn, chairman of PATCH commented: "Sally and I were delighted to see all the effort in organising this event come to fruition. We were particularly heartened by the incredible generosity not only of those who came along, but also of those who chose to donate to PATCH as part of this event. We have raised in excess of £50,000 in one weekend and that is truly beyond our expectations. We are delighted."

"We were particularly heartened by the incredible generosity."

Sir Michael Nairn



Pam Levack with the winner of the PATCH Award



Our Friends in the Borders

The support in the Borders continues to go from strength to strength. With four events this year including the dinner in March, a second Tea Party in September, a musical remembrance event at Paxton House in November, and a lunch in December we hope to have raised £11,000 by the end of the 2017.

This outstanding support from both our fundraisers and the local community allows us to raise funds which will help support palliative care focused projects in the Borders.

Doddie Weir shows great support for PATCH

We were honoured to welcome Doddie Weir, Scottish and international rugby legend, as our guest speaker at a dinner in March. His innate humour and charm spurred our guests into fundraising fervour and we were delighted to have raised over £8,000 from this event. Since our dinner the news of Doddie's personal health problems have further demonstrated his strength of character and we send our very best wishes to him and his family.



Doddie Weir and PATCH Director Dr Gordon Paterson

Helen goes the full 10k for PATCH

Earlier this year Helen McLaren chose to support PATCH in her first ever 10k challenge, raising money in memory of her grandmother. We were delighted to have Helen's support and recognition of the important work that PATCH supports.

If you are interested in supporting PATCH with any fundraising activity this can be done through www.viriginmoneygiving.com.



Rautomead support goes further

For the third year running we are delighted that Rautomead in Dundee has selected PATCH as the charity recipient of funds raised by staff throughout 2017. This has included the annual kilt walk, profits from the tuck shop and donations on the company's spectacular festive Christmas Jumper Day.

We would like to thank all of those who have so generously taken part or donated.



rautomead[®]

Second great tea party success

On the 21st September, following the success of last year's event, the Friends of PATCH in the Borders raised nearly £2000 by hosting a very successful tea party.

The party was hosted by Denise and Graeme Brebner at Sorrowlessfield Farm, Earlston, where a delicious spread of sandwiches and home-made cakes were appreciated by all who attended.



PATCH gets festive

We are delighted to be supported for a second year by The Dragonfly Agency, the print based and design consultancy, in the production of the PATCH Christmas card. Our design this year features a beautiful snowy owl created by professional artist Zaza Shelley – www.zazashelley.co.uk.

Packs of ten are available for £5.99 and can be ordered through a Board member or contactus@patchscotland.com.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT PATCH



As ever, if you are interested in receiving this newsletter, have a story to tell or would like to support the charity or have questions please visit www.patchscotland.com/newsletter or send an email to contactus@patchscotland.com

We are so grateful to all Friends of PATCH who support the charity and enable us to provide funding for key palliative care projects across Scotland.

If you would like to know more about what we are doing or to keep in touch please sign up to receive our newsletter at www.patchscotland.com or at contactus@patchscotland.com.

There are many ways to become a Friend of PATCH – you could organise, support or attend a PATCH event; select PATCH as your company's charity of the year or for a single donation; or through virginmoneygiving.com you can choose to donate as a one off or on regular basis.

You can also leave a gift in your Will that would go to support the work of PATCH to help improve palliative care services for patients and their families in a hospital setting. For more information go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1009152>

Last, but not least

With the new General Data Protection Regulations coming into force in May 2018, PATCH is taking specialist advice in this area to ensure the charity is fully compliant. This will require us to contact all those for whom we hold personal contact details to seek their agreement to us continuing to hold this information and confirmation that they wish to receive future communications from PATCH.

GET IN TOUCH
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