

# Mac News

*The latest Weston General Hospital cancer news, views  
and announcements*

## New Service for cancer patients at WGH

### 4 Free Complementary Therapy Sessions for cancer patients.

Choose from :

Reiki

Indian head massage

Reflexology

Massage

If you would like to book a  
place, please talk to a  
member of the Macmillan  
Centre Team

Tel 01934 881079



**BRISTOL  
& WESTON  
HOSPITALS  
CHARITY**



# Macmillan Coffee Mornings in N Somerset

## Council Comms Cake Crowd-puller

Following the recent news of a cancer diagnosis for a close colleague, the communications team at North Somerset Council wanted to do something positive to show support for the care being given by the Macmillan team at WGH.

They swiftly organised a bumper cake sale on 1st October with colleagues and former colleagues providing a range of delicious bakes.

The event, at Weston's Town Hall, was a great crowd-puller and they raised a fantastic £475.



Staff at **The Hawthorns Clevedon** once again held a coffee morning on behalf of the Macmillan Support Centre. Emma the Centre manager attended and chatted with various residents who had been affected by cancer some of whom had received support from the Macmillan centre. Aggie Jasinski presented Emma with a cheque £277.09 that was raised during the coffee morning.

Di, one of the cancer support workers attended a coffee morning held at ST Andrews Church hall Clevedon. Great fun was had by all, the cakes were yummy, there was a raffle, name the giant Teddy and a Jam and Chutney Sale. They raised over £2400 for Macmillan Cancer support.



The Macmillan Support Centre here in the hospital also held their annual coffee morning. Once again we were generously supported by Winnies Bakery. Thanks to the hospital staff we raised over £290.



# Colorectal Cancer Nurse Specialist team - Ceri, Madeline and Lynn

We are the colorectal cancer nurse specialists at United Hospitals Bristol and Weston based at Weston General Hospital consisting of a team of 3-soon to be 4 Macmillan sponsored nurses.

We are involved from point of cancer diagnosis (anal, rectal, colon) and continue to support patients and their carers through their treatment plan/pathway. For example surgery/chemotherapy/radiotherapy/palliative therapies.



We also run a nurse lead colorectal cancer surveillance program for patients who have had curative treatment and are on a five year follow up. This involves requesting and monitoring blood tests and investigations including CT scans, MRI scans and colonoscopies and communicating the results to our patients via a health portal where patients can also contact us.

Treatment options are continuously changing with the introduction of robotic surgery and the role of immunotherapies. Having a fourth team member will allow our service to improve and develop. Our aims are to develop nurse led clinics for post-operative patients, pre oral chemotherapy assessments, 2 week wait triage, clinics for genetic counselling for patients with hereditary cancer (Lynch syndrome).

## Fundraising on behalf of the Macmillan Support centre

**There has been some amazing fundraising for the Macmillan Centre over the past few months**

In what has become an annual event two skittle teams the Day Dreamers and the Destroyers play a charity skittles match in memory of Howard Broomhall who played for the Day Dreamers. Howard died of brain cancer in Weston hospital in 2022 and Macmillan really supported him and Hayley his partner (who plays for the Destroyers) throughout his last three months in hospital. They were so grateful for the support, so they have played a charity match against each other in his memory each year since his passing, this is arranged by his team captain, Kerry, it is always such good fun, the Day Dreamers won the first year and the Destroyers won this year, so it stands at 1 all and all to play for next year. Money is also raised throughout the summer season by holding raffles at all home matches and the big raffle and silent auction at the charity night. Next year they hope to raise even more money for Macmillan to help other patients and their loved ones going through the same struggles that they did.



In November the Congresbury Horseshow and Gymkhana raised £1500 which they split donating £1000 to the Macmillan Centre and £500 to the nurses amenity fund.



# Personalised Care & support (PCS) team update - Macmillan Conference 2024



Lesley, Claire and Di, Cancer Support Workers from Weston, had the privilege of attending this year's Macmillan conference which was held at the International Conference Centre in Wales.

The two day event began with a Welcome speech from Richard Pugh, Head of Partnership for Wales, and an Opening Address from Macmillan Chief Exec Gemma Peters. These were followed by talks from sponsor La Roche Posay about their skin-care products specifically designed with Oncology patients in mind, and Bami Adenipekun who spoke about her experience as a breast cancer patient and her mission to help everyone through equity end ensuring every voice matters.

The afternoon was made up of Breakout sessions where attendees could pre-book which session they wished to attend, from a new Thinking Ahead Programme, to Paper crafts, to Net'Walks.

Following a short break to our hotel, we were coached back to the venue for the Macmillan Professionals Excellence Awards Evening where we were wined and dined and supported all the finalists for the various categories for awards – very Oscar/BAFTA like!

Day two began with talks from Professor Tom Crosby and Acosia Nyanin discussing healthcare inequalities, followed by the first breakout session of the day.

We were then treated to a short talk from the National Garden Scheme's CEO George Plumtree, who over the years, have raised around £90 million for Macmillan.

Erin Kennedy MBE, two-time Paralympic Champion (rowing), World record holder, and breast cancer campaigner, gave an incredibly inspiring talk on Wellbeing and Resilience. We also got to meet and talk with her, and even wore one of her medals for photos! This was probably the highlight of the two days!



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**

Edited by Emma Pugh  
Macmillan Centre Manager

For further information or  
future contributions  
please email:  
[emma.pugh@uhbw.nhs.uk](mailto:emma.pugh@uhbw.nhs.uk)



We rounded off our trip with a final breakout session before heading home. All in all, an inspiring, interesting and exciting time was had by us all, and it was wonderful to feel really valued and to be part of such an incredible organisation.