

supporting local charities **bosom pals & sycamore fund...**



Each year **Southend Carnival Association** supports an organisation within the Borough which makes an impact upon the lives of people living in the town. This year will be no different.

Unfortunately breast cancer is now the most common cancer in women in the UK. **One in nine women will develop breast cancer at some point in their lifetime** and men can get breast cancer too: around 300 men in the UK are diagnosed every year.

But there is hope for the future. Treatment for breast cancer has seen great improvements in recent years, with more patients living longer. Much of this success is due to earlier diagnosis and improved screening.

The recently launched **Bosom Pals appeal** is hoping to raise **£750,000** for two new digital mammography machines which will give more accurate, better quality and almost instantaneous images for patients. This will give patients the **best possible chance** of surviving breast cancer.

The new screening equipment will improve cancer detection rates. Consultant breast surgeon Mr Neil Rothnie explains: "The new digital equipment uses improved technology which provides shorter examination times, better technique and image quality. Having this at Southend will help us improve the detection of early and small cancers and **provide local people with one of the best breast care services in Europe.**"

The appeal will also fund improvements to the Breast Care Unit at Southend University Hospital, including enhancements to the patient environment and state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment.

They need your support to raise £750,000 towards this ambitious project. You can help wives, mothers, sisters, daughters, nieces and friends - by making a donation today.

The new Mayor of Southend, Councillor Brian Smith's charity for 2009 will be the **Sycamore Fund**, which supports **young Carers throughout Southend.**

The Southend Young Carer And Mentor have an Outing providing **Respite and Enjoyment**, Sycamore, is a fund for Southend young carers aged 7 to 11. Although there are organisations in Southend looking after primary school aged carers and providing respite through group outings, they are mainly used by the older children at secondary school.

Primary school children carers tend to be withdrawn and unable to socialise with their peers and are often bullied by children who do not understand why these children do not join in after school games and events. As instead they **rush home to look after a sick or disabled parent or sibling** or even a parent suffering from some sort of drug abuse.

The Sycamore aims to enlist the help of the 16-24 year old volunteers to mentor young carers to provide personal respite. While a **skilled adult carer provides** care for a day or even just an afternoon, the **young carer can spend quality time** with their mentor and be a child. This includes horse riding, day trips at Adventure Island, feeding animals at the zoo or whatever they choose.

Southend Carnival Queen Hannah would like to invite all residents in Southend and the wider area to join her and Princesses Kaddy Marie and Lauren at all the events being run by Southend Carnival Association this summer to show their support for the **Bosom Pals appeal** and **Sycamore Fund.**

For more information on each of the funds please check out our website **www.southendcarnival.org.uk.**

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