

Friday, August 26th 2011

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Lytham Lady to raise fashionable funds for local hospital**

A LYTHAM fundraiser is set to hold a fashion evening in memory of her daughter.

Christine Reardon, 66, has organised the event which will include a fashion show, two course meal and reception drinks to raise money for areas for parents in the newly developed Children's Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. The event will raise the money as part of the Vicki Reardon Memorial Fund which Chris set up in memory of her daughter who died when she was only five of cancer.

Chris said: "I wanted to do a fashion show because it was something different. My friend owns Rococo and we thought it would be a good chance to do a fashion show when the autumn collection came in. We have done a ball and party nights before but this is our first fashion show and I'm really looking forward to it. It should be a really nice ladies night and everyone is welcome to come along. So far the support we have had has been fabulous. I have three daughters in law who help me organise things and a few friends and my husband, Gordon, is very supportive."

She continued: "I was only 22 years old and had never experienced death. I cannot explain to anyone the pain of losing a child and so this is why I have decided to do something for families with a child in a similar situation. There are now facilities for parents, but they are basic. If we can make life a bit more bearable it will perhaps help them to cope with their difficulties.

"I came in to the hospital and met Dr Nigel Laycock and Kathy Ansell who showed me around. They are so enthusiastic. The new unit is great but it's the finishing touches which really cost the money. I have a strong connection with the Vic as they saved my grandsons life when he had meningitis; apparently he was 20 minutes away from death so we are really grateful to them.

"In the future we are planning on doing more events and on November 26<sup>th</sup> we will be holding a pre-Christmas bash at Green Drive Golf Club. We also do bag packing at local supermarkets and raise money that way. We are always looking for people to volunteer so if anyone can donate half a day or a day to raise money they can give me a ring and we would be really appreciative."

Fundraising Manager, Kathy Ansell said: "Chris is incredibly committed and has already organised a number of fundraising events. She is a real

inspiration and I hope that the fashion show is well supported. A big thank you to Chris and all those involved in the ongoing fundraising, it is much appreciated.”

The event will be held on Thursday October 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the Clifton Arms in Lytham. Fashion will be shown by Rococo and Pure Mischief and it all starts at 7pm with the meal being served at 7.30. Tickets cost £25 and can be bought from Rococo in Lytham or directly from Chris by phoning 01253 731044.

For more information on the Vicki Reardon Memorial Trust log on to <http://vickireardonmemorialtrust.org/> .

For more information on fundraising for any of the hospitals on the Fylde Coast log on to <http://blueskieshospitalsfund.co.uk/>.



PICS: Fundraiser Chris Hay.

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