

**LIVERNORTH Charity  
Annual Report 2009**

1. **The financial year to which this report relates:** Start: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008      End: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009
2. **Brief summary of the main activities and achievements of the charity during the year in relation to the charity's objects:**
  - a) Offering support, advice and information to all those who suffer from liver disease.
    - 1] Free support newsletter 'LIVERNEWS'. 1750 copies were distributed bi-monthly at a cost to the charity of £5072.61 and a copy of the newsletter is available on the LIVERNORTH website.
    - 2] Meetings of the main group every six weeks at the Freeman Hospital. Each meeting was addressed by a qualified speaker who talked about some aspect of liver disease.

2008	April	Optical Assessment in Chronic Fatigue
	Jun	Cadaver Liver Assessment
	Jul	AGM Primary Billiary Cirrhosis (PBC)
	Sept	Liver Disease
	Oct	PBC DVD Production
	Oct	Auxiliary Liver Transplantation
2009	Feb	Afghanistan
	Apr	Hepatitis C

The PBC group have held lunchtime meetings at various locations throughout the region, also having qualified speakers attend to talk specifically about aspects of PBC.

2008	April	PBC Research update - Freeman
	June	PBC Research update - Sunderland
	Sept	PBC Research update - Bishop Auckland
	Nov	PBC Research update & Social - Freeman
2009	Mar	PBC Research update - Freeman
    - 3] Operation of the telephone helpline continued. The helpline coordinator is Revd. Nigel Goodfellow M.A., (a governor of the charity).
    - 4] Three notice boards/leaflet dispensers in two wards and one in the outpatients' clinic have been maintained at the Freeman Hospital as well as many leaflets provided free of charge to patients. Approximately 10,000 leaflets were distributed during the period. Two new leaflets were produced by the group during the period.
    - 5] The group newsletter 'LIVERNEWS' was made available to read online and all advice leaflets were made available to download online.
    - 6] Patient & carer accommodation has been provided within Beechwood House in the grounds of the Freeman Hospital. This has been in use almost every day and has cost the charity £4847.07
    - 7] One governor [a barrister] has continued to give free consultations to members with respect to disability allowances and other legal matters of relevance to liver patients.
    - 8] The group produced a DVD describing the disease PBC (Primary Biliary Cirrhosis) and distributed over 300 copies at cost.
  - b) Offering support, advice and information to all formal and informal carers of liver disease sufferers.
    - 1] Carers attend group meetings at the Freeman Hospital often with their charges.
    - 2] The accommodation mentioned in item 2 a) 5] above is used by carers more frequently than by patients.
    - 3] Many of the calls to the helpline are from carers.
    - 4] Carers are supplied with free information leaflets on request and avail themselves of the information displayed on the notice board in the Freeman Hospital Ward 12 day room, Ward 16 and the clinics. The website has several leaflets on liver diseases to download free of charge.
    - 5] A Liver Patient Welfare fund is held by the social worker on Ward 12 at the Freeman Hospital. The fund is used to support both patients and carers.
  - c) Assisting in the funding of research into the causes of, treatments for, and prevention of all forms of liver

disease.

- 1] Donations totalling £9,081.00 were made to research projects during the period.
  - 2] Educational grants totalling £852.60 were made during the period.
- e) Assisting with the provision of amenities, equipment and funding for the care of liver patients, their carers and families providing that such provision shall be for the general benefit of a liver patient or liver patients.
- 1] Patientline vouchers were provided by the charity to the social worker at the Freeman Hospital. These are distributed in cases of Liver Patient hardship.
  - 2] Medical equipment costing £18,899.61 was provided for the liver unit during the period.
- f) Advancing the public awareness of liver disease, the treatment of liver disease and the prevention of liver disease.
- 1] Several articles initiated by the charity regarding liver transplants, alcoholism and organ donation initiatives were published/broadcast by the media.
  - 2] Talks were given to several community groups and clubs (Rotary & W.I.).
  - 3] The Charity website [www.livernorth.org.uk](http://www.livernorth.org.uk) received 1475 hits during the period with 5817 individual pages viewed by visitors to the website. Many leaflets were made available online during the period and were downloaded by visitors to the site. Since recording began, there have been 18,540 hits on the website.
  - 4] One member of the group has given many talks on organ donation to various groups and has distributed approximately 800 organ donor register forms.
  - 5] Talks were given to Grammar School year 8 and year 11 students as part of the Citizenship course.

3. **The name of the charity as it appears on the register:** LIVERNORTH

4. **The number assigned to the charity in the register:** 1087226

5. **The principal address of the charity:**  
LIVERNORTH  
FREEPOST NEA2762  
STANLEY  
DURHAM  
DH9 0BR

6. **The document which regulates the purposes and administration of the charity:**

- a) The objects of the charity dated 30 May 2001 regulates the purposes of the charity.
- b) The constitution of the charity adopted on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2000 as amended on 30 May 2001 and accepted by the members at the annual general meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> July 2001 regulates the administration of the charity.

7. **Description of the objects of the charity:**

The relief of persons suffering from liver disease and those persons caring for sufferers, in particular but not exclusively, by;

- a) Offering support, advice and information to all those who suffer from liver disease.
- b) Offering support, advice and information to all formal and informal carers of liver disease sufferers.
- c) Assisting in the funding of research into the causes of, treatments for, and prevention of all forms of liver disease.
- e) Assisting with the provision of amenities, equipment and funding for the care of liver patients, their carers and families providing that such provision shall be for the general benefit of a liver patient or liver patients.
- f) Advancing the public awareness of liver disease, the treatment of liver disease and the prevention of liver disease.

8. **The name and address of the charity's bankers are:**

National Westminster Bank PLC  
2 Tavern Street  
Ipswich  
Suffolk IP1 3BD

9. **The name and address of the charity's independent examiner is:**

Mr. David Inch  
15 Rickleton Avenue  
Chester-le-Street  
Co. Durham

10. **The names of any person or body of persons entitled by the trusts of the charity to appoint one or more charity trustees and the method provided for such appointments:**

The trustees are the only body entitled to appoint new charity trustees. A candidate is proposed by a trustee and the appointment is approved subject to a majority vote in favour.

11. **The trustees of the charity on the date when this report was signed were:**

John Edward Bedlington	Joan Bedlington	Elsie Clayton
Dr Peter Donaldson	Mr. Jeremy French	Rev. Nigel Goodfellow
Tilly Hale	Elizabeth Norman	Peggy Oliver
Julie Pyburn	Ann Ravenhall	Alan Rochelle
Linda Turnbull		

There were three other trustees of the charity during the period:

Professor David Jones (resigned)	Lesley Winter (resigned)	Wes Clayton (deceased)
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12. **The charity has the following relationships with related parties:**

- a) A working relationship with the Freeman Hospital and has ex-gratia use of some facilities (meeting rooms, lecture theatres, seminar rooms and one access permit).
- b) The charity actively pursues liaison with many community health care groups and health care information sources, all of which have the charity listed as a resource. The charity is also listed on several community care web sites.
- c) The charity has a medical advisory council to assist in assessing the merit of appeals received from the medical community. All members of the medical advisory council with two exceptions are liver disease specialists (clinicians & surgeons) from the region. The exceptions are one scientist from the University of Newcastle and one governor of the charity. Recommendations from the medical advisory council are considered by the management committee (governors) before any decision is made to give financial support to appeals of this nature.
- d) The charity is part of the consultative process initiated by the Patient's Forum. A Freeman Hospital Modern Matron acts as liaison with the charity and chairs meetings to discuss patient centred matters and other concerns.

13. **This report has been dated and signed by:**

the chairman of the management committee (governors of the charity), who has been authorised to do so by said management committee.

Signature ...  .....

Date 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010

John Edward Bedlington, Chairman