

We had a ball & raised over £50k

One brief shining moment...

The sun shone, the evening was warm, the walled garden at Old Somerley embraced each impeccably attired party goer as ladies sparkled, and guys didn't look too bad either...

Yes it was our long-awaited About Face Ball – the social Everest of the event year – and what a night it turned out to be. If you were there – you will concur that Regina Ilankovan and the About Face Ball committee got it 'just right' delivering a wonderful occasion that not only introduced many to About Face for the first time, but raised a quite sensational £50,750 in just one shimmering affair.

Comedian/host Mike Osman caught the mood perfectly, and as we dined in a starlit luxury marquee, the evening got off to a speedy start as a prestigious Jaguar watch was won – raising an immediate £2,000...some way to go. Following dinner a quite extraordinary high value raffle even included a week's stay in a French Gite...another £8,000...then a moving short speech by head and neck cancer patient Peter Reeves...added to a rousing exhortation from Dame Margaret Seward (read more about our very own Dame on page 4)...and dancing commenced to the sounds of Lady Marmalade Live. All over? No...not by a country mile...the auction was to come.

From diamond encrusted bangles to day-long cruises on whispering Sunseeker motor yachts...exotic holidays in far-away places...and the opportunity to be the first in the UK to own and drive Range Rover's brand spanking new Evoque courtesy of Westover Group...

We've shared with you the fabulous total, over £50,000 raised... but to those at the About Face Ball...it was more than just this extremely important fundraising mission, it was about being part of the personal.. social.. medical and psychological healing process that personifies all that your charity - About Face - seeks to be.

Thanks to so many for contributing in countless ways..but the charity is indebted to the organizing committee: Frances Burden, Paul Collins, Gloria Nichols, Hilary and Dr Tony Pigott and Liz Vivian all under the baton of Regina Ilankovan.

"Oh what a Night!"

(we do our best to assemble a list of contributors to the big success that was May 2011's About Face Ball on page 2)

About Face is going strong

A taste of everyday life...

The charity has seen a continued increase in patients using its services. We are always aware that 'one size doesn't fit all'; some people would not go without their weekly tea and cake at the Centre's regular Tuesday morning "drop in"... especially when there's a Birthday to celebrate! Others, perhaps because of work commitments, join in with the monthly Monday evening support group meetings, several opting for the fish & chip supper beforehand, courtesy of Chez Fred of Westbourne.

Some come to both, and one such 'regular' told us: **"I have made so many friends at About Face and I hope to be able to contribute towards its continued success in whatever way I can in the future."**

Feedback from other patients has ranged from: **"What a welcome! A group of understanding friends"** to **"Volunteers go out of their way in providing a 'listening ear' - again I witnessed this myself yesterday too, which I found really heartening."**

Many pop in to say hello when taking up our offer to park at the Centre whilst attending appointments at Poole Hospital across the road. We don't mind how much or how little patients, families and carers decide to use our services – they know we are here to support them in any way that suits. When newly diagnosed patients visit, they are often found in our small sitting room with a 'one to one' someone who has experienced head & neck cancer and is there to support others.



The team of one to one volunteers at About Face officially became No.1 in Poole when they won the Poole CVS team award in June 2011. Here, some of our volunteers are presented with the silver cup by the Mayor of Poole.

'WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS'...Well done!!

Celebrations continued as wedding bells rang for Mark Foyle and his bride Milli. Mark tells us: "Of course... without the amazing work of Mr Ramchandani and his team, plus the support from everyone, there wouldn't be a wedding" (Mr Ramchandani is a consultant surgeon at Poole Hospital)



BIG THANKS ALL ROUND!



Beryl Mitchell is the wife of Thomas Mitchell, a head and neck cancer patient. After their first visit to the Centre she wrote:

“Just to say how much we enjoyed our visit with you all on Tuesday and thank you for making us so welcome. Tom now knows that

he is not alone with a cancer which we knew very little about until it happens to you.”

Tom recently stayed in Poole Hospital for several weeks and Beryl made full use of the About Face Centre's facilities. They wrote to us afterwards saying: “To all our friends at About Face for your kindness, good wishes and support during a difficult time. We appreciate it and it has meant so much to us both.”

Like many patients, Tom is keen to raise awareness of head & neck cancer and help spread the word about the importance of early detection and how to reduce the risks. The Mitchells kindly organised for About Face to have a stall at their village fair in Langton Matravers, and Tom volunteered of his time to supervise the tombola!

Thank you Tom!

We are so grateful for all the support we receive but it is of course impossible to record here all the kind personal donations received over the last year, but we would like to recognize some of the community groups, companies and other organisations who have helped by fundraising since our last newsletter:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Avon Court
The Barley Mow
BellyFusion
Boots
Bournemouth & Poole
Medical Society
Coleman Insurance Brokers
Croft Management Centre
Dolphin Centre Traders
Firrhill High School
(Edinburgh!)
Gundry Quilters
Hamworthy Ladies Club
L A Hannams
Iford Trefoil Guild
Inner Wheel Club
of Parkstone & Poole | Jaguar Enthusiasts Club
Dorset Region
John Lewis at Home
Kinson Lodge
The Ladies of Face the
Future
The League of Jewish
Women,
Poole Arts Association
Rejuvenate IT Support
Rowena Lodge
Sainsbury's
South Wessex Opera
Company
SPP Pumps Ltd
Waitrose
Yellow Buses |
|--|--|

Our Ball Supporters

Sponsors, Auction and Raffle Donors

The About Face Ball

- BBH Partners LLP
- Billericay Dental Supply Co Ltd
- Phoenix Financial Services
- Whitelock Group
- Mr J Day
- Mr J & Mrs B Howard
- Mr & Mrs G Greenfield
- Professor Gordon & Dame Margaret Seward
- Bishop Fleming Chartered Accountants
- Mr John Nash
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- Mrs Linda Bates
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- Mr G M Henry
- Mr C W D Macey
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- Ms Christine Brienne
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- Towerglass (Bournemouth) Ltd
- Maureen Rose
- Robert Old
- Mr Clive P Farrell
- Tucker Advertising
- Coutts
- Mr Sheppard
- Mr David & Mrs Pauline Wright
- Mrs Rona Farmer

...and of course all who joined us at the Ball

There is such a thing as a free lunch

Following the success of Chairman Tony Pigott's Christmas "volunteers lunch" in the Centre's 1st floor library last year, he wants to do it all over again to say thank you for your work during 2011.

Another of his delicious homemade soups is on offer so if you have volunteered for About Face during 2011 and would like to join us on Tuesday 10 January, please claim your place around the table by calling the Centre office on 01202 677340.



Come in No: 2603

You will read on page 3 about the courses we run for health professionals. One colleague in particular went that 'extra mile' by running a 26 mile marathon in Copenhagen for About Face to 'give something back'. Registrar, Serryth Colbert, set up stall at the Dolphin Shopping Centre beforehand and was hugely supported by visitors and traders.



Several colleagues at Poole and Dorchester hospitals were also quick to offer sponsorship and the Daily Echo featured his challenge. We are very grateful to Serryth, who has now moved on to Portsmouth and we wish him all the very best in his future career.

A very special mention to Pauline and David Wright from "Lift the Latch" in Chard...David and Pauline are available to give talks on their NGS (National Gardens Scheme) much visited garden. Call them on 01460 64752 to book your evening.



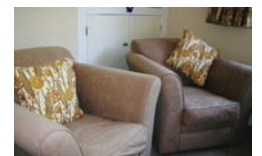
...and to Jerry & Pauline Gray of Byngley House, Poole, as both couples continue to find innovative ways to support fellow patients who have cancer of the head & neck financially and socially.



Nick Hanham and Cynthia Wheadon (pictured right) have worked very hard in the About Face garden. Many have commented on the year round interest the garden displays



Celia Hodges made us a dozen splendid cushion covers – thank you to all volunteers who help make things run smoothly at the Centre.



Peter Moody, Director of Coleman Insurance Brokers pictured right with his organising team following the firm's annual golf day at Canford Magna Golf Club. A magnificent £5000 was raised on the day.



We are constantly rewarded and encouraged by the wonderful comments received from the charity's supporters, a recent example: **“It was great to see your dedicated volunteers all together, we appreciate all the hard work that goes into making About Face the success it is”**



Mouth Cancer Awareness Week

13-19 November 2011

Awareness of head and neck cancer is vital, and this year we can be found in the Sovereign Centre, Boscombe from 14th to 19th November 10 am to 4 pm. The question for our survey for 2011 is: "Have you visited the dentist within the last 12 months?!" Visitors will be greeted by volunteers at About Face, and the team will be augmented by 1st year students in business studies from Bournemouth University.

We will offer information, in English, Polish and Portuguese on how to access an NHS dentist, and, thanks to support from the Wentworth Dental Clinic and Boots, we will offer free toothpaste. Our attendance is made possible with support from Yellow Buses Carbon Stoppers, the Year 10 students at Corfe Hills School and Poole CVS.

Addressing the Dental Profession

In April 2011, we welcomed a visitor to the About Face Centre. Mr Ellis Paul is Editor-in-Chief of 'Private Dentistry', a prestigious monthly publication with a nationwide circulation. Mr Paul was introduced to About Face by Dame Margaret Seward

So taken by what we do at the charity. Mr Paul invited our Chief Executive Ian Catley to submit a 2,500 word article on life at About Face. And this has been published in the November 2011 edition. We are grateful for this rare opportunity to address the profession. Dentists are crucial in spotting early signs of oral cancers.

From the Chair...in the Dentist's Chair

Teeth or Mouth Check?

Those of us who have been touched by mouth cancer are only too aware of the importance of an early diagnosis. Since these conditions are rarely, if ever, self-diagnosed a check-up at the dentist is the opportunity when a full mouth check is possible.

Increasingly it is obvious there needs to be a change in perception and expectation of both patients and dentists that the 'check-up' is not solely a 'tooth check' but a 'mouth check'. Worryingly it is noted, patients with full dentures are reportedly not usually included in routine mouth examination programmes.

Please mention the 'mouth check message' to your friends and family and of course when you are in the dentist chair. I always do! Many very good dentists do a full check, and if you are fortunate to have such a dentist, it is always a good conversation to have.

If you are unsure whether your mouth has had the full works, try mentioning that you are involved with About Face. Who knows a simple reminder may save a life. That life could even be yours.

Tony Pigott - About Face Chairman

THE ABOUT FACE LECTURE 2011
CENTRALISATION of HEAD and NECK CANCER SERVICES

WEDS 30th
NOV at 7pm



MR BARRIE EVANS

Last year, Professor Simon Rogers addressed us on 'Quality Outcomes'. For 2011, we will welcome MR BARRIE EVANS, BDS (Hons), MB.BCh, FRCS (Eng &Edin), FDSRCS (Eng), FFDRCS (Ire). Mr Evans will take 'Centralisation' of Head and Neck Cancer Services as his subject

Mr Evans is a Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Cancer Surgeon at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. He has worked at the Hospital since 1983, and his sub specialities feature Head and Neck Surgery including salivary gland surgery/skin malignancy. He undertakes surgery on the skull base, and is also noted for

his work on Facial Trauma and Craniofacial Trauma and post traumatic deformity. Mr Evans is committed to teaching at all levels and has lectured nationally and internationally over 150 times.

Mr Evans was elected President of the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons for 2009. He will be introduced to the audience by Ilanko Ilankovan, Trustee at About Face and himself a consultant surgeon.

We trust that you will join us at the Postgraduate Centre Lecture Theatre in Poole Hospital at 7pm for 7.30pm on Wednesday November 30th. Capacity is limited to 100 seats, so booking your FREE seat is essential.

Call 01202 677340 to secure your place!

In our lab & library



Recently, on Wednesday 5th October the About Face Centre hosted a study day for Specialist Registrars (seen above) in training for facial surgery. Earlier in March 2011 on a Saturday the Consultants at Poole Hospital Mr Ramchandani, Mr Ilankovan and I hosted a second microvascular course that included clinical practice in the practical room. Approximately 20 junior doctors from across the South of England attended the course and it was well supported by various medical companies.

The value of organising such exercises is of paramount importance in training the future generation of head and neck surgeons. The About Face Centre is located just opposite the hospital and doctors can use the facilities in the laboratory or the library during their free time.

Since the launch of The About Face Centre, these facilities have been a great success and will continue to flourish offering further education and courses in the near future. This would not be possible without the help of all the volunteers and the supporting team of the About Face Centre, to which all of us are extremely grateful.

Sajjad Walji
Consultant Maxillofacial/Head & Neck Surgeon
(Trustee About Face)

Barney Army

The best barn dance in the South is less than 3 months away as we go to press. Tickets always go quickly for this fabulous fundraising night out.

Organised by About Face trustee, Frances Burden, the date is Saturday, 21st January 2012 from 7.30 p.m. and will be held as usual at Twynham School, Sopers La. Christchurch BH23 1JF. The unbeatable band Black Sheep, Fish 'n Chip supper, huge raffle and even a short 'must have' auction are all on the menu.

Call Frances on 01202 269519 or 07894 760627

Light up our Christmas Tree

If you are reading this newsletter as a regular recipient on our supporter list, you will have found About Face's Christmas card that we send with love and good wishes for the Season. Try to respond if you can to our Christmas Appeal - sending us a small cheque and at the same time adding your own greeting. The detachable tag will hang on our Christmas tree at the Centre until the 12th day of Christmas.

FACE to face

5 minutes with...

Dame Margaret Seward
DSc, FDS RCS

Who are you?

I am a dentist, now living in Bournemouth, after working in various spheres of dentistry. My final job, as Chief Dental Officer at the Department of Health, was to advise Government Ministers on the importance of good oral health and to raise awareness of the disturbing rise in the number of patients with oral cancer.



Typical Weekday?

Although I have no train to catch to go to work, I still like to be up before 8am in time to tune into The Today Programme whilst

munching my 'fruit and fibre'. Looking through my diary there is a full range of activities to stimulate me: Chairman of Bournemouth and Poole National Trust Association, concerts by the BSO, professional conferences and dinners around the country, keeping fit with walks along our fantastic beach and at the end of the day catching up with those emails without the luxury of a lifetime – a PA!

Free Time?

Being retired is meant to mean one long holiday but it is a challenge for my husband and for me to find a clear run of days to go away.

However, sacrosanct is time with the family. We enjoy 'booking in' our grandchildren for visits during school holidays: what a tonic to recapture the innocence of youth.

Connections with About Face?

After a member of our Literary and Musical Society received fantastic treatment for oral cancer from Mr Ramchandani at Poole Hospital, it was decided that the proceeds of the annual Benevolent evening would be donated to About Face.

Ian Catley came and gave an inspiring talk about the Charity with its amazing Tuesday drop-in, when on this and other days volunteers who have experienced head & neck cancer for themselves provide support and information to newly diagnosed patients and their families.

I was to sample the top quality care at first hand when my husband developed precancerous facial lesions and Mr Ilankovan worked wonders with his treatment. We are so fortunate to have a centre of excellence at the leading edge of oral and maxillofacial cancer care right here in Poole.

Using my professional contacts I have been thrilled to be able to raise About Face's profile amongst dentists and arrange for articles to be printed in widely circulated professional journals and donate my fees for local talks to such a worthy cause. The generous efforts of so many in time, money and talent made the About Face Ball in May a night to remember. Now it is up to us to keep waving the flag for the continued success of the charity for the benefit of patients, carers and the clinical teams – together we can make a difference.



Favourites

- Music:** The Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from Nabucco by Giuseppe Verdi
- Film:** Ladies in Lavender
- Place:** Dublin
- Holiday:** Transiting the Panama Canal – what a tribute to the engineering skills (before computers!) and the tragic toll of thousands of lives to accomplish the feat.
- Dinner Guest:** Close friends who still compliment me when my soufflé flops!

Hair raising challenge!



Some patients are really up for a... never mind awareness - and fund-... but HAIR-raising challenge! Here is Martin Botham skydiving for us – he says:

"I found the charity, About Face, in the spring of 2010 and what a fantastic find it was! Everybody rallies round helping each other... so one of the reasons I'm doing this is to give something back to a brilliant group of people."

Geronimo! Well done Martin!

And on the theme of "dropping in", we were delighted to welcome the (then) Mayor of Poole, Chris Bulteel and his wife Angela, together with the now current Mayor, Cllr Graham Wilson and his wife Sally to the About Face Centre "drop in" one Tuesday morning in April... and even more delighted to hear that About Face had been chosen as one of the Mayor's charities for 2011/2012.

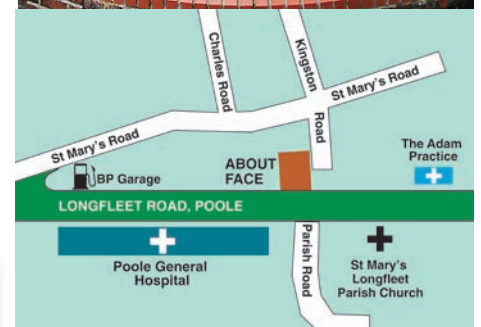
We would like to say thank you for all the hard work he and his Committee are doing to benefit ours and other great causes.



"Brian", the charity's cute publicity van (supported by the Westover Group) has made an eye-catching appearance at several local events – most recently, and pictured here, at the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club (Dorset Region) Wessex Classic Car Show.



The About Face Centre
111 Longfleet Road, Poole, BH15 2HP
01202 677340



Please think about remembering About Face-Poole in your Will...someone will be very glad you did



Share the awareness! www.facebook.com/AboutFacePoole