

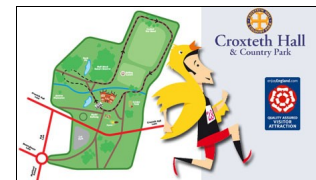
*Welcome* to the latest edition of the Cancer Community Update from the Liverpool Cancer

Research UK Centre. This update is designed to keep you informed of research news, engagement activities and news from the cancer community in Merseyside and Cheshire. Please contact Local Engagement and Development Manager Emma Squibb to contribute or comment. [emma.squibb@cancer.org.uk](mailto:emma.squibb@cancer.org.uk) 0151 794 8823 or 07770 597 185

*Centre launches volunteer scheme* The Centre welcomed 27 members of the public on 16th March, all of whom have an interest in volunteering. Visitors heard from Lead Cancer Nurse at the Royal, Gill Hamblin, Operational Director of Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit, Dr. Seema Chauhan, CRUK's Emma Squibb, Director of Sunflowers Cancer Support Centre Joan Elmer, and volunteer fundraiser Bernie Singleton. Several offers of support were forthcoming and there are plans to hold a further Open Event later in the year.



*Chick run for Clatterbridge?* The Chick Run is a 5k fancy dress fun run in aid of Clatterbridge Cancer Research. The Chick Run isn't a competitive event, so you can choose to sprint, run, jog, walk or stroll; you can even bring your dog along if you like! It takes place on Saturday 16th April 2011 at Croxteth Hall and Country Park. Start times will be staggered between 10am and 1pm – you'll receive notification of your start time once you've registered. **Deadline for registrations is midnight on Friday 8th April, so register today to guarantee your place!** [more](#)



### *Cancer gap with Europe 'not closed'*

More than a decade after the last government launched its NHS Cancer Plan and almost five years after its Cancer Reform Strategy, the gap in survival rates between England and the best-performing European countries has not closed, a parliamentary report has said. According to Department of Health estimates, 10,000 lives could be saved each year if the NHS in England matched the best in Europe, said the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee. Key priorities for improving survival were improved public and GP awareness of the symptoms of cancer and earlier diagnosis, but there were "significant gaps" in the information gathered by the NHS about important aspects of cancer services. While mortality rates have fallen and survival rates improved over the past decade, there remained "wide, unexplained variations" in performance around England, said the report. [Read More](#)

CRUK scientists have discovered the gene behind a rare **skin cancer** which grows rapidly for a few weeks before healing spontaneously, according to research published in Nature Genetics. [more](#)  
CRUK funded scientists have also discovered that **blocking two cell DNA repair routes** at once could provide a completely new way to treat bowel cancer and potentially other cancers, according to research published in Cancer Research. [more](#)

# Cancer

news in Mersey-side and Cheshire



**Royal Liverpool Hospital's eye cancer unit retains specialist status for the next five years.**

[More](#)

Child cancer patients in Liverpool received a visit from teenage singer Justin Bieber whose fans forced a road closure around Liverpool's **Alder Hey Children's Hospital**. The 17-year-old



spent about an hour on the oncology ward talking to young patients.

A hospital spokesman said the visit had raised spirits on the ward where children undergo chemotherapy. *"When people like Justin Bieber take the time to come and visit our patients it gives them a tremendous boost and really cheers everyone up. Patients on the oncology ward undergo rigorous treatments and you can actually see in the children what a difference it makes to have a visitor they admire from the world of entertainment or sport."* [more](#)

**National No Smoking Day** Health secretary Andrew Lansley has confirmed that tobacco displays in shops will be banned, and, from next year, cigarettes must be kept under the counter in large stores. Corner shops will have to follow suit in 2015, while the possibility of introducing plain packaging is to be reviewed as the government aims to slash smoking rates. As part of No Smoking Day, teams from **NHS Sefton**, the Brighter Living Partnership and Parenting 2000 set up a mobile workshop on with videos, information packs and displays to help those looking to quit. [More](#)



## Poster Competition

The Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre's Annual Meeting is to be held in the VG&M Gallery on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011. As well as high profile, exceptional guest speakers, the day will highlight the research work carried out in Liverpool. The day will feature a poster competition and we encourage all PGRs and students to take advantage of this exciting opportunity to meet, advertise and discuss the innovative research you are undertaking; providing you with an opportunity to raise the profile of your research. **All posters must highlight the research of the Centre.**

There will be a £300 conference travel prize for the best poster and the same for the best short talk presentation. If you would like to submit a poster and/or present a short talk for this competition please submit your abstract for review by 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011 to **Claire Hutchinson** by e-mail. Talks and posters will be selected from the abstracts by the Centre's Research Committee, and successful applicants will be advised by **11<sup>th</sup> April 2011**.

## Figures provided by Liverpool PCT showing causes of death in Liverpool in 2009 reveal:

- Cancer was the largest single cause of death in Liverpool accounting for well over a quarter of deaths in 2009. (1321 of 4305)
- Heart and circulatory disease was the second biggest cause of death. (1192)
- Lung cancer was the most common cause of cancer mortality in Liverpool. (372)
- Cancers of the stomach and digestive organs (including pancreas and liver) were the next most common cause of cancer mortality in Liverpool (343)
- Other common causes of cancer mortality in Liverpool in 2009 were female genital and ovarian cancers (87), prostate cancer (73), breast cancer (72) and cancers of the urinary tract (68).

# Local Engagement

## LFC for Health

Liverpool Cancer Research UK Centre and Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit were exhibitors at a health and wellbeing event held at Liverpool Football Club on 15th March.



## Cancer Research UK Merseyside & Cheshire Events Calendar



= Researcher/ Scientist opportunity

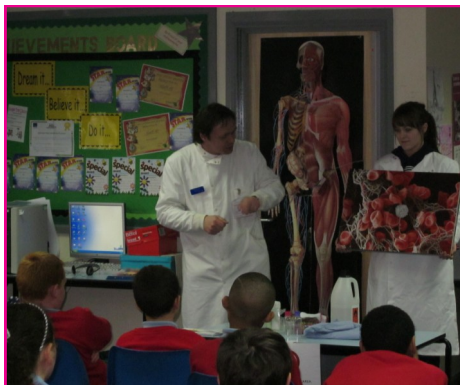
Please contact Cancer Research UK Local Engagement Manager, [Emma Squibb](#) for details of how you can get involved.

### April

15th Oakfield Children's Centre Fundraiser 

27th Heart FM Lab Visit

28th Merseyside Shop Managers Meeting



## Scientists Go Back to School

Neville Cobbe and Louise Rawling from Daimark Bennett's lab paid a visit to Pleasant Street School in Clarence Street, Liverpool on 30th March, where they met around 40 children and staff. The children (aged 10/11) all said they knew someone who'd had cancer, and named lung, breast and bowel cancer, brain tumours and leukaemia. The children were aware Jade Goody had died of cancer, and Kylie Minogue had survived. The children showed a good understanding of the lifestyle factors which can cause cancer, especially smoking. One young man was able to tell us what DNA stands for!

Following a demonstration of strawberry DNA extraction some of the many questions included:

- Can you clone a strawberry from that DNA?
- What is chemotherapy?
- How many cells are in the human body?
- How long does it take cancer to spread?
- Why do people with cancer lose their hair?
- Do all living things have DNA?

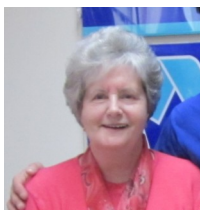


The children had so many questions that we have agreed to return in a few weeks to answer them. We have also been asked by the school to arrange a similar event for parents. The feedback from the children included: "It was boss", "really interesting," and "the experiment was like magic." Neville and Louise also enjoyed the experience and were very impressed with how attentive, responsive and informed the children had been. To help with future schools visits click [here](#)



# Local People

Amro Ebbiary popped in to the **Widnes** CRUK shop on Saturday 26th March and ended up working behind the till alongside Joan Cubbon (pictured), who has volunteered in the shop since it opened 24 years ago.



## Happy Birthday Frodsham

Dr. Steve Royle went along to the **Frodsham** CRUK Shop's 20th Anniversary celebration on 2nd March at Frodsham Community Centre. Six of the volunteers who have been working in the shop since it opened in 1991 were awarded with long service medals by Steve. The shop has raised over £1.5m for CRUK. [More](#)



## Skin Cancer survivor urges local women to sign up to Race for Life

Mandy Maxwell of **Great Sutton** was featured in the [Liverpool Echo](#) this month. Mandy was diagnosed with malignant melanoma in 2008 and now campaigns to raise awareness of the disease. Mandy is encouraging local women to sign up to this year's Race for Life events. [Sign Up Now](#)



## Bernie's Tenerife Fundraiser

Our thanks once again to Bernie & Keith Singleton of **New Brighton**, for raising further funds for CRUK. Bernie's latest venture, a fundraising night whilst on holiday in Tenerife, was another huge success raising over 2000 Euros. Our thanks also to Adam and The Traveller Blues Band at the Club House, Los Gigantes who worked with Bernie and Keith to raise this fantastic sum. Bernie is now starting to arrange her annual summer event—details to follow.

*Crosby doctor takes on Sahara desert marathons in memory of patient* Dr Oliver Lutte has pledged to run nearly six marathons in six days across the Sahara Desert to raise awareness for ovarian cancer. The disease cut short the life of one of his patients, Janet Condliff. Dr Lutte, a GP at **Liverpool's Brownlow Group Practice**, said: "I wanted to do this for Janet because I was involved in her care from diagnosis in 2009 to when she died in November last year. Her cancer came out of the blue during investigations for knee pain. Sadly by then the cancer had spread and there was little hope of a cure." [More](#)

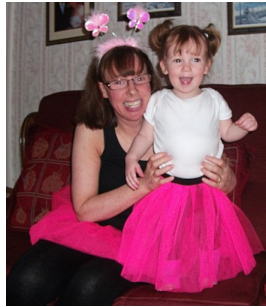
Together we will beat cancer

# Local News



If you are taking part in Race for Life this year, please [get in touch](#) and don't forget to send a photo. Volunteer Researchers required for Races at [Sefton Park \(5 June\)](#) and [Aintree \(26 June\)](#)

**Laura Marsh** from Liverpool Cancer Trials Unit will be running Race for Life at **Knowsley**, with daughter Elizabeth, and at **Southport** with Charlotte Rawcliffe. Sponsor Laura [here](#).



**Charlotte Runs Ten** Please remember to sponsor LCTU's **Charlotte Rawcliffe** who is running TEN Race for Life events across the North West this summer Click [here](#)  
**Dr. Seema Chauhan** will running with Charlotte at **Preston** —sponsor [here](#) .  
LEAD Manager **Emma Squibb** is running with Charlotte at **Knowsley**—sponsor her [here](#)



**Local man fronts cancer campaign** James Felce, 23, of **Southport** has been picked to launch a fundraising campaign for World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) because of his devoted support for the charity. James raised more than £3,550 when he ran for WCRF in the London Marathon last year – just eight months after his mother Anne died from cancer at the age of 54. James, who is studying for a PhD in molecular immunology at Oxford University, hopes one day to lend his scientific skills to the fight against cancer. “ [More](#)

## Liverpool's youth group asks OFCOM to ban smoking in soaps

Liverpool youth group D-MYST has asked TV bosses in London to ban smoking in soaps. The young tobacco campaigners want to remove smoking from all pre-watershed television broadcasts, and they have recently been carrying out research into smoking in soaps such as Coronation Street. The group discovered smoking scenes frequently occur in both Coronation Street and Eastenders – with 82 smoking incidents in three weeks of programming. Members of D-MYST visited media regulator Ofcom's head office in London to ask to ban smoking images pre-watershed. [More](#)

## Mersey Care call to Local People

Mersey Care NHS Trust, the local provider of specialist mental health care, is seeking involvement from local people. The Trust aims to have 10,000



people signed up as members and is inviting service users, their carers and members of the public to sign up. More than 7,000 people have already become members. Mersey Care's Membership Manager Julie Crompton says “Mental health affects everyone. Within most communities there will be someone who has used services or has a mental health problem. By joining in - and encouraging friends and family to do the same – you can help us develop services that meet their needs.”

To sign up or find out more about becoming a member of Mersey Care call 0151 473 2885 or email: [membership@merseycare.nhs.uk](mailto:membership@merseycare.nhs.uk) You can also sign up online at [www.merseycare.nhs.uk](http://www.merseycare.nhs.uk)

## Other news

*Woodlands Hospice Starlight Walk* will this year take place at Midnight Saturday 21st May. [More](#)

### *Cancer Robot at Mersey Hospital*

The Royal Liverpool was set to be the first hospital in the North West to use the £1.6m daVinci robot, which will be used on prostate cancer patients. The daVinci Si is the most advanced robotic surgical system in the world, and there are only seven other hospitals in the UK with the robot. It is easier to use than older technology and more precise. The equipment could also be used on patients with gynaecology problems and in cases of bladder, kidney, and bowel cancer.

Robin Weston, consultant cancer urologist, who spent 12 months in Australia training on the system, said: “*Robotic surgery is much better for the patients who are suitable to have this procedure. There are fewer complications, less need for pain relief and patients spend less time in hospital.*” [More](#)

*International Women’s Day Celebrations* Debbie Devine, Dr. Sarah Lake, Professor Andrea Varro and Emma Squibb represented the Centre at a celebration of International Women’s Day held at Liverpool Town Hall on 8th March. The theme of the day, and the coming year is [Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women](#) The group met with Lord Mayor Cllr Hazel Williams and invited her to visit the Centre.



### *Liverpool University reports spending cuts will hit poorest hardest*

[Read More](#)

#### **Local Government Cuts in Merseyside**

Liverpool City Council £91m budget cuts passed [more](#)

St. Helens Council sets “gravity defying” budget [More](#)

Knowsley Council to cut £23.6m [More](#)

Halton Council sheds 150 jobs and £20m [More](#)

Sefton Council to cut £44m [More](#)



**Hundreds of people protest outside Liverpool Town Hall before budget meeting** [More](#)

*Charity Alliance warns benefits reforms could hit cancer patients* An alliance of 30 cancer charities including CRUK, Macmillan and the Teenage Cancer Trust have written a joint letter to Work & Pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith warning that reforms to the benefits system could leave cancer patients without financial support when they need it most. [More](#)

### *Contribute*

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of this update, please contact Emma on [emma.squibb@cancer.org.uk](mailto:emma.squibb@cancer.org.uk) 0151 794 8823 or 07770 597 185

*Together we will beat cancer*