



Local Involvement Network Our Health. Our Care. Our Say.

- Wirral LINK is made up of individuals and community groups who work together to improve health and social care services in Wirral.

- Wirral LINK will work in partnership with statutory organisations but is an **independent** voice for the community and belongs to the people of Wirral.

Flexible
Membership

Make a
Difference

Take Part in
Lively Discussions

Meet New
People

We would welcome your support. Why not join now?
Contact the Wirral LINK support team - Karen or Lynda, on 0151 645 4038
Email wirralink@vcawirral.org.uk



Voluntary and Community Action Wirral

VCA Wirral offers advice and practical support to voluntary and community groups in Wirral – helping individual organisations to grow and encouraging the voluntary and community sector as a whole to become more vibrant and relevant to the local community.

Direct services are also available to individuals across Wirral, including the following services:

**Befriending for vulnerable people • Counselling for couples and individuals
Internet access • Volunteering opportunities • Advice and information**

If you would like further information about VCA Wirral or any of our services then call your local office.

BEBINGTON
0151 643 7275

HESWALL
0151 342 6115

WALLASEY
0151 630 4164

WEST KIRBY
0151 625 6078

Many of the volunteers had already started holding events and raising large amounts of money and they were formed into fourteen local support groups to help with publicity and fundraising across Wirral. It was in 1981 that Nina Corcoran started the highly successful hospice antique auctions. She was joined in 1982 by Pat Melvin who has kept up the tradition of an auction every three years, culminating in our Anniversary Appeal Auction in March 2008.

Our 'Temporary' Hospice

The funds were growing but still no suitable site had been found for a hospice building. Then good fortune stepped in at just the right time. Wirral Area Health Authority offered Wendy Ward at Clatterbridge Hospital as a temporary hospice 'until a more suitable location was found'. Wendy Ward had been vacated as part of reorganisation of the Clatterbridge site on the opening of the new Arrowe Park Hospital in 1982. It was a rather old and dilapidated children's ward and the layout not suitable for use as a hospice. It would need a great deal of alteration and renovation. The keys were handed over exactly one year after the Appeal Launch - 5th November 1982! The Health Authority gave the building rent free and granted a full rent rebate. Joint funding of £50k came from Wirral Council and the Health Authority to help with the renovations – a gesture of goodwill from the authorities whose own financial constraints did not allow funding 'in the immediate future'. They also gave the services of one of their architects who drew up the plans. We were now ready to advertise for the first members of staff!



The Pioneer Staff

By this time the Appeal stood at £250k and an Appeals Director, Norman Harper, became the first paid employee. Ursula Boston, a volunteer fundraiser, was persuaded to take on some book-keeping work in 1981 and had set up an accounting system which was to be used for many years. She was now offered a tiny room in a building across the road and the title of 'Appeals Secretary'.

The building was shared by the hospital Transport Department and the hospice. One end became the Appeals powerhouse and was used for meetings and storage while refurbishment of Wendy Ward took place.

In January 1983, a Matron was appointed. Joyce Reeves (later Jones) was a very experienced Sister working on the Radiotherapy Ward at Clatterbridge. Two equally experienced nursing sisters were soon appointed to work under her - Mo Hemming, a Clatterbridge sister, and Brenda Williamson, a district nurse. The team worked hard to get everything in place, the aim being to receive the first patients later in the year.

