

September 2004

Dear Friends

With longer evenings drawing closer, we hope that you will be able to participate in some of the events that the Trust has planned over the next few months.

We enclose details and a reservation form for the long awaited **Pot Luck Dinners** during the period of **1st – 14th November**. Do find the time to choose a menu and date that suits you and get in touch; it is good fun and a great way to meet different people. Also, on **November 18th Crabtree & Evelyn** at the Podium Bath, are hosting a special charity evening from which we will gain 20% of all takings. It will be held between 6.30 and 8.00 pm with wine and light refreshments, a floral demonstration with hand massage, 2 raffle prizes and a 'goodie' bag for all guests. This is a great opportunity for Christmas shopping to suit all pockets. and there is no charge for an invitation; simply write to us with a self addressed envelope stating how many you require. As numbers are limited, please ensure that if for some reason you are not able to go, you pass the invitation to someone who will use it.

Please note in your diaries that on **April 21st 2005**, a musical extravaganza is planned at the Forum Bath. Organised by Anna Bernard of the **Royal High School Bath for the Sophie Cameron Trust Performing Arts**, there will be a performance of Carmina Burana by Carl Orff. The performance will include professional musicians as well as school choirs.

Last March, **the Sophie Cameron Trust Performing Arts** concert was excellent at the **Royal High School Bath** and raised £591. The School Chapel was the venue for this annual evening of beautiful music and was 're-dedicated' as the School's Performing Arts Centre.

Because of this unique moment, the performances began with a beautifully atmospheric performance of "How lovely are thy dwellings fair" from Brahms' *German Requiem*, a piece sung at the original dedication of the building in the 1950s. Then followed a succession of solos, duets, astonishingly polished singing by the Madrigal Group, Tchaikovsky and ABBA from the Orchestra, and a poised and – in the resonant acoustic of the building – warmly controlled performance of the slow movement of Beethoven's *Emperor* piano concerto.

In a very different way, our Trust is very grateful for the support by **Angela Steel** earlier this Summer, who completed the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Marathon and raised over £1,050.

We had healthy support at this year's Helphire **Bath Half Marathon** which has become an important fundraising opportunity for our Trust. Despite appalling

weather and a delayed start, there was the usual air of excitement at the event and plenty of our distinctive turquoise blue t-shirts in evidence. We were particularly touched that Dr Gavin Giovannini from the Institute of Neurology in London ran for us raising over £370. Needless to say, I too competed and completed the course again and will do so again in 2005 – it really is quite addictive. We raised £6,000 this year and are looking forward to receiving your registrations on-line at www.thesophiecamerontrust.org.uk for next year's event which will be on Sunday 20th March 2005.

As you are aware, our fundraising has helped research at the Institute of Neurology in London into the causes of encephalitis lethargica. Following a BBC television programme highlighting this work in July, we have had a lot of interest from people across the country. If you missed the programme and would like to see it, we have a video copy which may be borrowed. Although the beginning of the film showed some depressing footage from the pandemic in the 1920s, it was very interesting and informative. The last ten minutes described the excitement of the team in London, as they approach an explanation of this mysterious disease.

With regard to Sophie's own programme of rehabilitation, the research project to look at the effects of long-term intensive physiotherapy, funded equally by the Sophie Cameron Trust, the Brownsword Charitable Foundation and the Medlock Charitable Trust has now been running for 6 months. A physiotherapist treats Sophie 5 days a week and she is responding well. The first progress report is available if any of you wish to read it.

Those of you who have not completed a 'Gift Aid Form' will find one enclosed. If you are a UK tax payer and have ever made a donation to the SCT, please complete and return it. This is a one-off exercise that enables us to claim back the tax you have paid. Many of you have already completed and returned this form previously – thank you very much and we are obviously not enclosing another one with this newsletter!

Many thanks for your continued support of the Sophie Cameron Trust and I hope to have the opportunity to meet some of you at the forthcoming events.

Yours sincerely

Bernard Whiteside
Chairman