



Gort Cancer Support

Supporting People affected by Cancer

DECEMBER 2020, ISSUE 1

HOLLYBLUE HOUSE



Happy Christmas
& A Safe Healthy New Year!

from all in Hollyblue House



Hollyblue House

2020 has been a rollercoaster of a year for Gort Cancer Support, with all the highs and lows the year has brought.

We started off the year on a high having completed the purchase on the building adjoining our support centre. Work began immediately to amalgamate, renovate and refurbish the buildings, and our intention was to hold an official opening on 5th June 2020. In addition, we had planned to launch our new name – Hollyblue House. This name was chosen as our logo incorporates a blue butterfly and the Hollyblue butterfly is one of the first butterflies of spring, a real symbol of hope.



Then, unfortunately, the covid-19 pandemic invaded the world and turned everybody's lives upside down. Gort Cancer Support Centre had to close its doors in March 2020. Fortunately we were able to keep our counselling service operating, as our counsellor was able to provide counselling via phone and zoom. We were, also, able to continue our driving service and all requested drives were provided safely during the lockdown.

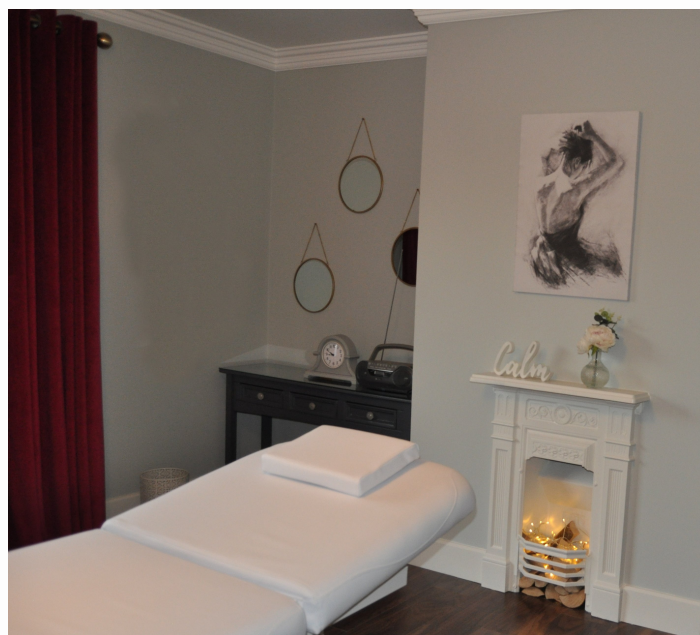


During this time, we were able to complete the refurbishment of our new building and prepare the centre for a safe reopening in line with the Governments roadmap.



Services Update

We were delighted when we could reopen after the first lock down, in line with the HSE National Cancer Control Programme, and welcome people back to our support centre, as so many had been left without the support we offer. People suffering from lymphoedema, which can be a lifelong side effect of chemotherapy or radiotherapy, had not been able to avail of Lymph Drainage therapy for several months. Our new extended premises enabled us to meet the necessary social distancing requirements.



We are hoping to be able to resume our all our services and activities in 2021:

- One to one adult counselling
- Children's counselling/play therapy
- Complementary therapies
- Lymph drainage therapy
- Transport services
- Podiatry services

- Art classes
- Tai Chi
- Digital Training
- Pins & Needles
- Meditation
- Book Club
- Guest Speaker Information Evenings
- Social evenings





Fundraising

While many of our planned fundraising events were cancelled due to the coronavirus, we were extremely lucky that Olivia O'Grady and the Lady Gregory Hotel hosted a Valentine's Ball for our Support Centre early in the year. A great night was had by all and we look forward to having similar events in the future.



Thank You!



It would have been impossible to provide the services we do at Gort Cancer Support without the support of our local community and despite the difficult year that we all have faced, our community certainly did not fail us! We have had all sorts of socially distanced events taking place all year - everything from our Big Hair Day in April, the virtual VHI Mini Marathon in October, virtual coffee mornings, online raffles and many many more. We cannot thank everybody enough. Go Raibh Mile Mhaith Agat.

