

INTOUCH



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Liverpool - Chester - Liverpool
Bike Ride

NORTH WEST CANCER RESEARCH AND KidsCan JOIN FORCES

North West Cancer Research has taken over the reins of children's cancer charity KidsCan, to help ensure that its vital work to save young lives continues.

KidsCan is dedicated to beating cancer among children, aiming to help every child diagnosed to survive and, importantly, thrive.

The charity has raised a total of £5.69m, making a huge impact on the lives of youngsters and their families, especially those living in the Greater Manchester area.

Part of KidsCan's work involves giving families hands-on support in the wake of a diagnosis, helping to organise hospital visits, day trips and community support.

However, due to recent financial pressures, the charity faced an uncertain future until North West Cancer Research stepped in.

They will now operate alongside one another, helping to pave the way for a new chapter for both charities.

Jeremy Lea, Chairman of KidsCan, said: "Our mission is to tackle the undeniable shortfall in research into children's cancers.

"Every year, 1,650 children in the UK are diagnosed with cancer, making it the leading cause of childhood death. This figure can be lowered though, through pioneering research into new treatments and preventative measures, plus increased early diagnosis and improved awareness of symptoms.

"Joining North West Cancer Research will ensure the future of our vital work, meaning that future generations will continue to benefit from the charity and we're incredibly excited to explore what we can achieve together as one. Our aim is to grow the work that we do and to achieve more for children and young people in the region"

Paul Moonan, Chair of North West Cancer Research, said: "Our values and goals are firmly rooted in the region, championing local people's health and their cancer needs, so joining forces with KidsCan feels very natural.

"They have done some fantastic work into improving cancer outcomes in children and I am thrilled that we will now be part of their future – and vice-versa.

"We're now looking forward to our next chapter working together as one team, with a shared goal...to create a cancer-free future for all."



CELEBRATING CULTURE AND PROMOTING HEALTH

In August, North West Cancer Research spent a week at Eisteddfod, the biggest cultural festival dedicated to preserving and promoting the Welsh language and culture.

A team of fundraisers attended the event to talk to visitors about all things sun safety, provide cancer information and raise awareness around the work we do around the region.

During the week, the team had the pleasure of meeting many supporters, Jeremy Miles, Labour Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Rhodri Mabon Plaid Cymru, Under Secretary for Health and Social Care and the Mayor.

It was an honour to meet so many dedicated supporters, old and new and to keep everyone safe in the Welsh sunshine!



CLASSIC CARS AND COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Now in its 18th year, the Lydiate Classic Car and Bike Show has become a firm favourite in the local calendar. The show began as Shirley Brown's heartfelt idea to honour the memory of her late husband, and over the years it has grown into a wonderful day that brings people together through a shared love of classic vehicles.

From timeless classics to rare gems, visitors enjoyed a fantastic line-up of cars and bikes, alongside plenty of stalls, tombolas and refreshments.

This year's event welcomed around 1,500 people and raised an incredible £3,362 for North West Cancer Research. We're delighted to share that the classic car show will be back again in 2026 – and we look forward to seeing you there.



MEET OUR CHAIR

In April, Paul Moonan, originally from Liverpool but now living in Cheshire, became the new Chair for North West Cancer Research and will lead the charity in our mission of a cancer-free future.

Paul has enjoyed a successful career, beginning as an Engineer in the Merchant Navy, before completing a degree and then a master's degree in business. He enjoyed a successful career running businesses in outsourcing, security, facilities and technology markets, with a track record of turning round struggling businesses.

As he has now retired, Paul wanted to share his wealth of experience, skills and knowledge and give back to the local community. This led him to become a



Trustee at North West Cancer Research, a position he held for three years before taking on his new role of Chair.

As a father of four, and regular hiker, golfer and keen football supporter, Paul has led by example and raised over £6,000 for the charity completing the Tour Du Mont Blanc, a four-day trekking challenge across three countries, alongside his daughter Rachel. Having experienced the impact of cancer within his own family and friends, Paul has an understanding of the challenges faced when someone you love receives a cancer diagnosis, driving his journey with the charity, not only as Chair but also as a fundraiser.



As the charity heads towards exciting times, following our merger with KidsCan, Paul is excited for both charities to start their journey together, working hand in hand to make an even bigger difference in the region and to support KidsCan in tackling the effects of childhood cancers.

Paul said:

"I am honoured to become Chair of North West Cancer Research and very proud of our 75 years plus heritage as an independent local charity. We have invested over £100m into research that tackles the cause, improves the care for cancer patients across the North West and North Wales and one day, will find the cure. Not only is every penny raised benefiting cancer research in the North West but we are continuously growing the intellectual brain bank of research to help everybody who is diagnosed with cancer.

I am also proud of our outreach programme, educating children, supporting employers and raising



awareness in our communities to support people in reducing their risk of developing cancer.

As we move forward with KidsCan, it is a privilege to expand our portfolio with a focus on childhood cancers and to tackle the unfair reality that so many children are facing with this cruel diagnosis.

I look forward to continuing to support North West Cancer Research, using my commercial background to ensure funds continue to be raised so that we can keep educating, informing and leading the positive impact of cancer research in our region."

We are extremely grateful to Paul for his passion and support at North West Cancer Research and we look forward to continuing to work together to put our region's cancer needs first.



CHARITY OF THE YEAR AND LADIES LUNCH

North West Cancer Research has been named Charity Of The Year for 2025 and 2026 for Lancaster and Morecambe Chamber of Commerce.

As charity of the year, our aim is to not only raise vital money to support research in our region, but to also raise awareness in the community around cancers that affect us the most and to educate people around the importance of early detection and getting your symptoms checked.

Our workplace programme will support employers to provide cancer awareness workshops and sessions as part of their commitment to employee wellbeing.

Carol Kirkham, Head of Fundraising said:

"We are truly delighted that Lancaster & Morecambe Chamber of Commerce has chosen North West Cancer Research as their charity of the year. In the North West, we are 25% more likely to be diagnosed with cancer than anywhere else in the UK, which is why we are committed to putting our region's cancer needs first. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in the fight against cancer and support vital research that brings hope to many across our region."



For our first event as Charity of the Year we hosted a Ladies' Lunch held in partnership with Lancaster and Morecambe Chamber of Commerce and legal firm Irwin Mitchell. Taking place on September 18th, guests joined us to raise a complimentary glass of fizz as they indulged in a 3-course feast with the finest, locally sourced ingredients before taking home a goodie-bag, filled with surprises and treats.

Every ticket purchased helped North West Cancer Research fund cutting-edge research and education programs dedicated to tackling the unique cancer challenges faced by our region.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to a healthier, cancer-free future for your community.

COMMITTEE MEMBER'S CROSS COUNTRY CYCLE

Andrea Barrow, Treasurer of North West Cancer Research's Southport Committee, recently took on a gruelling challenge- cycling 140-miles. Since retiring from policing, Andrea has been a part of the Committee, who are passionate about raising money for cancer research in the North West, to try to find out what causes different types of cancer so that we can better treat and prevent it.

Alongside her was her friend Joanne McHugh and their partners Rob and Aidy, a group who would not class themselves as avid cyclist. They put power behind their pedals and rode from Workington in the North West to Sunderland in the

South East, a huge challenge which they achieved through, power, passion and determination.

Together, they raised an amazing £1,350, going the distance for life-saving research.



YOUNG FARMERS' YEAR OF GIVING BACK

Over the past year, Sedbergh Young Farmers Club have been busy hosting a whole range of fundraising events – from quiz nights to pie and pea suppers, afternoon teas to BBQs, and more. Together, their hard work has raised a fantastic £1,000 for North West Cancer Research.

Our CEO, Alastair Richards, visited the Young Farmers to personally thank them for their dedication and to present a giant cheque in recognition of their amazing efforts.





STAYING
SUN
SMART

"SPF, EVEN IN THE NORTH WEST!"

KIDS URGE ADULTS TO BE SUN SAFE

North West Cancer Research launched a new campaign urging adults to protect their skin from the sun, even on cloudy days. SPF, even in the North West! featured local children reminding grown-ups to apply sunscreen regularly and use SPF30 or higher.

Skin cancer rates in the North West are alarmingly high—13% above the national average, with Merseyside, Cumbria, and Cheshire showing even higher figures.

Daniel Lloyd, 36, from Bolton supported the campaign after being diagnosed with melanoma last year. Despite reassurances from doctors, his wife's persistence led to early detection and successful treatment. He now stresses

the importance of self-awareness and proper sun protection: "You know your own body – don't ignore it."

Experts like Professor Rowan Pritchard-Jones and Alastair Richards, CEO of North West Cancer Research, echoed this message, emphasising that prevention is key. Skin cancer symptoms can include changing or new moles, and early action saves lives.

The campaign wasn't about fearing the sun but enjoying it safely—whether abroad or in the North West—by adopting simple protective habits to reduce skin cancer risk and build a healthier future.

As part of our Protect with SPF campaign, we visited popular family hotspots across the region – including the Cheshire Ice Cream Farm, Knowsley Safari Park and the National Eisteddfod – to remind visitors about the importance of applying sunscreen, even here in the UK, to help reduce the risk of developing skin cancer.

During our visits, we gave out handy handbag-sized sunscreen and chatted with families about their current sun safety habits, as well as how to spot the signs and understand the risks.

The campaign also ran on Facebook and TikTok, with eye-catching animated adverts featuring iconic local animals enjoying their summer adventures. To make the message even more engaging, the animals were voiced by local people, reminding grown-ups that sun protection isn't just for kids – adults need it too!

Overall, the campaign was a great success, reaching thousands of people and helping families across the North West learn how to better protect themselves and their children with SPF.



SIP AND SUPPORT IN SOUTHPORT

The Southport Committee recently hosted a delightful Afternoon Tea at Hesketh Golf Club in support of North West Cancer Research. Guests enjoyed a wonderful selection of food, followed by an inspiring speech from our CEO, Alastair Richards.

Eighty guests joined the event and were treated to fabulous live entertainment from singer Wendy Chalke, whose performance was enjoyed by all. In a touching tribute to the late Madeleine Cruickshank, a much-loved former committee member, a surprise Best Dressed Lady competition was held, adding extra sparkle to the afternoon.



Guests also took part in a raffle, with an array of fantastic prizes generously donated by local businesses.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of everyone who attended, the event raised over £1,500 to support life-saving research.

DE-CLUTTERING JUST GOT EASIER!

Have you spotted our brand-new clothing bank at New Mersey Shopping Park, Speke?

Thanks to our partnership with Robert's Recycling, you can now drop off your unwanted clothes and shoes at any time of day. The bin is conveniently located between McDonald's and Pets at Home, and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

By clearing out your cupboards, you'll not only create more space at home but also support North West Cancer Research in tackling the cause, improving the care and finding the cure for cancer.

You can donate:

- Clothes
- Shoes
- Accessories
- Home Textiles

Every bag makes a difference!



THE LONG PADDLE

This June, six friends set out on an epic endurance challenge, kayaking the Severn, Britain's longest river, to raise funds for North West Cancer Research.

The group met in Shrewsbury on 4th June for the big send off – first cycling 50 miles to the Severn's source, before embarking on a walk to the official start point, and finally cycling on to Welshpool to their real quest.

From there on out, they were in their kayaks on the navigable Severn, spending a total of 8 days kayaking to Severn beach - no small feat!

Throughout their gruelling challenge, the group faced rapids, weirs, low bridges and open-water stretches, completing the ultimate source-to-sea challenge.



Alastair Richards, CEO of North West Cancer Research, said: "We're incredibly grateful to Allan, Darren, Jim, Mike, Simon and Stewart for taking on such a monumental challenge. Their dedication helps fund critical research right here in the region. Thank you all for every step, pedal and paddle in aid of North West Cancer Research."

Collectively, the friends raised over £2,500 for local cancer research.

In loving memory of Tony Hall
05.01.1956- 08.07.2025



THOUSANDS SADDLE UP FOR RETURN OF LIVERPOOL-CHESTER-LIVERPOOL BIKE RIDE

The Liverpool Chester Liverpool (LCL) Bike Ride made a much-anticipated return, taking place on Sunday 6 July.

2,800 participants took on one of five routes designed for all ages and abilities, raising a total of over £80,000.

Over the last 30 years, LCL has been a staple in the North West's event calendar and this year, North West Cancer Research were able to bring it back for 2025, supported by headline sponsor Home Bargains, as well as Ripe Insurance, Brown Turner Ross, and H2Origin Refills.



Among those taking part in the five-mile route were James Moore and his four-year-old son, Leo, from Chester.

James, who has cycled in the event every year that it's taken place since 2007, and Leo took part together on their tag-along bike. James said: "This has become our little tradition as this is now Leo's third time cycling in the event – we absolutely love it and it's fantastic to have it back this year.

"We work together on our tag-along to go faster and it's great to see so many families out enjoying the day together. We're hoping to come back again next year and, eventually, we'll work our way up through the different routes...maybe even the 100-miler one day!"



Alastair Richards, CEO at North West Cancer Research, said: "We are delighted to have been able to bring back the Liverpool Chester Liverpool Bike Ride, and the success of this year's event just goes to show how much of a pillar in the community it is.

"As a charity, we rely heavily on our supporters' donations, and this year's bike ride amazingly raised more than £80,000, which will fund our vital, life-saving research.

"A huge thank you to everyone who took part, supported, and donated this year. We look forward to many more years of the Liverpool Chester Liverpool Bike Ride to come!"

To find out more about the Liverpool Chester Liverpool Bike Ride visit: www.liverpoolchesterliverpool.com



TACKLING CANCER TOGETHER IN LIVERPOOL

Liverpool has made huge strides in health and wellbeing, with more people choosing active and healthier lifestyles. But the reality is that our city still faces serious challenges when it comes to cancer.

- Lung, trachea and bronchus cancers are a particular concern, with mortality rates 56% higher than the national average.
- Other cancers – including stomach, liver, oesophageal and skin – also affect our communities more than in other parts of England.

These figures are stark, but they're not the full story. Change is possible.

That's why North West Cancer Research recently brought together leaders from politics, healthcare and the local community for a special roundtable discussion. The aim: to share ideas, tackle barriers, and take practical steps towards a healthier future for Liverpool.

What the roundtable highlighted:

- We need healthcare plans that go further, both locally and nationally, to support Liverpool's needs.
- Deprivation continues to make it harder for many people to access healthcare. Local, community-led solutions are vital.
- Celebrating progress – such as improvements in early diagnosis and survival rates – can inspire and motivate everyone involved, from patients to clinicians.
- Prevention must remain at the heart of future plans, with investment in communities, smarter use of data, and support that reduces reliance on hospital care.

Similar round tables have been held across the region, with a view to encouraging collaboration and joint working across the region.

To read the full report, visit: nwcrc.org/cancer-in-our-region



RUNNING IN MEMORY: ANNETTE AND STEPHEN'S HALF MARATHON TRIBUTE

Annette and her husband, Stephen, recently completed the Manchester Half Marathon in memory of Stephen's late father. Motivated by a cause close to their hearts, the couple raised an impressive £1,100 for North West Cancer Research.

Their dedication was clear, with Stephen finishing in 1 hour 54 minutes and Annette in 2 hours 9 minutes. It was a meaningful challenge that honoured a loved one while supporting vital cancer research. North West Cancer Research

is incredibly grateful for their support and proud to celebrate their fantastic achievement. Annette and Stephen truly ran with purpose. If you are interested in taking on a challenge visit nwcrc.org/events or call 0151 709 2919 to have an informal chat.



PROSTATE CANCER

Prostate cancer is the second most prevalent cancer recorded across every North West county.

The causes of prostate cancer are largely unknown. However, certain things can increase your risk of developing the condition. The chances of developing prostate cancer increase as you get older. Most cases develop in men aged 50 or older.

Symptoms do not usually appear until the prostate is large enough to affect the tube that carries urine from the bladder out of the penis. When this happens, you may notice things like:

- an increased need to wee
- straining while you wee
- a feeling that your bladder has not fully emptied.

Having these symptoms doesn't mean that you have prostate cancer but it's best to have them checked by your GP.



ALLERTON ROAD WELCOMES NEW CHARITY SHOP

In August, we officially opened the doors to our third shop – and our very first on Allerton Road in Liverpool.

Filled with stylish clothing, accessories, homeware, toys, and books, the shop has been warmly welcomed by the local community. Residents have already been browsing our stock, generously donating their pre-loved items, and picking up new treasures—making a huge difference to our work from day one.

Not local to Allerton Road? Don't worry – we also have shops in Knutsford and Stockton Heath, and we're excited to be opening soon in Formby!



All of our shops are open 7 days a week, so why not pop in, say hello, and bag yourself some bargains?

We're always on the lookout for our next location. Our goal is to bring our beautiful shops to communities across the North West. If you spot a shop space you think would be perfect, please get in touch with alan@nwcr.org.

To find out more about our shops and locations, visit nwcr.org/nwcrshops



SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

In July, the annual North West Cancer Research Scientific Symposium returned with around 150 clinicians, patients, academics, post doc and post grad students in attendance.

Guests heard about the latest advances in cancer research in 30-different presentations all focused on cancer in our region, with the majority of attendees working on projects funded by North West Cancer Research.

During the day, visitors heard from speakers on a number of different subjects including data, inequalities, lung cancer, mesothelioma and medulloblastoma.

Particular inspiration came from keynote speaker Dr Andy Knox and Sarah Drake who shared her experiences of being treated as a cancer patient, as well as Professor Christian Ottensmeier's update on his ground-breaking work and Kate Lacey who provided a window into the Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression Service developed in our region.

Thank you to Edge Hill University for hosting us. It was great to hear about cutting edge science as well as the real-life provision of care and cancer inequalities in our region.



EXPLORING NEW AVENUES FOR PANCREATIC CANCER TREATMENT

Professor Michael Schmid and his interdisciplinary team are investigating how chemotherapy can activate immune cell responses against pancreatic cancer that has spread to the liver, with the aim of developing more effective combination therapies.

Normally, our immune cells are trained to detect and kill cancer cells efficiently. However, during tumour formation this ability is lost, allowing cancer cells to grow and spread. When this spread occurs, it is called metastasis — meaning the cancer has moved from its original site (the pancreas) to other parts of the body, such as the liver. Professor Schmid and his team are working to understand why the immune system fails to launch an effective anti-tumour response once pancreatic cancer has metastasised.

Early findings are promising. The team's research suggests that chemotherapy can stimulate the immune system in ways that could be beneficial. By harnessing this response, there may be opportunities to develop improved treatment strategies for patients whose pancreatic cancer has spread.



Professor Schmid explained:

“Pancreatic cancer is a highly aggressive disease and the fourth leading cause of cancer-related death. Sadly, most patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer are unable to undergo surgery and ultimately succumb to the disease. A better understanding of the biology of the metastatic process and the discovery of new ways to inhibit its progression are urgently needed.

“The goal of our study is to close this knowledge gap by identifying the mechanisms that promote metastasis and, in turn, new therapeutic targets. By this, we mean specific weaknesses in the cancer or its environment that new treatments can be designed to attack. Understanding how pancreatic cancer spreads to the liver, and how we might block this process, is a critical step toward improving treatments for patients.”

LINDA WOODS CYCLING SUPERSTAR

Early on in life, Linda lost her mother to colon cancer and later into her adult life her life-long friend was also diagnosed with same disease. Thankfully, due to advances in cancer research, Linda's friend has recovered and is thriving.

When Linda learnt about the LCL Bike Ride, it was the perfect opportunity to challenge herself, get back on her bike and raise vital funds for North West Cancer Research. In her efforts to raise money for life-saving cancer research, Linda took on the 25-mile Liverpool to Chester route at the 2025 LCL Bike Ride, raising over £1,500.

Linda said: “I loved the event, it was well organised, the routes were well planned

and had a bit of everything, and the feed stations were great, which all made the day really enjoyable. I am really proud of the amount of money I have raised, and so grateful to everyone who sponsored me. If you are thinking about taking part next year, just do it. It is a great day and all for a good cause. I am hoping to take part with my family next year and complete the 50-mile ride as Team Wood!”



FLOWERS, FOLIAGE AND FUNDRAISING

Our Llanfairfechan, Aber and Bangor Fundraising Committee recently hosted an Open Gardens event.

With 12 beautiful gardens open to explore, visitors enjoyed a wonderful day of nature, community, and sunshine. Tickets were just £5, with delicious refreshments, a vibrant plant sale, and a fun raffle adding to the day.

The event raised an incredible £2,135 with every penny donated helping us to put our region's cancer needs first.



A DECADE OF SUMMER STUDENTSHIPS

For the last 10 years, North West Cancer Research has funded a 6-week summer studentship at Lancaster University, allowing students undertaking a variety of science and medical based degrees the opportunity to gain valuable research experience.

In conjunction with professors and researchers at the university, the programme was designed to provide the chance for students to gain hands-on experience in the lab and make an informed decision ahead of pursuing master's or PhD opportunities and choosing a career in cancer research.

Sarah Allinson, Professor of Genome Stability and Cancer said: "This is the 10th year that the programme has run, and it has supported almost 30 undergraduate students in taking their first steps in cancer research. Many of our past students have gone on to work in cancer and study for PhDs. The experience the programme offers is unique."

This year, four students, studying a range of degrees including Biomedical Science and Biochemistry have undertaken the studentship, each conducting a research project related to their current degree and areas of interest. Morgan Ward, who is currently studying Biochemistry at the University of Manchester, but grew up in Lancaster, conducted research into the effect of a variety of drugs on the growth of cancer cells over time.

Morgan said: "The studentship has provided valuable insight into what working in a lab entails and I am very happy with the experience I have gained. It has given me an extremely positive outlook on the pros of going into meaningful research like I have just completed with North West Cancer Research. I now plan to apply for a PhD next year."

We look forward to continuing to fund more summer studentships at Lancaster University and furthering education for cancer research.



Wirral BAZAAR

Supporting North West Cancer Research

An exciting collection of **handpicked stalls** offering a wonderful variety of unique and **beautiful Christmas gifts**.

Monday 3rd November
2pm – 9pm

Tuesday 4th November
9.30am – 3pm

Hulme Hall

Port Sunlight, CH62 5DH

Entertainment, refreshments,
and free parking.

wirralbazaar.co.uk

In support of

north west
cancer research



STUART SADDLES UP

Supporter Stuart recently completed the Tour de Môn – Tour Mawr, a 106-mile cycling challenge across Anglesey, alongside his friend David. After six months of training and dedication, they powered through stunning but tough terrain – all in support of North West Cancer Research.

Stuart took on this challenge in honour of his mum, who bravely overcame breast cancer in 2022/2023. Her courage inspired him to give back, and he raised an incredible £670 to fund life-saving, local cancer research.



Stuart said:
'My mum's strength throughout her breast cancer journey, and her recovery, has been nothing short of inspiring – it's an experience that's reshaped my perspective on life. This ride is my way of showing gratitude to her for her courage, to the NHS for their unwavering support and care along with organisations like North West Cancer Research, whose incredible work brings hope, to advancing life-saving research and raising awareness of the signs and symptoms. Because when cancer is caught early, the chances of a better outcome grow significantly'



SNOWDON AT SUNRISE

In July, North West Cancer Research team member, Alan, and supporter, Stuart, joined forces to take on the Snowdon at Sunrise challenge. Setting off at 01:30am, they trekked 1085 meters through the night, reaching the summit just in time to watch the sunrise at 5:05am.

Thanks to their determination, Alan and Stuart raised an incredible £760 to help fund life-saving cancer research.



North West Cancer Research TREE OF HOPE

Create a lasting memory of your loved one with a leaf on our new memorial tree.

Your loved one's memory leaf will hang on a beautiful metal tree at Thornton Garden of Rest, surrounded by benches so you can visit and sit with them whenever you like.

Commemorate their life while supporting life-saving cancer research in their name.

For more information please contact us on info@nwcr.org or call 0151 709 2919

How it works:

- Purchase your memory leaf on our website for £250
- Leave your loved ones details
- We'll engrave and let you know when it's ready to visit

Find out more:
nwcr.org/treeofhope

north west
cancer research

Registered Charity No. 519 357





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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