

Mac News

The latest Weston General Hospital cancer news, views and announcements

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2025

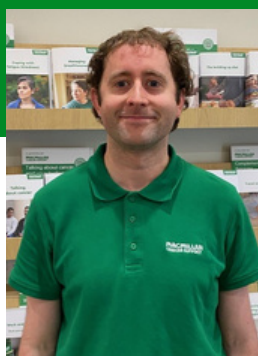
On Friday 26th September, the PCS teams at BHOC and Weston each hosted their annual cake sale in support of the Macmillan Coffee Morning.



Thanks to everyone's kindness and support, the teams raised over £600 for Macmillan Cancer Support—a wonderful achievement that will make a meaningful difference



Thank you to everyone who baked, donated, and joined us in support of the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Your generosity and enthusiasm helped make the events a true success. We'd like to extend a special thanks to Winnies Bakery, who once again kindly donated to the Weston team. Their continued support is deeply appreciated and played a key role in helping us turn cake into care. ❤️



👋 Welcome to the Team: Richard Westhead Joins BHOC as Macmillan Cancer Support Worker

We're delighted to welcome Richard to the BHOC CSW Team in Bristol, where he has recently joined us as a Macmillan Cancer Support Worker.

Richard brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to patient care, having previously spent seven years as a Macmillan Dietetic Support Worker at WGH.

Reflecting on his first few weeks, Richard shared:

"Everyone I've met so far has been incredibly welcoming and supportive, which has made my first couple of weeks really enjoyable. I'm very grateful for that. I'm excited to be part of the team and looking forward to learning and developing in the role. Helping and supporting patients is a big part of what attracted me to the post."

Richard also mentioned how lovely it's been to reconnect with familiar faces during his induction, and how proud he feels to be working within the UHBW Macmillan team once again.

🌻 Macmillan Support Centre at the Clevedon Flower Show 🌻

Over the August Bank Holiday weekend, the Macmillan Support Centre team proudly returned to the Clevedon Flower Show at Salthouse Fields. The stand welcomed more than 90 visitors, with at least 20% receiving direct support for their cancer pathway—helping them avoid a trip to the main centre and ensuring timely, compassionate care.

Patient feed back at the show :

'Your Centre is amazing 3 of my friends have received support from the centre and they have all said that the support they received made their treatment so much easier '

'Thank you for all your support it really helped when i was having a tough time '



Suzie Moon Macmillan Professional Engagement and Improvement Lead: Update from Macmillan

I am delighted to confirm that Macmillan relaunched the adoption of Professionals working with Cancer Patients in April this year, since then we have had around 50 Professionals at UHBW apply to be a Macmillan Professional.

The benefit of being a Macmillan Professional is funding towards developing skills, enhance training and ensure that clinical and non-clinical teams are aware of the very latest techniques and treatments available to Patients. Support Grants are available to purchase equipment, upgrade existing environments and create Support Groups. There are also Communities of Practice sessions usually held three times a year when best practice is discussed and valuable tried and tested methods are shared. Macmillan is committed to making sure that Professionals supporting people living with cancer are confident in their role and are able to give Patients and their families the best possible outcomes.

Macmillan also host Conferences to showcase services who are operating really efficiently, trialling new techniques, embedding new ways of working or receiving excellent Patient feedback. There is the first South West Conference taking place in October 2025 in Exeter with an exciting programme of events including speakers from the ACCEND programme, Welfare Benefits teams, Pre-hab guidelines, Looking after the Cancer Workforce and a session which I am particularly looking forward to from Char Goodwin around experiencing Breast Cancer as an Autistic person.

I'm hoping that some of the newly adopted Macmillan Professionals at UHBW are joining me at the Conference, I'm also looking forward to catching up with those who have been a Macmillan Professional for a while too.



All donations received into the Macmillan Centre are lodged with the Bristol and Weston Hospitals Charity (BWHC).



Thanks to the generous support of the BWHC grant program, we've successfully replaced our old coffee machine with a state-of-the-art Lavazza model. This upgrade has transformed our beverage service—we've already served over 675 drinks and counting! The new machine allows us to offer a wide selection, including:

- Freshly brewed tea and fruit infusions
- Classic coffees and rich hot chocolate
- Barista-style lattes and cappuccinos

It's been a brilliant addition to our space, and we're thrilled to see how much our visitors are enjoying it.



We've also received a generous grant to create memory boxes specifically for children whose grandparents are nearing the end of life. These boxes are designed to offer comfort and connection during a difficult time, similar to the ones we already provide for children facing the loss of a parent through support from another charity.

Each memory box includes:

- Two matching soft toys — one for the child and one to accompany the grandparent in the coffin, symbolising a lasting bond.
- A fingerprinting kit to preserve a unique keepsake.
- A small net pouch for collecting a hair sample.
- An age-appropriate book to help the child understand and navigate grief.



For further information or to make a donation please visit: www.bwhospitalscharity.org.uk or email: hello@bwhospitalscharity.org.uk



Celebrating Amanda Bessant's 60th Birthday

Earlier this September, we had the pleasure of celebrating a significant milestone for our esteemed Macmillan Cancer Matron, Amanda Bessant, who turned 60. Amanda spent her birthday enjoying a well-earned day off, filled with delightful surprises and cherished moments

Upon her return, the celebrations continued thanks to the thoughtful efforts of her colleagues and nursing teams. At lunchtime, Amanda was invited to the Breast Care Room for what was described as an urgent meeting. Instead, she was warmly welcomed by the Cancer Nurse teams and Macmillan Support team, who had organised a surprise buffet lunch complete with light refreshments and a few carefully chosen gifts.



Contact the Macmillan Support Centre on :
01934 881079
Ex 5079 or email :
WGHEmacmillansupport
centre@UHBW.nhs.uk

**For information,
support or just
someone to talk to,
call 0808 808 00 00
or visit
macmillan.org.uk
8am-8pm 7 days**



Later that afternoon, Amanda attended what she believed to be a routine meeting with the Senior Sister of the Day Unit. To her surprise, it was in fact a charming afternoon tea, featuring more delicious treats and tokens of appreciation.

The surprises didn't end there. Upon arriving home, Amanda was greeted with a beautiful "Bring Me Sunshine" rose from the Heads of Nurses and Matrons of Specialised Services, accompanied by a touching message thanking her for bringing sunshine into their lives



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For further information or
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These heartfelt gestures are a testament to the admiration and respect Amanda inspires across the team. We are grateful for her continued dedication and leadership, and we were delighted to mark this special occasion with her.