Let’s change lives in Nottinghamshire with every slice

Macmillan’s flagship fundraiser, World’s Biggest Coffee Morning, takes place on Friday 30th September and every slice of cake eaten and cup of coffee poured has the power to help change lives for people living with cancer.

The charity is asking everyone to take part, either by hosting a coffee morning or by attending one. It's the nation’s biggest social fundraiser for cancer and last year, 1836 coffee mornings were held in Nottinghamshire raising £408,000 for the charity that provides essential support for people affected by cancer.

2016 is the 26th year of the event and with the help of fundraisers in Nottinghamshire Macmillan hopes to beat the £27.6m raised last year across the UK.

All the money raised will be used to help fund the charity’s vital services that provide practical, financial, emotional and medical support to people affected by cancer.

This includes services like the Macmillan Information and Support Centre at Nottingham City Hospital. The centre has been transforming the lives of people affected by cancer for 18 years, providing vital cancer information, practical and emotional support. It has just been recognised as one of the best Macmillan information services in the country and awarded the highest score possible against the Macmillan Quality Environment Mark which assesses the quality of Macmillan cancer information services.

Julia Hodgett, 63, from Awsworth, has experienced the Macmillan information and support service first hand. She was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after she started working for Macmillan on an innovative new project to redesign follow up care for people affected by cancer at Nottingham University Hospitals Trust.

Just a few weeks into the project she found herself in the same position as the patients she was trying to help.

While she was coping with her diagnosis relatively well, her husband Tony was not and was devastated by the news.

Julia said: “I'm a very positive, forward looking person and managed to stay quite optimistic, but my husband was very emotional. He couldn't talk about it and couldn't tell people which put added pressure on me.”

Julia had to break the news to friends and family herself, while also supporting her husband Tony and undergoing treatment.

She began to attend appointments on her own or with a friend as she was worried about how her husband would cope.
After a few weeks she visited the Macmillan Information and Support Centre at Nottingham City Hospital for advice.

Although Tony was reluctant to go into the centre himself, Macmillan Cancer Information Specialist Alison Hall provided Julia with advice and booklets to take home to him.

Eventually, things started to improve, just in time for Julia to be diagnosed with cancer for a second time.

On the same day that she was discharged by her oncologist, she had a biopsy taken from her tongue which confirmed she had tongue cancer.

“We were both very emotional when we got the second diagnosis. It is completely unrelated to the breast cancer. I’ve just been unlucky I guess,” said Julia.

Fortunately the cancer has not spread, so Julia is now waiting for laser surgery to remove the tumours.

Thanks to the support she received from Alison, her husband Tony is coping much better this time around and Julia feels much more supported.

She has continued to work throughout her treatment and has been nominated for an ‘NUH Award’ as a result by several work colleagues.

The experience has given Julia a new perspective on her work for Macmillan.

“I’m in the unique position of being a Macmillan professional who is working to improve cancer services for patients, and also being a patient who is using those services. So I’ve got a dual perspective. It has just confirmed how important our work is and what a vital role the information and support centre has in supporting not just patients, but friends and family with the emotional side of cancer.”

Alison Hall, Macmillan Cancer Information Specialist, said: “Our service is vital, it’s a lifeline for people affected by cancer and I am humbled by the strength and courage of the people I support. I listen, help practically, support people with financial concerns or help them to tell a loved one they have cancer. I learn their stories, share their tears and joy, help to plan holidays, weddings, career changes even!

“This year, being awarded the highest quality scores possible for both our service and our Centre has been a huge boost to us. It reassures me that we are continuing to be the best we can and that we are giving a good quality service.”

Macmillan’s fundraising manager for Nottingham Tanya Taylor, said: “Your donations are vital to keep services like the Macmillan Information and Support Centre at Nottingham City Hospital running. We want to make sure no one has to face cancer alone but we can’t do it without the amazing people who fundraise for us. We rely on the generosity of our supporters for more than 99% of our income and coffee morning events are a great way to have fun whilst raising vital funds to help people affected by cancer.

“It’s easy to take part and there’s all the help and information you need to host your own Macmillan coffee morning on the dedicated website www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk, where you can also find details of public and community Macmillan coffee mornings.

“If you can’t do it on 30th September then just pick another day. All that matters is that you get together with friends, colleagues or neighbours over coffee and cake to raise some money to help Macmillan be there for people affected by cancer in Nottinghamshire.”
If you can’t host or get along to a coffee morning, visit your local M&S or Nationwide Building Society – both are proud partners of this year’s event and staff will be baking up a storm. During September M&S will be selling a number of exclusive homeware items to raise funds for Macmillan as well as donating 10 percent from sales of selected classic cakes to support people affected by cancer.

To take part in the World’s Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday 30th September go to www.coffee.macmillan.org.uk.

If you are affected by cancer in Nottinghamshire and need support you can contact the Macmillan Information and Support Centre on 0115 8402650, email Alison.Hall3@nuh.nhs.uk or visit us at Nottingham City Hospital on the ground floor of the South Block.

Cancer is the toughest fight most of us will ever face and no one should face it alone. Visit www.macmillan.org.uk or call The Macmillan Support Line on 0808 808 00 00.

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For further information, please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

About Macmillan Cancer Support

When you have cancer, you don’t just worry about what will happen to your body, you worry about what will happen to your life. Whether it’s concerns about who you can talk to, planning for the extra costs or what to do about work, at Macmillan we understand how a cancer diagnosis can take over everything.

That’s why we’re here. We provide support that helps people take back control of their lives. But right now, we can’t reach everyone who needs us. We need your help to make sure that people affected by cancer get the support they need to face the toughest fight of their life. No one should face cancer alone, and with your support no one will.

To get involved, call 0300 1000 200 today. And please remember, we’re here for you too. If you’d like support, information or just to chat, call us free on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am–8pm) or visit macmillan.org.uk

Marks & Spencer & Macmillan

This is the seventh year that M&S has supported World’s Biggest Coffee Morning; during this time they have raised over £6million for Macmillan, which has helped to fund vital services such as Macmillan professionals, who support people affected by cancer in local communities across the UK.