



DOORSTEP

keeping you in touch with the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home

SPRING 2009

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter!

Up-to-date news and information about all IRHH events can be found on our website www.irhh.org

Iain Rennie Hospice at Home provides specialist palliative care for patients and families in their own homes across the Chilterns area of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. The service is provided free of charge to patients and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



SANTA SPECTACULAR!

Ever wondered what a group of 280 Santas would look like? Well you should have been in Lowndes Park, Chesham, on Sunday 30th November to witness the first ever Iain Rennie Hospice at Home Santa Dash!!

Despite the muddy conditions, our brave participants caught the Christmas spirit and turned out with their family, friends and festive dogs to support IRHH, and raised approximately £8,000 which is a fabulous result!



IRHH has launched an innovative e-Listening service to provide bereavement support for bereaved relatives of Iain Rennie patients using email. Believed to be one of the first services of its type to be launched in the UK, the e-Listening service was funded in part by a grant from the Awards for All England programme.

e-Listening clients can receive bereavement support from a team of professionally trained e-Listeners led by Claire McLachlan.

We are very proud of the new e-Listening service and hope that it will provide support for many people for whom traditional bereavement care may not be appropriate. It also allows our Family Support Team to support people who live outside the IRHH's catchment area. The service is accessed via the IRHH website.

GEOFFREY CELEBRATES 20 YEARS AS IRHH PATRON

GEOFFREY PALMER OBE has been an IRHH Patron for over 20 years and we were delighted that he was able to pay us a special visit to accept his award. We are very grateful that Geoffrey continues to attend functions and supports our cause whenever he can.



RAF BENEVOLENT FUND AWARDS GRANT OF £22,500

The IRHH has been awarded a grant of £22,500 from the RAF Benevolent Fund. Air Vice Marshall John Jones visited our



Tring office to present the cheque in person. Part of this grant will go towards funding laptops for our nurses to enable them to access vital information about patients over a secure link at any time of day or night.

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Reg. Charity No. 297847

Goodnight Walk

Join the Fun with the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home
11 mile Sponsored Walk for Women
6 June 2009



Pick up an entry form from our shops, register online at www.gnwalk.com or by phone on 01442 890222

hospice news

ROBERT BREAKWELL TAKES OVER AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ROBERT BREAKWELL became the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home's new Chief Executive on 1st February 2009. Maddie has left due to personal circumstances that were unforeseen at the time of her appointment over a year ago and has taken up a London-based post with Children's Hospices UK. The IRHH is extremely grateful for all that Maddie has achieved in the time that she has been with us.

Robert is 51 and has lived and worked in the Chilterns area for most of his life. He has been associated with the IRHH for over 20 years and has been the charity's Appeals & Communications Director since 1995. Since that time, he has been responsible for growing the IRHH's charitable income from £80,000 in 1994 to over £2million in 2008. Since 2000, Robert has been a joint Deputy Chief Executive at IRHH working alongside the organisation's Director of Nursing, Sue Varvel. He also takes a keen interest in hospice care nationally and chairs the Income Generation Reference Group at Help the Hospices, the umbrella charity for hospices.

It was the tragic loss of his first wife, Karen, who died of cancer in 1988 that led to a change in priorities and a career in the hospice movement for Robert. Karen was cared for by the IRHH nurses and Robert's great passion for, and belief in, hospice at home care and the need for patients and families to have choices about their care at the end of life stems from this personal experience. Robert has since remarried and now lives in Aston Clinton with his wife, Diane, and their two children.

Robert founded the highly successful Sgt Pepper concerts in Berkhamsted which led to the establishment of The Pepper Foundation, a separate registered charity, in the mid 1990s. The Pepper Foundation has raised over £2million and for many years has been the major funder of the Pepper Children's Nursing Team operated by the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead an organisation which does truly remarkable work caring for a growing number of patients and families each year," said Robert. "Our strength comes from our people, who share a common purpose in working together to deliver excellent care to terminally ill patients across the Chilterns area. Our nurses provide a vital service which is set to grow over the coming years in the light of the government's End of Life Care strategy. I shall work tirelessly to build on the great achievements of my colleagues and predecessors as the IRHH moves into a new phase of its evolution."



Goodbye from Maddie

I deeply regret having to leave Iain Rennie Hospice at Home for family reasons after a relatively short period of time with you all. However 11 months is a long time in politics and an even longer time for IRHH, with the constant pace of change facing all charities at the moment. It has been a magical year for me; never a dull moment!

Nursing patients, both children and adults in their homes, was my rationale for joining this distinguished organisation and I shall never regret this period in my life. I had the privilege of spending time with the nurses, visiting patients at home and listening to the difficulties nurses face every day in trying to provide the highest standard of care for their patients at all times.

It was a great honour to chair the IRHH nursing conference and to witness the launch of the e-Listening service. Alongside PCTs, Help the Hospices, Children's Hospices UK and our local hospice partners, I have continued to battle for more statutory funding to extend the work pioneered by IRHH. It has also been fantastic to see the collaborative work that Sue Varvel and Sue Jarvie have developed in setting up Hospice at Home provision with Grove House Hospice.

In addition to supporting the nursing service, it has been a pleasure to work with the Retail & Trading, Finance & Admin, Voluntary Services & HR Recruitment, Fundraising and Communications teams – all extremely important players behind the scenes who so often get overlooked.

I am confident that Robert Breakwell, in his new role as Chief Executive, will lead this wonderful organisation from strength to strength.

However, you haven't seen the back of me. I am committed to doing the Goodnight Walk in June and Paul, my husband, will happily marshal events in future. And of course I shall have to top up my supply of clothing and bags from "Maison Rennie"!

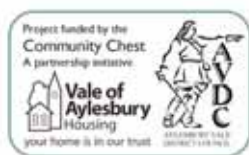
Good luck in the future and keep up the brilliant work of IRHH. I shall miss you all!



In November, Trusts Fundraiser Hannah Asquith and Dacorum Team nurse Gerrie Smithson attended a **TalkTalk Innovation in the Community** awards ceremony at the House of Lords. Charities were invited to tell TalkTalk how they use technology in an innovative way and IRHH were one of 30 charities from 2,200 applicants who were awarded £2,000 towards our project to equip all our nurses with laptops, enabling them to access patient records wherever they are.

IRHH would also like to thank the **Dacorum Community Trust** for their recent grant of £395. The grant enabled Gerrie Smithson to attend a Nursing Prescribing course in January and become the first IRHH nurse able to prescribe medication for patients in their own homes.

IRHH also received an **Aylesbury Vale Community Chest Award** of £1,000 towards our Wendover Memorial Woodland project. In spring 2010, IRHH plans to plant 1,000 trees and shrubs which will be dedicated in memory of both patients we have nursed, and others. If you know of a local group or company that might consider contributing towards the costs of the Memorial Woodland, please contact Hannah Asquith on 01442 890222, hasquith@irhh.org



New report underlines importance of Hospice at Home care

Following the Department of Health's publication of the 'End of Life Strategy' in July 2008, the National Audit Office recently published a report on End of Life, revealing that hospices in the UK are caring for nearly three times as many patients at home than they nurse in in-patient hospice settings. Figures for 2006/07 revealed that 112,000 people received hospice at home care whilst just 38,000 patients received in-patient care.

"This clearly demonstrates that hospices are contributing to end of life care at home for terminally ill patients on a far bigger scale than had been previously recognised by government and Primary Care Trusts", says IRHH Chief Executive, Robert Breakwell. "In the Chilterns area where the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home has been caring for nearly 24 years, we believe that the 24 hour on-call hospice at home care that we provide is having an even greater impact locally on the choices available to people approaching the end of their lives."

The National Audit Office report also highlights the wide variation in the amount of Primary Care Trust (PCT) funding for end of life care across the country. The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home received just 16% of its income from PCTs last year against a national average of around 30%.

"This situation simply cannot continue if the government's commitment to good end of life care for all is to be achieved," stated Robert Breakwell. "We will continue to lobby for a fairer level of PCT funding for our hospice at home service to ensure that terminally ill patients receive the care they need at home if this is where they wish to die."

IRHH welcomes new Patron

We are delighted to welcome Karol Sikora as a Patron of Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.

Karol is currently Medical Director of CancerPartnersUK and is Professor of Cancer Medicine and honorary Consultant Oncologist at the Imperial College School of Medicine in London. He is also Scientific Director of Medical Solutions PLC, Britain's leading cancer diagnostic company, and has recently been appointed Dean of Britain's first independent Medical School at the University of Buckingham.

We are delighted that Karol has agreed to chair our Annual Conference later in the year.



nursing insights

RAY'S CANCER JOURNEY

Following a cancer diagnosis and treatment, RAY COATES, 42, is now looking forward to returning to work. Helping people get their lives back on track is all part of the care that Iain Rennie nurses can provide.

Ray was kind enough to tell us the story of his cancer journey.



Ann Taylor with Ray Coates

It all began with a lump on my neck, which I noticed one day when I was shaving. At first I thought it could be a cyst, but something told me it was more. I made an appointment with my GP at the end of March 2008. My GP examined me, and then asked me a question I remember well – “what do you think it is?”. I made light of the question – “of course you think the worst”. The GP replied “we can't rule out cancer.”

That was the beginning of an extremely strange rollercoaster ride. Within two weeks I had my first nasal endoscopy, an MRI and CAT scan, and then under general anaesthetic a panoscopy and biopsy of my throat. We then had to wait for a week before going to the west wing of the John Radcliffe, Oxford, in April to receive the results.

My wife, Cindy, and I tried to make light of it, my mum waited anxiously, Cindy's mum and dad were looking after our five children (aged 3 to 15), and friends were also eagerly awaiting our news. We jokingly said “won't it be embarrassing if it's just tonsillitis” but inside I had a sense of foreboding. Whether it was a psychological way of preparing myself for bad news, it is difficult to say.

I clearly remember the consultant saying to me “you have a malignant tumour in your right tonsil”. I asked about the prognosis if I didn't have surgery and treatment, to which the consultant replied “it would be a question of months”.

Surgery was carried out on May 10th and I stayed in the JR for 10 days. This phase of treatment was tough, but bearable. Harder times were to come.

I began radiotherapy treatment on 16th June with a total of 30 treatments spread over six weeks. To say this was hard at the time is an understatement. My body took a severe beating and the side effects were tough. This came to a head over the weekend of August 2nd. I was virtually unable to speak, eating and drinking were very painful, and sleep had been non-existent. To make matters worse my dear wife Cindy had slipped a disc, so she couldn't move and I couldn't speak. Tough enough at the best of times, let alone when you have young boys of three and four. They ended up having to stay with my mum.

That Sunday Cindy phoned my sister at 3am, as I was coughing up blood, and asked her to take me to Stoke Mandeville hospital as I couldn't possibly travel to Oxford. I was treated for dehydration and eventually given a morphine syringe driver at the advice of a Macmillan nurse attached to the hospital.

By the following Wednesday, though still very unwell, suffering from sickness and mucus problems, I was going stir crazy and seriously wanted to leave hospital. We tried the route of private health care, but that would have taken too much time. Due to our family situation and my poor health,

we felt it was best for me to go to my mum's in Princes Risborough. I was unable to travel to Oxford to see the consultancy team, and through my mum's GP and the District Nurse we came across the Iain Rennie nurses.

Over a period of about two weeks I received regular daily visits from the Iain Rennie Ridgeway nurses at my mum's house. Some days I even had two visits. The nurses gave me positive, practical help and never rushed the visit. One particular nurse had previous experience in the field of Ear Nose & Throat cancer. She helped me to start eating again, and also enabled me to re-establish a more balanced emotional perspective, encouraging me to overcome my fear of laying down and choking, which therefore began to help me sleep a little more naturally. The nurses also gave me practical counsel on reintroducing myself into my family environment.

When the after-effects of radiotherapy were at their worst I found it hard to see myself making progress. In fact I seriously wondered if I ever would. However, thanks to the Iain Rennie nurses and their positive, realistic encouragement, I began to feel I was making progress. It has been a slow process to date, but I am 100% sure that the home visits from the Iain Rennie nurses have speeded up my recovery, to the point where I am now fully engaged back in my family life, and I am very close to returning back to work, eight months after my initial diagnosis.

Iain Rennie nurse, Ann Taylor, who was one of the nurses who helped care for Ray, said: “Ray's story highlights the diversity of nursing care and support that the Iain Rennie nurses offer, and shows that some of our patients are fortunate enough to be able to return to their normal way of life after being diagnosed with a serious illness.”

“People often ask us how we carry out our job, day after day, with all the emotions that come with it. Of course there are many sad times, but it is also hugely rewarding to see patients like Ray return to good health. We always feel extremely privileged getting to know a patient's family, spending time in their home and knowing how much our nursing service is appreciated is what makes it all worthwhile.”

Sue Varvel, Director of Nursing, added: “Helping with medication to help control symptoms caused by an illness, or by treatment, is only part of the care and support patients need, especially in the recovery stage of their illness. Gaining confidence to start living a more normal life and, as in Ray's case, returning to work takes time, encouragement and support and is one of the most satisfying parts of the Iain Rennie nurse's role.”

IRHH IS SEEKING TWO NEW TRUSTEES with senior nursing experience to join our board on a part-time, non-executive voluntary basis. They will need expertise in nursing management, clinical governance, commissioning of services and knowledge of the strategic framework for national healthcare provision. Trustees will be able to participate in the strategic management and development of the organisation. For more information please contact the PA to the Chief Executive on 01442 890222 or email cyoung@irhh.org. You can also visit our website at www.irhh.org.

OUR 2008 NURSING CONFERENCE was held on 1st October in Aston Clinton, and was completely sold out with 126 delegates attending. As in previous years, we had an excellent line-up of speakers including IRHH Patron and Broadcaster, Esther Rantzen CBE, addressing different perspectives on the theme of “Choices at the end of life – whose death is it anyway?”. A full report can be read on our website www.irhh.org.

For more information about future Conferences please contact Helen Joels, IRHH Professional Development Lead on 01442 890222, email hjoels@irhh.org

volunteer focus



CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME?

Come and support your local Iain Rennie shop as a volunteer and help raise vital funds for our patients. Our shops in TRING, HIGH WYCOMBE and WARNERS END urgently need you to give them some time. Times are flexible and fit in with other commitments.

What is it like to be a shop volunteer?

Why do I volunteer?

"I want to meet people"

"I want to support a worthwhile cause"

"I want to support IRHH to thank the nurses for the support and care that they gave me and my family"

What do I enjoy most about my role?

"Supporting a worthwhile cause"

"Making many friends"

"Finding some lovely donations that I know will raise money for IRHH patients"



Other volunteer vacancies include:

VOLUNTEERS in AROMATHERAPY OR REFLEXOLOGY to work as part of our nursing teams in our patients' homes.

VOLUNTEER BEREAVEMENT VISITORS who offer bereavement support to families through one to one support or attendance at regular social support groups.

If you would like further information please contact Rozina

Ahmad, Voluntary Services Manager, rahmad@irhh.org,

01494 877200 for an informal chat. Please check our website

www.irhh.org which is regularly updated with our current

volunteer vacancies.

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR

In 2008, IRHH appointed Brian Fowler as our first volunteer ambassador.

Our ambassadors raise public awareness of our work by speaking to media, groups, companies and other organisations, representing IRHH throughout the community in which our nurses operate. They are happy to attend meetings, or present speeches to groups of any size - whether it's a local organisation such as WI, Rotary Club, Round Table or U3A, employees at a company, a school, or just a group of friends.

Brian explains: "I am privileged to join such a caring and innovative organisation. The medical excellence provided by the nursing team to my wife Mary during the last months of her life meant that she was able to be with those she loved, and who loved her, with all the dignity, support and attention that she would have received in a hospital or bedded hospice, but comfortable in the surroundings of her own home."

If you would like someone to speak about the work of IRHH, please telephone the Tring office on 01442 890222 or email fundraising@irhh.org.



"I feel privileged to be part of this organisation"

.. was a comment from one of the attendees of our last JIGSAW INFORMATION SESSION. These sessions are

an induction to the organisation, but also refresh your knowledge of IRHH and the work of our service as things change so quickly. Volunteers, staff and supporters are all welcome to come along. Our sessions for 2009 are:

- Tuesday 24th February, Tring, 1.30pm - 4pm
- Tuesday 23rd June, Chalfont St Peter, 1.30pm - 4pm
- Friday 23rd October, Tring, 10am - 12.30pm

Please contact Rozina to book your place, email rahmad@irhh.org or call 01494 877200.



VOLUNTEERS WEEK 1st – 7th June 2009

In the past we have celebrated Volunteers' Week with our Annual Volunteers' Outing, however for 2009 we may be planning something different! Please contact Rozina or your manager if you would like to receive details once they have been finalised.

Doorstep Copy Date & Stuffing Arrangements

Please send any contributions for the next newsletter by Friday 6th March. We will be stuffing this edition on Tuesday 12th May. If you have any questions please contact Suzanne, sbritton@irhh.org, on 01442 890222.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Welcome to: CATHERINE HULL, who has joined our South Bucks nursing team; KATHY RANKINE, who has joined our Ridgeway nursing team; ELAINE SHERWOOD, who has joined our Wycombe nursing team; JACKIE FINEGAN, our new Complimentary Therapy Coordinator; KERRI COOTE and JOANNE HUNT, our new Community Fundraisers; DIANA TURNER, LORNA MACKAY and MICHELLE REMICE, our new Shop Managers.

We also welcome back RACHEL TOWNSLEY to our Ridgeway nursing team following maternity leave; MARGARET HEWITT to our Wycombe nursing team

Goodbye and Thanks to: MADDIE BLACKBURN, Chief Executive; CATE ANDREOPOLOUS, from our Ridgeway nursing team; JACKIE EATON from our Dacorum nursing team; MEG HEADLEY, HR Assistant; ALLI HARMER, Community Fundraiser; JANICE HAWKINS, Amersham Shop Manager.

Congratulations to: Voluntary Services Manager & HR Lead, ROZINA AHMAD (right), and fiancé TERRY on announcing their engagement

VOLUNTEER JOINERS & LEAVERS: We welcomed 75 new volunteers since July. In the offices we welcome: JANICE FULLER and SUE BROAD to our team of Receptionists; NICKY MATTHEWS and JILL MARCH to our fundraising team; RONNIE HARWOOD to our Pepper team; DOMINIQUE MOAT to our Admin team at Tring, DIANA LONGSHAW and ELIZABETH KEEN to our Admin team at GKH, and CHRIS BROWN, PAULINE LANGFORD and CAROL LEWIS to our team at Akeman Street.

A special welcome to our new team of volunteers at the Flackwell Heath shop.

Goodbye and many thanks to some of our office volunteers including SUE LAMBERT from GKH.



AMY MACKAY – A TRIBUTE

by Robert Breakwell, Chief Executive

We are sad to report the recent death of AMY MACKAY who chaired the IRHH's successful £100,000 appeal in 1990. Thanks to Amy and her appeal committee, the IRHH's finances were put into a much stronger position, enabling the charity to move forward with confidence as the need for more nurses became apparent.

The mother of Alison Roberts, who worked as an Iain Rennie nurse in the early years, Amy provided the drive and inspiration for an intense period of fundraising culminating in a 1940s Ball, Fun Run and Craft Fair at RAF Halton over one amazing weekend. Amy's ambitious plans, unswerving enthusiasm and charismatic approach inspired many people who, like me, found it impossible to say no to her compelling requests for help.

As a volunteer member of that early committee (along with Rowena Dean and Deborah James), I could not fail to be inspired by her deep belief in the work of the Iain Rennie nurses. Her example played a big part in my personal decision to get more involved with fundraising at IRHH, and, ultimately, to join the charity full time as Appeals Director. The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home will not forget Amy's great contribution.



shop talk

Around the Shops

Tring
01442 891006

Tring Book Shop
01442 827384

Warners End
01442 260696

Bennettsgate
01442 219000

Princes Risborough
01844 344130

Little Chalfont
01494 549910

Beaconsfield
01494 680789

High Wycombe
01494 463657

Flackwell Heath
01628 524777

eBay
01442 827699

Bring in your treasures for us to sell on behalf of IRHH. We can also list items on eBay for you. Contact us for more information.

The shops also have information about forthcoming events and attractions in the area, so drop by and pick up some leaflets

IRHH OPENS TWO NEW SHOPS

It was a busy end to 2008 for the Retail & Trading team, with two new additions to the Iain Rennie chain of shops.

At the end of November, IRHH Patron Geoffrey Palmer officially opened the new shop in Tring High Street. We first opened a shop in Tring in 1992, with the help of a very generous local landlord, and the new shop is almost directly opposite the original premises. Each year the shop generates over £165,000 towards the Iain Rennie nursing service but like any business, we do have to pay commercial rent and other overheads in order to run our shops.

IRHH Retail & Trading Manager, Lesley Blencowe, commented: "We are very proud of our shop in Tring as it was the first to open, and the staff and volunteers who work in the shop have done an amazing job over the last 16 years. We would like to acknowledge the huge amount of help we received from a large team of volunteers in refurbishing the new shop and preparing it for opening. Special thanks go to Blair Electrical of Tring for their generous help with the electrical works and to other local businesses that have supported us."

In December – just in time for Christmas! - IRHH Patron Bill Giles cut the ribbon on our brand new shop in Swains Market, Flackwell Heath. IRHH nurses operate extensively in the Flackwell Heath region, and we have been hoping to have a shop there for some time.

Shop Manager, Sally Birch, said "We have been delighted by the warm welcome we've already received from our fellow traders in Swains Market, and look forward to welcoming new customers and spreading the word about the work of IRHH".

The shop stocks a wide range of goods - clothing for the whole family, books, DVDs and music as well as household items and furniture.



GIFT AID YOUR GOODS TODAY

Thanks to a recent change in legislation, IRHH can now reclaim 28% Gift Aid not only on cash donations, but also on the proceeds from goods donated to our charity shops. IRHH is among the first hospice charities to introduce the system.



How does it work?

- If you are a UK taxpayer and bring a donation of goods into any of our shops you will be given the opportunity to gift aid your donation.
- We will ask you to sign a simple declaration form and give you your personal gift aid card.
- We will then carefully track your goods through to the point of sale, and when they have been sold we will inform you of the amount raised and check that you are happy for us to reclaim the Gift Aid.
- Once a quarter (on average) we will submit a Gift Aid reclaim to HMRC.

The result

IRHH will be able to benefit to the tune of an extra 28% on the sale of every Gift Aided item. For example if we sell an item for £5.00 the end value will be £6.40. In these uncertain times, this opportunity is too good to miss.

Please ask about the scheme when you next visit one of our shops.

Our customers are often surprised at the quality of the items they can pick up at their local Iain Rennie shop – you would be amazed how much we can receive for an item of designer clothing, for example! Please continue to bring good quality items into our shops, and help maintain our reputation as one of the top hospice shops in the country. The better the quality of your donations, the higher the income, and the more Gift Aid we can claim.



Rita Verney

We are sad to report the death of Rita Verney, who was a loyal volunteer at the Iain Rennie shop in Tring for over 5 years and will be greatly missed. Rita was a lovely lady and was known in the shop for her great sense of humour (which came in very useful), her love of dogs and her matching jewellery. We are very pleased that Rita's husband Clive remains involved at Iain Rennie; he recently helped with the closure of our old shop and the move to the new premises.

Jack Lewis

We were also sad to learn of the death of Jack Lewis, a long-standing volunteer and supporter. We send our condolences to Jack's family.

money matters



For more information on leaving money in your Will, please contact Suzanne on 01442 890222, sbritton@irhh.org

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A WILL MAKES

We appreciate that in this difficult economic climate our supporters may have other calls on their finances before they can consider giving to charity - but leaving a gift in your Will is a way of supporting us which costs you nothing now.

If, after making provision for your loved ones, you were to leave only 1% of your estate to IRHH, this would make a very real difference to us, would be a lasting tribute to you and would help ensure that patients and families in the community continue to receive the care and support they deserve.

IRHH relies heavily on donations to fund our service and currently 7% of the £3.2million we have to raise each year comes from gifts left in Wills.

Surprisingly, two-thirds of adults have not made a Will - and there are many misconceptions about how an estate is distributed when someone dies intestate ie without a valid Will.

Did you know that....?

- The estate of a person who dies intestate will be inherited according to a strict set of rules laid down by Parliament and there are limits on the amount certain beneficiaries can receive.
- Without a Will, even a surviving spouse may not receive the entirety of the estate – in many cases the surviving spouse has to share the residuary estate with other beneficiaries.
- Without a Will and if there are children, the surviving spouse's share is limited to £250,000 and a life interest in half of the remainder, with the children sharing the rest. Sometimes this means the surviving spouse having to sell the family home in order to pay the children their share.
- Without a Will, one partner of an unmarried couple living together will not automatically inherit the property after the death of the other partner. The idea of "common law" husband or wife automatically inheriting is a complete myth!

In effect, if you do not write a Will, the government writes one for you! This might sound harsh, but many people are unaware of these rules.

Making a Will is not expensive. For a standard Will most local solicitors would charge about £150 for a single person, or £200 for a couple (plus VAT), giving you peace of mind that your wishes will be carried out and your loved ones will benefit. Having made a Will it is relatively easy to update it by adding a codicil.

Perhaps you might consider adding a gift to Iain Rennie in yours?

Beaconsfield Appeal Success

Back in 2008 an anonymous benefactor challenged IRHH, and particularly our Beaconsfield Fundraising Group, to obtain personal donations in excess of £20,000 from supporters in the town by 31st December, and if we managed this he would donate an incredible £10,000. The fantastic news is that through the Group's networking with friends, family, business and other associates, alongside press and website appeals coordinated from Tring, we have achieved what seemed an impossible target and our mystery donor has generously presented us with the promised amount.

We are hugely grateful to our exceptionally generous benefactor, to all our donors who contributed to the appeal, and of course to our Beaconsfield Fundraising Group members for all their hard work.

Christmas Treats raffle



The annual IRHH Christmas Treats Raffle was drawn by Father Christmas and his helper. We had 15 lucky winners from all over our area including High Wycombe, Berkhamsted, Edlesborough and Tring. We would like to thank everyone who bought and sold tickets, and helped us raise a

magnificent £7,000 towards our cause.

Big changes for The Hospice Lottery

February 2009 sees the exciting introduction of a new Rollover prize with the chance to win up to £10,000 in the weekly draw.

The initial weekly prize fund remains £2,600 but the prize structure is changing slightly. The top prize of £1,000 will be staying the same, the second prize of £200 will become the new Rollover prize, there will be two new prizes of £100, 35 prizes of £20, and 50 prizes of £10. That's a total of 89 cash prizes every week. Just like the National Lottery, if the ticket number drawn for the £200 prize is not a valid number* it will roll on to the next week accumulating £200 for each week it rolls over. The maximum rollover is 50 weeks, which means you could win up to £10,000.

Why not double your chances of winning by going to our re-launched website www.hospicelottery.org.uk where you can subscribe on line, or call 01442 891459 for more details.

*full terms and conditions of the Rollover can be viewed at www.hospicelottery.org.uk

Receive the mailings you want, and help us save money

We are keen to ensure that our supporters receive mailings and information from us that meet their needs, and to avoid sending out appeals to people who would prefer not to receive them.

You can tell us exactly what you wish to receive, and we'll do all we can to comply with your wishes. We know that Doorstep and Getting Involved are greatly enjoyed by thousands of supporters, but you can also opt to receive just the Autumn edition which includes our Christmas catalogue. And if you would really prefer not to receive any Doorstep mailings from us, then subscribing to our free, regular e-News bulletin will help you keep in touch.

We are totally committed to keeping in touch with all our supporters in a way that suits them, and this also saves the charity money. Please use the response form to tell us how you'd like us to keep in touch with you.

Many Doorstep readers will be aware that we have run a number of appeals this year, and we are pleased that the mailings and leaflet campaigns have produced a large number of donations and over 70 new regular direct debit givers! We are extremely grateful to all our donors for their vital financial support.

IRHH Investments

The IRHH is keen to reassure supporters that it has not lost any money following recent bank collapses. The charity's cash reserves are currently placed on treasury deposit with Barclays Bank plc and in short term UK Government Treasury Bills. This is in line with our investment strategy which aims to achieve an acceptable rate of return whilst maintaining the integrity of our investments. The situation is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by our trustees.



• BBC Sport's "Voice of Football", John Motson, drew the winning ticket for the top prize in the Hospice Lottery's 2008 Superdraw, making a resident of Aylesbury £5,000 richer. Superdraw has raised £84,000 for IRHH and the six other participating hospices.

I will help the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home care for families in and around the Chilterns Area

I would like to help with a regular gift

Direct Debit Request

Please pay £ _____ Monthly Quarterly Half Yearly Annually

Please debit my Bank/Building Society account on 1st 8th 15th 22nd

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Account holder details

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other (Please specify) _____

Full _____

Name(s) _____



Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Iain Rennie Hospice at Home Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Iain Rennie Hospice at Home and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Bank/Building Society Details

Name _____

Branch Address _____

Postcode _____

Account Number

Sort Code

Service User Number

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Reference (official use only)

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some kinds of account.

I would like to help with a single gift

I would like to make a donation by credit/debit card / I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to IRHH

Card No. |_____| |_____| |_____| |_____|

Start Date |____|/|____|/|____| Expiry Date |____|/|____|/|____| Security No. |____| |____| |____| Issue No. |____|

The last three digits on the rear of your card

Switch only

Please complete your address below

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Other (Please specify) _____

Full Name(s) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Make your donations go further by completing this Gift Aid declaration. We can then reclaim 28p from HM Revenue & Customs for every £1 you give.

I would like the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home (IRHH) to reclaim tax paid by me on all donations I have made to the charity from the date of this declaration and any I have made in the last 6 years until I notify you otherwise.



Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Because of the stringent requirements of HMRC we need BOTH SIGNATURES when we receive funds from joint donors. Any Gift Aid claim we make on a joint donation will assume that half of the gift came from each of you unless you tell us otherwise.

Notes

1. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the IRHH reclaims on your donations in the tax year.
2. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and/or capital gains equal to the tax that the IRHH reclaims, you should cancel your declaration (see note 1). You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home (IRHH), 52a Western Road, Tring, Herts. HP23 4BB

The Direct Debit Guarantee - This guarantee should be detached and retained by the Payer

- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society.
- If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, Iain Rennie Hospice at Home will notify you 10 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If an error is made by the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.



please

help us carry on caring

There are many ways in which you can help us. If you would like further information about any of the following, please tick the relevant box and return this tear-off strip to us. If you would like to make a donation, you will find the forms on the reverse of this strip.

I am interested in ...

- Having a home collection box
- Volunteering (from home or in our offices/shops)
- Attending a Jigsaw session
- Entering the IRHH Goodnight Walk
- Booking a talk by an IRHH Ambassador
- Receiving our e-News bulletins (please make sure we have your email address)
- Receiving personal copies of Doorstep by post
- Receiving only the Christmas mailing

- I have made provision for IRHH in my will

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Telephone No _____

Email _____

Please return this form to
IRHH Tring Office
52a Western Road, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 4BB

Our promise to you

The IRHH works hard to maintain accurate and up to date information about its supporters. The details you have given us will be held and used by us in accordance with the Data Protection Act. We will use your details to contact you in line with your preferences with information that we think will be of interest to you, but your personal information will NEVER be shared with any other organisation.

- Please tick this box if you no longer wish to receive Doorstep