

Just add guests

World's Biggest Coffee Morning
Friday 25 September 2009

£7.5 million
was raised
through
the World's
Biggest Coffee
Morning 2008



Be part of Macmillan Cancer Support's record-breaking World's Biggest Coffee Morning. While you have a cuppa with your staff or constituents, you'll be joining thousands of others in changing the lives of people affected by

cancer. Last year more than 45,000 people held a coffee morning and raised an amazing £7.5 million. This year we're aiming to raise even more.

So on Friday 25 September, why not combine your Friday constituency surgery with a coffee morning and help us to support people affected by cancer?

Every single cup counts. Every penny you raise for Macmillan will fund more of our vital services and help to change lives. To find out everything you need to know about hosting a coffee morning for Macmillan, or to search for coffee mornings in your area, please visit macmillan.org.uk/coffee

Contact us

If you have any questions about Macmillan Cancer Support's work, please get in touch with us.

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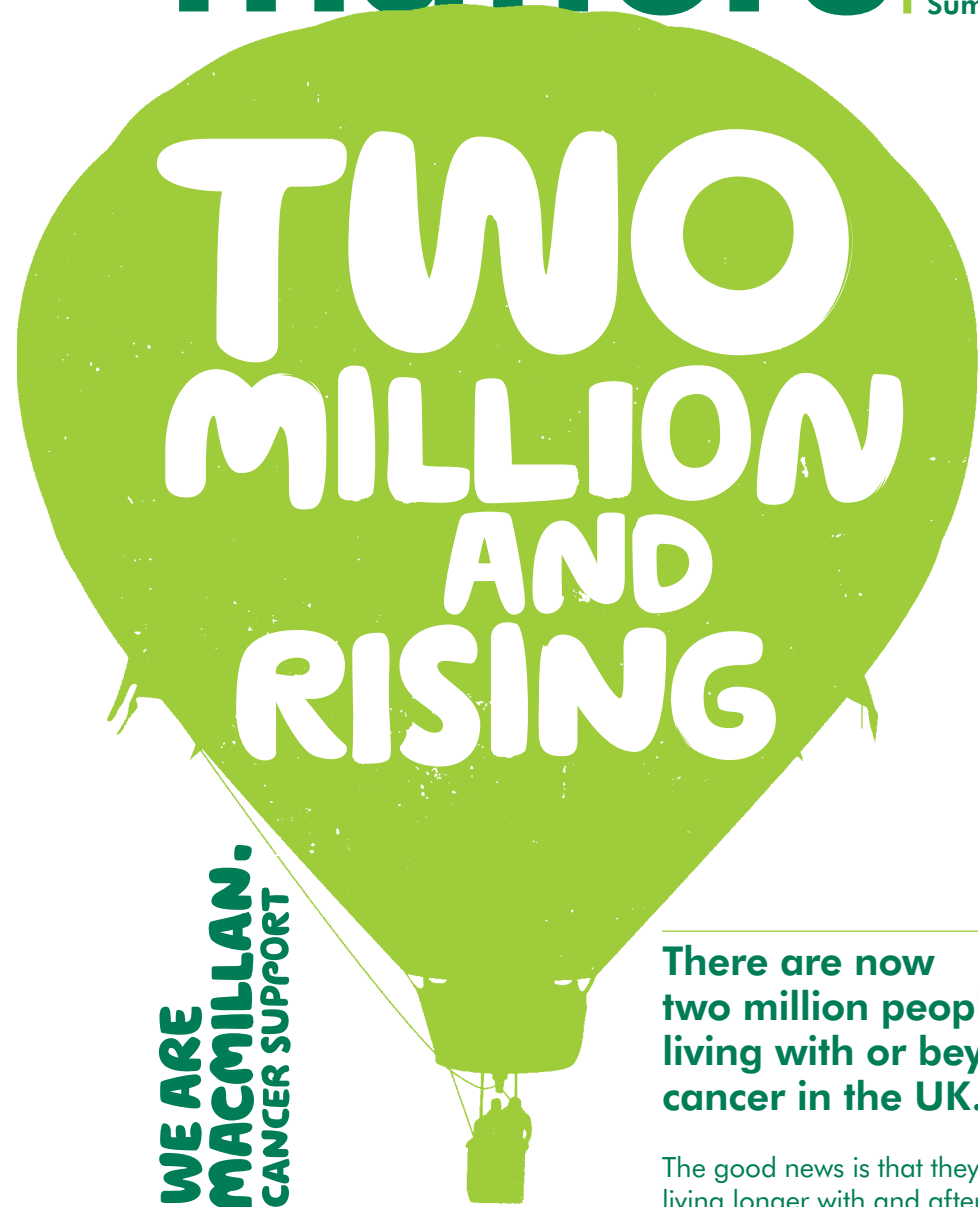
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If any of your constituents have been affected by cancer and need support, please tell them to call our helpline on **0808 808 2020** or visit macmillan.org.uk

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cancer matters

Parliamentary
Update
Summer 2009



There are now
two million people
living with or beyond
cancer in the UK.

The good news is that they are now
living longer with and after cancer. >



Ciarán Devane, Macmillan's Chief Executive, with MPs and cancer survivor Helen Parker (right).

> But the bad news is that most services for people with long-term conditions haven't been designed for people with cancer – because people with cancer didn't used to be around long term.

The number of cancer survivors is now growing at three per cent a year. In response, Macmillan is calling on Parliamentarians to help persuade local health and social care services that they need to adapt.

A quarter of patients say they feel abandoned when they leave hospital. Another quarter will experience significant long-term effects that adversely affect their quality of life, such as incontinence, lymphoedema and osteoporosis.

We are delighted that the Government recently announced they were giving Macmillan £1.6 million to lead the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative.

The initiative's role is to develop better post-treatment health and social care services to help cancer survivors get their lives back.

With the general election only a year away, we need the Health teams from every political party to recognise that there are two million reasons why the survivorship agenda is so important to cancer policy in the future.

'I'm still not sure whether I've "had" cancer or I "have" cancer. When does it become the past tense?'

Beth, 33, Surrey

Let's talk about sex

A key part of getting your life back after cancer is keeping your sex life on track.

Seven out of 10 cancer survivors say their sexual relationship with their partner has been affected by having cancer. Yet, worryingly, fewer than three in 10 speak to a health professional about the issue.

'My husband felt guilty for wanting sex and I felt guilty for refusing him.'

Macmillan is encouraging health professionals to talk to cancer patients openly about the likely impact of cancer on their sexual relationship. While it is obvious how some cancers, like urological and gynaecological

cancers, can directly affect your sex life, the treatment for other cancers can also have devastating effects. It can make it physically difficult to have sex. Cancer can also leave you depressed or uncomfortable with how your body looks or functions.

Breast cancer survivor Gietta has been married to her husband for 10 years.

She said, 'Trying to keep our sex life active was one of the worst things I had to go through. I had no idea that my body would dry up and that we'd have so many rows as a couple. My husband felt guilty for wanting sex and I felt guilty for refusing him.'

With your support, we can help more people like Gietta. For more information, visit macmillan.org.uk/sex



Information and support

Macmillan is calling on the Government to enable health professionals to offer information prescriptions (IPs) to people with cancer as soon as possible.

Ministers had promised that all people with long-term conditions, including those with cancer, would be offered an IP by 2008. But that deadline has come and gone.

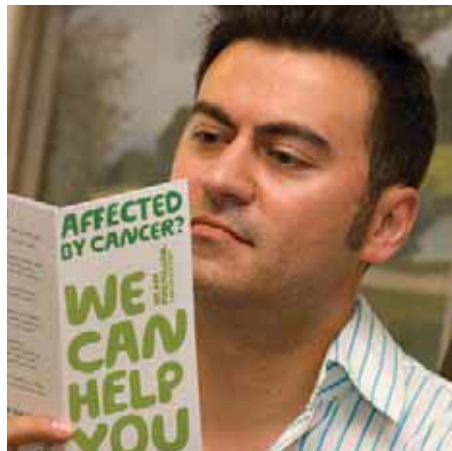
IPs provide information on cancer types and treatment options as well as non-medical topics such as where to find local support groups. The Government has repeatedly said IPs will help raise awareness among people with cancer of the financial support available to them.

Macmillan has been helping the Department of Health to pilot IPs. We see IPs as crucial in empowering people with cancer to play a bigger role in making decisions about their care and treatment. We have also stressed the need for face-to-face support to 'dispense' the prescription so that people with cancer can ask questions, seek further advice, and are helped to act upon the information given.

Free Macmillan cancer information for all

Ever had a constituent talk to you about cancer? Not sure how to support them? Help is at hand. Macmillan's award-winning cancer information booklets are now available free of charge to everyone.

We offer a range of informative booklets, from *Coping with fatigue* to *Help with the cost of cancer*. To order information on all types of cancer, treatments and financial advice for yourself or your constituents, please call **0800 500 800**. You can also view a list of all our booklets at be.macmillan.org.uk



Tackling inequalities in cancer care

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer (APPGC), which is supported by Macmillan, brings together MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum. Together, they debate key issues and campaign to improve cancer care.

The APPGC has launched an inquiry into cancer inequalities, and wants to hear from interested MPs and Peers.

The links between who you are, where you live and your chances of surviving cancer have been recognised for some time. Cancer mortality rates are 15% higher in poor neighbourhoods than the national average. People from black and minority ethnic groups report a worse experience of their treatment and care. And people with certain disabilities are far more likely to get misdiagnosed or receive poor treatment.

The APPGC wants to know why such inequalities persist and will be making recommendations to the Government for NHS reform.

The group's inquiry is part of their commitment to scrutinise the implementation of the Government's Cancer Reform Strategy.

The aim of the inquiry is to:

- Assess cancer inequalities, and seek out examples of good practice in tackling those inequalities
- Consider what more can be done to achieve equality in cancer care
- Make key recommendations to the Government, the National Cancer Equality Initiative and the NHS on tackling cancer inequalities.

Cancer mortality rates are 15% higher in poor neighbourhoods.

How can you help?

The APPGC needs Parliamentarians to submit evidence for their inquiry. For more information, visit appg-cancer.org.uk or contact the APPGC secretariat at appginquiry@macmillan.org.uk

Fix fuel poverty while the sun shines

Macmillan is calling on the Government to use its fuel poverty review to ensure that no cancer patient faces another winter in fuel poverty.

Four out of five cancer patients in financial hardship were forced to turn their heating off last winter – one of the coldest on record.

Cancer patients are paying higher fuel bills because they spend long periods at home in recovery. Yet a quarter are not entitled to the Winter Fuel Payment (WFP). This is despite the Government's previous pledge that they would end fuel poverty among all vulnerable households – including all cancer patients – by 2010.

84%

of cancer patients in financial hardship were forced to turn their heating off last winter.

An ideal opportunity

The Department for Energy and Climate Change has now said it will update the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy, and is due to provide initial findings in June. This provides an ideal opportunity to make it clear that fuel poverty policies will be targeted at the most vulnerable people.

When we launched our campaign to 'freeze out fuel poverty' we highlighted the story of George. Based in Sussex, 59-year-old George is terminally ill with prostate cancer and is often forced to go without heating.

Grossly unfair

Macmillan thinks it is grossly unfair that a 59-year-old who is dying in a freezing cold home doesn't receive the Winter Fuel Payment, while a 60-year-old healthy person is entitled to it. We also think vulnerable cancer patients should be included in a mandatory social tariff scheme, making them eligible for their energy company's least expensive payment scheme.

We're hoping the Government will recognise it will never end fuel poverty among vulnerable people if it does not fully consider the needs of all cancer patients.

Please ask Joan Ruddock MP, Fuel Poverty Minister, to ensure the needs of cancer patients are fully considered in the Government's review of the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy.

