

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

MACMILLAN WHERE YOU LIVE

Wiltshire, Bristol, Bath and North Somerset • Autumn 2008

Salisbury Cathedral celebrates with Macmillan

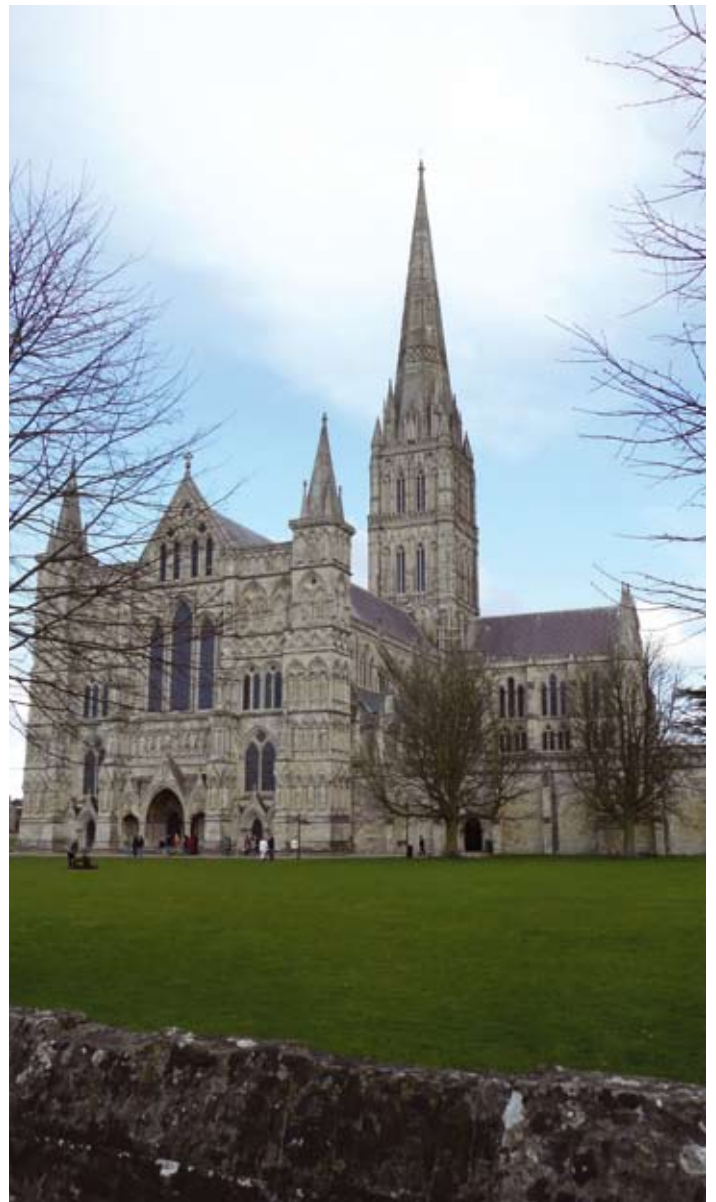
There's nothing like hearing carols sung beautifully in a magical setting to really set the scene for Christmas. This year sees the inaugural Carols in the Cathedral concert in Salisbury Cathedral on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support. The event, generously supported by sponsors, Nationwide, will be held on Friday, 5 December 2008 and will ensure a wonderful start to the festive season.

2008 is a very special year for Salisbury, which is celebrating the 750th anniversary of the consecration of the completed Cathedral in 1258. Salisbury Cathedral is also home to the Magna Carta, a timeless icon of human liberty, one of the four original copies of the 1215 Great Charter.

The event will comprise Christmas carols from the renowned Salisbury Cathedral Choir and seasonal readings from well-known personalities. It will be a very special event, with real community spirit, as we are asking local children to take

part in a competition, supported by our media partner, Spire FM. To enter they will be required to write a composition with a Christmas theme to be either spoken or sung. As part of the programme for the evening, the winners of the two age groups (junior and senior) will perform their entries. Further details will be provided to all schools in the Salisbury area in the very near future.

All in all, an evening not to be missed! If you would like to find out more about this event and purchase tickets, please ring 01793 432252 or email wiltshire@macmillan.org.uk.



Salisbury Cathedral

Macmillan's holistic approach to care

Macmillan Cancer Support works in partnership with the NHS in Wiltshire, Bristol, Bath and North Somerset to improve cancer treatment and care for people affected by cancer, their families and carers.



Louise Baldry, Neuro-Oncology Nurse

We take an holistic approach, identifying the broad range of support that patients require and developing appropriate services from treatment advice, through to emotional, physical and financial support.

Many people are aware



Sian and Anne, Macmillan nurses at GWH

Meet the new fundraising team!

We are delighted to introduce the new fundraising team covering Wiltshire, Bristol, Bath and North Somerset. We want to look after our supporters in the best way possible and we have therefore changed the way we cover our area so that we can meet more of you, more often.

The new team will do its best to help you in any way it can, whether it is with fundraising ideas, giving talks or supplying specific information about Macmillan. Do get in touch with any of the team either by email or by ringing 01793 432252 or 0117 967 0975.



Here's the team, from left to right. Fundraising Managers, Kaeti Morrison (kmorrison@macmillan.org.uk), Jo Hillis (jhillis@macmillan.org.uk), Area Fundraising Manager, Graziella Campisano, (gcampisano@macmillan.org.uk) and Fundraising Manager, Adrian Williams (awilliams@macmillan.org.uk)

that we provide funding for Macmillan professionals based in hospitals and specialist centres. Across the region, more than 40 Macmillan cancer specialist posts are currently funded, to help patients make choices about their treatment, as well as providing medical and emotional support. We also provide funding for professionals in other disciplines, such as two speech and language therapists, a physiotherapist and occupational therapist, a patient pathway facilitator, a social worker and we will soon recruit a clinical psychologist.

However, we know that it's not just medical support that people require. One area that may not be immediately apparent is the financial pressure under which a cancer diagnosis

can place individuals and their families. In 2007, Macmillan provided grants totaling £142,500 to people across the area, who predominantly received advice and support from our information and support centres and Macmillan welfare and benefits advisors in Bath, Weston Super Mare, Warminster and Swindon.

Part of the funding we provide makes certain that the training of Macmillan professionals is ongoing, ensuring they remain up to speed with the latest developments in cancer treatment and care. With your continued support we know that we will be able to maintain and expand the level of support we offer to people throughout their cancer journey.

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

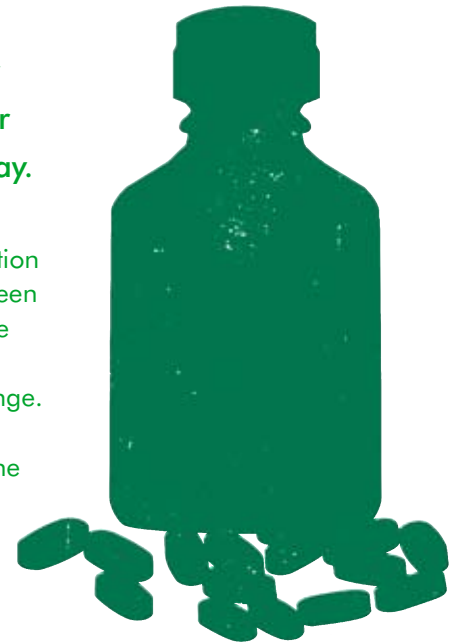
A survey for Macmillan has found that nearly half of all cancer patients in England are being forced to cut back on basic needs such as food or heating, in order to pay for their prescriptions. Nearly one in ten cancer patients under the age of 55 who do qualify for charges are unable to pay.

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.

Remember loved ones this Christmas

For most people Christmas is a time to get together with family and friends, but for others it can be a difficult time when they are missing loved ones they have lost or can't be with.

One way to bring comfort and remember a loved one is to sponsor a light on the Macmillan Trees of Thought and Hope. For a donation of £5, the donor will receive a handwritten Christmas card with the name of the person who is being remembered, which will also be included in the Role of Honour next to the tree (Swindon).

In Swindon, once again, the tree will be situated in the Swindon Designer Outlet. Please join us for mince pies on Wednesday, 12 November at 6.30pm, when the Mayor of Swindon will be switching on the lights to the accompaniment of songs and carols

from the wonderful Ruskin Junior School Choir.

You can sponsor a light on the Swindon Tree of Thought until 19 December by contacting the Wiltshire fundraising office on 01793 432252.

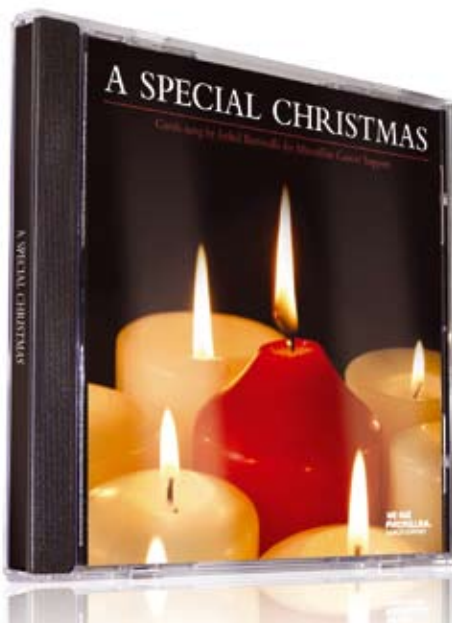
Traditionally, Bristol's Tree of Hope lighting up ceremony falls on the stormiest night of the year. We have been seeking an alternative venue and are pleased to announce that the ceremony will now take place in Frenchay Church on 9 December. If you would like to sponsor a light on the tree, please contact the Bristol fundraising office on 0117 967 0975.



The Swindon Tree Of Thought

The Macmillan Bath Committee will also be holding its annual Tree of Hope at the Royal United Hospital on 28 November. For more information please contact Joy on 01225 315955.

A Special Christmas



'A Special Christmas' CD

Give someone a wonderful gift this Christmas, with the inspirational CD 'A Special Christmas' sung by Macmillan nurse, Issy Battiwalla. Including traditional old favourites, as well as interesting and beautiful arrangements of some lesser known carols, you will instantly feel the festive spirit.

'A Special Christmas' acknowledges that every anniversary, including Christmas, is special for those whose lives have been touched by cancer. Money raised from the CD will benefit both Macmillan Cancer Support and local cancer support group, G.O.S.H, which was set up with initial funding from Macmillan. To buy the CD please call the fundraising office on 0117 967 0975.

You can never have too many Christmas tree decorations! Why not add to your collection and support Macmillan by buying a snowflake etched-glass tear drop bauble. The decoration comes in a special presentation box and costs just £8.95 inc. p&p. To order please call 01793 432252 or 0117 967 0975.

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