

INTOUCH



In This Issue

2026 Liverpool Chester
Liverpool Bike Ride

Sun safety

Bowel cancer campaign

A perfect day down to a tee

INTOUCH

A World of Research 03

2026 Liverpool Chester Liverpool Bike Ride 05

Know the symptoms of Lung Cancer 08

A perfect day down to a tee 09

Investigating Head & Neck Cancers 11

SPF in the North West 12

A new chapter for Kidscan 16

Cervical Cancer Research 17

Bowel Cancer Campaign 19

A night like no other 23

700 singing in Southport 25

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of InTouch. We're continually thankful for our great supporters & fundraisers, our dedicated Committees and the people who share their touching stories with us.

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North West Cancer Research Centre, Liverpool Science Park, 131 Mount Pleasant, L3 5TF **0151 709 2919** www.nwcr.org Registered Charity Number 519357



Wirral

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An exciting collection of
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Cancer Research.

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Monday 2nd
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Tuesday 3rd
9.30am – 3pm

November 2026

Hulme Hall

Port Sunlight, CH62 5DH



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In support of

north west
cancer research



ONE DAY, A WORLD OF RESEARCH

Around 100 researchers, academics, clinicians, students and supporters joined us at Edge Hill University for the 2026 North West Cancer Research Symposium.

The day began with perhaps the most important perspective of all. A patient who had been through a cancer diagnosis shared her experience, providing a powerful reminder of the people behind the research before a packed programme of talks and discussions got underway.

And there was plenty to talk about. The morning explored everything from supporting families affected by childhood cancer to biomarkers that could signal a person's final days, before attention turned to progress in gynaecological cancer research, spanning prevention, earlier diagnosis and potential new approaches to treatment.

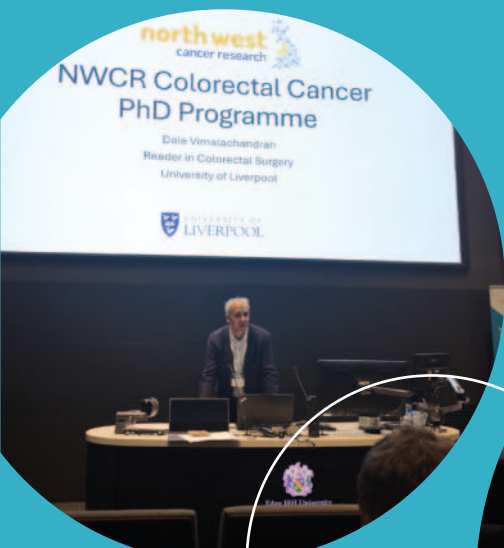
FROM THE LAB TO THE COMMUNITY

After lunch, attendees could choose between two parallel sessions: "In the Lab" and "In the Community".

On one side, researchers explored the biology of cancer, including how it spreads and potential targets for treatment. On the other, discussions covered psychological wellbeing following a cancer diagnosis, the effects of chemotherapy and inequalities in cancer outcomes.

The venue was filled with a continual stream of scientific discussion, presented in an open and welcoming manner where questions and collaborations were encouraged.

By the end of the day, conversations had crossed laboratories, clinics and communities, bringing together people approaching cancer from very different directions but with the same ambition. Attendees were already asking when they could apply to join us again next year. After another thought-provoking symposium, we'd call that a pretty good peer review.



RESEARCHERS INVESTIGATE NEW ROUTE TO DELIVER TREATMENT TO THE BRAIN

Professor Kamalinder Singh and her team at the University of Lancashire are investigating a new approach to treating glioblastoma, including whether treatment could be delivered to the brain through the nose.

Glioblastoma, or GBM, is the most aggressive form of brain cancer. It grows quickly, is highly complex and responds poorly to existing treatments including surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Most patients survive for around 15 months following diagnosis, with very few living beyond five years.

Part of the challenge is getting treatment to where it needs to go.

SWITCHING OFF CANCER GENES

The brain has a natural defence called the blood-brain barrier. While it helps protect the brain, it can also prevent drugs from reaching a tumour.

Professor Singh's team is exploring the use of RNA interference, or RNAi. The technique uses tiny genetic molecules called siRNAs to 'switch off' harmful genes that help cancer grow and survive.

Cancer cells are highly adaptable and can switch to alternative survival routes when one pathway is blocked. The researchers will therefore target multiple pathways, as shutting down several survival routes at once could make it much harder for the tumour to grow and spread.

To carry the siRNA into tumour cells, the team has developed tiny fat-based particles called lipid nanoparticles, thousands of times smaller than the width of a human hair.

Researchers will test two ways of getting them into the brain. One uses an intravenous

injection designed to cross the blood-brain barrier. The other uses the nose as a more direct route.

The treatments will first be tested using tumour cells taken from GBM patients following surgery and grown as advanced three-dimensional models in the laboratory. Animal studies will then investigate how well the treatments reach the brain and whether they can shrink tumours.

If successful, the research could pave the way towards a minimally invasive treatment that simultaneously blocks several of the tumour's survival mechanisms, offering the potential to extend survival and improve quality of life for people with glioblastoma.

We're so proud to be backing new and exciting developments in the research scene. Find out more about the research we fund at: nwcrc.org/what-we-do/current-research



2026 LIVERPOOL CHESTER LIVERPOOL BIKE RIDE RAISES £93,000 FOR NORTH WEST CANCER RESEARCH

Thousands of cyclists took on the Liverpool Chester Liverpool (LCL) Bike Ride on Sunday 5 July, raising £93,000 for North West Cancer Research, the highest total since the charity took over running the event.

Riders chose from five routes ranging from a five-mile family-friendly tunnel ride to a 100-mile challenge, with support from sponsors Home Bargains, Princes and Oliver & Co. The event has been a fixture in the North West's calendar for more than 30 years, raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for local charities along the way.

The event's future looked uncertain in 2024, when the previous operator went into administration and the ride was cancelled. North West Cancer Research stepped in to bring it back in 2026, and this year's total has already topped last year's.

Among this year's riders was Owen McGreevy, a PhD researcher at the University of Liverpool whose work is funded by North West Cancer Research. He completed the 50-mile route with his mum and dad.

"Taking part in the Liverpool Chester Liverpool Bike Ride was an unforgettable

experience. Cycling with my parents while raising money for a charity that has supported my research made the day incredibly meaningful," Owen said.

"Like so many families, ours has been affected by cancer, so it was a privilege to play a small part in helping fund research that could improve outcomes for patients across our region. Seeing so many people come together for the same cause was truly inspiring."

Alastair Richards, CEO at North West Cancer Research, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with the success of this year's Liverpool Chester Liverpool Bike Ride. Raising £93,000 is an incredible achievement and reflects the generosity and dedication of everyone who took part, volunteered, donated and supported the event.

"It has been fantastic to see the event continue to grow following its return last year.

"The Liverpool Chester Liverpool Bike Ride means so much to communities across the region, and every pound raised will help us continue funding pioneering cancer research and education here in the North West."

"A huge thank you to every rider, volunteer, sponsor and supporter who helped make this year's event such a success. We can't wait to welcome everyone back again next year."



A GRAND AFTERNOON FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Food, fizz, live music and fundraising. The Southport Committee knows how to fill an afternoon.

Supporters gathered at The Grand in Southport for an afternoon of good company, entertainment and, of course, to try their luck in the raffle.

It was the sort of event our local committees do so well, bringing familiar faces and new supporters together around a cause that matters to the whole community.

And there was a very good reason for getting everyone together. By the end of the afternoon, an impressive £3,100 had been raised for North West Cancer Research, helping to support cancer research across the region.

A big thank you to the Southport Committee for putting it all together, to presenter Paul Crone for his support and to everyone who

came along, bought a raffle ticket and helped make the afternoon such a success.

Find ideas and support for organising your own fundraiser at: nwcr.org/get-involved



KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF LUNG CANCER



Lung cancer has a significant impact across our region, with rates in the North West 25% higher than the rest of England.

There are usually no signs or symptoms in the early stages of lung cancer, but symptoms can develop as the condition progresses. Knowing what to look out for can help you recognise when something may need checking.

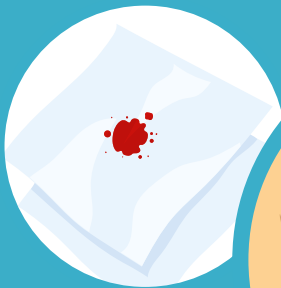
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS CAN INCLUDE:

- A cough that won't go away, lasting three weeks or more
- Shortness of breath or persistent breathlessness
- Coughing up blood, even small amounts
- Chest or shoulder pain, especially when breathing or coughing
- Unexplained weight loss
- Chest infections that keep coming back or don't get better
- Loss of appetite
- Feeling very tired all the time

No one knows what feels normal for your body better than you. If you notice a change in your breathing, a new or persistent cough, or anything else that feels unusual for you, don't ignore it.

Many of these symptoms can be caused by conditions other than cancer, but it is important to get them checked.

If you have any concerns about the signs and symptoms of lung cancer, please visit your GP. For more information: nwcrc.org/cancer-types/lung-cancer



THE PERFECT DAY, DOWN TO A TEE

A remarkable fundraising effort inspired by one Warrington family's cancer journey has raised an incredible £80,000 for North West Cancer Research following a charity golf day and gala dinner at The Mere Golf Resort & Spa.

The event, organised by Laurence Barrow, Managing Director of Warrington-based Barrow Electrical, brought together businesses, sponsors, golfers and volunteers from across the North West to help fund vital cancer research in our region.

The fundraising initiative was inspired by Laurence's wife, Claire, who was diagnosed with a stage two glioma, a form of brain cancer, in 2025 before undergoing major surgery and treatment at The Walton Centre.

Since then, the family have become passionate supporters of North West Cancer Research.

Speaking after the event, Laurence said: "It was everything I hoped it would be, and so much more.

"To every single sponsor, golfer, volunteer and every person who supported us in any way... thank you. You helped raise an incredible £80,000 for North West Cancer Research.

"That money will fund life-changing research right here in the North West and help bring hope to so many families."

THE BEST DAY, BY PAR

The day featured an 18-hole championship golf competition, followed by a gala dinner and auction, with fantastic backing from businesses across the region.

Headline sponsors included Vanliners, CAMS, Alan C Davies and Jacob & Co, alongside dozens of other businesses who supported the event through sponsorship, donations and prizes.

Laurence added: "This wasn't just about one golf day. It's about giving families hope. It's about funding research. It's about changing lives. And we're only just getting started."

Following the success of the inaugural event, plans are already underway to do it all again in 2027.

For us at North West Cancer Research, support like this makes an enormous difference. Every pound raised helps fund pioneering research across the North West and North Wales, supporting work into cancer prevention, earlier diagnosis and better treatments.



For Laurence and Claire, the £80,000 total represents far more than a fundraising figure. It is a thank you for the care their family has received, and a way of helping create hope for others facing a cancer diagnosis.

We cannot thank Laurence, Claire, Barrow Electrical, every sponsor, golfer, volunteer and supporter enough for making the day such an incredible success.



RESEARCHERS INVESTIGATE HOW HPV-RELATED HEAD AND NECK CANCERS HAVE CHANGED

More than a decade ago, Professor Andrew Schache and researchers at the University of Liverpool studied oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma, or OPSCC, a head and neck cancer affecting areas including the tonsils and base of the tongue.

They found that around half of cases were caused by human papillomavirus, better known as HPV. Between 2002 and 2011, the total number of cancers doubled, with increases in both HPV-associated and HPV-unrelated cases.

Those findings helped inform UK health policy, including the decision to extend HPV vaccination to school-age boys.

Now, with funding from North West Cancer Research, Professor Schache and his team are revisiting the data to see how the picture has changed.

A CHANGING PICTURE

Head and neck cancer has a disproportionate impact in our region. Prevalence in the North West is 17% higher than the rest of England, making it the fourth most over-indexed cancer type in the region.

HPV is very common but most people clear the infection naturally. Sometimes, however, it persists and can eventually lead to cancer.

The new project will analyse almost 3,000 samples from patients diagnosed between 2012 and 2021 across 12 large UK centres. The samples will be tested using methods consistent with the earlier study, allowing researchers to compare the two decades. The team will examine changes in HPV-associated and HPV-unrelated cancers, as well as the HPV types involved.

The work will also provide an important reference point for understanding the long-term impact of HPV vaccination. Because these cancers can take many years to develop, the full benefits of vaccination will take time to become clear.

By showing how the causes of OPSCC are changing, the project could help guide future prevention and cancer service planning. Find out more about the research we fund at: nwcr.org/what-we-do/current-research



SPF, EVEN IN THE NORTH WEST

For the second year running, our Protect with SPF campaign returned across the North West, reminding people how to enjoy time outside safely.

The weather up North can be unpredictable, so it's only natural that we want to make the most of it when it's warm and dry. But whether it's sunny or cloudy, UV rays can still damage skin and increase the risk of developing skin cancer.

That message matters in our region. Skin cancer prevalence across the North West is 13% higher than the national average, while Liverpool has the highest levels of melanoma in the region and Cumbria also experiences particularly high rates.

PROTECT WITH SPF

There are simple things we can all do to protect ourselves and reduce our risk of skin cancer. Our campaign encourages people to use a high-factor sunscreen of at least SPF30 and reapply it regularly, even on cloudy days, alongside wearing light, long-sleeved clothing, a sunhat and sunglasses and limiting time in the sun during the strongest part of the day.

This year, we took that message online with videos and social content featuring familiar voices from across the region. Children once again helped remind the grown-ups about sun protection, reflecting an important part of the campaign: adults can sometimes spend so much time teaching children about sun safety that they forget about it themselves.

The campaign also headed into local communities, where our team spoke with families, handed out sunscreen and shared practical information about protecting their skin.

Whether enjoying a day out in the North West or simply spending time outdoors closer to home, the message remains the same: Wear at least SPF30, whether sunny or cloudy, and enjoy the sun safely.

Find sun safety advice, information on skin cancer signs and more at: nwc.org/protectwithspf



SHARING SUN SAFETY AT SIOE MÔN*

* That's Anglesey in Welsh!

Our team headed to Sioe Môn this summer to meet people from across the local community, with cancer information and support available in both Welsh and English.

Throughout the show, visitors stopped by to chat, ask questions and learn more about our work. It was an opportunity to disseminate cancer information and raise awareness of our life-saving research, education and prevention work across the region.

Sun safety was also an important part of the conversation. Whether it is sunny or cloudy, UV rays can still damage skin, so we reminded visitors about simple ways to reduce their risk of skin cancer, including using sunscreen of at least SPF30 and reapplying it regularly.

Sioe Môn gave us another valuable opportunity to speak directly with people across North Wales and share practical health information within the community.

Diolch to everyone who stopped by to see us!



A SPLASH OF HOPE

On 13th July pupils and staff from Mab Lane Primary school threw themselves into a whole-school Hope Colour Run, turning fundraising into something considerably brighter than the average PE lesson.

The event raised an impressive £2,488 for cancer research across the North West, with the whole school getting involved.

Behind the scenes, class teacher Stephen Morgann helped bring it all together, organising the event with staff and making sure everyone could play their part.

The result? Plenty of colour, a brilliant school effort and a fundraising total well worth celebrating.

Full marks to Mab Lane. Although possibly not for keeping their uniform clean.



GOING THE DISTANCE FOR SI

The Pub to Pub Half Marathon saw runners take on 13.6 miles of mixed terrain and nearly 500 metres of ascent, all for a very special reason.

Starting at The Swan in Tarporley, the route followed parts of the Sandstone Trail before finishing at The Lion in Malpas.

The event was held in memory of Si Lees Jones, who sadly passed away in October 2024. Family, friends and supporters came together to celebrate Si's life, taking on the challenging route in his memory.

Together, they raised a remarkable £9,943 for North West Cancer Research, helping to support cancer research across the North West.

Our thanks go to the team at Bear Inns, everyone who helped bring the event to life and, of course, every runner who went the distance for Si.

Feeling inspired? Find out how you can take on a challenge of your own and support cancer research at: nwc.org/get-involved



SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGH THEIR CANCER JOURNEY

In July 2025, North West Cancer Research and KidsCan joined forces to work together to transform the way childhood cancer is treated and support families on their cancer journeys.

Since then, we have made important steps towards funding new, vital research into improving existing treatments and next generation therapies as well as launching our vital programme, KidsCan Connect.

KidsCan Connect brings families together through events, days out and ward visits. Something as simple as an afternoon out, the kind of thing most families take for granted, becomes something extraordinary. A moment of pure joy. A memory made in spite of everything.

Most recently, we have hosted children, siblings and parents for afternoons filled with bowling, water sports and of course plenty of smiles and cake! These events highlight the importance of moments like these, to families facing the hardest journey they will ever go on. We are extremely proud to be able to provide a reason to smile on days what it's needed the most.

KidsCan Chair, Paul Moonan's Epic Adventure

On 5th October, KidsCan Chair, Paul Moonan, will head off on an epic adventure, taking on a five day hut-to-hut trek through the Picos de Europa, Spain. The challenge will see Paul trekking 70km with a total elevation of approximately 4,450m.



Paul is passionate about supporting the charity's work to help children and their families facing the devastating impact of childhood cancer, while funding research to improve treatments for young patients.

Paul said "I am excited, nervous and daunted! My training has been challenging, however, it is nice being able to raise money for KidsCan. KidsCan is an amazing charity that provides fantastic support for young people and their families who are undertaking very difficult journeys." Paul's fundraising target could enable KidsCan to fully support a one-year research project undertaken by a university student, leaving a lasting legacy and changing the cancer journey for children and their families.

With a challenging trek ahead, Paul knows there will be tough moments on the trail but with every step helping to support KidsCan's vital work, he has plenty of motivation to reach the finish line.

Donate today and help paul raise vital funds for kidscan www.justgiving.com/campaign/paulstrek

For more information on KidsCan and to find out how you can get involved: kidscan.org.uk



RESEARCHERS INVESTIGATE SELF-SAMPLING TO MAKE CERVICAL SCREENING MORE ACCESSIBLE

Cervical screening saves lives, but there can be barriers to attending.

Work, childcare, disability, difficulty getting an appointment, embarrassment and the examination itself can all make screening more difficult. Cervical screening uptake is now at its lowest level in 20 years.

Dr Jennifer Davies and her team at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Lancaster University and the University of Manchester are investigating whether there could be another way.

With funding from North West Cancer Research, the Alternative Cervical Screening (ACES) Spectroscopy project will explore whether self-collected urine or vaginal samples could be used to test for HPV and detect cervical cell changes that can develop into cervical cancer.

A SPOTLIGHT ON SCREENING

Self-sampling gives people the opportunity to collect a urine or vaginal sample at home and send it to a laboratory to test for human papillomavirus (HPV).

Dr Davies's team has already shown that urine self-sampling is as accurate as vaginal sampling and as reliable as routine cervical screening. This could make screening easier and more accessible, particularly for people who find it difficult to attend appointments.

At the moment, someone who receives a positive HPV result from a self-sample still needs to attend cervical screening so further tests can check for cervical cell changes.

The team will investigate spectroscopy, which uses light to examine what a sample is made of. Patterns produced by the light may show chemical changes linked to cervical disease. People referred to clinic following an abnormal cervical screening result will provide urine, vaginal and cervical samples alongside their usual care. Researchers will compare spectroscopy results with HPV testing and clinical findings to see how accurately the technique can identify early changes in cervical cells.

If successful, the research could help develop a quick, painless and reliable test, making cervical screening easier and more accessible.



TAKING FUNDRAISING TO NEW HEIGHTS

There are easier ways to support cancer research than stepping out of a plane thousands of feet above the ground but Karl from our Harlech Committee decided to do things a little differently.

This summer, Karl took on the Tilstock Skydive in support of North West Cancer Research.

After overcoming the nerves and watching the ground get further away as the plane climbed, Karl made the leap, experiencing the rush of freefall before his parachute opened.

Thankfully, both Karl and his feet made it safely back to solid ground!

TAKE ON YOUR OWN CHALLENGE

Karl's skydive is just one way to support cancer research. From running, cycling and walking challenges to fundraising events closer to home, there are plenty of ways to get involved and find something that suits you.

North West Cancer Research also supports people who want to organise fundraising of their own.

Find your next event or challenge at nwcr.org/events



BEST IN SHOW

Our team spent two days this September at the Westmorland County Showground near Milnthorpe, joining thousands of visitors for one of the region's biggest celebrations of rural life.

Livestock competitions, show jumping, rural crafts, Cumberland & Westmorland wrestling and more than 400 trade stands filled the showground.

Among it all, our stand gave us the opportunity to disseminate cancer information, raise awareness of our life-saving research, education and prevention across our region.

It was a valuable chance to meet people from across Cumbria and beyond, answer questions and share more about our work.

Find out more about our education and prevention work at:
nwcr.org/what-we-do/education-prevention



BOWEL CANCER SURVIVORS FRONT CAMPAIGN TO HELP SAVE LIVES

From family celebrations to fitness goals, North West Cancer Research's latest bowel screening campaign is showcasing the priceless moments that early detection can help protect.

Featuring the inspiring stories of bowel cancer survivors from across the region, I'm Here Today... launched in July, highlighting the importance of completing and returning at-home bowel screening kits.

Bowel cancer is the UK's fourth most common cancer, with people over 50 facing the highest risk. In the North West, bowel cancer is the second biggest cause of cancer deaths.

Screening can help find bowel cancer at an early stage, when it's easier to treat.

Faecal Immunochemical Test, or FIT kits, are non-invasive, at-home bowel screening tests that check for invisible-to-the-eye traces of blood in poo, which can be an early indicator of bowel cancer.

The kits are sent every two years to people aged 50-74. However, around one third of people who receive a bowel test kit fail to return it, meaning early signs of cancer could go undetected.

To encourage higher uptake of the test, I'm Here Today... features six people from across the North West, sharing their powerful stories of the moments they're now able to enjoy because their cancer was spotted early.

I'M STILL HERE TODAY

Among those featured is Peter Steel, from Chester, who was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2025.

Dad-of-two Peter says he is forever grateful to the screening kit for detecting his cancer early and ensuring he was able to walk his daughter down the aisle.

Peter, 67, said: "I hadn't done a kit before, always finding an excuse to ignore them. But this time, I did. I was brought in for further investigations and was told I had cancer. "Luckily, it was caught early and I'm still here today.

"I always knew walking my daughter down the aisle would be one of the happiest moments of my life, but it was even more special and poignant because, had I not done that kit, I might not have been there to give her away." Daniela Dell'Orco, from Neston, and Karen Glover, from Chester, are also among those championing the campaign.

Daniela, 63, had no symptoms before her diagnosis and is now fully recovered and enjoying her retirement doing the things she loves.

Karen, 61, was diagnosed with bowel cancer at 58 and is thankful that she was able to celebrate her 60th birthday because of her early diagnosis. Her message to anyone with a kit at home is simple: "Just do it and send it back."

Alastair Richards, CEO at North West Cancer Research, said: "Early-stage bowel cancer is highly treatable, but only if we catch it in time. That's why, as part of this campaign, we are urging everyone who receives a FIT kit to use it and return it straight away."

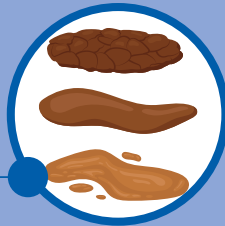
For further information about I'm Here Today..., including signs and symptoms of bowel cancer, visit: www.nwcr.org/imheretoday



Know the signs

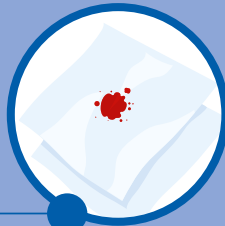
The most common symptoms of bowel cancer include:

Changes in your poo. Softer, diarrhoea or constipation



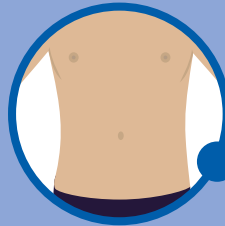
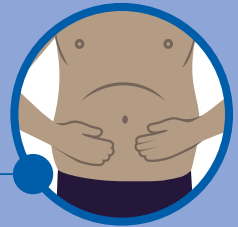
Needing to poo more or less often

Blood from your bottom or in your poo



Feeling very tired for no reason

Tummy pain, lumps or bloating



Unexplainable weight loss

The urge to go the toilet, even if you have just been



If you see something that doesn't look quite right, chances are it's nothing to worry about. But it's better to speak to your GP as soon as possible for a better outcome.

HOPE TAKES ROOT IN SOUTHPORT

A new Tree of Hope has taken root at Southport Crematorium, creating a permanent place for families to remember loved ones lost to cancer while supporting cancer research across the North West.

Its metal branches hold individually engraved memory leaves, each dedicated to someone special. As more names are added, the tree will continue to grow as a lasting collection of memories from across the community.

The first Tree of Hope was unveiled at Thornton Garden of Rest in 2025. Created from recycled metal, it provides families with a place to visit, reflect and remember.

Now, the new Southport Tree brings that same opportunity to another part of our region.

A LEAF THAT NEVER FALLS

Families can dedicate a leaf on the Tree of Hope with a donation, adding a personalised engraving in memory of someone they love.

As well as carrying the name of someone that is missed, the leaves also look towards a better future, helping researchers better understand cancer, improve treatments and change what a diagnosis could mean for generations to come.

The Tree itself may be made from metal, but there is plenty of room for it to grow.



Find out more
about dedicating
a memory leaf at:
nwcr.org/tree-of-hope

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL FUNDRAISING

Back2Events brought 80s nostalgia and animal print to The Ferndale Lodge in Waterloo for its latest fundraiser in support of North West Cancer Research.

Run by Andrea, Back2Events holds two events each year, with a summer night followed by a Christmas celebration.

Guests tried their luck in a popular quiz, with winners collecting a key to see whether it unlocked a prize. Local businesses supported the event with donated gifts and vouchers, while Tesco contributed a hamper.

By the end of the night, £400 had been raised for cancer research across the North West.

Andrea and her supporters are already looking ahead to their Christmas event, continuing a year of fundraising for our work.

Find ideas and support for organising your own fundraiser at:
nwcr.org/get-involved/fundraise-for-us



STILL FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

Some fundraising ideas come and go but Lydiate Car Show just keeps on motoring.

This summer saw the popular event return for an impressive 19th year, bringing classic cars and motorbikes together once again in support of North West Cancer Research.

The show was originally suggested by Shirley Brown following the loss of her husband Ken, combining fundraising with a shared love of classic cars. Nearly two decades later, what started as a local idea has become a much-loved fixture in the Lydiate calendar.

This year's show was another big success, with visitors coming along to admire the vehicles, enjoy the day and support cancer research across the North West.

A huge thank you to our Lydiate Committee, everyone who brought along a vehicle.



A NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER

The Titanic Hotel Liverpool provided the backdrop for an evening recognising the people who help drive North West Cancer Research forward.

Hundreds of guests joined us for our Gala Dinner & Awards 2026 in September, bringing together researchers, fundraisers, volunteers, supporters and friends of the charity from across the region.

Hosted by Greatest Hits Radio presenter Simon "Rossie" Ross, the evening placed the spotlight firmly on the achievements of those connected to our work.

Across 14 awards, recognition was given to researchers advancing our understanding of cancer, supporters who have gone above and beyond for the charity, and young people whose dedication to KidsCan has made its own lasting impression.

The awards were accompanied by stories from across North West Cancer Research, offering a chance to reflect on the breadth of work taking place throughout the region and the people behind it.

Guests also had the opportunity to support the charity through the evening's raffle and auction. Prizes included designer items, hotel stays and theatre tickets, while auction lots included world-class football memorabilia, race days at Chester Racecourse and bespoke fine dining experiences.

Together, the generosity shown throughout the night helped raise thousands of pounds towards life-saving cancer research.

Our thanks go to our incredible headline sponsor, Corporate Connections and award sponsors Bond Turner, CAMS, Biofortuna and Brabners, who helped make the evening possible.

Above all, the Gala was an opportunity to recognise achievement in all its forms and celebrate the researchers, supporters and communities who continue to play their part in our work across the North West.





Rising Star in Research:

Vi Thanendran

Fundraising Event:

Pub 2 Pub Half Marathon

Research Advocate:

Dr Seamus Coyle

Individual Fundraiser:

David Pugh

Excellence in Clinical Research:

Dr Kelechi Njoku

Corporate Supporter:

James James Kitchens

Chief Executive Award:

Mr Dale Vimalachandran

Dedication to the Cause Award:

The Long Paddle

Corporate Supporter:

Home Bargains

Patient Impact:

Dr Christopher Gaffney

Volunteer of the Year:

Jane Sinclair

Children's Cancer Champion:

Emma, Oliver and Hughie

Excellence in Research:

Prof. Ainhua Mielgo and Prof. Michael Schmid

Chair's Award:

Laurence Barrow

700 SINGING IN SUPPORT

This summer, Local Vocals took over The Bridgewater Hall, bringing together members from its community choirs for two special performances in support of cancer research across the North West.

Founded by Laura Bennett-Gornall in 2021, Local Vocals believes singing should be for everyone, with no auditions or need to read music.

That community came together on quite a scale. More than 700 singers filled the stage and choir stalls, accompanied by live musicians including a string quartet. Across the two performances, around 3,600 people filled the audience, with actor and long-time supporter Sue Devaney on hosting duties.

Together, the performances raised an extraordinary £23,726 helping to fund life-saving cancer research across the North West.

For a choir built on the idea that everyone can find their voice, 700 of them together certainly made themselves heard.

Inspired to fundraise your way? Visit: nwcr.org/get-involved/fundraise-for-us



UPCOMING EVENTS

From festive favourites and Christmas shopping to running challenges and skydiving, there are plenty of ways to support us over the coming months. Whether you're looking for a day out, a new challenge or simply a different way to get involved, every event helps support our work across the North West.



Wirral Bazaar

2nd – 3rd November
Hulme Hall, Port Sunlight

Get Christmas shopping underway with a collection of handpicked stalls offering gifts, food, homeware and festive favourites.



Tatton Park 5k & 10k

7th November
Tatton Park

Take on a 5K or 10K through the grounds of Tatton Park and raise funds for cancer research along the way. Entry starts from £15.



Concert For A Cure

29th November
St George's Hall, Concert Room

Start the festive season with an afternoon of music and choral performances in support of North West Cancer Research.



Tilstock Skydive

Choose your date in 2026!
Tilstock Airfield

Take the leap with a thrilling tandem skydive on a date that works for you, with places available throughout the year.

Find more events and ways to get involved at: nwcr.org/events



We are an independent charity dedicated to putting our region's cancer needs first, funding pioneering research and education to tackle the cause, improve the care and find the cure of cancer. We fight the types of cancer that affect people living across North West England and North Wales the most.

We are North West Cancer Research.



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