



THE CLATTERBRIDGE
CANCER CHARITY



Katrina Bury, Head of Charity

DONOR UPDATE

LIVERPOOL'S FIRST CANCER HOSPITAL - ONE YEAR ON

When it became clear in the spring of 2020 that a national lockdown was imminent and necessary, The Trust was hugely concerned about the effect this would have on patients and their treatment, as well as staff. On top of the huge changes this would bring to Clatterbridge's daily operation, there was also the enormous challenge of building and commissioning a brand new hospital in the middle of Liverpool. It is fair to say that the staff at Clatterbridge had their work cut out.

I can't really explain how it felt on Saturday 27th June when, at around 11am, we stood in the wonderful atrium of the new hospital and welcomed the first patient, a young man who had been transferred from the wards at our Wirral site.

He was followed that day by a further 20 patients, each greeted in turn by staff with a round of applause, to be there was a truly moving experience.

We opened the doors to outpatients on Monday 29th June and soon patients were arriving to their usual chemotherapy and radiotherapy appointments – an eight year project delivered on time and on budget.

Since then, we have had huge internal landmark moments including the arrival of the Haemato-Oncology patients and staff from the Royal Liverpool Hospital which means that for the first time ever we have solid tumour and blood cancer patients being treated under one roof.

To finish and commission a brand new hospital during the global pandemic is a source of enormous pride for everyone at Clatterbridge and shows just how far our staff will go to provide better care for the people of Merseyside and Cheshire. A great credit should also be paid to the building contractors, Laing O'Rourke, who rose to the challenge of running a huge construction site safely with a depleted workforce.

Difficult though it was, opening the hospital has almost felt like the easy part of the last 12 months when compared to the challenge of delivering cancer care during such a world changing time.

Throughout the year our clinical teams have been challenged on an almost hourly basis to keep on delivering that fantastic patient care for which Clatterbridge is famous, and at every turn the team has delivered time and time again.

Our IT department implemented the video conferencing infrastructure which meant that over 90% of our patient consultations could take place remotely; our pharmacy department enlisted a squadron of local volunteers to deliver medicine directly to our patient's doors and our chemotherapy team saw a 25% increase in the award winning "chemo at home" service which is based out of the Wirral site. All of this was aimed at one thing – keeping treatments going whilst limiting the risks to our patients, many of whom are extremely clinically vulnerable.



Prince Charles addresses staff with a special message at the opening of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre - Liverpool



The impressive atrium at the hospital



During the early pandemic it was widely reported that cancer referral numbers dropped dramatically across the country – with the public not accessing GP and A&E services like they might do normally, Clatterbridge at times received just 25% of our usual number of patient referrals. There has been concern that this might lead to a dramatic increase in patient numbers in the coming months – only time will tell. If this is to be the case then the opening of our Liverpool hospital to compliment our busy sites at Aintree and on the Wirral could not be better timed and for that we must thank you, our donors. Thanks to your support, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is now in a fantastic position to make huge improvements to survival in our region.

On behalf of all the staff and patients at Clatterbridge: thank you so much for your support.

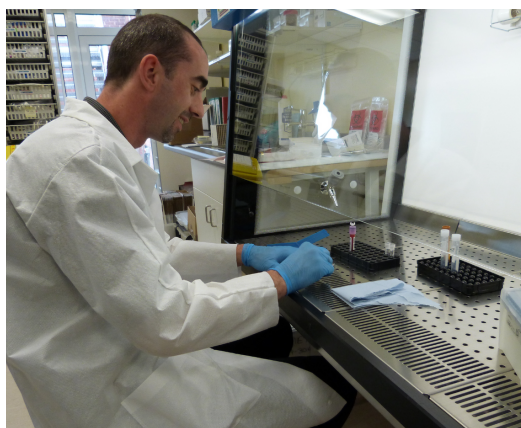
HOW GIFTS IN WILLS CAN HELP US TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Sandra, a university lecturer who now lives in Knowsley in Merseyside, participated in a Phase II clinical trial this year. Sandra, who carries the BRCA 1 gene, was first diagnosed with cancer aged 37. After surgery to remove both breasts and her ovaries, she completed chemotherapy and radiotherapy and her cancer went into remission. Five years later however, a complaint of neck pain led to diagnosis that her cancer had returned and spread to her bones, Sandra was referred to the clinical trial.

“The trial was fantastic,” says Sandra. “I was on it for about a year and my scans showed significant shrinkages in the tumours and kept them under control for quite a while, with no real side-effects. When you have terminal cancer, none of the drugs work for ever but I feel it bought me another year before I needed to go onto another form of treatment. I’m still working part-time and feel fit and healthy. I would recommend to anyone to take part in a clinical trial if they are offered the opportunity. I have been so well looked after.”



Cancer Survival rates have doubled in the last 40 years, and in almost every type of the disease this is due to research. It is our aim as a charity to help the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre to achieve its goal of improving and expanding its already excellent research activity. The pandemic has caused significant disruption to research across the country but here are some highlights from research at Clatterbridge in the past 12 months



- Since the start of the pandemic we have opened access to 33 new clinical trials – a remarkable achievement given the circumstances.
- This year we have recruited over 1200 patients to take part in clinical trials, this is well above our target of 1,000 and represents double the number we recruited in 2017/18
- In ten of our clinical trials we were the first UK centre to recruit patients. This included one study where we were the first in the world to offer a new treatment to patients with cancer of the Central Nervous System.



Amidst other research commitments, In 2020/21 The Charity directed over £80,000 to four projects which were investigating the effect which COVID has on cancer patients and on their care. In 2021/22 we have committed to raise £150,000 for our Research Department to help them to find new and better ways of treating the patients of tomorrow.



CLATTERBRIDGE APPOINTS FIRST EVER ARTS CO-ORDINATOR

Sam Wade has a big challenge on her hands. As Clatterbridge's first ever Arts Co-ordinator it is her quest to improve the lives of our patients through the arts.

We caught up with Sam to find out a little about her role which is being funded by The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity.

Sam, could you tell us about your new role?

Sure, my role is all about improving the well-being of our patients, and our staff through their engagement with art. Whether that be the art which they see around them in our clinics and wards or through running programmes which encourage patients to develop or uncover their own artistic talents.

Much of your work has been in the new hospital – can you tell us a little about what we can expect inside the building?

Firstly it is important to say that my role does cover all of our sites but much of the early concentration has been on the new hospital. We have been lucky to work with some fantastic artists including Liz West who has designed the amazing colourful interior in the main atrium. And in our Winter Garden we have the the incredible Tree, Primavera, by Emma Rodgers. From afar this tree is covered with leaves but as you approach you will see that they are actually birds. This piece will be particularly interesting as it will grow over

time as more birds are added to it – dedicated by donors themselves.

Fantastic. And what kind of programmes do you expect to be running with patients?

This is the really exciting bit of the job to me. We intend to introduce activities within the hospital which allows patients to access, uncover and fulfil their talents and interests, whether that be in painting, poetry, music, or anything else which the arts world has to offer. We will be working with incredible local artists and organisations to deliver these.

And we hear you have even managed to start this work during the pandemic.

That's right. Obviously COVID has a huge impact on what can be delivered with patients directly but we have managed to set up our first remote sessions with artists over Christmas. With many of our inpatients not permitted to have visitors it felt more important than ever to try and reach out to them.

Sam, the charity are very proud to be funding your role and the associated project costs – we wish you the best of luck!

Thank you once more for your generous support of The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity. If you would like to discuss any elements of your future support, including the opportunity to sponsor one of our Clatterbridge Doves on the Primavera tree, please contact paul.winter5@nhs.net or call 0151 5565566