

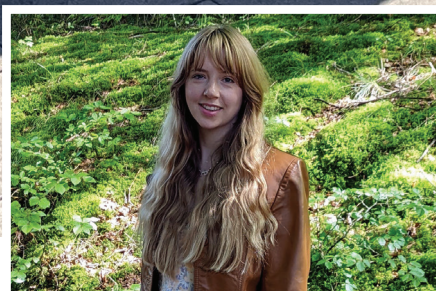
Autumn 2023

And the winner is...

Our teams up for national healthcare awards



Cancer vaccines
We are leading the way in
pioneering treatment



Regional stem cell centre
Offering hope to patients
with blood conditions



Paddington CDC
New diagnostic clinic
makes testing easier

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Contact us & your Governor

You have an important voice in shaping The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre through the Council of Governors that represents members' views. You can contact your Governor with any feedback, ideas, questions or concerns via our FT Membership team:

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The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre



clatterbridgecc.nhs.uk

Welcome

Welcome to the 2023 edition of C3 Magazine.

I'm extremely proud of the work that's gone on here at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre over the past 12 months.

We've been instrumental in establishing a number of Community Diagnostic Clinics, bringing scans and blood tests closer to those that need it and continue to improve the lives of our patients as the national leader into the study of cancer vaccines. We have these stories and many more in this edition.

I want to thank our Council of Governors and our members for your continued support and hope to see you at our Annual Members Meeting on Wednesday 25th October.

Liz Bishop

Chief Executive
The Clatterbridge Cancer
Centre NHS Foundation Trust





“Patients dealing with cancer later in life can be uplifted too.”

Don was diagnosed with blood cancer when he was in his 80s. But with advances in care and the support of his family, his treatment was successful. Here, his daughter Denise Chilton tells his story.

Donald, fondly known as Don, from Aigburth was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in January 2017 after finding a painful lump in his groin. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma is a type of cancer that develops in the lymphatic system, a network of vessels and glands spread throughout the body. The lymphatic system is an important part of the immune system. It plays a role in fighting bacteria and other infections and it tries to destroy old or abnormal cells, such as cancer cells.

His daughter Denise said: “Dad is a big Everton fan so we always had to make sure he didn’t get too stressed out by the match to protect his health. We worried most about his heart so his cancer diagnosis at the age of 85 was a big shock.

“After being diagnosed, dad was referred to Consultant Haematologist Dr Arvind Arumainathan and treated at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre in Liverpool in 2018, where the care was nothing short of exquisite. I’ll always remember Dr Arumainathan visiting him one Sunday morning on the ward just to check in – it really was the littlest touches that made the biggest impact.”

Don was declared cancer free in 2019 after receiving radiotherapy and five rounds of R-CHOP. R-CHOP is a combination of three chemotherapy drugs given alongside an antibody and steroid and is the standard treatment for the most common type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

“After the relief of finding out dad’s cancer was in remission, we flew him out to America for his granddaughter’s graduation over there. It was such a special moment and I’m so grateful for all of the extra years of Don we’ve had so far!”

Denise wants to share Don’s story to let others know that, no matter your age, there can be a positive outcome after being diagnosed with blood cancer.

“Whilst I was waiting for dad at one of his appointments, I got speaking to a patient next to me who was there for a check-up after being given the all clear at 80 years old. It was so uplifting to see someone like dad who was doing so well, and I want others who may be dealing with a diagnosis at an older age to be uplifted too.



“Dad turned 90 on the 5th July 2023. He is happy and content, with a wonderful sense of humour – something Dr Arumainathan remembered him for.”

“I felt that Mr Haigh would cope well with his treatment as he was generally fit and had a great support network – with his son and daughter accompanying him to all of his appointments,” said Dr Arumainathan.

“His care was a real team effort. He was looked after by many members of the Haemato-Oncology Team, including Hayley Glover (Lymphoma Specialist Nurse), Chris Ward (Advanced Nurse Practitioner), and the team on the Haematology Day Ward. He also underwent radiotherapy under Consultant Oncologist Dr Isabel Syndikus’ care.

“As Mr Haigh has demonstrated, with a stable starting point and advances in Haemato-Oncology, it is possible to improve outcomes in older patients, providing a better quality of life for a long period of time.”



“When I was told about the trial, I thought it was amazing.”

Beverley and Kim

Leader in cancer trials

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is a national leader vaccines and has been carrying out world-first clinical research into the pioneering technique which could revolutionise how cancer is treated.

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre has been at the forefront of research and delivery of immunotherapy for cancer treatment and care for the past decade. Immunotherapy harnesses the body’s own immune system to fight cancer and The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre has one of the largest immunotherapy programmes in the UK.

Alongside our immunotherapy offering, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is leading the way nationally in the study of cancer vaccines – an extension of immunotherapy. Some of these vaccines harness technology similar to the successful COVID-19 vaccines and are being used to treat specific types of cancer including head, neck and lung cancers.

The cancer vaccine trials currently running here, including those by Director of Clinical Research, Professor Christian Ottensmeier, are showing a great deal of promise, albeit at an early stage of clinical research.

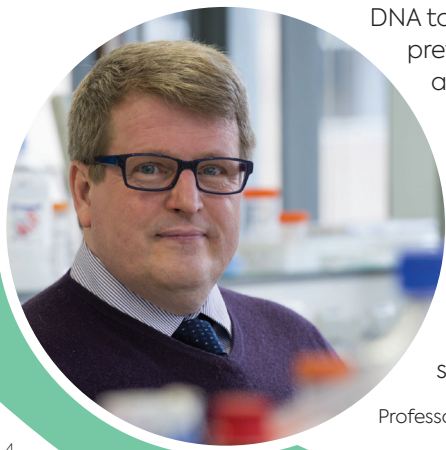
Cancer vaccines use a patient’s own DNA to tackle the cancer and prevent it reoccurring. This approach involves introducing genetic code into the patient’s cells, prompting the immune system to respond to the cancer cells. Usually the cancer can hide from the immune system so that only a weak

natural response is made against it. The vaccine technology greatly boosts this anti-tumour response by massively expanding the number of cells that can destroy cancer cells.

Professor Ottensmeier uses this analogy to explain: “With a vaccine, it’s a bit like you want to train a sniffer dog to find a particular scent – you hold a rag under their nose and then tell them to go and find it.” The vaccine acts as a trainer for our immune system, teaching it to recognise and attack cancer cells effectively.

Professor Ottensmeier continues: “Our knowledge of cancer vaccines is growing quickly and we are grateful to patients who agree to take part in clinical trials as it gives us first-hand experience of using these new treatments in patients for their benefit and that of others. We are really pleased to be able to offer these cutting-edge therapies to eligible patients at Clatterbridge – they could become standard treatments in the future.”

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre currently has several world-first clinical research trials into cancer vaccines taking place, including MOAT, Transgene (now closed to new recruits), MODIfy and BN113.



Professor Ottensmeier

Meet patients taking part in cancer vaccine trials

Beverley Joyce, from St Helens, was one of the first patients in the world to be given a pioneering cancer therapy called Mode Of Action Transgene (or MOAT) after being diagnosed with head and neck cancer, which had spread to her lymph nodes and throat, last year.

MOAT is a cancer vaccine clinical trial that involves giving the patient a modified virus with four additional genes, designed to multiply only in the cancer and activate a type of white blood cell, called T-cells.

As part of the MOAT trial, Beverley was given gene therapy to help her own immune system tackle the cancer. Combined with surgery and radiotherapy, it is hoped the treatment will kill the tumours in Beverley's mouth and neck.

"When I was told about the trial, I thought it was amazing," said Beverley. "They explained it all so simply. Why would you say no? I know it is a new treatment but is only helping my own immune system to have a better chance at fighting the cancer. It seemed very natural to me."

Beverley finished her treatment in January after 30 rounds of radiotherapy and has been having speech therapy. She said: "We don't know how things will turn out with it yet, but whatever happens the research will help someone else in the future."

Professor Ottensmeier said: "Beverley has responded tremendously well to the MOAT therapy and her other treatments. We are all hoping that this experimental immunotherapy will have boosted her immune system to such an extent that it will kill all the cancer cells, but we will only know this over time.

"We have seen in other MOAT patients of ours that the therapy has been found in the cancer tissue which has been removed by surgery, so this gives us hope that the treatment does what it is supposed to do and is making a real difference to these patients."



Adrian's lung cancer has now all but disappeared



Beverley ringing the bell

When Adrian Taylor, from Wallasey, was told the secondary cancer in his lungs could not be cured, nor helped with traditional treatments, he was devastated. But the cancer vaccine clinical trials at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre gave him new hope.

"I was only 53 years old. I had a family, children, friends – I had so much left to give, and to be told I had incurable cancer was shattering," said Adrian. "So, when I heard that there was a clinical trial which could help, I jumped at it straight away. If I did not go on the trial, there was 100% chance of me dying – so I was more than happy to sign up." Said Adrian.

In November 2022, Adrian began having injections of a cancer vaccine designed to stimulate his own immune system to fight the disease.

Scans have since shown that the cancer in his lungs has been all but eradicated.

"I feel fine," says Adrian. "I am back at work and doing everything I usually do. The future is really positive for me now."

Professor Ottensmeier added: "We are all delighted at the progress Adrian is making on the clinical trial and we are cheering him on.

"One of the great things about these vaccines is the reduction in side effects that patients can experience when compared with chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

"It is very early days for this type of cancer treatment and, of course, not everyone will have such a remarkable reaction to it, but we are very excited about the possibilities."



Watch a video from ITV Granada News about Beverley's treatment by scanning the QR code here.



The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre rated best cancer hospital in England by inpatients

We have been rated as one of the best hospitals – and THE best specialist cancer hospital – in England for its inpatient care for the fourth year running.

The results centre around our flagship Liverpool hospital, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Liverpool, which provides the Trust's inpatient care. The centre is one of just eight hospitals nationally to achieve the top rating of 'Much better than expected' in the Care Quality Commission's (CQC's) National Inpatient Survey 2022, which was published in September 2023.

The survey involved 133 NHS organisations in England and was completed by over 63,000 patients nationally, aged 16 or over, who had spent at least one night in hospital in November 2022.

Our flagship Liverpool hospital, one of our three specialist cancer centres across the region, offers patients highly-specialist cancer care including chemotherapy, immunotherapy, radiotherapy and stem cell transplants.

The hospital, based in Liverpool city centre, in close proximity to the Royal Liverpool Hospital and University of Liverpool, offers all inpatients their own private en-suite room with plenty of home comforts including smart TV and reclining chairs to create a 'home from home' feel for patients. Many rooms boast spectacular city views across the Mersey.

We scored 'much better than expected' for:

- Overall experience
- Care and treatment
- Doctors
- Admission to hospital
- Respect and dignity
- Leaving hospital
- Long term condition

(Source: CQC National Inpatient Survey 2022)





Paula Field

“The care was perfect. Nothing was too much trouble and the staff went above and beyond to manage my symptoms.”

Paula Field, Patient

Paula Field was an inpatient in our Liverpool hospital in September 2023 and can vouch for the results of the survey. Paula is being treated for breast cancer which has spread to her lungs and was admitted after she began experiencing pain.

Paula said: “The care was perfect. Nothing was too much trouble and the staff went above and beyond to manage my symptoms, trying lots of different things until I felt more comfortable. I even had a massage thanks to the Palliative Care Team.

“I really appreciated the private facilities with extra touches like free access to TV channels. But it was the staff it who made it so pleasant. They greeted you with a smile. Everyone from the domestic staff through to the consultants was so friendly.”

Julie Gray, Chief Nurse at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, said: “We want every one of our patients to experience the very best care and to feel comfortable and well cared for throughout their stay. We’re delighted that patients have once again rated us so highly in the CQC’s National Inpatient Survey and want to thank everyone who took the time to complete it.

“It’s really important that patients feel confident in the team caring for them, are involved in decisions that affect them, and know they can speak up about any worries or concerns they may have. We really value feedback from our patients and are always looking at what we can learn from it to provide even better care in future.”

“It’s really important that patients feel confident in the team caring for them.”

Julie Gray, Chief Nurse





Hannah (left) and her sister Gemma

“My bruises weren’t me being clumsy – it was a rare blood disorder”

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is the regional centre for stem cell transplants in Cheshire and Merseyside. The unit treats people with all kinds of blood conditions, including Hannah who was diagnosed with a serious form of anaemia.

In August 2022, mum of one Hannah Newman-Smith, 34, who lives in Liverpool, noticed prominent bruising on her body, initially blaming herself. “I’m a very clumsy person so I didn’t think much of the bruising at first, only that I’d accidentally been bumping into things,” she said.

But after her lip swelled up and her mouth started bleeding after a minor accident at work, she went to her GP. She explains: “I sent selfies to a friend as I thought how funny it was but half an hour later, my lip was really bruised. My GP sent me for an emergency blood test and later that same day, I was in hospital.”

After extensive testing, Hannah was diagnosed with a rare blood condition called aplastic anaemia.

Aplastic anaemia, also known as bone marrow failure, is a serious condition that affects the bone marrow’s ability to produce blood cells, which are essential for bodily functions like immune system function, moving oxygen around the body and blood clotting. For some patients, a successful stem cell transplant, also known as a bone marrow transplant, is the best chance of saving their life.

After her diagnosis, Hannah was referred to the specialist Haemato-Oncology Team at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre. The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is the regional centre for stem cell transplants, using them to treat both cancerous and non-cancerous blood disorders.

The centre treats patients from across Cheshire, Merseyside and the Isle of Man. Whilst aplastic anaemia is not cancer, it is often treated in a similar way to blood cancers such as leukaemia and lymphoma.

As Hannah’s diagnosis for aplastic anaemia was classed as very severe, it was decided she needed a stem cell transplant as other forms of treatment hadn’t been successful.

Hannah’s transplant involved taking healthy bone marrow from a donor with matching stem cells, and giving them to her – known as an allogeneic transplant. Transplant teams usually turn to a patient’s siblings when looking for a suitable donor as they have a one in four chance of having the same make up of stem cells. Unfortunately, Hannah’s sister Gemma, 30, wasn’t a match.



Hannah during her treatment

“Gemma was so disappointed when it was discovered she couldn’t be my donor,” says Hannah. “But the team at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre soon found me a number of suitable matches, and one was chosen from abroad.”

Hannah’s donor was a 12/12 match – meaning they met all the criteria for donating stem cells to Hannah, as well as being the same blood type, giving the transplant an increased chance of success and meaning Hannah has less chance of complications from the transplant.

“I know a little bit about my donor,” explains Hannah. “What they’ve done is amazing – I hope one day I’ll get the chance to thank them.”

Hannah received her stem cell transplant on 1st June 2023 at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Liverpool, after several rounds of chemotherapy to prepare her body for transplant. She says: “I felt really well after my transplant with no major side effects. A liver infection meant I stayed in hospital longer than planned but the team at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre were able to manage that and by day 9 or 10 after my transplant, my blood count started to go up. That was a positive sign.”

Hannah is now over 100 days post-transplant – a crucial step towards recovery. “My diagnosis turned our world upside down. My entire family, including my husband Dan and my mum, have made huge sacrifices to help me during my treatment.

“But I have a great support system around me. I’m feeling well and I hope to keep getting better and getting back to normal over the next few months.”

Consultant Haemato-Oncologist Dr Muhammad Saif is Director of the Stem Cell Transplant Unit at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust and is part of the team responsible for Hannah’s care.

He explains: “A stem cell transplant is a very complicated process, involving multiple teams in the region to coordinate, as well as close liaison with the donor’s medical team, wherever they are in the world. There are over 42 million people on the donor register worldwide so finding the right person and getting their stem cells here to The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre involves a huge effort.

“We only treat two or three patients a year with aplastic anaemia – it’s a very rare disorder. As well as being a specialist cancer centre, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is also the regional facility for non-cancerous stem cell transplants and we are experts in treating blood conditions of this type.



“Hannah came to us with a very severe form of aplastic anaemia and radical treatment was needed in order to save her life. We had to take a calculated risk to push ahead with her transplant whilst she was still recovering from an infection – ideally, a patient would be completely well before transplant. However, in Hannah’s case we made the decision to push ahead anyway as the risks of not doing so were greater. Our priority was getting the best possible outcome for Hannah, especially with her having a young family.

“I’m feeling well and I hope to keep getting better and getting back to normal over the next few months.”

“I’m delighted that she’s doing so well and has responded positively to her transplant. Her recovery is testament to the support of her family as well as the many people behind the scenes who have made her stem cell transplant possible.”



While The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is primarily known as a specialist cancer centre, it also serves as a regional facility for non-cancerous stem cell transplants. This expertise allows them to treat rare blood conditions like aplastic anaemia effectively.



The team from The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside celebrate the opening of Paddington CDC

New Paddington Community Diagnostic Centre offers faster access to vital tests

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre manage the facility, which opened in July.

People in Liverpool are now benefiting from quicker access to scans and tests for a wide range of health conditions, thanks to the new Paddington Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) in Edge Hill.

The centre offers tests for people referred by health professionals to check for a wide range of conditions including musculoskeletal problems such as osteoarthritis, lung conditions and cancer. These tests will help give a confirmed diagnosis so a patient can begin treatment or give them the all-clear, putting their mind at rest.

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre acquired the building on behalf of the NHS in March 2023 and opened the doors to patients just 16 weeks later. The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is the first specialist cancer centre in the UK to expand beyond cancer to opening a diagnostic centre for people with other health conditions, as well as cancer.

Initially, Paddington Community Diagnostic Centre offers MRI, CT and ultrasound scans as well as phlebotomy (blood tests). Future phases will see it expand with additional services, allowing the NHS to carry out even more tests and help meet demand.

“Faster and earlier access to tests thanks to community diagnostic centres like this will mean people with potentially serious conditions.”



The team carry out a range of diagnostic tests

Paddington Community Diagnostic Centre is the eighth CDC to open in Cheshire and Merseyside, with the region leading the way in rolling out the new centres as part of a national NHS England programme supported by government funding.

St Helens was the first CDC to open nationally, closely followed by Clatterbridge Diagnostics in Wirral. Cheshire and Merseyside now has CDCs in Ellesmere Port, Liverpool Women's, Northwich, Southport and Halton, with two more on the way: one in Congleton and one at Shopping City in Runcorn.

Together, the new CDCs in Cheshire and Merseyside have already delivered 250,000 additional tests and scans for the NHS – a figure that will rise to 318,000 in 2023/24. That's important because demand has grown year on year.

Dr Liz Bishop, Chief Executive of The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust and Senior Responsible Officer for Diagnostics in Cheshire and Merseyside, said: "People in Liverpool are more likely to experience ill health than the national average so it's particularly important that they can get the tests they need when symptoms develop.

"Faster and earlier access to tests thanks to community diagnostic centres like this will mean people with potentially serious conditions – and those living with pain or other symptoms – can get diagnosed and start treatment more quickly, giving them a better quality of life and a better chance of a successful outcome.

"Paddington Community Diagnostic Centre will help people with many different kinds of health conditions and we feel a real responsibility as a leading specialist trust to develop services like this that support the wider NHS and the communities we serve across Cheshire and Merseyside."

Member of the Phlebotomy Team Eric (left) and the Paddington CDC Project Team (right)



Jayne was the centre's 50,000th patient

Clatterbridge Diagnostics welcomes 50,000th patient

In March, Clatterbridge Diagnostics, a joint venture between The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and Wirral University Teaching Hospital, welcomed its 50,000th patient.

Based at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Wirral, Clatterbridge Diagnostics offers a range of diagnostic tests to people in the local community, including MRI and CT scans, blood tests and ultrasound. Patients benefit from easier and quicker access to diagnostic tests for health conditions including heart disease, lung conditions and cancer. Clatterbridge Diagnostics offers greater convenience, designated appointment times and reduces pressure on local hospitals.

Jayne Champion from Eastham in Wirral was the 50,000th patient through the doors of the centre, for her ultrasound appointment.

Future plans for Clatterbridge Diagnostics include expansion of the site and the introduction of new, state-of-the-art equipment, allowing more complex cases to also be scanned at the clinic.



Staff celebrate at CCC - Wirral

News from around our sites

Celebrating milestones at CCC-Wirral

2023 has been a year of anniversaries, both across the NHS and here at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

In March, our Wirral site celebrated its 65th birthday. Officially opened in 1958 by Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, it took a year to convert ex-military accommodation into what we now know as Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Wirral (CCC - Wirral).

At the time, the hospital consisted of one linear accelerator for radiotherapy treatment, three wards house in ex-military huts, a workshop and medical records office. Today, our centre in Wirral continues to offer the very best in outpatient care, with our Delamere Ward offering chemotherapy treatment, as well as radiotherapy treatment being offered at the centre. Most recently, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre has partnered with Wirral University Hospital Trust to establish Clatterbridge Diagnostics. This community diagnostic clinic, based within our Wirral centre, offers diagnostic tests and scans to members of the local community.

And earlier this summer, we celebrated this special milestone alongside the NHS's 75th anniversary. Staff from across our sites enjoyed week-long celebrations, including our annual Clatterbridge Cancer Charity Tea Party, ice creams, live music and games.



CCC-Aintree receives top marks for patient environment

Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Aintree (CCC – Aintree) has received the highest possible rating in a recent assessment of the centre and its support services from leading cancer support charity, Macmillan Cancer Care.

The Macmillan Quality Environment Mark (MQEM) award recognises and celebrates environments that meet the standards required by people living with cancer and demonstrate they go above and beyond to create welcoming and friendly spaces for patients.

Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Aintree was awarded the maximum overall score of 5, the highest score obtainable, with the assessment focusing on the following four key areas including design and use of space, the user's journey, service experience and the user's voice, which assesses how patients are listened to and heard by support staff.

Nikki Heazell, Head of Patient Experience at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre said: "We are delighted to have been re-accredited with the Macmillan Quality Environment Mark Standard in recognition of the outstanding care and environment at the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre–Aintree".

Lorraine Soudani, the Macmillan Information and Support Service Lead at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre said: "The team at Aintree work incredibly



The team at CCC-Aintree with their award

hard to provide the best possible care and support to our patients with a cancer diagnosis and this has been demonstrated and recognised by this achievement.

This award recognises the tremendous achievement of our team at Aintree who have worked extremely hard to achieve this standard."

"The team at Aintree work incredibly hard to provide the best possible care and support to our patients with a cancer diagnosis and this has been demonstrated and recognised by this achievement."

Plans for a new look Halton clinic

Exciting changes are in the pipeline at our chemotherapy clinic in the CANtreat unit at Halton General Hospital.

Our Halton clinic provides outpatient chemotherapy treatment to patients within the local area, meaning patients never have to travel far from home to receive the treatment they need.

Our plans aim to keep the open, warm and friendly atmosphere that patients and staff enjoy at Halton, whilst bringing the facilities up-to-date.

Our Halton clinic will have a makeover





Flautist Claire plays for Danielle an inpatient in CCC – Liverpool (Photo credit: Liverpool Philharmonic)

Volunteering is such a rewarding experience

John Forsey, from Wallasey in Wirral, began volunteering for The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre in January this year and along with other volunteers, plays a vital part of our Arts Programme, helping to deliver an exciting and varied range of arts to our patients and their families to improve their experience of our centres.

Here, John, talks about his volunteering journey, his day-to-day role here and some of his memories from his work with our patients.

“When I retired in September 2020, I knew I wanted to spend some of my time volunteering for local organisations that were important to me and I spent two years volunteering with a local food bank. However, with 35 years’ experience in the health technology industry, including a number of senior roles working with various NHS departments, I missed working in a hospital environment and I felt like I could make a difference. And whilst my grandchildren keep me busy, I knew I couldn’t spend all my time playing Lego with them – as much as I might like to!

“Volunteering is such a rewarding experience and there are many opportunities where you can help to make a difference to the patients.” John

“A very memorable moment to share with our loved one as we hold her hand, thank you.”

A patient’s family on a performance as part of the Arts Programme

“The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is very dear to me and my family – my wife was diagnosed with cancer in 2008. The Trust and its staff cared for her so well during such a difficult time, so when it came to my retirement, I knew I wanted the opportunity to give back. And so I began volunteering for them in January 2022.

“I remember my first shift well – it was spent mostly outside in the cold and rain, directing patients to the rear entrance of CCC – Liverpool . But despite the weather, I work with such a great team of enthusiastic and caring volunteers, I kept coming back for more. I now do up to three shifts a week.



John with musician Mandy from Liverpool Philharmonic

“When the opportunity to support the Arts for Health programme came about, I was up for a new challenge. After some training with Arts Coordinator, Sam, I had my first shift with Beth, our Poet in Residence at CCC - Liverpool. Beth spends time with inpatients on the wards, chatting to them about the experience, their story, or just anything in particular that interests them, and comes up with a short poem on the spot. It's really wonderful to witness.

“We also have a partnership with Liverpool Philharmonic and I accompany Mandy, who plays the clarinet, and flautist Claire, who tour the wards playing for our patients. I often get feedback from the patients about the performances – before hearing the musicians play, patients say they can feel bored, worried or nervous. But chatting to them afterwards, they use words like happy, uplifted and content. You can see an instant change in a patient's mood and it's very rewarding to help that happen.

“You can see an instant change in a patient's mood and it's very rewarding to help that happen.”
Sam Arts Coordinator



“The poetry sessions are an emotional experience but worthwhile. An excellent service for patients.”
Patient feedback

“There have been so many moving experiences and stories from the last six months of supporting the programme. One such memory for me was hearing the rousing applause from patients and staff in the Radiotherapy Department when Claire was playing in the atrium. It really helped demonstrate the benefits and impact of the Arts Programme.

“I really enjoy all the aspects of my role at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, especially supporting the Arts Programme. The role gives me considerable satisfaction; I enjoy being able to interact with and help patients, families, and their companions, hopefully helping to make visiting the hospital here in Liverpool, a positive experience. Small but meaningful differences can make a big impact!”

Join us as a Volunteer

Our volunteers make an invaluable contribution and fulfil a range of roles:

- Meeting and greeting patients and visitors
- Assisting patients with self-check-in
- Family volunteers based on our wards

If you are interested in volunteering with us, contact our Volunteers Coordinator to find out more! ccf-tr.volunteersatccc@nhs.net



Radiotherapy team receiving their award

Award success for The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is up for several national healthcare awards

Teams across The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre have been shortlisted for national awards this year, reflecting the innovation and hard-work that goes on throughout the Trust.

Radiotherapy

Congratulations to our Radiotherapy team who recently won Virtual Care Initiative of the Year at The HSJ Patient Safety Awards for a virtual reality video of our Radiotherapy Department at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Liverpool.

Developed alongside The City of Liverpool College and evaluated by The University of Liverpool, the video features an avatar of Therapeutic Radiographer, Tom Cummings. Tom guides patients around the department so they know what to expect from their first appointment. Patient feedback has suggested knowing what to expect from an appointment, where to go and who they will meet has reduced anxiety and improved patients' overall experience.

Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression (MSCC) Team

Our specialist MSCC Team have been shortlisted in three different national industry awards including the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards, Nursing Times Awards and a special individual nomination for Service Lead Kate Lacey at the Macmillan Professionals Excellence Award.

MSCC occurs when cancer spreads to the spinal cord, affecting the nerves in the spine that help control the rest of the body. If not caught and treated early, it can cause irreversible damage to the patient's mobility and use of their bladder and bowels. Our MSCC service is the only one in the UK operating seven days a week and with a specialist team of different health professionals dedicated to caring for people with spinal cord compression.



The MSCC Service Team at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Liverpool

Haemato-Oncology Faster Diagnostic Service (HO FDS)

Highly commended in the category Best Use of Integrated Care and Partnership Working at the HSJ Patient Safety Awards was our Haemato-Oncology team. The team set up a clinic for patients with suspected blood cancer with Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LUHFT). The clinic, which works with the head and neck cancer rapid diagnostic service in Aintree University Hospital, offers a 'one-stop' service for patients, with tests on the same day and patients then free to go home.

The service has cut waiting times in half since it was established in 2022 – from 24 days to an average of 10 days. This means faster and earlier diagnosis for patients and they can begin treatment quickly.

The Liverpool Head and Neck Centre Speech and Language Therapy Cancer Team

The Liverpool Head and Neck Centre Speech and Language Therapy Cancer Team are finalists in the NHS England Chief Allied Health Professions Officer Awards 2023, thanks to the innovative way they have improved care for people whose speech or swallowing has been affected by cancer.



The team have developed a unique service that combines the talents of staff from The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and Liverpool University Hospitals Foundation Trust (LUHFT) and involves patients in designing how it is run and how care is provided.

Head and neck cancer – which includes cancer affecting the mouth, throat and tongue – is three times more common in parts of Cheshire and Merseyside than elsewhere in England. Surgery, radiotherapy and other cancer treatments can affect a person's ability to speak or swallow. Specialist speech and language therapy plays an important role in helping them.

Congratulations to all our teams on their hard work in being shortlisted for these awards and best of luck for the ceremonies over the coming months.

The Liverpool Head and Neck Centre Speech and Language Therapy Cancer Team





Clatterbridge Cancer Charity

Clatterbridge Cancer Charity is the only charity dedicated to supporting patients, research and staff at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

Your donations and support are helping to fund life-saving research and state-of-the-art technology, enhance the patient environment and enable innovations in care that make a real difference to people with cancer.

Be a fundraising volunteer hero

Could you spare some time to support Clatterbridge Cancer Charity in your community? Contact our Community Fundraising Team on 0151 556 5566 to find out more!



Clatterbridge Charity volunteers.

Colette's giving back

Colette, 46, is fundraising because research is helping to keep her well, despite a rare diagnosis.

"Since 2016 I have been diagnosed with cancer three times. The first was when I was diagnosed with gallbladder cancer. I was a relatively fit and healthy 46 year old, so to hear the news was devastating and telling our children - who were 17 and 15 at the time - was the hardest thing I've ever had to do.

"My cancer is rare and survival rates are low, but thanks to Professor Palmer, Dr Faluyi and their team at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, I'm now in the seventh year of my dance with gallbladder cancer.

"This summer I took part in the Charity's abseil. It was a big challenge for me, but I wanted to give an extra thanks for the amazing work done by the Charity, especially the research that is helping to keep me alive."



Colette at the charity abseil

Did you know?
Thanks to donations, researchers are currently looking at new chemotherapy treatments which aim to prevent certain cancers from spreading? Professor Dan Palmer is leading this research and thanks to a charity grant of £50,000, he can begin research into the current treatment for pancreas cancer.



Brian Barwick OBE, Chair

Welcome to new Board of Trustees

Clatterbridge Cancer Charity has entered an exciting chapter, which will open up new opportunities to fund research and support patients receiving care at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

Heading up the Charity's first ever Board of Trustees is Brian Barwick OBE, who joins as Chair.

Brian was Head of Sport for the BBC and ITV, Chief Executive Officer of the FA and subsequently Chair of the RFL. In 2021, he was awarded an OBE in The Queen's New Year Honours list for services to sport and sport broadcasting. He is a native of Liverpool and alumnus of the University of Liverpool, where he returned as a visiting professor. He was Chair of the UCFB Advisory Board and is currently a member of Liverpool Hope University's Business School. Brian is a respected media contributor and a published author with a great regard and love for the city.

Joining him as Trustees are: Cathy Frost, Owner & CEO of Liverpool's Panoramic 34 restaurant, who is also a Patron of the Charity; Savvas Neophytou, a specialist in technology and healthcare investments; Corporate Financier Stephen Stuart; Prof Philip Wilson, an experienced leader in higher education across multiple countries and award-winning local entrepreneur Jordan Wright. They are joined by Kathy Doran who is also the Chair of The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust along with the Trust's Medical Director Dr Sheena Khanduri.

Chair Brian Barwick OBE said: "I am a proud son of Liverpool and I am honoured to become Clatterbridge Cancer Charity's very first Chair of Trustees. This is a great opportunity to give back to the people of Merseyside and Cheshire and I am delighted to bring my experience and support to this special Charity."



The Big LEGO® Brick Hospital

In 2019, Clatterbridge Cancer Charity embarked on a roadshow aiming to build the UK's biggest LEGO® Brick Hospital – with the help of local schools, businesses and supporters.

The ambitious build was sadly cut short by the pandemic, but now, the Charity is ready to unveil the model; a replica of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Liverpool

The Big LEGO Brick Hospital, a two metre high structure with over half a million bricks, contains over 100 rooms with chemotherapy clinics, a radiotherapy department and hospital beds.

LEGO figures take pride of place on the model to represent patients and colleagues who have supported the Charity over the years.

Katrina Bury, Chief Executive of the Charity, said: "It was wonderful to see this amazing structure take shape, with members of the public adding their own bricks to help build it. The 'real' hospital may have won the race for completion, but we're delighted that the Big LEGO Brick Hospital can now take up its home, bringing a little bit of joy to LEGO fans of all ages, for years to come."

It is hoped that the eye-catching model, on display in the main entrance of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre – Liverpool will continue to help raise much needed funds to support patients and research. To find out more about donating to the Big LEGO Brick Hospital, visit www.clatterbridgecc.org.uk

Upcoming events to look out for:

Liverpool Santa Dash – 3rd December 2023

Clatterbridge Christmas Concert – 14th December 2023

Glow Green Night Walk – 2nd February 2024

Liverpool Half Marathon – 17th March 2024

Skydive Sunday – 24th March 2024

Find out more and sign up to these events here: www.clatterbridgecc.org.uk

News from the Cancer Alliance

The Trust hosts Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance (CMCA), which is an NHS organisation transforming cancer services, treatment and care across our sub-region.

Working across all boroughs in Cheshire, Merseyside and the Isle of Man, the Cancer Alliance aims to deliver the NHS Long Term Plan ambitions for cancer, ensuring variation in outcomes is addressed and that improvements are made across whole pathways, from prevention and diagnosis through to treatment and support for people living with cancer.

Two high-profile projects the Cancer Alliance team are working on have been featured in the national news recently.

The Government has announced that targeted lung health checks in current and former smokers aged over 55, are to be made into a national screening programme, with the aim of catching lung cancer early when people can survive it better.

Lung health checks were pioneered in Merseyside and delivered first in Liverpool in 2016 and then in Knowsley and Halton. The Cancer Alliance has now rolled them out to St Helens and South Sefton and other areas will be included in the programme later this year.

The Cancer Alliance has also facilitated the world's largest clinical research trial of its kind to study a blood test designed to detect cancers earlier, often before symptoms appear.

The NHS-Galleri trial began in September 2021 and more people have signed up to take part in Cheshire and Merseyside than any other Cancer Alliance area in England.

Around 22,000 people from our area have had their blood sample analysed for the trial, which, if successful, will roll out to around one million people in the coming years.

Both these initiatives are designed to help achieve the NHS's goal of ensuring three in four cancers (75%) are found at an early stage where they are more likely to be treatable and patients can continue to live a good quality of life following a diagnosis.

The Cancer Alliance is also helping to raise awareness of cancer, its signs and symptoms, and show how people can alter their lifestyles so that they are less likely to develop the disease in the first place.



Dr Chris Warburton outside the NHS Galleri study mobile blood test clinic

Some of the ways the Cancer Alliance is doing this is by running a series of roadshows across Cheshire and Merseyside to speak to the public, and it has built a team of patient representatives who are able to speak about cancer in their communities and offer their views on improving cancer services.

“The Cancer Alliance is also helping to raise awareness of cancer, its signs and symptoms, and show how people can alter their lifestyles so that they are less likely to develop the disease in the first place.”



The Cancer Alliance has recently made a trip to the Isle of Man to speak to people across the island about their experiences of cancer services and care. The findings will be used to shape future cancer services. The team also signed up several patient representatives. The Cancer Alliance has also signed up a host of grassroots organisations to spread awareness of cancer to the people they come into contact with in their communities. Through these initiatives, the Cancer Alliance is also aiming to reduce barriers some people may face in accessing cancer services and care.

The Cancer Alliance has also ensured that thousands of people across Merseyside and Cheshire are checked for Lynch syndrome, an inherited condition that increases the chance of people developing bowel cancer by around 80% – and heightens the risk of other cancers, especially gynaecological cancers in women.

All patients in the region diagnosed with bowel cancer are now being offered an NHS test for Lynch, so that they and in their families can be especially vigilant for the signs and symptoms of cancer – and family members also have the opportunity to take the test themselves.

The Cancer Alliance has helped to bring in the test for Lynch with the North West Genomic Medicine Service Alliance across all healthcare trusts in the area.

Those people found to be positive for Lynch are offered increased NHS screening, lifestyle advice and can be given preventative medicine and options for surgery, which are all designed to reduce their risk of developing cancer. Those found to have Lynch after a cancer diagnosis can be offered more appropriate treatment.



“These initiatives are designed to help achieve the NHS’s goal of ensuring three in four cancers (75%) are found at an early stage.”



Dr Seamus Coyle

Research helping people to spend their final days as they wish

Research driven by a consultant here at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre has shown that lung cancer patients can have their risk of dying accurately predicated within the last four weeks of life, allowing them to prepare and spend time with their families.

Dr Seamus Coyle, Consultant in Palliative Medicine at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, has shown that by analysing a patient’s urine to see if there are any metabolic changes within the last 30 days of their life, it is possible with high accuracy to predict the likelihood of death.

This important research means patients and their families can better prepare for the end of life, talk about their wishes and make plans. Clinicians also have more information when making decisions about a patient’s care and medication.

Dr Coyle’s research, which he co-authored, was published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences.

Dr Coyle, an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Liverpool and Cancer Sub-Speciality Lead for Palliative Care Research at the NIHR Clinical Research Network: North West Coast, said: “Despite decades of cancer research and 5,000 years of medicine, we do not know how cancer kills, and predicting when someone dies of lung cancer is largely down to the judgement of a clinician as there is no accurate test available to determine this.

“By studying certain chemicals in urine, known as volatile organic compounds, we have created a model to predict with high probability when these patients will die. Knowing when a patient is likely to die is the start of good end of life care and allows for families and patients to make plans and to support their loved one through the dying process. It also better informs clinicians so they can make more appropriate decisions about the patient.”

Pioneering digital fitness drive for Clatterbridge cancer patients

Patients at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre awaiting immunotherapy can improve their chances of successful treatment by getting fitter through a partnership with the Trust and a local university.

The new pilot initiative offers patients free digital smart watches linked to a bespoke exercise plan designed by clinical exercise experts at Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), which aims to help them become fitter in the lead up to, during and after their cancer treatment.

Studies have shown that getting regular exercise can cut your chances of developing cancer but it can also help people who have the disease to prepare for treatment that they may find challenging – and can help them better cope with the after effects of that treatment.

The personalised fitness programme that patients can join – called MOTIVATE – has been developed by a team at LJMU and up to 40 patients can be involved as part of the initial pilot.

Dr Jess Hale, a Medical Oncology Registrar, is leading the £40,000 project with Dr Anna Olsson-Brown, a Consultant Medical Oncology in Melanoma and specialist in immunotherapy.



Dr Jess Hale

Dr Hale said: “Immunotherapy is becoming a more common treatment for cancer. Although it can be effective, the side effects can be significant.

One of the most common and difficult side effects noticed by patients is tiredness. This can have a huge impact upon mood and quality of life.

“This home-based exercise programme is designed with patients, based on their fitness levels and delivered straight to patients’ watches in their own home. Patients receive regular meetings and feedback with an exercise professional, so they are supported and feel safe to be more active during treatment.

“This solution bridges the gap between supervised exercise and basic physical activity advice, so patients can lead a more active lifestyle, reducing tiredness and improving the way they feel.”

Doctors in training rate us top

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre has been rated as the top-performing hospital in the country in a survey of Higher Specialist Registrars in Medical Oncology by the General Medical Council (GMC).

The GMC conducts a national training survey each year to assess the experiences of doctors in training across the UK. Over 70,000 doctors participate in this survey.

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre offers a number of training programmes including in Medical Oncology, Clinical Oncology and Internal Medicine. Those embarking on the programmes are fully qualified doctors, in training to take on consultant roles.

Our Medical Oncology programme scored 96% for overall satisfaction from the Higher Specialist Training Registrars who participated, the highest overall score of any other Medical Oncology training programme in the country.

Dr Jo Cliff is the Training Programme Director for Medical Oncology. She said: "We're a really active training centre and I'm really proud of the level of teaching we provide



to doctors across our programmes. We still have work to do to ensure we continue to enhance the experiences of doctors in training but we're very happy that our Medical Oncology programme is so highly valued and is giving our registrars such a positive training experience."

Dr Sheena Khanduri, Medical Director at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, said: "I am delighted that our doctors in training have had an overwhelmingly positive experience of their time here, with the high scores reflecting both their opportunities for learning, their experiences and the competencies of their Clinical and Educational Supervisors who work so hard to train the doctors of the future."

Meet our Governors

Meet siblings Anne and Vincent Olsson, our Public Governors from Southport, who wanted to get involved after they were closely affected by cancer and felt inspired to give something back.



Vincent Olsson

"I became a Governor about 12 months ago. Having been a patient of The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre receiving treatment for myeloma, I wanted to be a voice for others going through the same. I saw first-hand the brilliant work Clatterbridge does and wanted to help promote this.

"I initially applied to be a Governor when my sister Anne drew my attention to a vacancy in the Sefton area.

"I have learnt a lot from fellow Governors with all their different backgrounds and have always been supported to contribute in our meetings.

"I hope to help raise the profile of the Trust, whilst helping to improve the already high standards of care.

"If you're thinking about becoming a Governor, I'd really encourage you to go for it. There is such a mix of social and professional backgrounds and everyone is valued. Your contributions are listened to and really make a difference."



Anne Olsson

"I was treated for breast cancer back in the 90s and always remembered the compassion I was shown by everyone at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

"I wanted to become a Governor as I felt passionate about making useful contributions from my own experiences to ensure others receive the same high quality of care as I did. I'm a real people person and feel as though I'm making a difference to those at a difficult time when it's needed most.

"Vincent saw the positive work we were doing and that we're all just 'normal' people trying to help others and wanted to get involved as soon as there was a position available. We've now built new friendships, have really insightful conversations during our meetings, and it's lovely to meet patients and hear their stories as we attend more face-to-face events.

"You can involve yourself as much or as little as you like, and it's completely free.

"Both Vincent and I are really grateful to watch CCC go from strength to strength and hope to continue supporting the Trust and the great work it does."

Join us for our AGM

Everyone is welcome!

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Wednesday 25th October 2023. We encourage members of the public to attend, alongside Trust Members, Governors and Executive Directors.

During the meeting, you'll have opportunity to ask any questions you may have about how the Trust is run and managed and our plans for the future. We will also present our Annual Reports. Please submit your questions in advance of the meeting to the email address below or contact our Membership Team.

For more information, visit our website at www.clatterbridgecc.nhs.uk/meetings or contact our Membership Team on ccf-tr.enquiriesforgovernors@nhs.net or call 0151 318 8110

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 25th October 2023

Email ccf-tr.enquiriesforgovernors@nhs.net

Call 0151 318 8110



The Clatterbridge
Cancer Centre
NHS Foundation Trust

GET INVOLVED

Become a member of
The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
and have your say.

Did you know that by signing up as a Member of our NHS Foundation Trust, local people, patients and staff can have a direct influence on how our organisation operates & develops going forward?



To register please scan the QR code above or visit:
secure.membra.co.uk/Join/Clatterbridge

To find out more about us visit: www.clatterbridgecc.nhs.uk



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