

GEP Article By Gemma Hockey 17th September 2007

MORE than £100,000 was raised from the first Pink Ladies' Sunset Coastal Walk.

The total stunned the women who organised it.

It's been astounding,' said one of them, Anne McMillan, who fought her own battle with breast cancer in 2000 and went on to co-found the Pink Ladies.

We never envisaged we'd raise this much money.



On the day of the walk we filled two black sacks full of cash and when we counted afterwards it amounted to £36,000. The money will pay for the treatment of lymphoedema, a side effect of breast cancer treatment which afflicts one in five patients, causing painful swelling of the arms.

It is paid for by the support group and costs can be about £12,000 a year.

With the £102,382 raised, Mrs McMillan and fellow organiser Doreen Le Poidevin hope the cost of treatment for the incurable condition will be covered for the next five years.

We only ever imagined we would raise enough to cover one or at most two years of treatment,' said Mrs McMillan.

On 23 June, 2,200 women walked along the west coast from Grandes Rocques, with some joining at Bordeaux, and then into Town.

This was an event that people are still talking about and we have had letters from women telling us that they met others they had not seen since school,' said Mrs McMillan.

Everyone keeps asking us if we will do it again. We will, but not until

2009 because there are just so many other charities that need the money,' she said.

Mrs Le Poidevin, a co-founder of the support group, said the money for the

2009 walk would go to a local cause yet to be decided.

I think the success of the walk was down to the fact that it was a women-only event, but we will consider asking men to take part too next time.

It might even be that we design a route for men only,' she added.

Mrs Le Poidevin said money was still trickling in.

It has surpassed our expectations,' she said.

I think this was something that touched the heart of everyone because everybody in Guernsey knows someone who has been affected by cancer.

When people sent in their sponsorship forms many wrote that they had walked on behalf of a friend or family member who had been affected by breast cancer or women who were suffering from lymphoedema,' she said.

She believes the walk, supported by the Guernsey Press, has highlighted both the profile of the support group and the condition itself. People are now much more aware of lymphoedema and the fact that the Pink Ladies pay for its treatment.

There are so many people we need to thank including The Square Restaurant for the tremendous after party, the volunteers who helped organise and marshal the event, Ged Kelly for his input and ideas, Highland Spring Water and the Rocquettes Hotel for putting Caroline Monk and her mum up for free.

Send remaining sponsorship to Pink Ladies, c/o Sleepy Hollow, Rocque es Roussees, La Moye, Vale, GY3 5BS.

Anyone who has not collected her photo should contact David Le Prevost on 727883.