**NORTH HIGHLAND CANCER INFORMATION AND SUPPORT CENTRE, SCIO (SC048935)**

**Your local drop-in centre for those affected by cancer**

 

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022/23

Hello Everyone,

As we approach our AGM next month, I would like to bring you up to date with what’s been happening in the Centre during the last twelve months.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Centre – we do appreciate your interest and enjoy your visits. I do hope everyone finds a warm welcome and friendly chat when they arrive. Of course, if you would prefer a more private facility and personal chat, do please ask to use the quiet room, where a volunteer will be happy to listen.

Thanks again to Malcolm for organising last year’s wonderful Christmas lunch at the Castletown Hotel. I certainly enjoyed it, and thought the hotel did us proud! Any ideas for this year will be gratefully received. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to organise a Summer outing this year, so please accept our apologies for that.

This year we employed Chloe Anderson as office manager. Chloe takes care of all our administration, and works for ten hours per week – five on Mondays, and five on Thursdays. We are hoping that Chloe will also be an excellent fundraiser, as you know we depend solely on donations at the moment.

The Thursday complementary therapy sessions are ongoing, under the capable hands of Laura, Kate, and Monica. These are very popular and are usually booked well in advance. We do ask that members book only one appointment ahead to allow for newly diagnosed people to have a relaxing hour of therapy. Also very popular are the Monday morning sessions with Gemma – nails, facials, and lots of pampering!

I now arrive at a very important item on the agenda. As you are aware, the Centre is managed by a committee (or board) of eight members. The majority of the eight are, to put it politely, no longer young! To add to that, we have few young members, and understandably, they may wish to return to employment after their treatment.

Throughout this year, Malcolm has entered into discussions with Macmillan Cancer Support regarding a potential agreement with them re: the future of our Centre. I have asked Malcolm if he would write a couple of paragraphs to explain to our members what this will mean for the Centre and its members.

Here are his thoughts on this, and an update on the Men’s Group:

**Project to employ staff for the NHCISC with funding by Macmillan Cancer Support.**

Malcolm has continued to work with Macmillan Cancer Support staff throughout the year. The Chair and NHCISC Committee are pleased to announce that the Grant Application has been signed and returned to Macmillan Cancer Support, and funding to the sum of £180k should be made available in the coming weeks. This funding is being provided to recruit and employ 3 members of staff on 3-year contracts. The staff will be employed to develop a business strategy for the centre to ensure its longevity whilst aiming to offer improved levels of cancer support for the wider community.

It is hoped that we will hold a promotional event to advertise and answer questions about what this all means for the NHCISC in the near future.

The Chair and Committee would like to thank Chloe who has been helping with general office duties at the NHCISC and also with the preparations for the forthcoming transitions. She has had a steep learning curve and we are grateful for all her efforts during this time.

**Cancer Support Group for Men 2022 - 2023**

The ‘Men’s group’ is now in its 8th year. The group have continued their monthly meetings at the NHCISC where the numbers have remained steady with an average of 5-7 men per meeting. They had a couple of new members join the group whilst a few have left. Meetings in the afternoon have remained the preference for the members.

Malcolm would like to thank the men who have supported him in keeping the group going.

Additionally, the group are indebted to the chair and committee of the NHCISC for allowing them to use the centre. Without this, the group would not exist.

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Finally, I would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for the work they do to keep our Centre going. Without volunteers, the Centre would close – thank you all so much.

Also, thanks to the Committee:

* Margaret, our Secretary.
* Frankie, our Treasurer.
* Barbara, for organising the calendar and lots of other things!
* Linda, for lots of amazing fundraising!
* And Malcolm, for continuing the in-depth and behind the scenes discussions with Macmillan.

We look forward to another successful year.

Yours faithfully,

ISOBEL MARSHALL

Chair, NHCISC