



# sussex beacon newsletter

Spring 2005

Nothing  
to laugh at!  
Comedy  
Festival  
donates £60k

Beacon  
announces  
two classical  
concerts

How we spend  
your money  
throughout  
East Sussex

[www.sussexbeacon.org.uk](http://www.sussexbeacon.org.uk)



## Hello everyone and welcome to the Spring 2005 Sussex Beacon Newsletter

Perhaps the only time in the year I actually feel jealous of people who run is on Sussex Beacon Half Marathon day. As it's in February it's invariably freezing for everyone standing around organising the run, whilst those taking part clearly have no such worries.

I think everyone will agree, however, that it was a fantastic Half Marathon. It's getting bigger and better every year and my thanks go out to all who worked so hard to make it happen. Congratulations to Ross and Beacon helper Chris on their wins.

Last autumn we were the very grateful recipients of a £60,000 donation from the Brighton Comedy Festival. The money will

pay off some of our deficit and allow us to kick start our building refurbishment programme. However, we can never afford to be complacent with our funding situation, and we need your help today as much as ever.

There are some great events coming up, such as the classical concerts and Garden Gadabout, which allow you to enjoy yourself and raise a bit of cash at the same time.

Take care and enjoy, I hope, the milder weather

Steve Curry, Director

## What's been happening at the Beacon?

**Half Marathon:** It was another record-breaking attendance as 2,110 runners flocked to Brighton's chilly seafront on Sunday 20th February. Ross Grant was overall men's winner with a time of 01.11.39, with Chris Naylor winning the women's race coming in at 01.23.00. A big friend of the Beacon Chris is usually far too busy organising the race to actually run it.

However, this year she managed both making her win even more memorable:

"I'm absolutely delighted - quite staggered,"

*"It's an awesome charity and I'm really thankful to be part of something so special."  
Ross Grant, men's winner.*

*"The Half Marathon is good for the sport, good for the city and good for the Beacon."  
Chris Naylor, women's winner.*

*"The small donations are just as important to us as the big ones"*

enthusied Chris. The event raised over £40,000. Sussex Beacon Fundraiser Julie Hales said she was "Extremely grateful to all the runners, fundraisers and volunteers who made the day a winner for everyone involved."

**60,000 laughs:** The Beacon has received a £60,000 donation from the Paramount Brighton Comedy Festival's opening gala night. Addison Cresswell, from festival organisers Off the Kerb said: "I'm absolutely chuffed I can do something like this". Steve Curry, Director of the Sussex Beacon, thanked the Festival but warned that the money didn't mean the Beacon could relax. "We need £300,000 a year just to keep going and funding keeps getting tighter. The small donations," Steve continued, "are just as important to us as the big ones".



**Wellspring:** The Sussex Beacon has entered into a partnership with fellow HIV charity Brighton Body Positive and women's substance misuse organisation, Brighton Oasis Project. The new organisation, to be called Wellspring Group, is owned by the three bodies. Steve Curry, Beacon Director, said: "Wellspring allows us to share certain functions and have greater clout when it comes to funding whilst keeping the essential services of each member separate. So if you fundraise for the Beacon that money will stay with the Beacon."

*"If you fundraise for the Beacon that money will stay with the Beacon".*



Left: Chris Naylor receives her award from the Mayor of Brighton and Hove. Above: Ross Grant winning the men's race.

## Where your money goes: Reaching out across Sussex

Your donations have enabled the Sussex Beacon to expand away from our Brighton base and into East Sussex. Run in partnership with national charity the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) and East Sussex Social Services, the centres in Eastbourne and Hastings, allow many of the needs of people with HIV to be met closer to their homes.

*"Complimentary therapy has always been at the heart of the Beacon and it's what people with HIV in East Sussex said they wanted."*

Complimentary therapy is one of the services offered. Jackie Titley, who manages this side of the Beacon's work, explains: "Complimentary therapy has always been at the heart of what the Beacon provides, it was there from the very beginning, and it's what people with HIV in East Sussex said they wanted."

Therapies, including massage and reflexology, are all available – clients just have to pop along and sign up. "We only charge those that can afford it," says Jackie, "which effectively subsidises those who can't."

The Sussex Beacon offers additional support around psychological issues at Eastbourne and Hastings in partnership with two clinical nurse specialists: "Psychological issues could include clients complaining of insomnia," says Jackie. "Sleeplessness can exacerbate people's conditions. So we try and find out if this is because of pain, medication or anxiety and treat these core issues."

The Beacon's services are available in Eastbourne at the THT Centre in South Street, and at the Ore Clinic in Hastings.

**REALBRIGHTON.COM** Thanks to REALBrighton.com for many of the photos in this newsletter.

## Fundraiser focus:

### Addison Cresswell – turning laughs into lolly

There are many ways to raise money for the Beacon (marathon running and selling old Kylie CD's are popular) but Addison Cresswell has a particularly novel way of extracting the cash – he tickles people into donating.

Addison is MD of Off the Kerb productions, the company behind the annual Brighton Comedy Festival. Last year Off the Kerb donated all the cash from the Comedy Festival's opening gala night to the Beacon. With sets from Jack Dee and Julian Clary and the night being shown on the Paramount Comedy TV channel, the Beacon received a not to be laughed at £61,000 plus a further £703 from the buckets

Why did Addison choose the Beacon to benefit? "I'm a Brighton boy," says Addison. "I love Brighton. It's an amazing place full of different people and cultures. And I wanted to give something back."

"I'm absolutely chuffed I can do something like this for an organisation that does such a great job."

Addison is part of a talented family. While his brother Luke created the world famous STOMP dance phenomenon, Addison started Off the Kerb and began organising shows for comedians

such as Lee Evans and Jonathan Ross. However, it was Luke's experiences with HIV that persuaded Addison to think of the Beacon: "Luke had a friend whose brother died of AIDS. The Beacon helped his family through what was a very difficult time.

"When you see someone slowly deteriorate it's absolutely awful," continues Addison.

The Comedy Festival returns to the coast for its fourth year this October and Addison is pleased its success has boosted the Beacon's coffers: "I know how much help they give and how it gets harder every year to raise the funds needed," he says, "I'm absolutely chuffed I can do something like this for an organisation that does such a great job."



Jack Dee, who headlined the Brighton Comedy Festival 2004's gala opening night in aid of the Sussex Beacon.

## Bach with bite



The Purcell Singers with Beacon director Steve Curry at our concert last year.

Classical music fans should look out in May for two very special concerts in aid of the Sussex Beacon.

7 May will see the English Arts Chorale perform Fauré's and Mozart's Requiems, both from memory, while on 28 May London's celebrated Purcell Singers will stage JS Bach's six choral motets.

Philip Robinson, a Beacon volunteer, is organising the productions and says they should appeal to all classical connoisseurs: "The Mozart Requiem is an extremely popular work for many people," says Philip, "The Bach piece is a very different proposition. It's complicated music and very tricky to perform which is why it is so rarely done. But it is regarded as one of Bach's masterpieces and for many he is the undoubted baroque master."

Philip decided to begin organising concerts for the Beacon's benefit in order to heighten knowledge of the charity beyond its usual supporters: "Many of the people who come to these concerts are primarily coming for the music and may not have even heard of the Beacon before they arrive," says Philip. "So we raise awareness as well as much needed funds."

Both concerts are part of the Brighton Fringe Festival and will be held at St Michael and All Angels Church, Montpelier, Brighton. Book tickets online at

[www.brighton-festival.org.uk](http://www.brighton-festival.org.uk)

call the Dome box office on

**01273 709709**

or buy at the venue on the night.

## How can you donate £13 while only giving £10?

*giftaid it*

There is a way you can give to the Sussex Beacon where, like every good supermarket deal, we get 1/4 extra free. It's called Gift

Aid. Gift Aid allows us to reclaim the tax on your donation. So, if you give us £10 we can reclaim the 22% tax, giving us £12.82 in total. All you have to do is sign a declaration confirming you are a UK taxpayer. All our forms contain this declaration. If you currently donate via direct debit contact us and we'll sort it out. It's really simple and we benefit loads.

**How about Payroll Giving?** This is where you make a monthly donation to the Beacon straight from your wages. What's great about Payroll Giving is the donation is made BEFORE income tax so it effectively costs you less. Speak to your payroll department about using this scheme. See [www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/payrollgiving](http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/payrollgiving).

Many of us like to leave a little aside for our favourite charity in our wills. What many people don't realise, however, is **legacy donations** are extremely tax-efficient. This is because you don't pay 40% inheritance tax on the gift, even if your estate goes above the £275,000 tax threshold. So your loved ones will incur no penalty and that amount will not be included in your tax bill.

For more info on ways to give to the Beacon see the enclosed form or call us on 01273 694222.



# Cheers everyone!



A big thanks to all the people, venues and companies who have donated to us in the last few months. The money you give to us is vital in enabling our work to continue.

The **Sussex Beacon Carol Concert** at St. Nicholas Church, Brighton was a wonderful night with lots of mulled wine, mince pies and, to top it off, **£513** worth of donations.

The **Bulldog** pub in Brighton staged a spooky Hallowe'en party and terrified punters into parting with **£164**. Meanwhile **Andy Martin** of Ruserper must have been truly horrific as he managed to extract **£250** the same evening!

Paramount Brighton Comedy Festival opening night gala: **£61,319**.

All Saint's church, Hove: **£545**.

The **Robin Hood** pub in Brighton is a totally new concept - your beer money, instead of going to fat cats, goes to charity. People's Pub chose the Beacon to benefit to the tune of **£1,000**.



The **Hilton Brighton West Pier** hotel held a Sunday cabaret in aid of us and raised a very welcome **£270**.



Julie from the Beacon receives the Hilton's cheque

The **Freemason's Grand Charity** sent **£1,750** our way while the **Sussex Masonic Centre** gave us a much needed **£1,000**.

Thanks to the **Body Shop Foundation** who gave us **£1,000** for the refurbishment of our upstairs day lounge.

Two Brighton pubs celebrated their birthday by raising money for us. Legends gave us **£50**, the Harlequin **£535**.

Brighton's **Storm** nightclub held a Pride night in our honour and raised **£500**. The **Marine Tavern's** regulars donated **£400**; and the **Candy Bar** gave us **£1,000** raised on a variety of nights including a Jimmy Somerville special. **Fake Bush** at **No Name Bar** made

Safeway customer's in Brighton donated **£115**. Sainsbury's stores in Sussex raised **£200**.

**£1,800** and **Buckin' Broncos** at **Charles Street bar** **£150**. Meanwhile **£225** came our way following **Drag Yourself to the Strand** at the **Strand** restaurant in Brighton.



Panto paid dividends with **Aladdin** in Eastbourne (pictured right) raising **£450**, and the rather saucier **A Ladd In** playing in Brighton donating almost **£900**.

The **Arun Gay Society** bought us a much-needed **commercial food mixer**; **Anthony Fletcher** gave us money to purchase an **IV fluid pump**; **Gaydealsbrighton.co.uk** raised **£77** at their launch; and **Colin Fry Enterprises** donated **£500**.

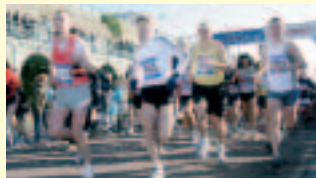
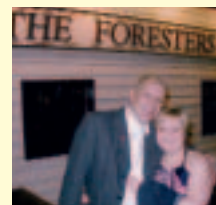
**World AIDS Day events**

brought thousands our way including **£1,146** from a **Rainbow Chorus** performance (above left); **£2,500** from clubnight **Wild Fruit** (below); and **£38**



from the **Older Lesbian and Gay Men's Forum**.

Students at **Steyning Grammar School** raised **£285** and the **Threadbare** knitting group **£55**. **Mark Sparrow** and **Ellie Harris** (above right) organised a people auction at the **Forester's** pub in Horley. The people must have been top notch as they raised **£1,100** for their time and talents.



Sussex Beacon Half Marathon 2005: **£40,000**.

## Sussex Beacon fundraising events coming soon

**7 MAY**

English Arts Chorale performs **Faurè and Mozart Requiems**. St Michael and All Angels Church, Brighton. See more on this and the 28 May concert inside. Tickets from Brighton Dome Box Office on 01273 709709.



**28 MAY**

The Purcell Singers perform **six choral motets by JS Bach** St Michael and All Angels Church, Brighton. Tickets from Brighton Dome Box Office on 01273 709709.

**21 MAY**

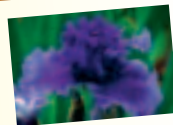
**Eurovision Party**, **Duke of York's cinema**, Brighton. **Becoming the campest** tradition in town, past years have seen fabulous costumes, terrible singing and a live link to Ol' Tel himself in far-flung corners of Europe. Check publicity closer to date.

**7, 14, 21 & 28 MAY**

Art Exhibition 11am-6pm 30 George Street, Brighton. Four local artists, including long-time Beacon friend **Romany Mark Bruce**, hold an open house displaying a selection of their work.

**26 JUNE**

**Garden Gadabout** Sussex Beacon, Brighton and gardens throughout Brighton and Hove. Enjoy beautiful gardens throughout the city culminating with cream teas in the Beacon's own tranquil surroundings.



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