

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

MACMILLAN WHERE YOU LIVE

Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire • Autumn 2008

Welcome to our new team!

The Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire fundraising teams have joined forces in order to provide a stronger link with our supporters and a more focussed approach to our fundraising in the local communities.

It's an exciting time for Macmillan and our supporters and our aim is to make more noise, raise more money, reach more people and change more minds!

Area Fundraising Manager Jo Faulkner-Harvey and her team will continue to have offices in Launton and Milton Keynes and hope that our passion and commitment will provide the support you need.

Every year across both counties over 5,500 people are diagnosed with cancer. These people already benefit from 81 Macmillan health professionals who provide specialist clinical care, emotional support, financial advice and practical help to support them through their cancer journey.

Supporter, Val McQuade, has had first hand experience of Macmillan's services: "I lost three stone so knew something was up and in May of last year I found out I had Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma. For us ordinary people, it is difficult to fully express how much we truly appreciate the help of others. Macmillan health professionals are truly magical people. I felt cared for and understood, in a way that made me feel as though I was not the only person in the world with the thoughts I was experiencing.

"I am now in remission and recently arranged a charity golf tournament that raised £5026. I felt that I needed to give something in return to show my appreciation to all the dedicated staff who gave me and many other patients' great quality treatment."



Supporters at the Golf tournament organised by Val

A deserving tribute...

Macmillan supporter Allan Lovelocks' brother Paul was diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus in September 1999. Allan tells us his story:

'What a shock, not only to him but also to his family. What was supposed to be a celebratory year, with the millennium looming, turned into one of the worst periods in our lives. It really hit home when he started having chemotherapy, with the thought of losing his hair, Paul organised a hair shaving money raiser for charity at his local pub. I was at another pub doing karaoke, I looked up and there was Paul stood at the bar with his hair shaved, boy did that bring a lump to my throat.

'Paul was receiving treatment at Sobell house in Oxford. They in turn arranged for Macmillan nurses to look after him while he was at home; they were a breath of fresh air not only with their care and support for Paul, but also with their attention to us, his family. The Macmillan nurse supporting him at the hospice was able to help him accept where he was and to encourage him.

Sadly Paul lost his battle on the 16th March 2000.

'After a while I wanted to give something back to those who had helped Paul and the family through his illness. Along with a mutual friend, Shirley, my wife, Jo, and I arranged our first tribute dance in November 2000. We raised a fantastic £3000 for the hospice; little did we know that these would become annual events!

This year we are supporting Macmillan in Oxfordshire, by raising money to help them continue the fantastic work they do in caring for and supporting people and their families living with cancer.

'On Friday 14 November, the fantastic award winning Paul Rouse will be performing the ELVIS TRIBUTE SHOW in aid of Macmillan at the Civic Hall, Didcot. Tickets sell out fast hopefully we can raise a lot of money for Macmillan, who in my eyes is more



Paul Rouse as Elvis

than worthy of our support.'

We hope you will join Allan and Elvis for 'a little less conversation, a little more action', it sounds a great night! Without supporters like Allan we

wouldn't be able to support and care for people living with cancer, so thank you to every one of our supporters.

For tickets please see the What's On section.

Macmillan's holistic approach

Two million people – nearly double the previous estimate of 1.2 million – are now living with, and after, cancer according to new research released by Macmillan Cancer Support.

The new figures place even greater importance on the many services provided by Macmillan, including more than 200 information centres across the UK, which aim to promote a more holistic approach to the care for cancer patients and their loved ones.

One such service is the Mustard Tree, a partnership project with Plymouth Hospitals Trust, which began in 2005 and sees around 800 people per month on a drop in basis. In just one year, it helped cancer patients to claim over £1 million of benefits and has been described as 'a wonderful oasis in a desert.' The success of the Mustard Tree has been recognised

by Nationwide, which has supported Macmillan for 15 years. Staff at its recent AGM voted to provide an additional £250,000 which will be split between the Mustard Tree and another cancer information support centre in County Durham. These centres will be staffed by a full time information officer and will provide consultation and alternative therapy rooms.

In Portsmouth, a similar service continues to see great support from the local community, not just in donations, but in the time they volunteer. Benefits Advisor, Anita Muff said: 'Volunteers are vital to the smooth running of the centre. We are



Artist's Impression of the Mustard Tree as it will look following extension of the existing facilities, due for completion September 2009.

always looking for people to assist with all sorts of activities, such as those who meet and greet our visitors, through to more specialised skill sets, such as providing initial advice about the type of financial support that may be available.'

If you are interested in finding out more about Macmillan's centres, visit www.macmillan.org.uk/get_support

Prescription charges – a tax on illness

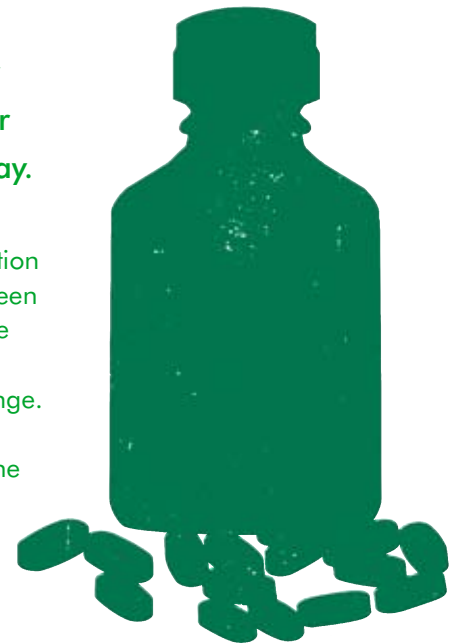
A survey for Macmillan has found that nearly half of all cancer patients in England are being forced to cut back on basic needs such as food or heating, in order to pay for their prescriptions. Nearly one in ten cancer patients under the age of 55 who do qualify for charges are unable to pay.

The results come over a year after the Government promised to review the prescription charges system in England, which currently only gives exemptions to people under 60 if their condition appears on a list drawn up in 1968. Since that time, the shift from inpatient to outpatient care and higher survival rates mean that cancer patients are increasingly liable for prescription charges, often for long periods of time.

In 2006, the Department of Health announced a review, the outcome of which is still

awaited. However it has subsequently announced that any solution must be cost neutral. Elsewhere in the UK, action has already been taken. In Wales, prescription charges were abolished from April 2007. Scotland is reducing charges for prescriptions and pre-payment certificates yearly and these are set to be abolished by 2011. Last year, Northern Ireland committed to a review as a result of Macmillan's campaigning and announced a price freeze on charges in April 2008.

Macmillan started campaigning on prescription charges in 2005 and is keen to make sure the message continues to be heard in order to bring about change. Anyone who is interested in lending their voice to the Macmillan campaign can do so by visiting www.macmillan.org.uk/campaigns



We are pleased to report that since this article was written, the Prime Minister has announced that prescription charges for cancer patients in England will be scrapped in 2009. Our thanks to everyone who helped us achieve this fantastic result and we hope that the Government implements this quickly and clearly.

What's on

November/December 2008

Tree of Thought

A wonderful way to remember those you cannot be with at Christmas time. For a donation you can sponsor a light and dedicate it to someone at home, overseas or a loved one who has passed away. For more information, call 01869 322279

November / December 2008

Sock it to us this Christmas!

Last year our mini knitted stocking decorations raised over £3000, so get out your needles and get in touch. To knit for the campaign or if you have an outlet to sell the stockings from November, call 01908 565963 or 01869 322279.

December 2008

Donations in Lieu of Christmas cards

Raise money for people living with



Knitted stocking decorations



Christ Church Cathedral Photograph by kind permission of KT Bruce

cancer by encouraging everyone in your school, company or group to make a donation to Macmillan instead of sending Christmas cards. We will send you a collection box and festive poster to write your greetings on. Call 01908 565963 or 01869 322279.

5 December 2008

A Celebration of Christmas, Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford

Join us for this magical night; the perfect way to begin the festive season. Celebrity readers, Gervase Phinn, Simon Woods and Freddie Jones, will join us for this annual event, with carols sung by Schola Cantorum. For tickets, contact the fundraising office on 01869 322279.

7 December 2008

Christmas Carol Concert, Christ the Cornerstone Church, Milton Keynes

Take an hour off from the hectic crowds of Christmas shoppers and get into the festive spirit, with Christmas stories, carols sung by Bury Lawn School choir and mince pies. Tickets cost £5, call 01908 565963.

13 December 2008

Christmas Bazaar, Grove House, Ifley

Join us for a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie in this lovingly restored house, once home to the writer Graham Greene. Purchase that elusive gift and we will wrap it! For more information call 01869 322279

14 December 2008

ELVIS – The Tribute Show, Civic Hall, Didcot

Featuring Paul Rouse and the Vegas Divas. Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets are available from the Civic Hall on 01235 512436, Allan or Jo on 01235 813077 or Shirley on 01235 811203.

17 December 2008

Trolley Dash, Waitrose, Milton Keynes

With the average family spending £163 on food and drink for Christmas day alone, go wild in the aisles and get the cost of Christmas covered. Raffles tickets for the prize are on sale from 8th December. Call 01908 565963.

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Macmillan CancerLine 0808 808 2020

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