

Choir nearer it's goal for Alzheimer Sisters



Stevenage Ladies Choir is 50 years old this year. Over this time they have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for various charities and this year is no exception. They have been filling small hexagonal milk chocolate bean tubes with various coins, have held a quiz night and are now about to host their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Concert as a final push to raise £1500 for the Bushaway sisters Sarah (11) and Emily (15) who live in Letchworth.

The girls both suffer from the life reducing, Niemann-Pick Disease, Type C, which is the childhood equivalent of Alzheimer's disease. One of the choir members and a neighbour of the girls, Ann Courtney, recently lost her husband John to Alzheimer's disease. In Ann's words 'He walked into the nursing home a very large man in stature, we could sing, dance and talk together. Ten months on and he had lost over five stone in weight, could not talk, walk or feed himself. All his quality of life had gone and he was literally a skeleton of his former self in mind and body.' Ann was so moved that the girls would be suffering in a similar way that she asked for the Choir to support the girls and their family to enjoy a much needed break together in the UK this year, possibly for the final time.

The important fundraising Anniversary Concert will take place on 10th July 2010 at 7.30pm at the John Henry Newman Roman Catholic School in Stevenage. The Choir will be performing some of their favourite pieces from the last 50 years, and it promises to be a memorable evening for both the Ladies and their guests, The Hertfordshire Community Youth Choir. Tickets, which are £8.00 or £6.00 for concessions, are currently available by calling their Concert Secretary on 07849 782679.

If you would like to make a donation to help, please send it to:  
Stevenage Ladies Choir Treasurer, Mrs Wendy Merritt, 3 Kenmare Close, Great Ashby, Stevenage,  
Herts. SG1 3XW.

Please make cheques payable to the 'Stevenage Ladies Choir'.

For further information on Niemann-Pick Disease Type C please visit  
<http://www.niemannpick.org.uk>

Hi res images and further info from [tracey0512@btopenworld.com](mailto:tracey0512@btopenworld.com)