


Liverpool

Cancer Community Update



January 2011

Welcome

 *Welcome* to the latest edition of the Cancer Community Update from the Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre. This update is designed to keep you informed of local research news, engagement activities and news from the wider cancer community in Merseyside and Cheshire. To comment or contribute please contact Local Engagement and Development Manager Emma Squibb on 0151 794 8823 or 07770 597 185, email emma.squibb@cancer.org.uk

MP Visits Centre

Stephen Twigg, MP for West Derby and Shadow Foreign Office Minister, visited the Centre on Friday 7th January, meeting with Prof Ian Greer, Prof Andrea Varro, Prof Francis Barr, Dr. Seema Chauhan, Dr. Eithne Costello, Mr. Richard Shaw and Laura McCann from CRUK. Mr. Twigg heard about the work of the Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit, emerging trends in head and neck cancer, and our research in pancreas and gastric cancers.



Mr Twigg also had an opportunity to learn more about basic science and look around Prof Barr's labs (pictured with Andrea Linford).

Mr. Twigg said, "Whilst people are now twice as likely to survive cancer as they were forty years ago, cancer incidence rates in Liverpool are still much higher than the England average. That's why it's so important to support research that is helping people to prevent, detect and treat cancer in Liverpool and further afield. It was good to hear that people can take steps to reduce their own risk of cancer, such as not smoking, cutting back on alcohol, keeping a healthy bodyweight and not using sun-beds. I'm proud that Liverpool is home to a Cancer Research UK Centre. Research saves lives and I'm delighted to support the work of Cancer Research UK."



[More](#)

Liverpool Cancer Research
UK Centre



I'm a scientist, get me out of here!

This is a chance for teenagers to interact with scientists online. Scientists sign up to be available to field questions in an online forum for a fixed period of time. Scientists can improve their communication skills, practise discussing the social and ethical implications of their work and be inspired by talking to young people. [Find out more](#)

Future Morph

Future Morph are writing a smartphone app called 'Hidden Science' that allows people to ask questions directly to active researchers. One of the overall aims of the site and this new app is to introduce people to the wide range of careers available for people in science, technology, engineering and maths, so this would also be an opportunity for researchers to encourage people to pursue careers in cancer research. Any researchers can be involved, from students to professors. Anyone interested should contact [Simon Vincent](#) at Cancer Research UK.

New CRUK Volunteer Action Team

Liverpool Action Team has been launched!

The Action Team is made up of volunteers who are unable to commit to volunteering on a regular basis. This is flexible "no strings attached volunteering" for people who want to help out on an ad hoc basis. There's no pressure - you can volunteer for as many hours as suits you, we appreciate whatever time you can give. It is all done by email.



When the need for volunteers arises, the Action Team Coordinator emails all Action Team members to let you know about the opportunity, and the members just email back if they're up for it. For more information please email liverpoolactionteam@cancer.org.uk or [click here](#)

S.O.S. Support our shops

Our shops are reporting low stock levels this winter. You can donate any unwanted clothes, gifts and household items in the Centre's 2 Donation Stations (a bag of your donated items could be worth around £30 to the charity). In 2010 staff at the Liverpool CRUK Centre donated more than 200 bags of stock worth in excess of £6000.



Race for Life is the largest women-only fundraising event in the UK. Since 1994, women of all ages and fitness levels across the UK have come together at these inspiring events to walk, jog or run 5k to help beat cancer. So far Race for Life has raised over £370 million to fund Cancer Research UK's life-saving work.

February will see the launch of the 2011 Race for Life series with events planned for Sefton Park, Wirral, Knowsley, Aintree, Southport, Warrington, Haydock, Chester, Rhyl, Delamere Forest, Wrexham and Preston.

Registration for the 2011 events will open at the end of January and there will be sign up events in Liverpool (5 Feb) and Chester (19 Feb). Volunteers are sought for these sign up events, [click here](#)





Officers from **Merseyside Police** thought it would be a crime not to grow a moustache to support the Prostate Cancer charity's *Movember*. Fifteen bobbies from Allerton police station took part in the event raising over £1,000.



Local
People

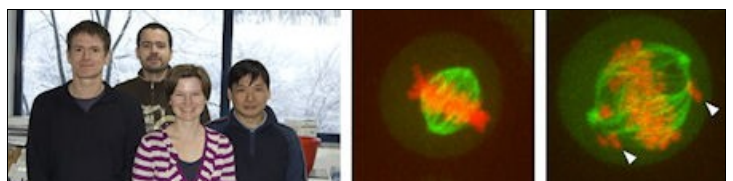
Pete Postlethwaite, (above) described by Steven Spielberg as “the world’s finest actor” died on January 2nd aged 64, having been ill with cancer for some time. Postlethwaite was born in Warrington and started his career at Liverpool’s Everyman Theatre before becoming a veteran of the Royal Shakespeare Company and starring in many films including *In the Name of the Father*, *Hamlet*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *The Usual Suspects*, *Brassed Off*, and *Jurassic Park*. Postlethwaite received an honorary degree from Liverpool University in 2006 and returned to the City in 2008 to star in *King Lear* at the Liverpool Playhouse. He leaves a wife and two adult children.

Former **Walton MP Peter Kilfoyle** is to shed his flowing beard and locks for charity after growing tired of “Father Christmas” jibes over the festive season. Mr Kilfoyle began to cultivate his mane after retiring from Parliament last May after 19 years. The Woodlands Hospice opened as a residential unit last year with 15 permanent in-patient beds as well as providing out-patient and community outreach care. Carole Riley, fundraiser for the hospice, said: “We are absolutely delighted. Peter has always been supportive of us and has said he wanted to do something further for us. The money raised will go towards the ongoing funding of the hospice.”

To sponsor Mr Kilfoyle email steve.rotheram.mp@parliament.uk



Congratulations to Francis Barr, Ulrike Grunberg, Kang Zeng and Ricardo Nunes Bastos on having their paper published in the *Journal of Cell Biology*; their work on phosphatase limiting Aurora A's Kinase activity during mitosis was also featured in its *In Focus* section. [In Focus](#) [Full Paper](#)



Bernie Singleton attended the Centre on Friday 17th December with her husband Keith, son Matthew and fellow fundraiser Chris Jones. Following another year of successful fundraising in Wirral and Liverpool, Bernie presented a cheque for £18,138.87 to CRUK. Bernie has asked that her donation is used to help fund basic science research. [Read more](#) about Bernie’s experiences.



Cancer Research UK Merseyside & Cheshire Events Calendar



= Researcher/ Scientist opportunity

Please contact Cancer Research UK Local Engagement Manager, [Emma Squibb](#) for details of how you can get involved.

January 2011

- 10 Liverpool LINK Cancer Task and Finish Group
- 10 Liverpool PCT Early Diagnosis Steering Group

21 Vernon Pub Cheque Presentation 

26 Priestley College Cheque Presentation 

February 2011

5 Race for Life Sign Up—Liverpool 

19 Race for Life Sign Up—Chester 

23 Lab Tour—Oswestry Committee

Tbc Lab Tour—Liverpool Health and Social Care

Select Committee 

News

Cancer is the nation's number one fear, but more than a third think getting the disease is down to fate and there is nothing they can do to avoid it, according to a survey commissioned by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative (NAEDI). The survey, found that overall one in five men and women in Great Britain fear cancer ahead of debt, knife crime, Alzheimer's Disease and losing a job. The survey questioned more than 2,000 adults aged 16 and over in face-to-face interviews. Thirty-four per cent said they thought getting the disease was down to fate, the figure rose to 41 per cent amongst 55-64 year olds.

The Linda McCartney Centre, at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, recently held a tea party for patients, visitors and staff to mark their 10th Anniversary. Since the centre was opened in 2000, staff have treated more than 13,000 patients for 20 different types of cancer. And there was even a message Stella.



She said: "I am happy to hear that the Linda McCartney Centre is celebrating 10 years of being a centre of excellence, providing fantastic cancer care and treatment to the people of Liverpool and beyond. I know that there have been many achievements over the years. I am really proud that the centre is named after my mum and wish it a Happy Birthday." [More](#)

Chris Lea from Old Swan was 34 when he was diagnosed with leukaemia. He underwent a bone marrow transplant in May 2010 but sadly passed away in December 2010 leaving a wife and two young children. Before his death Chris and friends Karl and Jenny Roberts organised a party to raise funds for the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at the Royal. Local people and businesses, many of whom had never met Chris, donated food, prizes, and money.

The party was attended by over 500 people and raised over £5495 for the Unit. Chris said he wanted the funds to pay for TVs, wheelchairs, puzzles and games for the patients many of whom may stay in isolation on the unit for weeks.



Local Sporting Events 2011

If your New Year's resolutions include getting fit and doing your bit for charity, you might consider taking part in one of the events below, and don't forget to let [me](#) know.

March

26/27 Clatterbridge Cancer Research Sky Dive

27 Liverpool Half Marathon [Register](#)

27 Wiggle Cheshire Cat (cycling) [more](#)

April

16 Clatterbridge Cancer Research Chick Chase [more](#)

May

1 Shine Manchester (night-time walking marathon) Register [here](#)

8 Liverpool Women's 10k

15 Southport Race for Life / Delamere Forest Race for Life

22 Cheshire Triathlon [Register](#)

22 Wrexham Race for Life

June

5 Sefton Park Race for Life / Rhyl Race for Life

12 Mersey Tunnel 10K

19 Chester Race for Life

26 Aintree Race for Life

July

3 Preston Race for Life

6 Knowsley Race for Life

10 Wirral Race for Life

17 Warrington Race for Life

24 Haydock Race for Life

August

6 Big Fun Run Liverpool (Sefton Park) [more](#)

27 Isle of Man Relay for Life

September

4 Liverpool 5K Team Challenge (closing date for entries Fri 26 August)

18 Great North Run [more](#)

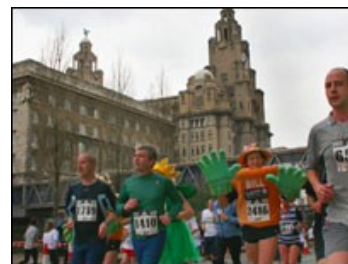
25 Run to the Beat Half Marathon [more](#)

October

9 Run Liverpool Marathon

December

4 Liverpool Santa Dash



Contribute

If you would like to contribute to the February edition of this update, please contact Emma on emma.squibb@cancer.org.uk 0151 794 8823 or 07770 597 185

Together we will beat cancer