



**Yorkshire Cancer  
Community**

August 2025 Edition

# VOICE



**The voice of those affected by cancer in Yorkshire and The Humber**

[www.yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk](http://www.yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk)

## Welcome to the August edition of the VOICE Newsletter

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer and all parents (and grandparents) are not feeling too stressed.

We are delighted to announce that our entry into the Picker Experience Network Awards has been shortlisted. The Awards which will be held in October at the University of Birmingham, are the only awards programme to recognise best practice in patient experience across all aspects of health and social care.

Wish us luck with our entry 'Cancer SMART' in the category Partnership Working to Improve Experience, in which we talk about the strength of working in partnership with the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance.

If you would like to know how to volunteer for Cancer SMART, please get in touch.

Best wishes

Jill, Clare and Lauren

## Contents

<b>Your Stories</b>	<b>Page</b>
Looking Ahead – An Important Update on Our Future	3
Students at Leeds West Academy's First Give charity event raised funds for us	4
Space Station Self Storage to the rescue	5
The Ella Dawson Foundation at our AGM	5
Stewart Manning is sponsoring the Ella Dawson Foundation T-shirt Competition	6
Arthur Louis Aaron VC - tribute to a war hero	7
 <b>News</b>	
Maggie's cancer centre in Leeds named one of the most beautiful buildings	9
Personalised care for people affected by cancer	10
The Patient's Association - Healthcare Jargon Buster Dictionary	11
Breast Cancer Now launch a new Moving Forward course in Hull this Autumn	12
New Living with Secondary Breast Cancer support group in Hull	13
The Yorkshire and Humber Radiotherapy Network needs your help!	14
New brain tumour support groups in Yorkshire	15
At-home cervical screening tests offered in England	17
 <b>What Have We Been Up To?</b>	18
 <b>Patient VIEW update</b>	22
 <b>Upcoming Events</b>	23

## Your Stories

### Looking Ahead – An Important Update on Our Future

As many of you will know, the NHS is entering a period of change with the rollout of its 10-Year Plan. While this brings exciting opportunities, it also creates a lot of uncertainty for some long-established healthcare services — including those we work closely with.

Because of this, the Trustees of Yorkshire Cancer Community have decided to pause recruitment for the Manager role. Although our current funding is secure for the next year, we feel it's only fair to wait until we have a clearer picture before asking someone new to take on such a key position without long-term security.

The good news is that Jill has kindly agreed to continue in her role and will no longer be stepping back this Autumn. We're incredibly grateful for her dedication and steady leadership during this time.

Yorkshire Cancer Community is still very much here for you — delivering Cancer SMART, Patient VIEW, our monthly newsletters, an ever-growing website, and helping people find the support and opportunities they need.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any fundraising skills or creative ideas that could help us build a more sustainable future, we'd love to hear from you!

### Could you become a sponsor of our newsletter?

We're excited to offer you the opportunity to sponsor our well-loved newsletter!

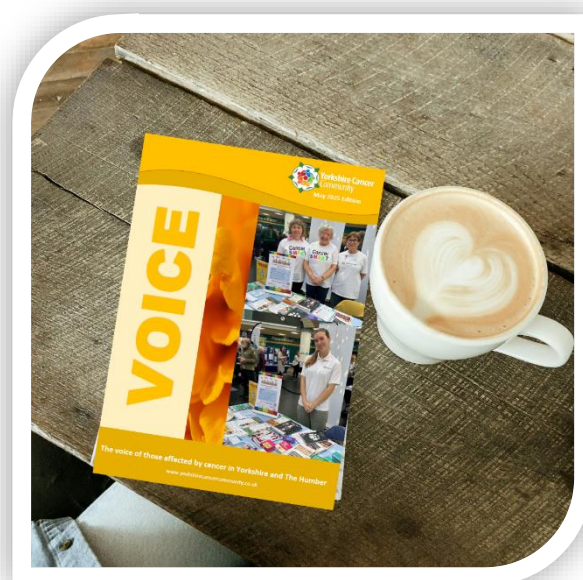
Packed with engaging content, inspiring stories, and valuable information, our newsletter continues to receive outstanding feedback. It's the perfect platform to reach a dedicated audience while supporting important initiatives, such as local support groups, research opportunities, and upcoming events.

For just £250 per issue, you can place a full-page advertisement and enjoy prominent branding with your name featured on the front cover and footer of each page.

Interested in a longer-term partnership? We offer discounted rates for six-month and full-year sponsorships, providing even greater visibility and value.

Get in touch today to learn more about how you can be part of our newsletter's continued success at

[info@yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk)





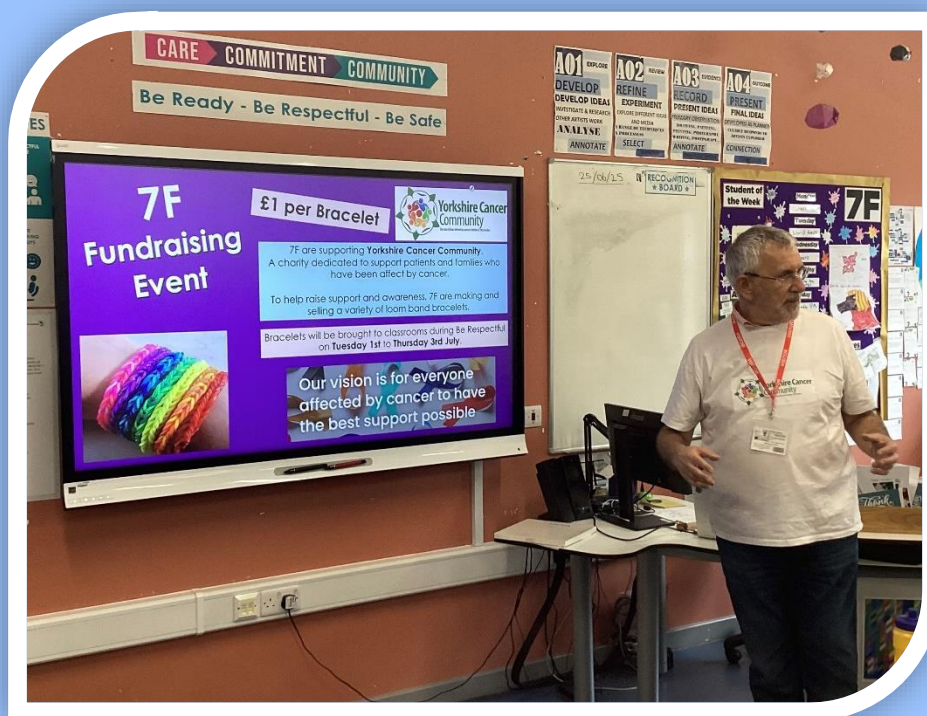
## Students at Leeds West Academy's First Give charity event raised funds for us

We wanted to say a **very big thank you** to form 7F at Leeds West Academy for their fantastic fundraising efforts.

During their First Give charity event, the pupils from form 7F nominated us as their charity of choice, and raised **£124.10** for us.

Stewart went along to talk to the students about Yorkshire Cancer Community and the work that we do to help people affected by cancer, and how we help to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer and how to reduce your risk.

The students put together a wonderful presentation on why it is important to raise money and awareness for Yorkshire Cancer Community. Three of the chosen students in the form presented this in front of 400 of their peers! It was a very exciting opportunity for them, and they did a fantastic job.



Altogether the students raised **£124.10**, and they did this with the combined efforts of a street bake sale and also by making and selling loom band bracelets. This was a brilliant team effort, and they are proud of what they have been able to raise, and rightly so.

In the presentation final, they competed against 9 other form groups trying to raise money for their chosen charity, with a £1000 grant up for grabs. We may not have won the grant, but we are truly grateful for every penny raised, and wish to thank you all for choosing us.

A school representative said "thank you again for coming in to speak with the students and thank you for helping and inspiring them. All the best to you and your charity".



## Space Station Self Storage to the rescue

Enormous thanks go to Oliver Kitson and his team at Space Station Self Storage Wakefield, for their free offer of storage space for Yorkshire Cancer Community.

The storage facility which opened recently on Denby Dale Road, Wakefield, has offered us a sizeable unit saving the charity hundreds of pounds.

Since the pandemic, the majority of charity assets including goods needed for Cancer SMART stalls have been stored at Jill's home.

Jill said she was really grateful to Oliver and the team for stepping up with this generous offer, which will mean she can regain some of her home again!



## The Ella Dawson Foundation at our AGM

At our AGM last month, we had the pleasure to welcome the lovely Tasha Dawson, from the Ella Dawson Foundation to chat about how the charity begun and the legacy they are building in Ella's name.

It was a truly inspiring discussion and presentation by Tasha, who sadly lost her sister Ella to a rare form of blood cancer in July 2021, following a two-year battle. Ella, a successful aspiring artist with a passion for travel, nature, yoga and a love for people and life was only 24 when she was diagnosed and found that wellbeing support tailored towards the unique needs of young adults with cancer in the UK was limited. Ella was determined to create a blueprint for better wellbeing support of young adults with cancer, and the Ella Dawson Foundation was created in her name.

They aim to help support young adults (18-30) to live well, feel well, eat well and move well with and beyond cancer.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from their help, please head over to their website for more information. <https://www.elladawsonfoundation.org.uk/>





## Dr Stewart Manning is sponsoring the Ella Dawson Foundation T-shirt Competition

The Ella Dawson Foundation, a charity that offers support to young people aged 18-30 with a cancer diagnosis, are running a t-shirt competition to help raise vital funds. To join in the fun, here's the link to enter the competition [Tee Me There T Shirt Competition](#)

The competition, "Tee Me There" is being sponsored by our chairman Dr Stewart Manning, in memory of a patient of his – Steven Tottie. Here's what Stewart said about him: -

"My name is Stewart Manning. I retired from a career in Leeds as a General Practitioner in 2012. Currently I am Chairman of Yorkshire Cancer Community and a Volunteer Fundraiser for St Gemma's Hospice in North Leeds. Recently I became an Ambassador for the Ella Dawson Foundation.

I looked after many people as a doctor, but one person is always prominent in my memories, and he was the bravest patient that it was my privilege to meet. He has been a major inspiration for my charity work.

His name was Steven Tottie, and I diagnosed his childhood leukaemia. After chemotherapy he had a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, he had a comparatively rare outcome. He developed "Graft Versus Host Reaction +". This is where the foreign bone marrow attacks the patient's body. Failure is more commonly due to the patient rejecting the donor bone marrow.

This outcome left Steve with multiple severe medical problems. He never complained and whenever I saw him on a regular basis, he was cheerful and positive. He grew up into adulthood with these problems. During his long illness there were no specific charities specifically for young adults aged 18 to 30 who had cancer. I know if The Ella Dawson Foundation had existed during these times it would have made a great difference to Steve's quality of life.

Steve made me a painted Canvas of Rock Bands (because he knew of my musical tastes) which hung in my GP surgery for many years and now has pride of place in my office. After Steve passed away, he left me one of his treasured possessions in his will along with a note that still brings tears to my eyes. His final message to me was "You are one of the good guys".

My bequest was an "Alien" which resides next to the canvas in my office.

I am proud to be an ambassador for The Ella Dawson Foundation and I am delighted to sponsor the Ella Dawson t-shirt competition in his memory."



ella dawson  
FOUNDATION



## Arthur Louis Aaron VC - tribute to a war hero

YCC Chairman Dr Stewart Manning has been instrumental in honouring the memory of Flight Sergeant Arthur Louis Aaron (right) with his **“Bring Him Home”** campaign. Aaron was the childhood best friend of Stewart’s father Cyril Manning and is the only Leeds servicemen to have been awarded the Victoria Cross during World War II, the nation’s highest military honour.

Aaron was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross after showing incredible bravery after his short Stirling heavy bomber came under heavy fire during a sortie to Turin, Italy on 12 August 1943. The attack killed the plane’s navigator and several crew members, and Arthur, 21, sustained fatal injuries to his face, lung and lost the use of his right arm. Despite this he managed to help guide the plane to a safe landing in Algeria, saving the lives of the rest of the crew onboard before finally succumbing to his injuries nine hours after landing.

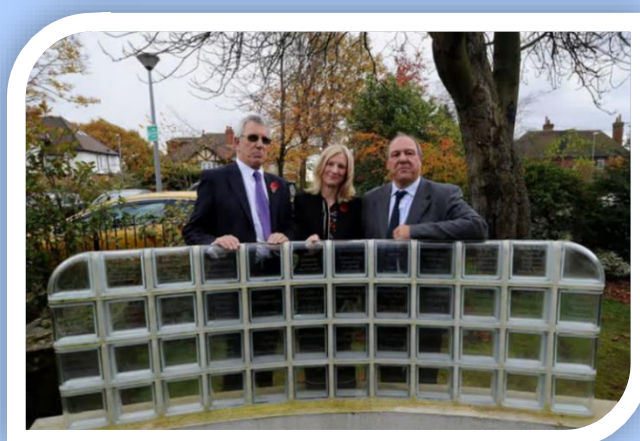


Cyril Manning often talked of his childhood friend, and Dr Stewart Manning and his brother Michael made it their mission to ensure he wasn’t forgotten.

First, Stewart campaigned to get his statue moved from its current position on a roundabout in Eastgate, Leeds to a spot by the Oakwood Clock near Roundhay School, where Arthur and Cyril were pupils. Unfortunately, this proved unsuccessful, but Martin Wainwright who originally paid for the statue gave Stewart a maquette of the statue, which is now displayed in Leeds City Museum, along with his Victoria Cross medal and a display to honour his life and achievements.



On Armistice Day in November 2019, Stewart and his brother Michael (pictured right with YCC trustee Louise) presented St Gemma’s hospice with two glass bricks for their Walls of Light, one to honour their parents and one to honour Arthur. They also set up a fund in Arthur’s name to pay for a Family Support Unit at the hospice for which Stewart is a volunteer. Stewart said ***“the people who care for patients at St Gemma’s are dedicated and heroic, mirroring the heroism and altruism in the way that Arthur handled the plane despite his injuries”.***



On 5 March 2022, on what would have been Arthur's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Stewart and Michael arranged for a blue plaque to be unveiled at Rounday School where Arthur was a pupil, and where he and Cyril Manning became friends. The plaque unveiling also helped to raise £5000 for St Gemma's hospice. Stewart said ***"it is absolutely critical that the local hero is known by those who attend his former school, and that freedom comes at a price"***. Stewart and his brother Michael have also donated an 'Arthur Louis Aaron Memorial Trophy' to Roundhay School to be awarded annually to a student who does the most for their community.



From left, Ian MacNiven, Michael and Stewart Manning, Matthew Partington Head Teacher Rounday High School, Geoff Walsh of the Yorkshire Society, Air Commodore Stuart Stirrat. Picture: Steve Riding

The brothers have also donated an Arthur Louis Aaron trophy to the RAF 208 North Leeds Cadet Squadron to be awarded to Best Cadet annually. Here we can see Stewart awarding the trophy to Cpl Gardiner for Best Cadet in March 2025.

Thanks to Stewart and Michael's determination, Arthur Louis Aaron's inspirational story will never be forgotten.





## News

### Maggie's cancer centre in Leeds named one of the planet's most beautiful buildings by TimeOut

Maggie's cancer support centre in Yorkshire has been named in TimeOut as one of the world's most beautiful buildings.

The report ranked the planet's "most pleasing, fascinating and impressive" buildings, and included iconic sites such as the Taj Mahal and Barcelona's Sagrada Familia.

Maggie's, Yorkshire, which was built in 2019 and is based in the grounds of St James's Hospital in Leeds, was described as "comforting and stunning" by TimeOut's travel writer.

Maggie's is a cancer charity providing free emotional, practical and psychological support to people with cancer, and their friends and family.

The first Maggie's support centre opened in 1996 and there are now 24 centres around the country, with three more set to open in 2025.

No appointment is needed, and people can simply drop in to speak to fully trained clinical psychologists, benefits advisors, and cancer support specialists.

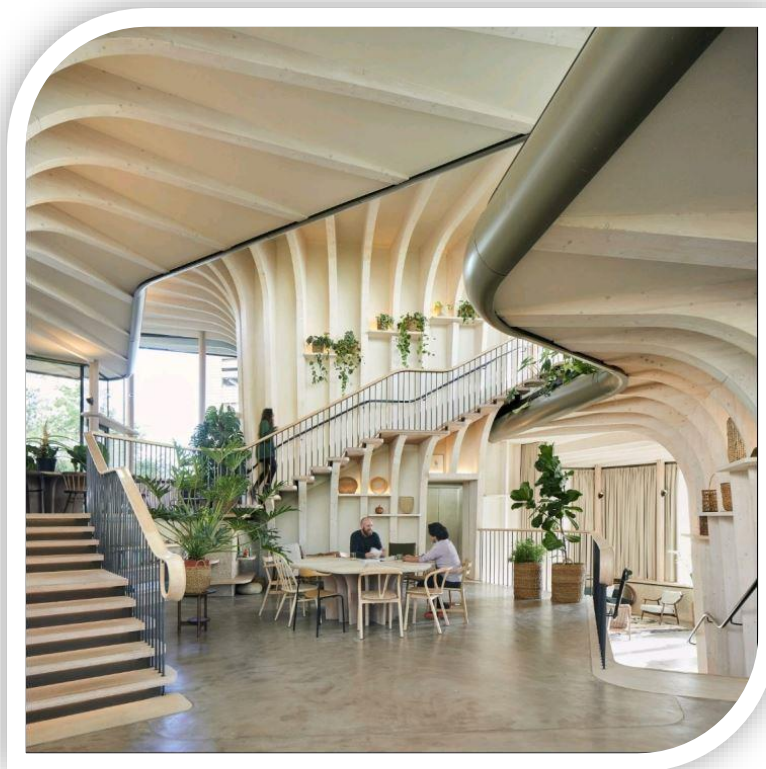
#### **Dame Laura Lee DBE, chief executive of cancer support charity Maggie's, said:**

"It is wonderful that Maggie's, Yorkshire has been recognised as one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, highlighting the incredible work of our architects, as well as acknowledging the value of the expert support our centre staff offer to thousands of people with cancer every year.

"All of our 24 centres in the UK are carefully designed to be warm and welcoming places where people with cancer, and their friends and family, can receive support from staff, meet others going through a similar experience, or simply find a moment of quiet when dealing with the fear and uncertainty a cancer diagnosis often brings.

"Those who visit our centres tell us time and again we pick them up when they are at rock bottom and help them find a way not just to survive, but to thrive, and we would encourage anyone who is living with cancer, as well as their friends and family, to drop in to one of our centres."

For more information about Maggie's and the support available please go to <https://www.maggies.org/>



## Personalised care for people affected by cancer



The Living With and Beyond Cancer team at West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance have created a short animation to explain the support that is available in local communities after a cancer diagnosis, over and above medical treatment.

It could help you to have more meaningful conversations with your health professionals and have greater choice and control over the support you receive outside of the hospital setting. This may include prehabilitation, rehabilitation, emotional wellbeing, financial, employment and housing information.

To watch the video, follow this link: <https://youtu.be/1BtWt0m8Pt0>

More information about cancer care reviews (CCR's) or holistic needs assessments (HCA's) can be found on the [Cancer Alliance website](#).

**West Yorkshire and Harrogate**  
**Cancer Alliance**





## The Patient's Association - Healthcare Jargon Buster Dictionary



**The Patients Association have very kindly put together a jargon buster dictionary designed to give straight forward explanations for many healthcare terms.**

The document was developed by their lived experience advisory panel, **Patient Voices Matter**. During its meetings, it became clear that members didn't always know the meanings of some of the words and terms they were hearing during consultations with doctors and other healthcare professionals. Letters from the NHS were identified as a source of a lot of jargon.

That's how the idea of the jargon buster came about and now they're sharing it on their website for anyone to access. They'll keep adding and updating it, as they hear more words they think need an explanation.

You can view the jargon buster dictionary here: <https://www.patients-association.org.uk/healthcare-jargon-buster>

We thought it was so useful, that we've also added it to the wellbeing page of our website too. <https://www.yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk/healthcare-jargon-buster-dictionary/>



## Breast Cancer Now launch a new Moving Forward course in Hull this Autumn



Life doesn't always return to normal after hospital treatment for primary breast cancer. The effects of diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing worries about recurrence can make everyday life feel challenging.

Support is available from Breast Cancer Now through a course offering open, supportive conversations in a safe and confidential space. It's a chance to connect with others who understand and to gain practical tools to help rebuild confidence and a sense of control.

Breast Cancer Now have a new in-person course starting in Hull in October. The course runs over two half-day Friday sessions on 17 & 24 October (10am – 1.30pm), with small groups of around 12–15 people. Sessions include a Q&A with a healthcare professional, input from trained facilitators and volunteers, and access to helpful resources through a journal and online platform.

If you'd like to come along you can register for free online [Hull Moving Forward](#) or call 0345 077 1893. We also have in-person courses in other areas around the UK and online so please click [here](#) for more information.

**BREAST  
CANCER  
NOW** The research &  
support charity



## New Living with Secondary Breast Cancer support group in Hull



Breast Cancer Now have launched a new Living with Secondary Breast Cancer support group in Hull. They say “We know a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer can mean adjusting to difficult changes in your life, and sometimes it can help to talk with other people in a similar situation. Our Living with Secondary Breast Cancer group in Hull gives you the chance to do just that, in a relaxed and supportive environment. Details for the new group:

Where: Hull Football Stadium

When: Usually the third Friday of every month

Time: 11 am-1:30 pm

Who: Around 5 to 15 people and an experienced counsellor who will be there to welcome you and facilitate

If you'd like to come along you can register online [Register for Living with Secondary Breast Cancer | Breast Cancer Now](#)

# The Yorkshire and Humber Radiotherapy Network needs your help!

The Yorkshire and Humber Radiotherapy Operational Delivery Network (ODN) is looking for people who have received or will receive radiotherapy treatment to answer a short survey.

Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/e/UcbHTXqTDD>

The ODN is conducting a survey to understand how cancer patients use online resources to research their diagnosis and treatment, particularly radiotherapy. Your responses will help improve the support available to patients in the future. The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete.

## What is the ODN?

- Radiotherapy Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) were created by NHS England in 2019
- There are 11 regional networks in England
- Yorkshire and Humber ODN (YHODN) is the local network for **Hull, Leeds and Sheffield**

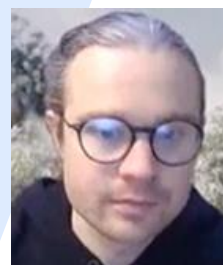
The purpose of radiotherapy ODNs is to:

- Improve regional access to modern radiotherapy treatment
- Improve patient experience
- Increase participation in research and clinical trials
- Reduce unwarranted variation in services

## The Network Team



Maddie Cook – Network Programme Manager

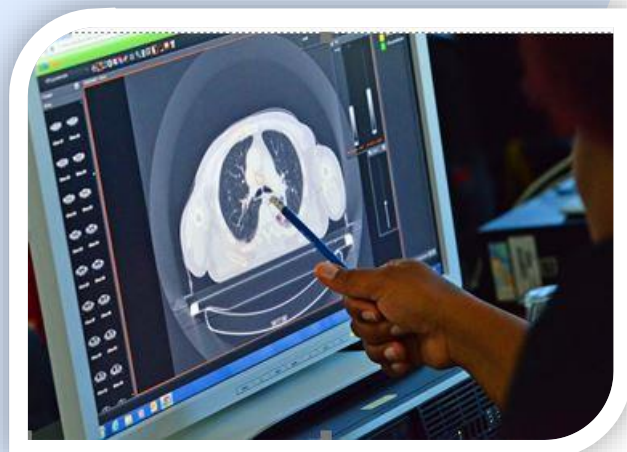


Paddy Carley – Data and Project Officer

## Get involved

If you would like to find out more about the network and how you can get involved, please contact: [leedsth-tr.yhradiotherapynetwork@nhs.net](mailto:leedsth-tr.yhradiotherapynetwork@nhs.net)

We are also looking for a patient representative to sit on our Network Oversight Group (NOG). If you are interested in providing feedback and helping shape radiotherapy care for the future, please contact: [leedsth-tr.yhradiotherapynetwork@nhs.net](mailto:leedsth-tr.yhradiotherapynetwork@nhs.net)





## New brain tumour support groups in Yorkshire

Here at Yorkshire Cancer Community we know from our members how important they find support from other people affected by cancer. In fact, that is why the forerunner to the charity was first set up in 2017 with funding from Macmillan.

We are therefore delighted to promote two new patient support groups set up by Yorkshire's Brain Tumour Charity (YBTC) which are running in Harrogate and Hull.

The Harrogate group is led by patients and the Hull group is facilitated by David, Chief Executive Officer of the Charity, who is trained in counselling and peer support.

This is what other YBTC attendees say about their groups:

"I have made lasting friendships from the support groups. I think we all offer something different to the group and our shared life experiences help us to support and understand each other."

Leigh

"The groups are a life saver as you don't feel alone."

Pooja

"YBTC have groups in different areas, where you can go for support and have a cuppa and a chat. I feel supported, accepted and no judgement."

Rachel

If anyone runs or helps at a patient support group, Yorkshire Cancer Community offer a support group leaders' network which meets online every quarter. Let us know if you would like an invite. Email [info@yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk)



### Harrogate Peer Support Group for those impacted by a brain tumour in Yorkshire.

Yorkshire's Brain Tumour Charity are here to support you and your family.  
We offer a number of peer support groups, both in person and online,  
across Yorkshire.

- A friendly, facilitated support group with peers
- Groups which run on both weekdays and weekends
- Trained group leaders, many with lived experience
- A relaxed atmosphere with no pressure to share

Our Harrogate group takes place at the  
Café Hornbeam, Yorkshire Cancer Research, on the  
2nd Friday of each month at 10:30am – 12-Midday

To book your place on this, or any of our other  
groups, please contact us.

E: [ybtcsupport@yorksbtc.org.uk](mailto:ybtcsupport@yorksbtc.org.uk)  
T: 0113 511 8111

[www.yorksbtc.org.uk](http://www.yorksbtc.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No: 1095931

Yorkshire's  
brain tumour  
charity!



### Hull Peer Support Group for those impacted by a brain tumour in Yorkshire.

Yorkshire's Brain Tumour Charity are here to support you and your family.  
We offer a number of peer support groups, both in person and online,  
across Yorkshire.

- A friendly, facilitated support group with peers
- Groups which run on both weekdays and weekends
- Trained group leaders, many with lived experience
- A relaxed atmosphere with no pressure to share

Our Hull group takes place at the  
(Butterflies) Studio 700, 15 Princess Street, on the  
3rd Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm - 4pm

To book your place on this, or any of our other  
groups, please contact us.

E: [ybtcsupport@yorksbtc.org.uk](mailto:ybtcsupport@yorksbtc.org.uk)  
T: 0113 511 8111

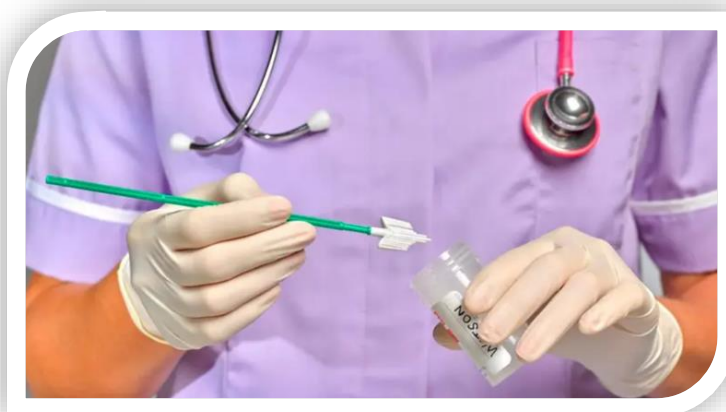
[www.yorksbtc.org.uk](http://www.yorksbtc.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No: 1095931

Yorkshire's  
brain tumour  
charity!

## At-home cervical screening tests offered in England

**Women who have delayed coming forward for cervical screening will be offered a test to be taken at home, NHS England has said.**

The DIY test kits, available from January, contain a vaginal swab similar to a long cotton-wool bud. The test is for human papillomavirus (HPV), which causes most cervical cancers, and women between the ages of 25 and 64 are offered it every few years. But more than five million women aren't up to date with the test, according to the government.



The Department for Health and Social Care in England said the scheme would tackle "deeply entrenched barriers" that keep women away from cervical screening. This can be due to embarrassment, discomfort, lack of time as well as religious or cultural concerns.

Just 68.8% of women currently take up the offer of cervical cancer screening - well below the NHS England target of 80%. Younger women, those with a disability, ethnic minority communities and LGBT+ groups are more likely to miss appointments. A recent trial showed the rollout of home test kits across England could increase the proportion screened to 77% over three years.

The Department of Health said women who had rarely or never attended cervical screening would be offered a self-sample kit to complete at home. The kits are sent out "in discreet packaging" and the return postage is pre-paid. The test checks for HPV alone, but if that's detected then women will be invited to see a doctor who will check for cell changes which could indicate cancer.

Health and Social Care secretary Wes Streeting said: "We know the earlier cancer is diagnosed the better the chances are of survival. By making screening more convenient, we're tackling the barriers that keep millions of women from potentially life-saving tests."

Michelle Mitchell, chief executive of Cancer Research UK, said "beating cervical cancer means beating it for everyone" adding that at-home testing "helps to bring us closer to that goal".



## What have we been up to?



Here's our chairman Stewart with our newest cancer champion Linda. They were at the Phoenix Dance Theatre to deliver our Cancer SMART presentation. This event was organised after Stewart attended a meeting for supporters of the Leeds Community Foundation earlier this year. We got lots of lovely feedback from this talk too.

If you would like Stewart and Linda, or any of our other cancer champions to deliver a talk or presentation to your group, please contact us at [info@yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk](mailto:info@yorkshirecancercommunity.co.uk)

Here's what some of the attendees said after the presentation: -

- **Such an important topic, it's important to break down taboos and ensure we all do what we can to protect ourselves and our loved ones**
- **I feel like it is important for people to hear about a difficult topic, which is communicated in a thorough and respectful way.**
- **It's a short and sweet session with lots of useful information that you may not otherwise come across, talk or think about.**

Health and Wellbeing event at Cambridge Road Hotel, Huddersfield

On Monday 7th July, Cancer Champions Michael and Lauren attended a health event at the Cambridge Road Hotel in Huddersfield, hosted by The Lipstick Project and Locala.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to share Cancer SMART information and raise awareness among individuals and families living in the hotel and the wider local community.



On 9 July, Lauren attended the LOCALA Learning Disability Cancer Champions Project Launch

The Learning Disability Cancer Champions Project had an inspiring start with a creative and collaborative session at Huddersfield Mission. Led by Jo Vaughan (Engagement Co-ordinator) and organised by Preeya Patel (Health Inequalities and Inclusion Lead), the session was designed to co-produce educational content with adults who have learning disabilities.



Who was involved?

- Jess and Lucy – Learning Disability Nurses from *South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*
- Support Workers from *Ability Options*
- Lauren from *Yorkshire Cancer Community*
- Supported by *Cloverleaf Advocacy*

What the session focused on:

- ◆ Defining what it means to be a Cancer Champion
- ◆ Exploring what makes a lesson engaging and effective
- ◆ Choosing inclusive and respectful language
- ◆ Planning how to celebrate progress and achievements
- ◆ Generating creative ideas for upcoming sessions

The group responded particularly well to the easy-read evaluation and consent materials, describing them as clear, helpful, and accessible.





## Spreading Awareness with Rhythm and Flavour!

On Saturday 21 June, our trustee Stephen Halstead and cancer champion Kathy Maude were proud to be part of the Vibes of the Caribbean event, raising awareness of prostate cancer through the Don't Be The One campaign. Stephen also had the pleasure of taking part in the Big Drum performances – a powerful project from **Shaping Care in Kirklees CIC**. Stephen said “it was a fantastic day, filled with great music, good food, and a brilliant turnout. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to support and learn more!”



On 17<sup>th</sup> July, our cancer champion Gordon attended the Love Your Liver event at Centenary Square in Bradford. Gordon had an information stall and was able to help share our important Cancer SMART messages of the importance of attending screening to catch cancer early, and knowing the risks of cancer and how they can be reduced by leading a healthy and active lifestyle.

See our upcoming events section to see where we will be next month.





## Cancer SMART Talk at Care to Talk – Pontefract, 18 July

On 18th July, Cancer Champion Lauren visited *Care to Talk*, a mental health support group based on the **Chequerfields Estate** in Pontefract.

*Care to Talk* is a grassroots support group offering a safe, welcoming space for people living with mental health challenges. The group meets weekly to chat, share experiences, and support one another.



The Cancer SMART talk opened some friendly and honest conversations about cancer awareness, screening, and the importance of early diagnosis. The group was incredibly engaged and open, and it was clear how much they valued being able to ask questions and share personal experiences.

Thank you to Jo and all the group members for making Lauren feel so welcome. We know that conversations like these can make a real difference — and *Care to Talk* is exactly the kind of groups where that impact begins.



Jill met up with the lovely ladies of The King's Way Church and Christian Centre, Ossett, when she went to chat about cancer awareness and how to spot the signs and symptoms. The ladies really appreciated the talk, and we were rewarded with a small donation to our charity. Thank you for your support ladies!

## Patient VIEW

### Patient VIEW Update – July

July has been a very busy and rewarding month for Patient VIEW!

On a personal note, I officially started in my role as Panel Coordinator on 22nd July 2024 — I just wanted to mark the moment here. Time really does fly when you love what you do!

Here's the latest from this month's activities...

### Patient VIEW Roadshow at BLESS Community Support

I attended a Patient VIEW roadshow at BLESS community support in Hemsworth on 1st July with West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance colleague Lisa Spivey. We talked to the group about the Quality of Life (QoL) Cancer Survey. The focus group provided valuable insights into how the current Quality of Life (QoL) Cancer Survey and its accompanying materials are perceived within their local community. The focus group emphasised that thoughtful redesign of communication materials—combined with culturally sensitive, community-led support—could greatly enhance participation in the QoL Cancer Survey. Addressing issues of trust, accessibility, and emotional timing are essential.



### Patient VIEW Meeting – 3rd July

We held our regular hybrid meeting in Leeds, which featured a special guest, Rochelle from BRCA Journeys, who shared her personal experience. Stacey from NHS West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance provided an update on the community model in Kirklees and discussed opportunities for panel members to join focus groups in other areas. Dr. Zainab, a PhD student from Hull York Medical School, presented her oral cancer screening project, which uses AI to support early detection in high-risk communities. The panel gave feedback on the project, including elements related to her NIHR fellowship.

### 'Bottoms Up' Cancer Support Group

I was glad to be able to attend Patient VIEW member John's 'Bottoms Up' cancer support group on Thursday 17th July in Wakefield. Great to see Yorkshire Cancer Community members Kathy and Stephen, and Fraser from Macmillan too. Empath Theatre joined the support group to share updates on the next stage of their 'One Day At a Time' project. They gathered valuable lived experience feedback and explored ways the group could get involved, helping to shape the upcoming performances planned for Wakefield and Leeds in Oct/Nov 2025.

## West Wakefield Market Place Network TARGET Event

It was great to attend the West Wakefield Market Place Network TARGET Event at Sandal Rugby Club on 16th July. I spent time networking with practice and PCN staff, and sharing the work of our Patient VIEW Panel and Yorkshire Cancer Community. The 'Snakes and Ladders to Attending Breast Screening' game (which was created by one of our cancer champions Emily Lunn) sparked lots of interest too.

## Tribute to Patient VIEW Member – Janet Blackledge

We are deeply saddened to share that Janet Blackledge passed away peacefully on 2nd July.

Janet was a much-valued and respected member of the Patient VIEW panel. As many of you know, she was on a palliative pathway and last joined us online for the May meeting. When her health allowed, Janet contributed with great thoughtfulness, honesty, and compassion. She had faced many challenges, yet she always used her experiences to support and empower others.

Her voice and presence meant a great deal to the Patient VIEW panel and to the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance. She will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with Janet's loved ones.



## Upcoming events

**Here's some events we have coming up this month.**

**Fri 15 August** - Talk at OPAL (Older Peoples' Action in the Locality) Bedford Drive, Leeds LS16 6DJ - 2pm-3pm

**Mon 18 August** - Stewart's talk with staff at Phoenix Dance Theatre, Leeds - 10am -12pm

Watch out for our social media posts too to keep up to date on what we've got coming up.



@YorkshireCancerCommunity



@yorkshirecancercommunity



## Walk and Talk – Skipton Castle Woods Walk, North Yorkshire – Loss to Cancer

**16 August @ 12:45 pm – 2:00 pm**

On Saturday 16th August 2025 The Loss Foundation will be hosting an informal walk and talk event at Skipton Castle Woods in North Yorkshire.

### Who is this walk for?

This walk is for adults (18+) who have lost a loved one to cancer. It's a space to connect with others who truly understand, in a supportive and relaxed environment.

### Where are we walking?

The walk will be through Skipton Castle Woods. The walk will last approximately an hour, and is designed to be gentle and enjoyable. The walk is on relatively even ground, but there are some areas where it would not be suitable for wheelchairs.



### Feeling nervous?

We understand that joining a group like this might feel daunting – it's completely normal to feel unsure. Many of our walkers have felt the same way at first. Rest assured, this is a welcoming and supportive space. You can take things at your own pace, and there's no pressure to talk more than you feel comfortable. Here is a quote from one of our previous walkers:

*"It was a small enough group that we could engage in deeper conversation. We all went for coffee afterwards. Honestly, the best grief event I've ever attended. Thank you Loss Foundation!!"*

### What to expect:

- A small group of up to 8 walkers to keep things intimate and comfortable.
- A friendly volunteer host who will walk and chat with you, making sure everyone feels at ease.
- The chance to spend time outdoors with people who've experienced similar loss.

We ask that you let us know in advance if you'd like to bring a guest (as spaces are limited) and kindly note that pets and children cannot join the walk.

### Do I need to be an experienced walker?

Not at all! This walk isn't about fitness or speed. It's about being outdoors, meeting others, and finding comfort in shared experiences. Whether you're a seasoned walker or a total beginner, you're very welcome.

### Ready to join us?

Visit <https://thelossfoundation.org/event/walk-and-talk-skipton-castle-woods-walk-north-yorkshire-loss-to-cancer/> to book your place.





# SUMMER SWEAT

## Virtual Challenge

**Join our virtual challenge around  
Yorkshire**

Starting from 1 Aug until 31 Aug 2025  
Run, jog, walk

**Sign up to support your local  
Harrogate and District Cancer  
Health and Wellbeing Service**

Registration £20 per person  
(AAC service user discount £10 per person)

Active Against Cancer is part of the HDFT cancer services and has been delivering expert individual and group exercise and wellbeing sessions for over 6 years. To help support this unique, amazing and invaluable cancer service, why not join us in working up a "SWEAT" this August, pop on your walking shoes, lace up your trainers, hopefully no waterproofs needed!

**1 AUG  
TO  
31 AUG  
2025**



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**



## **2025 Course Dates – Tuesdays, 1.30pm til 3pm**

(1.5 hours per week for 7 weeks on Microsoft Teams):

**28<sup>th</sup> January – 18<sup>th</sup> March; 6<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> June**

**2<sup>nd</sup> September – 21<sup>st</sup> October**

### **To book contact:**

**Harrogate:** Contact the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service – 01423 557317 or email [hdft.cancerinformation@nhs.net](mailto:hdft.cancerinformation@nhs.net)

**Calderdale and Huddersfield:** Contact the Macmillan Information & Support Service on 01484 343614, 01422 222709 or email [cancer.information@nhs.net](mailto:cancer.information@nhs.net)

**Leeds:** Contact your Specialist Cancer Nurse in Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust or email the Macmillan Information Centre on the Bexley Wing - [leedsth-tr.cancersupport@nhs.net](mailto:leedsth-tr.cancersupport@nhs.net)

**Mid Yorkshire:** Contact the Macmillan Cancer Support Centre on 01924 546072 or 01924 512204 or email [midyorks.macmillan.infocentre@nhs.net](mailto:midyorks.macmillan.infocentre@nhs.net)