

brain tumour

across
yorkshire

research and support

We are Yorkshire's leading brain tumour charity, providing funds for brain tumour research and patient support.

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5 X 10 = £7,300

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BTRS NEWSLETTER JULY 2013

Welcome...

...to the new format BTRS tri-yearly newsletter that will keep you updated with just some of the work we are doing, the news we want to share and the fundraising fun that Yorkshire's leading brain tumour charity supporters have been involved with over recent months.

If you don't know us and are interested in finding out more, you can contact Rachel Wilson, our Office Manager, who will be

happy to help you understand how we can help you or your family if you are undergoing, or have undergone, brain tumour treatment, or if you want to support the work we do by volunteering or fundraising: rachel@btrs.org.uk

Carol Robertson, our Charity Development Manager, is busy working on new partnerships to drive forward the brain tumour research taking place in Yorkshire as well as organising some of the great fundraising events BTRS

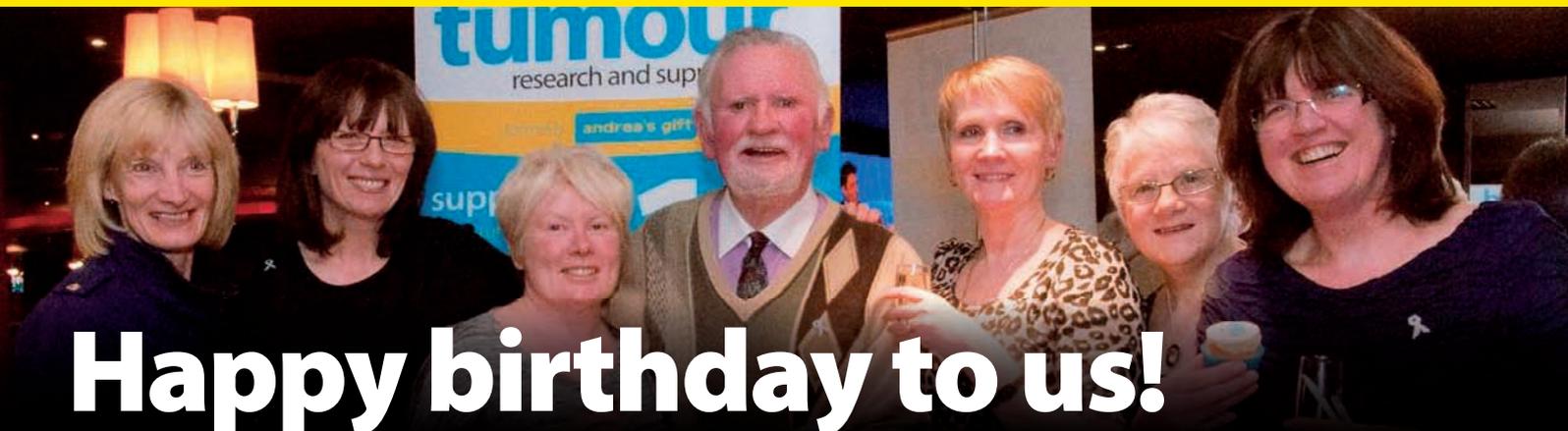


RACHEL WILSON



CAROL ROBERTSON

are holding throughout the year – you can find out more about these on our events page on the website: <http://events.btrs.org.uk>



Happy birthday to us!

BTRS celebrated its 10th birthday with a party at the Grosvenor Casino, Leeds.

Founded in 2003, and originally named Andrea's Gift, BTRS is actually the UK's largest regional charity offering a holistic service to all brain tumour patients, adults and children, as well as their families and carers, through support and research.

BTRS is committed to giving support to those in need across the Yorkshire and Humber region, ranging from physical interventions to online information, advice and guidance. In addition BTRS co-funds, with Candlelighters, the Translational Neuro Oncology Group at Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine.

"Over the past 10 years BTRS has met many incredible people and has also been forced to say goodbye to some of the most inspirational people I have ever met, who have bravely and valiantly fought this dreadful disease with dignity and courage," says Carol Robertson, one of the founding members of the charity and Charity Development Manager.

"We have raised almost £1.8m and are very proud of the brain tumour research lab based at the Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine. When we started on this journey, I don't think any of us thought we would achieve

what we have. The success of BTRS comes down to the tenacity and determination of our supporters and that is what makes our achievements both special and personal."

The number of people coming to BTRS for support continues to grow; the charity has a strategy that will see it, over the next 10 years, work at increasing brain tumour awareness, campaigning for a higher level of funding for brain tumour research nationally and ensuring those people in Yorkshire and Humber that are diagnosed with a brain tumour have a more positive prognosis – the facts are frightening and need to change.



Where did you get that hat?

The BTRS team always enjoys Wear A Hat day, which takes place in March, Brain Tumour Awareness Month. And this year, we were delighted to welcome two Yorkshire MPs to the party.

Throughout March, Charity Development Manager Carol Robertson and Office Manager Rachel Wilson encourage people to take part in the awareness-raising campaign. Yorkshire MPs Ed Balls, Shadow Chancellor and Labour MP for Morley and Outwood, and Fabian Hamilton, Labour MP for Leeds North East, visited the Translational Neuro-oncology Group at Leeds Institute for Molecular Medicine to find out more about the biggest cancer killer of the under-40s, which receives less than 1% of central government funding towards research.

"We estimate that over 1,000 people a year are diagnosed with a brain tumour in the Yorkshire and Humber region," says Carol. "Once our brain tumour fighters, their families and carers realise the low amount of funding made available for research many of them contact their MPs to lobby for change. Across our region we are finding more and more MPs are interested in the brain tumour



ED BALLS MP AND FABIAN HAMILTON MP (SECOND AND THIRD FROM LEFT) AND CAROL ROBERTSON (FAR LEFT) MEET SOME OF THE TRANSLATIONAL NEURO ONCOLOGY GROUP AT LEEDS INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR MEDICINE

concerns of their constituents; this is why raising awareness is so important."

In a week when budgets were high on the agenda for Ed Balls, he still found time to meet with the team at BTRS and visit the Institute. "I'm delighted to have been able to join local campaigners to mark this Awareness Month" he said. "Wear a Hat Day is

an opportunity for people to show their support to local brain tumour charities and our fantastic research lab here in Leeds which supports patients and their families from across the region. I will continue to work with local campaigners to do more to ensure there is a national centre of excellence for research in this area, and more support for those affected by this devastating disease."

5 x 10 = £7,300

When Susie Watson's world was turned upside down in May of last year, BTRS was there to help.

During one of the many hospital visits that became part of everyday life Susie saw a poster for BTRS across Yorkshire, Yorkshire and Humber's leading brain tumour charity, and decided she would give them a call. Soon Susie and Scott were part of the monthly support group in Leeds.

"BTRS were so welcoming, and the other patients and their family members at the support group were just so keen to chat and get to know us," says Susie. "It really helped us and soon we became part of a 'family' that no one really wants to be part of, but that all help each other to face the situation they're in."

Scott wanted give something back to BTRS and set himself a target at the beginning of

this year to run five sponsored 10k races, one each weekend throughout March, Brain Tumour Awareness Month, and an impressive 50k in total.

He also set himself the additional challenge of completing each race in under 40 minutes, and was determined to raise £5,000 for BTRS.

His plans were slightly hindered by the snowy weather: he completed Blackpool, Sheffield, Dronfield and Ennis in Ireland, but the Bradford 10k on 24 March was snowed off and Scott had to replace it with the Bolton 10k on Sunday 21 April. But he used the delay to persuade further sponsors to donate, and his total raised now stands at over £7,300.

"We can't believe how generous colleagues,



friends and family have been – even strangers have donated and supported a great cause," says Scott. "When you know that less than 1% of national cancer research spend is given to brain tumour research yet it is the biggest cancer killer of the under-40s you have to do something to help. BTRS offers caring support at such a difficult time for Susie and I – the least I could do was get my trainers on and do a little bit of running."

sponsored
canal walk
13th October 2013 | 10km or 10m

Family friendly event
along the banks of the
Leeds Liverpool Canal
Registration: 9.00am at Kirkstall
Contact rachel@btrs.org.uk
for more details

The BIG Bike Ride



The BTRS Big Bike Ride 2013 took place on a very wet and soggy Saturday in May. Over 100 people cycled the 65 miles from Wetherby to Scarborough – and eight hardy souls even cycled back again!

Some cyclists have done the ride every year since it started nine years ago, some were cycling for us for the first time – and some

may never cycle again after the appalling weather conditions they experienced. But people didn't get downhearted: they just pedalled on to raise funds for us, and the money keeps coming in.

We'd like to thank everyone that took part and those that volunteered along the way. Special thanks go to our corporate sponsors

the Bedfords Group, who ensured those people choosing to return to Wetherby by coach were reunited with their bikes when they got there.

The BTRS Big Bike Ride will take a circular route next year; more information will be shared with you in future newsletters.

BTRS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Par excellence

We're delighted that Sir Ian Botham, one of our patrons, will join our Annual Golf Day on Thursday 5 September at Sandmoor Golf Club, Leeds, to celebrate our 10th anniversary year.

Sir Ian will address the golfers and hopes that this will be the most successful golf day in the charity's history.

Registration begins at 11.00am and includes a bacon sandwich and coffee. There will be a shotgun start at 12.30pm and the day will end with a three-course prize-giving dinner from 6.00pm.

The cost for a team of four will be £500.00. Please contact carol@btrs.org.uk for further information.

Catwalk queens

Save the date: Wednesday 6 November – fashion show. BTRS will be getting you ready for winter and the party season with its *Winter Days and Party Nights* fashion show at the Leeds Marriott Hotel. This glittering event will start at 6.30pm – if you'd like to strut your stuff on the catwalk, do let us know: contact Rachel at rachel@btrs.org.uk

Run For All York 10K

BTRS is one of the official charity partners of this invigorating alternative to an open-topped bus tour. Runners will pound the historic streets taking in some of the city's most iconic landmarks, including York Minster, the city walls, Clifford's Tower and the Shambles.

BTRS has 30 charity places available at a cost of

£22.00 each (includes a running vest or t-shirt) and, as part of its 10th anniversary celebrations, has set runners the 10:10 Challenge: get 10 friends to sponsor you £10.00.

For further information, please contact Rachel at rachel@btrs.org.uk

If you fancy seeing York from a different perspective, why not enter the Run For All York 10K on Sunday 4 August?



Text BTRS11
plus your donation
to 70070

All you have to do is text the BTRS code (BTRS11), along with your donation amount, to 70070. For example, to donate £10 to BTRS, you would send the text BTRS11 10 to the number 70070.

Please note: Donations can only be in the amount of £1, £2, £3, £4, £5, and £10. This donation amount will then be charged to your phone bill as usual (or deducted from your pay-as-you-go credit). To claim Gift Aid on your donation just follow the instructions in the reply text from JustTextGiving.

JustTextGiving
by vodafone



Here to support you...

The current BTRS Patient Support Group is held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Wellington Street, Leeds. This informal meeting is an opportunity for those affected by a brain tumour to come along and chat to other people who have a shared experience. Some meetings involve a guest speaker and there will be a clinical nurse specialist on hand to answer questions. Patients who wish to come along are welcome to bring a relative or friend with them – all will be provided with refreshments.

As part of the ongoing development of BTRS, the charity is working to set up Support Suppers across other parts of West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire to ensure patients, family members and carers don't have to travel as far to get the support these events offer. Initially Support Suppers will take place in York and Huddersfield; once dates are arranged, they will be promoted on the events page of the website: <http://events.btrs.org.uk>



Throw another shrimp on it

On 6 August 2013 from 6pm BTRS will hold its annual patient support family BBQ at Weetwood Hall, Leeds; fun for everyone that has been affected by a brain tumour across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Please do come along and be part of this great event. To find out more contact rachel@btrs.org.uk

Research update

The Neuro Oncology Translational Research group was formed under the leadership of scientist Dr Sean Lawler in January 2011 with funding from BTRS (then called Andrea's Gift) and Leeds children's cancer charity Candlelighters. With the backing of the University of Leeds, there are now 20 scientists researching different aspects of brain tumours.

The team includes the appointment of Professor Susan Short who arrived in Leeds in 2012 from University College London. Professor Short brings a wealth of experience to the team and combines her work as a leading scientist with a clinical interest, spending half of her time in the lab and half treating patients in the Bexley Wing, at St James's Institute of Oncology, Leeds.

In April 2013, Sean Lawler reluctantly left the lab to return to the US after being offered a

position at Harvard Medical School. We were very sad to see Sean leave; everyone at BTRS is so grateful for his work, commitment and the infrastructure he has built. We are indebted to him for coming to Leeds and having a clear vision that we will become a world-renowned centre of excellence in neuro oncology.



Tax-free giving with Gift Aid!

Increase the value of your donation by more than 25% – and it won't cost you a penny!

As long as you are a UK taxpayer, Brain Tumour Research and Support can claim back at least 25p for every £1 you give, at no extra cost to you. All you need to do is complete this form and return it to Brain Tumour Research and Support. Thank you.

First name: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Amount donated £ ____ . ____

I want all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise.

Signed _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____



To qualify for Gift Aid, the amount that you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year.

Please make cheques payable to: Brain Tumour Research and Support

Mail to:
Suite 24, The Tannery,
91 Kirkstall Road, Leeds LS3 1HS

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