

Hello from the Director

As I write this the sun is shining and it is warm outside. Rare for the UK, I know. Here at Maytree we currently have three guests staying at the house, who are at present sitting around the kitchen table with two of our volunteers, eating lunch whilst talking about UK politics. The thousands of conversations that have taken place under this roof are as varied as our guests - From suicidal thoughts, feelings and suicidal plans, to football, experience of abuse, abandonment, to politics, the weather, relationships and loss. What all these conversations have in common is that they connect people. Human beings need to feel connected, cared for and valued. With your ongoing support Maytree can and will continue to provide that to our guests.

The past six months have been busy, as we continue to offer support to people affected by suicide, raise funds, recruit and train volunteers, undertake outreach work and contribute to local Suicide Prevention forums. In addition to this, we have started to investigate the possibility of replication. Terrence and I have visited Manchester a few times and met with professionals working within Suicide Prevention and the Mayor's office. I will of course keep you posted with developments.

If you want to visit Maytree to find out exactly what your donation provides, to meet the team and have a tour of the house then you are very welcome to attend our next open day, which is on **Friday 29th of June from 2.00pm-4.00pm**. Please email Rob, our Outreach worker: Community@Maytree.org.uk to let him know that you are attending.

Thank you for your ongoing and vital support. Warmest wishes, Nat.

Who we have supported

Month	Number of callers	Number of guests
July	222	13
December	151	8
January	183	6
February	171	10
March	186	12
Total	913	49

THANK YOU TO OUR PATRONS:

Alastair Campbell
Professor Keith Hawton
Simon Armson
Michael Knight
Nick Hitch
Isabel Hardman

Hello and a warm welcome to all our new volunteers.

Our Board of Trustees are:

Terrence Collis [Chair] Brian Watson, Heather Wignall.
Peter Hale, Lisa Aubrey, Professor Mike Crawford,
Simon Schiff.

Thank - you

It's been an incredibly vibrant few months of fundraising, which makes it especially difficult/near impossible to pick out highlights, so apologies to anyone we've omitted.

First of all, a big thank you the challenge fundraisers who represented Maytree at last year's Royal Parks Half Marathon, London to Brighton bike ride, December Santa Run or organised bespoke challenges of your own.

First of all, a big thank you the challenge fundraisers who represented Maytree at last year's Royal Parks Half Marathon, London to Brighton bike ride, December Santa Run or organised bespoke challenges of your own.

A special thanks to Amanda Dolphin, James Farren, Katinka Newman, Trisha Carsley, Elizabeth Markowitz, Jennifer Layland, Nicole Shepherd, Nicholas Price, Joanna Bennett, Imogen Morrall, Stephen Harris, Mark Savage, Josie Corben, Sarah Finke, Ben Scanlan, Val Gill, Carol Lewis, Angela Rodriguez, Oliver Sills and Richard Whitelaw.



Royal Parks Half Marathon.
October 2017.
L to R: Val, Carol, Ang, Oli, Rich
and Ben.

Check out our new
Facebook Fundraising
page



www.facebook.com/maytreeevents/

Thinking of doing a fundraising challenge for Maytree but not sure how to go about it? For advice & support, email George, our Fundraising Manager.



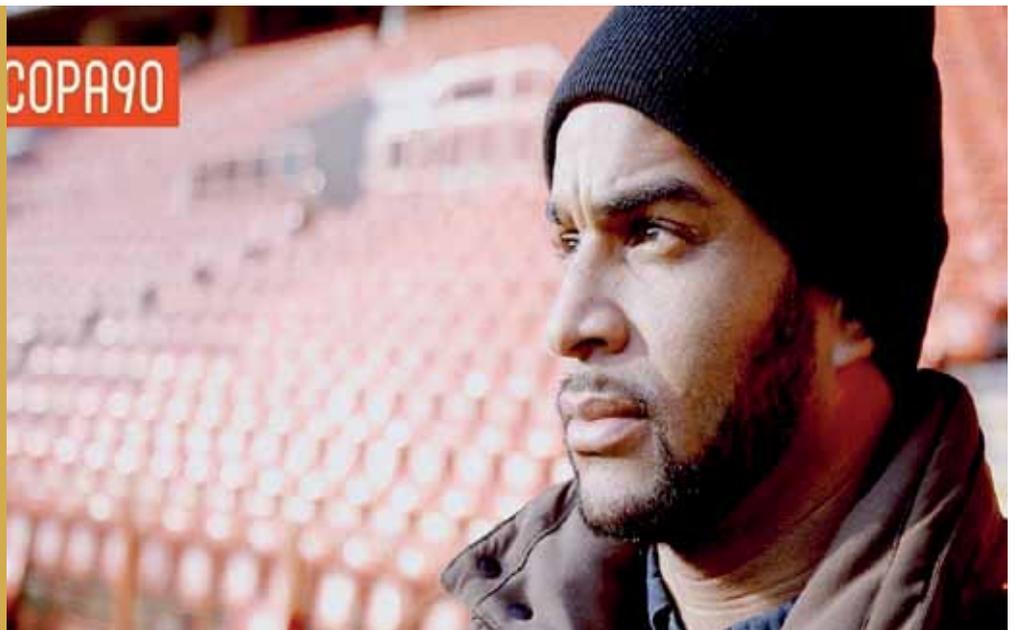
Last word on this section should go to Gurjeet Dhami, who in loving memory of her late husband Jas Singh Toor, climbed Mount Snowdon, completed a skydive and organised a Charity football event, raising a combined total for Maytree and Papyrus of £8,763.00 (and counting!)

Fundraising News



We are indebted to Sir Trevor McDonald for following up on last year's house visit by choosing to present our September 2017 BBC Radio 4 appeal which raised £6,000.

Thanks again to Innocean UK and Copa 90, our partners on the young male suicide awareness campaign which has gathered significant momentum since our last issue. The football community's response to the campaign was extremely encouraging, and media outlets as influential as CNN and The Guardian covered the Leon McKenzie feature.



The last six months have seen an unprecedentedly high number of arts related Maytree events: From the City Lit exhibition and auction in memory of Alex Hosking last September to January's one-off revival of Youth Music Theatre's West End show "Loserville" in memory of original cast member Chris Hardman (aka Lil' Chris), via Dave Bain's "Game Over" and Mark Savage's "Human Issue" – two challenging theatre pieces dealing directly with the taboo of suicide. Thank you to every individual involved in the realisation of each and every show or exhibition.

Meet George Nelson, our Fundraising Manager

Hackney. That's where I grew up. Breeding ground for Fundraising Managers.

That's not true at all. That's a silly, white lie. Hackney is full-blown legit now though. Fundraising Manager as a career choice is damn near close to legit too. Read the first three sentences of this piece in 15 years' time and they won't seem even mildly humorous. Gentrification is real.

What is true is that I am a Fundraising Manager. I've worked the role at a few NGOs prior to Maytree, usually side-by-side with a second career as a photojournalist. I'm pretty good at both things but it's much more fun to list the things that I struggle with. I struggle with e-books, I struggle with The Eagles, I struggle with the term 'capital appeal' (sounds more like a Big Pun album than anything charity sector related) I struggle with smiling into cameras, I struggle with parsimonious, penny-pinching things, I struggle with twee things, I struggle (figuratively and literally) with ketchup in a sachet (uniquely twee AND parsimonious/penny pinching), and if you don't struggle with these things I struggle with you. Until I don't. We're usually cool in the end.

The best aspect of my job? Well, initially I believed in the cast-iron reality of philanthropy in the same way I believe in Atlantis or Anthony Joshua: sort of. But it's funny just how quickly the sense of wonder at securing funds wears off. You adjust to it and the degree of emotional fulfilment isn't what you experienced the first few times. Cerebral, rational happiness, sure, but you learn to emotionally disassociate yourself from The Verdict. Doubtless every man and his psychoanalyst will conclude that this must be some form of self-protection and every man and his psychoanalyst would probably be bang on the money. Whatever the outcome, you're going to deliver another talk and write another bid.



The real gratification in this line of work is the act itself. What I mean is that there's a profound happiness in writing a truthful summary of Maytree's achievements in a funding proposal or speaking to a classroom of students about our approach and the degree to which we have positively impacted upon the lives of individuals that they will likely never meet. That's the best bit.