

Newsletter No. 1 February 2008



From the Trust Desk

- At the launch of TTT on 30 May 2007 at the Lithuanian Embassy, the Trustees were hopeful that some interesting ideas for projects might emerge in due course. In the event, we are already deeply into a major and most exciting project covering the transfer of experiences in Lithuania and the UK about the encouragement of cancer support and self help groups for cancer patients and palliative care more generally. An exploratory visit to Lithuania in October by Trustee Wendy Howe and a group of volunteers and practitioners has opened a range of possibilities for exchange visits to look at best practice and provide training. One of the key findings to emerge was that both sides have things to learn from one another. The Trustees feel that this is just the kind of area in which TTT should be involved. Extracts from reports by the participants are printed below to give TTT supporters a feeling for the cancer support project.
- Being plunged into a complex and sensitive project has meant a steep learning curve for the Trustees. We will be looking at lessons already emerging from these contacts to establish our own best practice in handling ideas for new projects as well as developing the projects themselves. Our overarching aim is to put organisations in either country in touch with counterparts in the other country, smooth the path for productive exchanges, suggest funding sources and then let the work be taken forward by those with the expertise. Our “Objects”, that is our aims and objectives, are quite widely drawn but we must remain within those parameters. We want to be a catalyst; we neither have the expertise nor the resources to get involved ourselves in professional or technical areas.
- We are delighted that B-LS Members are being supportive of the Trust by taking out Sustaining Membership for 2008. We are also grateful to supporters who have donated individually. Some of these contributions have been targeted towards the cancer support project. We welcome all support, be it targeted or general. We hope that all our supporters who are UK taxpayers will complete a Gift Aid declaration allowing us to enhance the contribution by 28%, courtesy of the Chancellor.
- On 21 January 2008 the Trustees held our Second Committee Meeting over a whole day. We agreed to see whether the wealth of experience available to and through the “Third Sector” (i.e. non-governmental and non-private/commercial) in the UK could be made available to Lithuania. We believe that the strengthening of the Third Sector in Lithuania could provide a tremendous boost to the benefits of all those who are the targets of “good works” like that we hope to provide. In informing the President of Lithuania, during his visit to London in mid-February, of the establishment of The Tiltas Trust, the Chairman asked Mr Adamkus whether he felt there was anything we might do to assist the Third Sector.
- We plan to issue Newsletters from time to time when there is something to report. They will be posted on our web site. We welcome comments, ideas for new projects and volunteers willing to become involved. We believe that there is an inexhaustible supply of potential links between the two countries that could benefit groups and individuals and we are willing to consider any idea that fits within the Trust’s Objects.