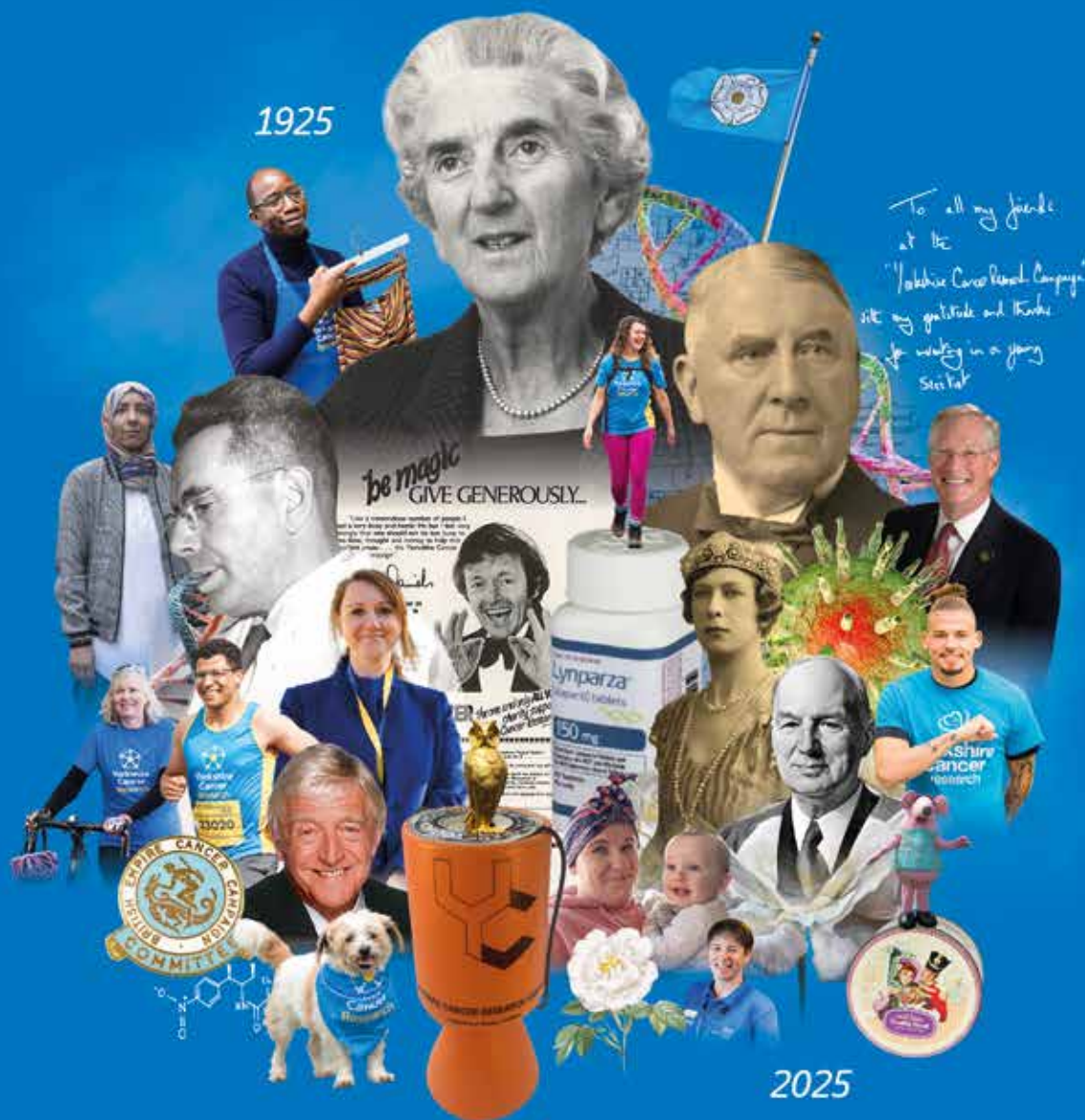


Yorkshire Cancer Research

A century of saving lives



Yorkshire Cancer Research



Authored by Andrew Wilson

Published by Yorkshire Cancer Research, 2025

Copyright © Yorkshire Cancer Research

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without the prior written permission of Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Every reasonable effort has been made to trace the copyright holders of material reproduced in this book. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact supportercare@ycr.org.uk

To find out more about Yorkshire Cancer Research visit:
www.YorkshireCancerResearch.org.uk

This book is dedicated to all those who have helped Yorkshire Cancer Research in the past, all those who are helping now and all those who will help in the future.

In 1955, as the charity celebrated its 30th anniversary, Chairman Sir Harold Mackintosh offered his deepest appreciation to the scientists and voluntary helpers whose unfailing energy had supported three decades of cancer research for the benefit of humanity.

Seventy years later the message is still the same:

Thank you!



Foreword

I have taken great pride in turning the pages of this book, a fabulous tribute to those dedicated to advancing cancer treatments and those who have been so generous with their fundraising efforts. From the earliest days 100 years ago, through developments that changed the future of medicine, this is an engaging account of a charity which has had a close affinity with the Yorkshire public from its very earliest days.

I am blessed to have had the good fortune of being on the first cancer and exercise treatment programme run by the charity. I benefitted from the focus on exercise and nutrition and I firmly believe that it has helped to keep me alive. I am fitter now than before being diagnosed and I have become a keen advocate of the importance of exercise as part of cancer treatment.

I wanted to do my bit to help the charity that helped me, so for six years I sat on the Research Advisory Panel, helping to ensure that the charity's funds were spent wisely on the best research projects. I was able to offer the voice and experience of the patient - everyone is part of the jigsaw and together we can make a difference.

I was flattered to become a 'poster girl' for Yorkshire Cancer Research, being filmed with the 'My Breast Cancer' support group which I founded in 2018 and I am proud to have represented the charity in radio interviews and at conferences.

I feel privileged to have played my own small part in this rich history. The ripples run far and wide as the work in Yorkshire has been shared internationally. Reading the book I feel a great sense of connectedness, empowerment and gratitude. I hope you will enjoy turning these pages as much as I have.

Sara J Williamson



1925 - 1949



The birth of the charity

Yorkshire Cancer Research was born on 21 May 1925. Yorkshire's most eminent medics, industrialists and aristocrats gathered at the Old Medical School at the University of Leeds intent on forging a new organisation 'for the improvement of cancer research in this part of the kingdom'.

The charity they created had a very grand title - the 'Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign'. Over the following 100 years, with support from the generous people of Yorkshire, that fledgling charity has gone from strength to strength.

The great and the good who gathered in Leeds that day included lords, viscounts, sirs, captains, professors and doctors. Their combined influence and personal wealth meant the charity prospered from the outset and was funding cancer research within 12 months.

As the name suggests, the Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign was the regional arm of a national organisation. The British Empire Cancer Campaign (BECC) had been formed two years earlier to 'attack and defeat the disease in all its forms' and 'rid mankind of the scourge and fear of cancer'. It was launched through a letter published in The Times newspaper in May 1923 which appealed for funds 'from across the whole Empire' to 'press the war against cancer with increased vigour'. The new organisation's primary aims would be coordination and funding because 'cancer research remains the business of a few scattered investigators or institutions. Sorely hampered by lack of means they have wrought greatly in the past; but they wage an unequal war. The enemy is stronger than all their powers of assault. It is this fact which endows with so much importance the beginning of the British Empire Cancer Campaign'.

Several adverts were placed in The Times in the following weeks asking for a 'shilling or two from each household' to 'fight the terrible menace', with the promise that not a 'penny would be wasted'.



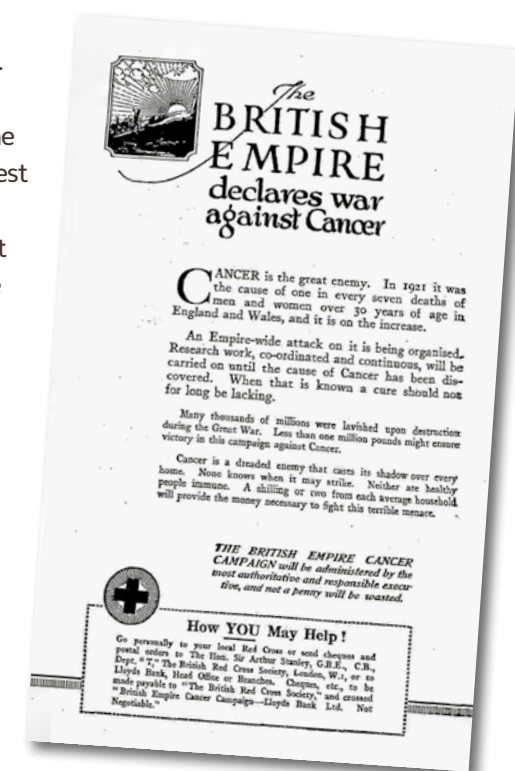
The Old Medical School, University of Leeds

One of the people who saw those adverts was a Hebden Bridge greengrocer named Barker Thomas Clegg. He was supportive of the request for donations but was convinced greater numbers of people would respond if the appeal was more localised. He wrote to the BECC to suggest they should sanction the creation of a BECC Yorkshire Council and the proposal was met with approval. The next few years saw the creation of an organisation in Yorkshire and 16 sister councils across the country.

Of the 18 people who attended that first meeting at the Old Medical School in May 1925, five went on to become the driving force behind the new charity – Sir Berkeley Moynihan, Viscount Henry Lascelles (the future 6th Earl Harewood), Sir Charles Lupton, Sir Harold Mackintosh and Barker Thomas Clegg. They were soon joined by Sir Algernon Firth and Sir George Martin who also went on to play vital roles.



Barker Thomas Clegg



One of a series of adverts placed in The Times

Sir Berkeley Moynihan

First Chairman

'The most skilful hand in all the world'

Sir Berkeley Moynihan was one of the finest surgeons of his age. He was revered around the world and honoured by royalty. He performed the first successful blood transfusion in Britain and pioneered surgery which prioritised working with gentle finesse rather than brute speed. It was an approach which put him at odds with many of his fellow surgeons whom he regarded as mere 'hewers of flesh'.

It could all have been very different though. During his childhood he was intent on joining the army to follow in the footsteps of his war hero father, Andrew Moynihan, who had fought in the Crimean War and rescued several wounded comrades while under heavy fire during the siege of Sevastopol. It was an act of gallantry which earned him the Victoria Cross.

He died from fever when Berkeley was just three years old, inspiring in the young boy a determination to emulate his father's military achievements.

However, through his teenage years Berkeley slowly realised his mother was opposed to his intended career and when he was 18 he announced: 'The Moynihans have done enough killing, it is time they mended their ways.' He enrolled in the Medical School at the University of Leeds and never looked back.

He was to become one of the world's leading abdominal surgeons, publishing a book on his technique in 1905 which had huge influence on both sides of the Atlantic. He also ushered in new hygiene standards at a time when most of his fellow surgeons never wore gloves and would operate on one patient after another without washing their hands or changing their blood-stained clothing.



Sir Berkeley Moynihan



'The Rifle Screen' by Colonel Henry Wilkinson, 1855, showing British riflemen in the trenches at the siege of Sevastopol

He was mocked for his ritual hand washing before each operation, using sterilised running water and soap which was stored in disinfectant. He wore a fresh pair of rubber gloves for each patient and covered his shoes in sterilised linen bags.

Sir Berkeley's assistants would not be forgiven for any rough handling of patients. He liked to remind them that a surgeon must have 'the heart of a lion and the hand of a lady' and would urge 'infinite gentleness and scrupulous care'.



Nurses in a typical British operating theatre, waiting for surgeon and patient

He was also ahead of his time in stressing the importance of seeing the patient as a person rather than just a body on an operating table. He would impress upon his team that the patient was the most important person in the room. What may just be another routine operation for the medics could be one of the most important events in the patient's life.

He was instrumental in the creation of the British Empire Cancer Campaign in 1923 and its regional arm, the Yorkshire Council, in 1925. Sir Harold Mackintosh later wrote that 'the inspiration behind this Yorkshire movement was entirely due to two people – Sir Berkeley Moynihan and the Earl of Harewood'.

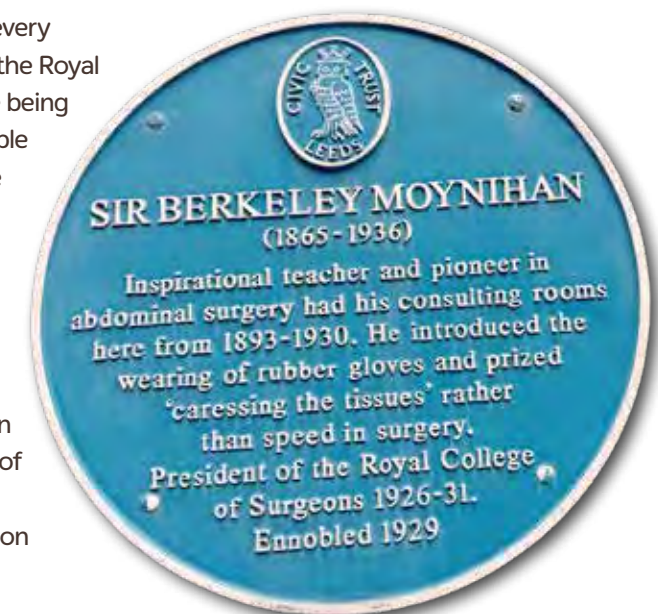
Sir Berkeley was to chair the charity with unflagging enthusiasm for its first 11 years but in August 1936 his beloved wife Isabella died unexpectedly and he was so overwhelmed with grief that he died himself just six days later. In his brief period of mourning he wrote: 'As a companion to me she was adorable ... I always found her wiser in two minutes than I was in two years ... She might have been the descendent of a hundred kings ... She was a great and lovely lady worthy of all honour and remembrance.'

Sir Berkeley's considerable accomplishments had not gone unnoticed by the British royal family. When he went to receive his knighthood in 1912 the King greeted him with the words 'I am proud to shake the most skilful hand in all the world' and on his death Sir Berkeley's family were offered a grand funeral and burial in Westminster Abbey. They turned it down on the grounds that he had been so proud of Leeds he would want to be buried in the city. His son Patrick later wrote: 'Leeds honoured and deeply loved my father and every particle of that love he returned. Even when president of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, which entailed much time being spent away, he would come back to Leeds on every possible occasion, happy to be in the city and amongst the people he adored. Leeds had given him his chance and in return he gave them the service of an ever faithful servant.'

His funeral brought the north of Leeds to a standstill with thousands of mourners lining the four-mile route from the Parish Church to Lawnswood Cemetery. The Yorkshire Post's coverage recognised the passing of a man blessed with 'many gifts of taste and speech, a multitude of friendships and a very tender, generous, gentle heart'. He is buried next to his adored Isabella under the inscription 'In their death they were not divided'.



Isabella Moynihan



Blue plaque at 33 Park Square, Leeds. Berkeley Moynihan had his consulting rooms there for 37 years

Viscount Henry Lascelles

First President



King George V (left) and Viscount Henry Lascelles with (left to right) Princess Margaret, Gerald Lascelles and Princess Elizabeth (the future Queen)

A small act of kindness made him one of the richest men in Britain

When Viscount Henry Lascelles was elected the charity's first President in 1925, he had not yet inherited the Earl of Harewood title, but was very much a man to be respected. He was the son-in-law of the King and had become one of the wealthiest men in Britain after a small act of kindness had landed him a fortune.

Henry had a great-uncle, the Second Marquess of Clanricarde, who was an eccentric miser. He was in the habit of dressing as a tramp to visit his various gentlemen's clubs and wander London's royal parks. In the clubs he would scavenge the bins for the remains of sandwiches and was given a wide berth by other members. One day in February 1916 Henry entered the King James Club and spotted his elderly relative. Instead of ignoring him, he went over to say hello. An animated conversation followed as they shared their passion for art and the thrill of the auction house. It was a simple kindness but it was enough to earn Henry his great-uncle's respect and gratitude. The Marquess returned to his London residence and re-wrote his will. Upon the old man's death, just two months later, Henry inherited his entire estate. It was valued at around £180 million* and made him one of the richest men in Britain.

Henry had an exemplary war record, serving on the Western Front where he was injured twice and received the Distinguished Service Order. This, along with his immense independent wealth and humble demeanour, made him an appealing prospect to the shy Princess Mary, daughter of King George V and Queen Mary. According to her letters of the time, the Princess found him 'charming and very intelligent' and 'a particularly nice man'. They were married at Westminster Abbey with great fanfare in late February 1922. The big day was unseasonably warm and sunny and huge crowds gathered along the processional route for what was to become remembered as 'the people's wedding'.

Henry quickly gained the approval of his new father and mother-in-law. Queen Mary recorded in her diary: 'We are delighted. They are both very happy and Mary is simply beaming. We like him very much ... Mary is radiant and I am getting so fond of him and we get on very well.'

*Equivalent value in 2025



Hubert de Bergh-Canning, Second Marquess of Clanricarde

Henry inherited the title of 6th Earl Harewood on the death of his father in 1929 and the couple moved into Harewood House. Both preferring a quieter life in the north to the London social scene, they dedicated themselves to bringing up their family and to helping Yorkshire causes. The Earl became Chancellor of the University of Sheffield and Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire among numerous roles. Despite these other obligations, his commitment to the cancer charity he helped create never faltered. On his death in 1947 the charity's annual report recorded that he had shown 'a keen and practical interest throughout. The whole county is the poorer by the death of this great Yorkshireman'.

Princess Mary then became the charity's President and served in the role until her death in 1965, also taking a great interest in the charity's affairs.



Viscount Lascelles and Princess Mary on their wedding day



Harewood House, Leeds



Henry and Mary with their sons George (centre) and Gerald

Sir Charles Lupton

First Vice-President



Sir Charles Lupton

'An outstanding man among men'

Sir Charles Lupton had a long and successful career as a solicitor. After qualifying, he joined Leeds-based law firm Dibb & Co before moving to another company where he became a partner. After 39 years in the business, his career came full-circle when a merger between his current company and his first employer created a new firm, Dibb Lupton.

He had an exemplary public service record serving as Lord Mayor of Leeds, Deputy Lieutenant of the West Riding, chairman of the Board at Leeds General Infirmary, chairman of the Yorkshire Voluntary Hospitals Committee, chairman of the Yorkshire Rheumatism Committee and as a member of the Court and Council of the University of Leeds.

While serving as lord mayor, he raised funds to extend the hospital at Chapel Allerton and his vast experience and caring nature made him an obvious candidate to approach about helping to form a new cancer charity. However, by 1925 he was past retirement age and when the request was made he responded: 'I shall be 70 next month. I have my public work to do, my work at the Infirmary, my own work. I cannot help.' Then, after a pause, 'But I will help.' And he did, giving the charity ten years of valuable service as vice-president until his death in 1935.

Barker Thomas Clegg, one of the charity's joint honorary secretaries, wrote a tribute to Sir Charles: 'He was an outstanding man among men. Full of old-world courtesy and consideration, quiet, unassuming, sincere, with a direct simplicity which could not be resisted, he crowded into 80 years such a vast amount of good work as seems scarcely possible. To me it always seemed that while he was continually striving for the alleviation and cure of suffering, his chief concern was in preventing it. His heart was with the pathologist and the research worker.'



Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on their wedding day

Sir Charles has two lasting claims to fame. Dibb Lupton, through further mergers, has become DLA Piper, Britain's biggest law firm and the third biggest law firm in the world with offices in over 40 countries. He is also the great-great-great uncle of the Princess of Wales and a photograph taken at Leeds General Infirmary in 1922 shows him greeting Princess Mary, great-great-great aunt of the Prince of Wales.



Princess Mary (second left) meets Sir Charles Lupton (third from right) at Leeds General Infirmary in 1922 during the opening of the new children's ward



Sir Charles was Chairman of the Improvements Committee at Leeds City Council. In the late 1920s he was the driving force behind the widening and redeveloping of the Headrow to create an imposing thoroughfare worthy of the Town Hall, the Art Gallery and the other prestigious buildings it served

Sir Algernon Firth

First Treasurer



Sir Algernon Firth, by George Fiddes Watt

He didn't wait for trains, trains waited for him

Sir Algernon Firth had recently retired when he got involved with the charity in 1925. He had worked in the family carpet business, T. F. Firth & Company, for decades and was Chairman for 16 years.

T. F. Firth & Company had been founded in 1860 by his father. Its twin factories in Heckmondwike and Brighouse, both considered 'marvels in modern construction', specialised in making heavy-duty carpets for transport and commerce. Cars, trains and even cruise ships were adorned with Firth carpets. The company expanded across the Atlantic in 1888 and built one of the world's largest carpet factories in New York, counting several Las Vegas casinos among their customers.

Sir Algernon became Chairman of the company in 1909 and drove it to even greater success, regularly crossing the Atlantic to keep both the Yorkshire and American operations under close supervision. He was also a frequent traveller around Britain. He preferred to use trains but wasn't the type of man to waste time standing around on platforms. Instead, he would send his butler to the local station, Bailiff Bridge, to do the waiting on his behalf. When the train arrived the driver would be told he mustn't depart until Sir Algernon had turned up and boarded.



Bailiff Bridge railway station

Sir Algernon and his wife, Lady Janet, were enthusiastic benefactors. They funded new gardens and parks in Bailiff Bridge and their home village of Lightcliffe, as well as assisting the local council and providing housing for destitute Irish immigrants. The couple were held in such high esteem villagers reportedly wept in the streets when the couple announced they were leaving Lightcliffe to set up a new home at Scriven Park in Knaresborough.

The couple's most generous act was undoubtedly the £25,000 they donated towards the cost of a new building at the University of Leeds. It was a donation equating to around £1.5 million today, half the cost of constructing the Algernon Firth Pathological Institute.

Sir Algernon was elected the charity's first Treasurer in May 1925 and held the post until his death in 1936.

T. F. Firth & Company continued to prosper after his passing. All Ford Escorts and Cortinas sold in Britain had Firth carpets and the company had the honour of carpeting the QE2 cruise ship and Concorde.



Firth's carpets provided comfort underfoot on the QE2 and also helped passengers navigate the ship - each stairwell was uniquely colour-coded and referenced on deck plans

Sir Harold Mackintosh

First Joint Honorary Secretary and second Chairman



Sir Harold Mackintosh

The second 'Toffee King'

Harold Mackintosh inherited a hugely profitable toffee-making business and steered it to even greater prosperity. A fearless approach to company takeovers and the immense popularity of Quality Street, his personal creation, were the keys to his success.

Harold's mother Violet started making toffee in 1890 and sold it from her pastry shop in Halifax. Her special recipe, known as 'Mackintosh's Celebrated Toffee', was chewier than the brittle butterscotch available at the time and quickly proved popular. Soon it was selling well enough to enable her husband John to leave his job in a textile mill and join her in the business. John had a talent for marketing and an ambitious plan to expand sales beyond Halifax. He dubbed himself the 'Toffee King' and town by town, city by city, he methodically increased sales across the north of England, then the Midlands, then the south.

Halifax became known as 'Toffee Town' and production increased to ten tonnes an hour to keep up with demand. However, John and Violet weren't content with dominating the domestic market. They sent out salesmen, 'Mackintosh Missionaries', to take samples around the world. Within 15 years of Violet creating her first samples, the couple owned factories in Britain, America, Canada, Germany and Australia and employed over 1,000 staff worldwide. As John proudly recorded in his diary: 'From China to Peru and almost from pole to pole, there is scarcely a country that does not know Mackintosh's toffee.'

When John died of a heart attack in 1920, responsibility for the company's fortunes fell on Harold's shoulders. He'd had a keen interest in the business from childhood, his nightly prayers as a boy concluding with: 'Oh Lord take care of the works and never let them be blown up nor blown down.' He was just 28 years old when he took over but he was to prove a very worthy successor to his father. For all its achievements, the company still essentially only had one product and Harold was convinced the path to further success lay in diversity.

A series of takeovers brought Irish Cream toffee, chewing gum, chocolate and liquorice production into the Mackintosh group. Wrapping the original 'Celebrated' toffee in a chocolate coating to produce 'Mackintosh's Toffee de Luxe' proved an instant hit and inspired Harold to draw up plans for a new assortment of toffees and chocolates to be known as 'Quality Street'. He was determined the new product should be a 'sensory feast' with colourfully wrapped sweets sold in a decorative tin that people would want to keep. Above all, the finished product should have 'the hallmark of quality written all over it'.



The name Quality Street came from a play written by J. M. Barrie and the first tins, launched in 1936, featured 'Major Quality' and 'Miss Sweetly' who were loosely based on characters in the play. Major and Miss were to prove so popular they remained on all Quality Street packaging for the next 64 years.

The original Quality Street assortment featured 18 different sweets including The Harrogate, a new lemon and ginger toffee. Quality Street quickly established itself as a worldwide favourite and is still sold in over 100 countries. Other chocolate and toffee combinations were introduced in its wake, with Rolo and Toffee Crisp proving the biggest hits.



Like his parents, Harold had strong Christian values and was proud to uphold their caring attitude towards company staff. John and Violet had ensured employees enjoyed better than average benefits including cash bonuses which increased with length of service. Harold went further, setting up a welfare department to run clubs and societies in addition to increasing holiday allowance, subsidising medical treatment, introducing pension and savings schemes and building homes for retirees. One of the company's directors wrote of him: 'The greatest of his strengths was his innate humanity – throughout all levels of employees in the business his kindly disposition added sincere goodwill to the respect in which he was held.'

He brought the same empathy and enthusiasm to the charity, serving as joint honorary secretary until the death of Sir Berkeley Moynihan in 1936, then taking over as chairman, a role he was proud to hold for the rest of his life and which he fulfilled with skill and devotion.



Mackintosh employees on the Quality Street production line

The charity's 1965 annual report mourned his passing: 'We have suffered a grievous loss through the death of our chairman who was a mainspring of the Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign. He was one of those who launched the Council in 1925 and never flagged in his interest. He worked year in, year out and his inspiration, energy and skill were always evident. The best tribute we can offer him is to increase our efforts to conquer cancer, the great enemy of mankind. We shall all miss a great helper and a real friend.'

Sir George Martin

First Joint Honorary Secretary and third Chairman



Sir George Martin

'It is impossible to overestimate the debt the charity owes him'

Sir George Martin was born the son of a Methodist minister in Leeds in 1884 and became one of the city's most prominent citizens. He was elected lord mayor in 1946 and became a Freeman of the City 20 years later.

Sir George's day job was Director of the successful wholesaler Wilkinson and Warburton, but it is his energetic support of a host of organisations and good causes for which he is most remembered. His enthusiastic involvement in the creation of a new cancer charity was typical of him. The Martin Wing at Leeds General Infirmary was named after him in recognition of '30 years of eminent and devoted service' to the hospital and he was also heavily involved with the Leeds Public

Dispensary, Woodhouse Grove School, Leeds YMCA and the Leeds Music Festival. This was all in addition to being a councillor, a magistrate, chair of the Area Health Committee and High Sheriff of West Yorkshire. His approach to getting through life with so many demands on his time was, 'accept things, don't worry about them and get a good deal of exercise'.

Sir George was not only generous with his time. In November 1947 he marked the end of his year as lord mayor by donating eight acres of land in Weetwood, north Leeds, to be 'an open space for all time'. In Martin's opinion the area provided 'walks without equal in the provinces'. The land now forms part of the Weetwood Conservation Area.

In 1956 he set up the Sir George Martin Trust which, in its early years, predominantly supported charities in Leeds and national charities which helped the elderly. On his death in 1976 he left the majority of his estate to the Trust, including farms, properties and shares. The Trust is still active and over the years has invested millions in a wide range of schemes including projects at Bolton Abbey, Fountains Abbey, the Yorkshire Arboretum and St James's Hospital, Leeds.



Martin Wing, Leeds General Infirmary



During his 50-year association with the charity, Sir George successively held the posts of Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Chairman, Chairman and President. The charity's 1975 annual report proclaimed it to be 'an unparalleled record of service of which we are all very proud' and a year later his death was mourned as 'a grievous loss. It is impossible to overestimate the debt the charity owes him for his hard work. His friendliness and wise counsel over many years were greatly appreciated by all his associates'.



Weetwood conservation area



Barker Thomas Clegg

First Joint Honorary Secretary



Barker Thomas Clegg

'No one did more for suffering humanity than he'

Barker Thomas Clegg found himself in exalted company at the charity. He rubbed shoulders with royalty, aristocracy and captains of industry, men of fabulous wealth and considerable influence. He was from more humble stock but he played a huge role at the heart of the charity and was greatly admired by his co-founders.

Clegg ran a greengrocer and grain wholesale business in Hebden Bridge and his granddaughter Ruth has fond memories of helping him: 'I liked to go with him to the banana ripening rooms where long stalks of green bananas were hanging in the dark, warmed by a gas flame. The temperature had to be just right. Bananas were a rarity in those days.'

Enduring poor health for much of his life, Clegg developed great empathy for the suffering of others. It drove him to become an ardent fundraiser and his talent for securing donations in Yorkshire led to other regional cancer charities seeking, and receiving, his help. Over his lifetime it is estimated he was responsible for raising well over a million pounds for these charities. 'He was motivated by a powerful sense of duty', recalls Ruth, 'he had great dreams of a better world'.

Clegg was ahead of his time in much of his thinking. One of his main concerns was for women to have access to female doctors. At a time when doctors tended to be male, he was concerned that men enjoyed a privilege rarely gifted to women – the opportunity to see a doctor of the same sex and thus feel less embarrassed when discussing intimate matters. He worried this was stopping many women with cancer symptoms from going to the doctor as early as they should.

He also fought for more care to be provided for people dying at home from cancer. He recalled being very moved when, late one night, he wandered out into his garden overlooking Hebden Bridge and saw lights in several houses where he knew terminally ill cancer patients were being nursed by their families. He later mentioned this experience to Sir Berkeley Moynihan who replied that such cases were so numerous in bigger places like Leeds that 'if one could hover over the city on a dark night, as many lights could be seen below as a person could see stars if they looked upwards'.



Clegg's grandchildren, Tom, Ruth and Billy, in his garden, looking out over Hebden Bridge



View over Hebden Bridge from near Clegg's garden

With his eyes opened to the scale of the problem, Clegg went straight to the top, writing to Minister of Health Enoch Powell to implore him to provide home care support for the 'vast number of people in terrible pain' as they neared life's end, 'for these are our care'.

Over the following decades he never let go of these concerns and was one of the instigators of a conference the charity organised in 1959 which aimed to help doctors improve care for patients with incurable cancers. Held at Leeds General Infirmary, it attracted around 50 medics and received 'widespread commendation', leading to similar conferences being staged in Hull and again in Leeds in the following years.



Female medical students training at Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, Delhi

Clegg's concerns were not just for people in Britain. He saw it as 'our duty to go out of our way to seek opportunities to give to other parts of the Commonwealth any help that we can'. Among his ambitions were the training of more doctors, particularly female doctors, in India and the setting up of a 'Commonwealth Relations Committee' to share best practice and research outcomes across countries.

At a University of Leeds ceremony to award him an honorary doctorate, it was recognised he had given 'a lifetime of service to good causes irrespective of colour, creed or locality, with his deep-rooted sympathy for the underprivileged he sets us all an example of Christian charity'.

For the last two years of his life Clegg was confined to bed by illness but, always a prodigious letter writer, he continued to campaign through correspondence right up to his death in June 1961. Sir Harold Mackintosh mourned his passing with these words: 'He was one of the pioneers of the founding of the Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign. He was a steadfast and tenacious worker and never spared himself in forwarding its interests. His thoughts and active help were with us to the end. Never robust himself, no one did more for suffering humanity than he.'



The old Queens Hotel, Leeds (right)

The total appeal target was £75,000 and a call went out across Yorkshire to raise the remaining £25,000. The charity's Honorary Secretary Sir Harold Mackintosh urged the county's residents to 'deliver the attack upon cancer, the great enemy of mankind, and become the new Saint George in the work of slaying the dragon'.

The response was remarkable. Donations flowed in 'from the Tees to the Don, from the Pennines to the North Sea'. By the middle of the year Sir Berkeley Moynihan felt confident to declare: 'we started out with hope but now we have the certainty of having the best research centre in the whole country'. Giving a speech in Ilkley he told of how a golden sovereign had been left on his doorstep and how 'little bits of jewellery wrapped in tissue paper' were being handed in at the Lord Mayor's rooms in Leeds and Bradford. He also told of an elderly lady who had approached his friend, the miners' leader Herbert Smith, wanting to help the charity. 'I haven't a penny, will you take this?' she had asked, offering a half-penny. The donation was gratefully recorded in the charity's accounts at the end of the year.

Help of a very different nature was offered to Sir Berkeley when he went to speak at a meeting of Bradford trade unionists. An elderly man in the audience offered 'to place himself at the disposal of research workers'. He had throat cancer and was keen to 'aid the campaign'. Financial assistance also arose from the meeting with the Bradford and District Trade and Labour Council issuing a circular to all the city's trade unions urging them to 'contribute as largely as possible'.

Within 18 months the charity's appeal had raised an astonishing £7 million*. Sir Harold put the remarkable generosity down to 'the spirit which animates Yorkshire more than any other county'.

*Equivalent value in 2025

Slaying the dragon

The charity's first public appeal for funds was launched on 18 January 1926. The founders met at the old Queens Hotel in Leeds for what was to prove to be a very expensive lunch for all gathered. After they had finished their meal the charity's President, Viscount Lascelles, the future 6th Earl of Harewood, got to his feet and announced that no one was to leave the room until they had jointly pledged the first £50,000 to the appeal. It was a huge amount to ask, the modern-day equivalent of over £2.5 million, but, to their great credit, those present pledged the full amount.



'Slay The Dragon' adverts were placed in newspapers across Yorkshire throughout 1926



Park Square, Leeds, where number 47 became the charity's first home. The office later moved to 5 Park Square

With plentiful funds at their disposal and intent on making 'a sharp attack on cancer', the charity's founders wasted no time in getting the new organisation established. A two-room office was secured in Park Square, Leeds, close to both the General Infirmary and Sir Berkeley Moynihan's consulting rooms, and Miss Hilda Harvey was employed as General Secretary.

Guidance for doctors

The charity also published a book entitled 'Notes on Cancer for Medical Men' which was sent to every medical practitioner in Yorkshire. There was no intention 'this little book' should be a comprehensive cancer guide but it still ran to over 75 pages and much of the advice offered still stands up to scrutiny today. Great importance was placed on the need for fast action: 'In cancer we should never wait and see but look, know and act' and there should be 'avoidance of even one day of delay after a suspicion of cancer has been aroused'. This was a time before any drug treatment was available and radiotherapy was still in its infancy, so surgery was often the only option. It was therefore crucial for cancers to be caught early to give the best possible chance of all the cancer cells being removed during an operation, 'where the disease is local and the growth is accessible, cancer is curable'. Details of signs and symptoms, advice on diagnosis and explanations of treatment options were included for each of nine common cancers and there was also an update on the latest research findings.



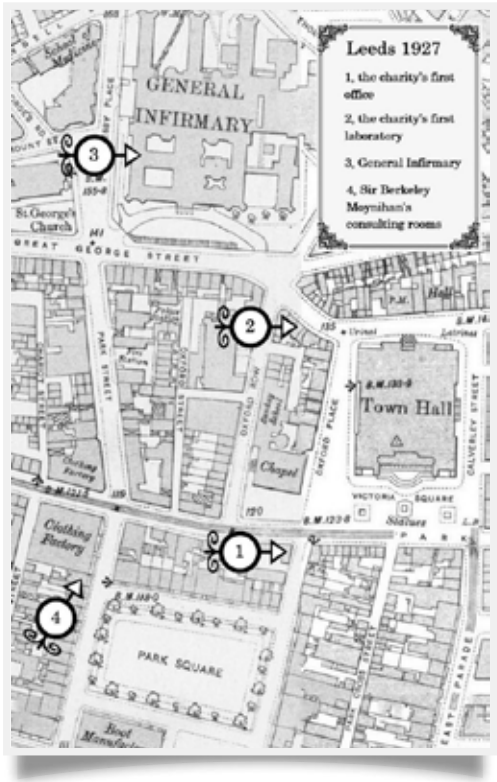
Notes On Cancer For Medical Men, 1926

Founding a new research department

The biggest achievement of the charity's first year was the planning of a new Department of Experimental Pathology and Cancer Research at the University of Leeds with Professor Richard Passey appointed as Director. He was later to write of his gratitude to the charity: 'Financially, this department owes its being, and indeed its entire maintenance, to the support the Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign has accorded the University.' He was thrilled with the success of the fundraising campaign, declaring that the financial resources available to the new department 'exceeded my wildest dreams. In no other part of the country, and probably not even in Europe, is such a large sum available for research work in cancer.'



Professor Richard Passey, Director of the Department of Experimental Pathology and Cancer Research, Leeds



necessary, and on the top floor is another research laboratory'. In addition there was also provision for libraries and offices.

The building was never intended for long-term occupation and the charity described it as 'modest' and equipped with 'ordinary chemical apparatus' but what it lacked in grandeur it made up for in convenience, located just a short walk from the charity's new office, the General Infirmary and Sir Berkeley Moynihan's consulting rooms. It provided a home for a small research team who were to 'commence the great fight on behalf of humanity' and they remained there for the next five years before transferring to purpose-built laboratories in the new Algernon Firth Pathological Institute.

With generous funds to draw upon, the department grew rapidly in size and by 1936 was claimed to be the second biggest cancer research centre in the world, behind only London.

1927



The charity's first research laboratory at 37 Great George Street, Leeds (arrowed)

The first laboratory

The new Department of Experimental Pathology and Cancer Research began work on 1 January 1927 in a laboratory on Great George Street in Leeds.

The new facility, created by converting two adjoining shops, was described in an article in the Sheffield Independent: 'On the ground floor of the building are two chemical laboratories, one a particularly large one, and a balance room for delicate weighing operations. Two research laboratories occupy the first floor and are adapted for any kind of experimental work that may be

A touring exhibition of international recognition

The charity's first attempts to educate the public about cancer began in 1927. A cancer exhibition was put together with the intention it would 'eventually be taken into every town and village in Yorkshire' so the public could 'attend in large numbers to learn how they may help to slay the dragon cancer'. Wakefield played first host and the week-long exhibition consisted of models, pamphlets, posters, demonstrations, consultations and daily guest speakers, including local surgeon J. W. Thomson who took the opportunity to urge the public to act quickly if they ever suspected they may have cancer: 'There are hundreds of cases of patients who have come under my notice at Clayton Hospital who have been really cured by early operation.'

The charity's leaders declared themselves 'much impressed and entirely satisfied' by the Wakefield experience and the exhibition duly rolled on to Normanton, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Castleford, Bradford, Doncaster, Rotherham and other locations. By May, Sir Berkeley Moynihan was pleased to report he had 'received letters from 11 doctors saying that patients had consulted them who would otherwise not have done so' and word of the success of the project had spread so widely the Australian Health Minister had been in touch requesting full details.

Donations ‘from every corner of Yorkshire’

In May 1927 the Leeds Mercury newspaper printed a list of the areas of Yorkshire which had contributed the most money to the charity in the 18 months since the public appeal began. Sir Harold Mackintosh, one of the charity’s Joint Honorary Secretaries, was proud to point out that donations had ‘come from every corner of Yorkshire’ and the current total, the modern-day equivalent of around £7 million, was ‘a magnificent achievement ... by far the largest sum gathered in Europe to combat cancer’.

There was huge wealth in Yorkshire in the 1920s generated by textiles, steel making, coal mining and other industries. Huddersfield, in third place on the donations league table, was once said to have boasted more Rolls Royce owners per capita than anywhere else in the world. The claim is disputed and may relate to the fact the bodies of Rolls Royce cars were made in Huddersfield at the Rippon Brothers coachworks, but there is no disputing the fact Huddersfield had many wealthy residents.

It would have been no surprise to anyone at the charity that the people of Halifax were the second highest donors. Sir Harold Mackintosh owned the Mackintosh toffee factory in the town and was revered for his generous treatment of staff. As the Halifax Daily Courier and Guardian put it: ‘His affection for Halifax found a reciprocal appreciation in the regard Halifax had for him.’ That appreciation clearly extended to a desire among the townsfolk to support the new cancer charity about which Sir Harold was so passionate.

No surprise either that Leeds was in the top spot, the £15,000 donated equating to over £800,000 in today’s money. Having the largest population would have been the key reason for the table-topping performance but, again, personal loyalties would have been a factor. Sir Berkeley Moynihan, Viscount Lascelles, Sir Charles Lupton and Sir George Martin were all greatly respected members of Leeds society and together wielded a huge amount of influence over the city’s affairs and allegiances.

Origin of donations to the charity as of May 1927	
Leeds	£15,000
Halifax	£12,550
Huddersfield	£11,650
East Riding	£11,500
Settle and Skipton	£11,200
Bradford	£11,000
Barnsley	£7,880
Keighley	£5,800
Tadcaster	£4,400
Ripon	£4,330
Harrogate	£4,000
Sheffield	£4,000
York	£1,830
North Riding	£1,800
Wakefield	£1,800
Ilkley	£1,180
Dewsbury	£730
Rotherham	£636
Morley	£500
Pontefract	£400

1929

The discovery of the world’s first chemotherapy treatment

Isaac Berenblum was a promising young chemist who had been one of the first recruits to the new Leeds cancer research department funded by the charity. Under Professor Passey’s supervision he began studying skin cancer and in 1929 made a discovery which proved crucial to the development of chemotherapy, one of the most important cancer treatments.

Berenblum’s journey to Leeds had been a long one. Born into a Jewish family in Russia in 1903, his childhood was blighted by anti-Semitism. When he was three years old his family fled their home city after an uprising against Jewish residents. They made their way to Belgium, only to have to flee again eight years later when the Germans invaded at the start of World War One. This time the family headed for England and set up home in Bristol. Berenblum’s older sister Mania then married and moved to Leeds and it was, in part, the offer of free lodgings which drew young Isaac to Yorkshire.



Isaac Berenblum



Soldiers wearing gas masks for protection against mustard gas and other chemical weapons during World War One

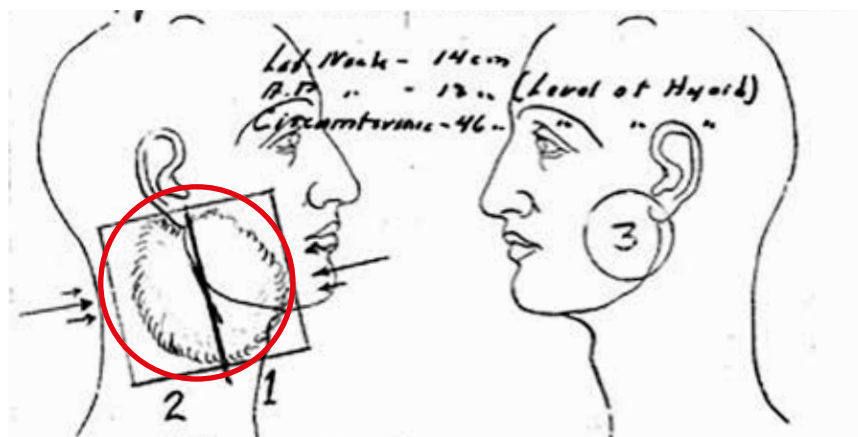
Professor Passey tasked Berenblum with trying to discover if cancers developed more readily on skin which had increased blood supply. To do so he painted a cancer-inducing tar onto the backs of one group of mice and painted the same tar plus a dilute amount of mustard gas onto the backs of another group of mice. Mustard gas had proven itself to be a devastatingly effective skin irritant during World War One and Berenblum’s theory was that the irritation it caused would increase blood flow to the painted area. Would cancer develop more readily on the blood-rich irritated skin patches or not? As Berenblum anticipated, all the mice in the tar-only group developed tumours, but very

unexpectedly only eight per cent of the mice in the tar and mustard gas group did. To his astonishment he had discovered that the chemical caused, in his own words: ‘an almost complete inhibition of the induction of tumours’. To put it another way, he had discovered the world’s first chemotherapy treatment. Looking back on the discovery, Professor Passey later wrote: ‘This observation was a definite milestone passed, in that it was the first time that the possibility of interfering with the development of cancer had been demonstrated.’

Two years later American researchers Frank Adair and Halsey Bagg performed their own experiments with mice and mustard gas. Encouraged by their results they then took the big step of experimenting on humans and successfully treated 13 skin cancer patients. However, their achievements were not enough for the pair to want to take their research further. They signed off with the hope that their preliminary report ‘may suggest possibilities to other investigators’.

It was to be another decade before the next significant step forward. At Yale University in 1941, researchers Alfred Gilman and Louis Goodman applied mustard gas to a single mouse with lymphoma. The mouse lived much longer than they had anticipated and they set about looking for a lymphoma patient to treat.

'J. D.' was a Polish immigrant who lived in Connecticut. In April 1941 he sought help for what he assumed was tonsillitis. Unfortunately it was soon determined that in fact he had Non-Hodgkin lymphoma. A swelling in his neck grew so large that he was struggling to open his mouth. Surgery and radiotherapy proved ineffective. His condition worsened and he was soon struggling for breath. Gilman and Goodman became aware of J. D. and he accepted their invitation to be involved in an experiment.



A diagram from J.D.'s medical record showing the extent of the swelling in his neck (circled in red) prior to his first mustard gas treatment

J. D. was given daily injections of nitrogen mustard, a derivative of mustard gas. His recovery was miraculous - all signs of his cancer disappeared. Sadly though, the cancer came back and a second round of treatment began. Again it was effective, but again the cancer came back. A third round of treatment yielded no effect and J. D. died 96 days after receiving the first injection. Even so, Gilman and Goodman managed to create enough momentum that the idea of treating cancer with chemicals, or 'chemotherapy', did not stall again. Within five months 60 more patients had been treated with nitrogen mustard at centres across America.

Today there are more than 100 types of chemotherapies, used daily to treat people with cancer around the world.

Isaac Berenblum went on to have an outstanding career, spending a decade as Head of the Cancer Research Centre in Oxford and receiving the Israel Prize in Biology in 1974. He kept working well into his 70s and his enthusiasm for research never wavered: 'I still experience some sense of adventure every morning when I set out to work, just as I did on that first day, close to 50 years ago, when I began my life as a scientist. Trying to discover the unknown is still exciting.'

Pioneering radiotherapy

In the 1930s, cancer treatment with radium, or radiotherapy as it was to become known, was in its infancy. Radium had been discovered by Marie and Pierre Curie in 1898 and its potential to kill cancer cells was quickly recognised. The first cancer patient was treated with radium in Vienna in 1902 and it was being used in several British hospitals by 1905. Momentum picked up further in 1926 with the publication of a British Medical Council investigation into the effectiveness of radium treatment at nine research centres across Britain and Ireland. The results showed the treatment was effective for breast cancer which had not yet spread: 'the malignant cells have in some cases been completely destroyed', and for cases of advanced breast cancer where 'patients put on weight and feel better, and in many instances life is definitely prolonged'. The report also concluded that the results of radium treatment for mouth, throat, larynx and oesophageal cancers were 'hopeful' but a larger-scale study was needed before definite conclusions could be reached.



Pierre and Marie Curie



Leeds General Infirmary

In 1928 the charity took the decision to purchase its own supply of radium to aid the research effort despite the fact that it was extremely rare and incredibly costly. It is estimated that at the time there were only around 200 grammes of radium available in the entire world and it was selling for an incredible £18 million* per ounce. The charity spent around £185,000* to purchase a tiny amount for use at Leeds General Infirmary.

In 1929 the National Radium Commission was set up 'to make arrangements for the proper custody, equitable distribution and full use of radium with the object of promoting the treatment of the sick'. In 1930, it set about achieving these objectives by establishing a network of National Radium Centres across Britain. Leeds was one of 13 cities chosen to host a centre. A new radium department was set up at Leeds General Infirmary with the Commission acknowledging the charity for active support through 'the loan of radium and by sharing to some extent in the expenses'.

*Equivalent value in 2025

In 1935 Sir Harold Mackintosh, one of the charity's Joint Honorary Secretaries, was proud to record that 'our stock of radium is still in constant use at the Infirmary, bringing relief to sufferers from cancer while also contributing to our knowledge of the disease' and by 1938 his fellow Joint Honorary Secretary, Sir George Martin, was able to report that 'we have a great deal of data and experience in the use of radium and the physicians and surgeons are finding that radium treatment is being extremely successful. A large number of cases treated years ago are still free from any recurrence of the disease'.



A 200 kV orthovoltage treatment machine

The charity increased its commitment through the mid-to-late 1930s, supplying three orthovoltage treatment machines. These were state-of-the-art at the time but could only penetrate human tissue to a depth of about 6cm, so treatment tended to focus on skin cancer and shallow tumours of the breast, cervix and throat. The charity's 1939 annual report recorded that 321 patients received treatment from the machines during the year and that research was ongoing into safe dosage and better dose measurement.

In the following years the charity invested further, providing a Westinghouse deep-therapy machine in 1942 and a Siemens machine in 1943. The number of patients being treated with radiotherapy increased by 50 per cent over the next three years and leapt again in 1948 when the charity helped set up seven radiotherapy clinics in hospitals in and around Leeds. To cope with the increased demand, the charity provided two additional deep-therapy machines.

The charity's long-standing commitment to radiotherapy in Leeds was acknowledged in 1948 by Professor Richard Passey, Director of Cancer Research: 'The Radiotherapy Department in the General Infirmary owes to the charity its beginnings, much of its equipment and financial support for its research.'

Reckoning up accounts with the scourge of civilisation

The report of the 1931 annual general meeting in the Leeds Mercury newspaper eloquently captured the modest but determined approach of the charity's leaders to their fight against cancer: 'Twenty-four men and women met in a sun-drenched library at the Leeds Medical School yesterday to reckon up accounts with the scourge of civilisation. They sat around a large square formed by placing many tables together. Speeches were few and were uttered in conversational tones. Yet their words were such as people hang on, for they concerned cancer, the most dreaded of diseases. It was difficult to realise in this sunny library that this group of people, members of the Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, are waging daily warfare against a relentless enemy. It was all so calm and matter of fact. The experts spoke reticently, almost apologetically, yet their story was one of unrelenting effort.'

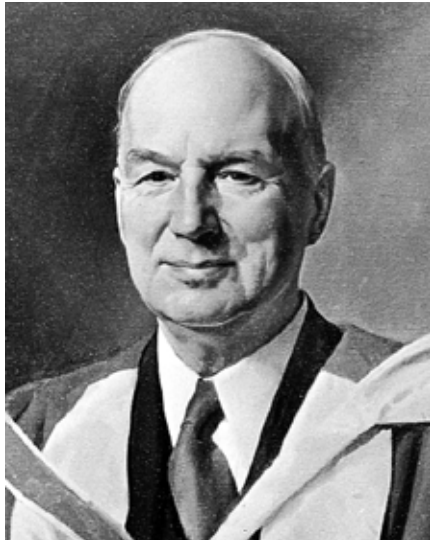
Sir Harold Mackintosh concluded the meeting with the reassurance the charity would 'continue to persevere at all cost of time, brain and money ... We have every reason to be proud of the contribution Yorkshire is making'.



The library at the Old Medical School, Leeds

An early warning of a carcinogen

One of the 'matter of fact' speakers was Professor Richard Passey, Director of the Leeds research centre, who announced a breakthrough in the study of industrial cancers. Blast furnaces are used to liquify metals such as iron, lead and copper and they can produce a type of tar as a by-product. This tar had previously been thought not to cause cancer but research by the Leeds team proved it did and Professor Passey spoke of the importance of 'fore-warning those in the industry of any potential danger'.



Sir Edward Mellanby, Chair of Pharmacology, University of Sheffield

The first steps in Sheffield

The charity funded cancer research in Sheffield for the first time in 1932, beginning a long and successful partnership with the city's university.

The Sheffield research was led by the esteemed Professor Edward Mellanby, Chair of Pharmacology. He had arrived in Sheffield in 1920 and it had been quite a coup for the university to secure his services.

He was a practising doctor and talented researcher with a range of medical interests. In 1914 the Medical Research Committee asked him to investigate the cause of rickets, a bone disease causing bone pain, skeletal deformity and impaired growth which was common among children in poorer urban areas and particularly prevalent in Scotland. Various possible causes had been speculated,

including infections and a lack of exercise, but Mellanby suspected the disease might be caused by a dietary deficiency. He experimented by feeding a group of dogs exclusively on oat porridge, the staple diet of the Scottish population at the time. All the dogs developed rickets, which he then discovered he could remedy by adding cod liver oil to the porridge. So, in 1919 he was able to announce a cure for rickets. It was only discovered later that it was specifically the vitamin D contained within the oil that was the crucial factor but that was irrelevant at the time. Treatment with cod liver oil was quickly and widely adopted and by the 1930s rickets had become a rare disease.

Off the back of this success many universities courted Mellanby. He chose to join the University of Sheffield because they offered him both the Chair of Pharmacology and a position as an Honorary Physician at Sheffield Royal Infirmary so he could continue his duties as a doctor. Under his stewardship, cancer research projects in Sheffield included exploring links between diet and cancer, investigating why cancer is rarely found in the small intestine, studying how Rous sarcoma virus caused cancer in animals and examining whether physical injury could cause cancer.

Mellanby stepped down from his official positions in Sheffield in 1933 after being appointed Secretary to the Medical Research Council, but such was his commitment to his research in Yorkshire that for several years he made a round trip of almost 300 miles every weekend to progress his studies. He also continued to be actively engaged with the charity, retaining membership for the rest of his life.



Leg X-ray of an individual affected by rickets

He received a knighthood in 1937 and that same year he was appointed Honorary Physician to the King.

Mellanby died on a Sunday morning while hard at work in his lab. He was 70 years old and utterly dedicated to his research right to the very end. His passing was deeply mourned, not just by family and friends but by the wider medical community. Mellanby's 'straight-forward friendliness', sharp mind and tireless commitment had won him many admirers including Sir Charles Harington, Director of the National Institute for Medical Research: 'Sir Edward was a man with greatness in him, a great scientist and a great public servant, above all a man whose life was a shining example of uncompromising devotion to a fine ideal, the service of science to medicine.'



The Royal Infirmary, Sheffield

1933

A new home for medical research in Leeds

In 1926, the charity's Treasurer Sir Algernon Firth and his wife Lady Janet made a donation of around £1.5 million* towards the cost of a new building at the University of Leeds. The result was the 'magnificent' Algernon Firth Pathological Institute which opened in 1933 and was one of the first buildings in Britain to be constructed using reinforced concrete. Its distinctive design drew wide attention. Initially the intention was for the building to be devoted entirely to pathology, but the Firths made their donation dependent on space being found for cancer research.

In his opening day speech, Sir Algernon struck an optimistic tone, noting the need for cancer research might 'diminish or even terminate with the attainment of success in its objective'. Should that be the case then he felt secure in the knowledge that, with the building in the care of 'so permanent an organisation as the University of Leeds', there would be 'persistence in other investigations to reduce the sum of human unhappiness'.



The Algernon Firth Pathological Institute, Leeds



Cancer researchers at work in the Algernon Firth Pathological Institute in the 1950s

The charity was proud to hold its annual general meeting in the building soon after it opened and Sir Berkeley Moynihan took the opportunity to praise the generosity of the Yorkshire public, pointing out the total amount donated to the charity since it launched in 1925 was greater than the total sum received by the British Empire Cancer Campaign from the whole of the rest of Britain and the entire empire. He then went on to toast the generosity of Sir Algernon and Lady Janet: 'The debt of gratitude which will forever exist in the hearts and minds of those who work in this Institute will, I hope, be a sufficient reward to them and to their memory.'

The Firths would have been pleased to know the building provided a home for medical research for the next 77 years. It has now been converted into student accommodation but retains Grade II listed building status.

*Equivalent value in 2025

1937

The charity retains its rightful status

During the 1930s the leaders of the British Empire Cancer Campaign (BECC) became convinced the network of regional charities they had enthusiastically created in the 1920s was no longer the right structure for the organisation. The administrative burden on central staff in London was ever increasing and a new way forward was sought. In 1937 the BECC began absorbing the regional charities back into the parent body - a process which was met with stiff opposition in Yorkshire. A 'robust' defence saw the BECC eventually back down and allow the Yorkshire charity to remain, alongside three other regional charities in the network who also managed to fend off amalgamation. A 'Memorandum of Understanding' was signed which limited the Yorkshire charity to 'raise and spend funds solely within the boundaries of the county' while the BECC undertook to return all future donations and legacies originating in Yorkshire, deducting a small handling fee in the process.



Sir Charles Lidbury

It was the start of a new relationship between the BECC and the charity which was to become strained on occasions. There was frustration in Yorkshire whenever it was felt the BECC was trying to interfere and there was resentment in London about the administrative burden of the relationship. This grievance was given short shrift in Yorkshire - 'local loyalties are more important than administrative convenience' was the pointed reply to one particular letter of complaint. It was clear there was also a north-south divide in general attitudes and approaches. Barker Thomas Clegg, the Yorkshire Council's Joint Honorary Secretary, wrote that the BECC simply 'did not understand the individuality and independent spirit of the northern counties'. On their part, the London team objected to the stubbornness of their northern counterparts, colourfully summed up in 1954 by the BECC's Honorary Treasurer, Sir Charles

Lidbury, in a letter to his friend Llewlyn Jones: 'Now, although you are a Welshman, you have been sufficiently long in the north, and particularly in Yorkshire, to understand that the disease which northerners, and particularly Yorkshiremen, suffer is the continuous urge to maintain complete autonomy and independence. Peculiar as it may seem to you, Yorkshiremen insist on maintaining this autonomy even in the matter of cancer research.'

Disagreements over county boundaries, gifts in wills and press releases festered over the years. Delays in finalising annual accounts were also a source of conflict, caused on one occasion in the early 1970s by 'the University of Leeds having gone over to computers'. Matters came to a head in 1974 and it was agreed that talks to clear the air should be held. The Queens Hotel in Leeds was chosen as the venue and there was some trepidation on both sides as the big day approached. As it turned out though, the sherry reception, lunch and meeting all went well. The London visitors sent a letter the following day expressing their 'very sincere thanks for the hospitality and admirable arrangements. History was made in more ways than one and we all came away with an impression of warmth and friendliness.' Some of the more contentious issues between the two parties weren't resolved that day but both sides committed to working more cooperatively and harmoniously together.



The Queens Hotel, Leeds

1939

It's good to talk

When the British Empire Cancer Campaign (BECC) was first formed in 1923, the view of many of its leaders was that educating the public about cancer would be unhelpful. They weren't alone. Across the wider medical community there was a fear that enlightening the public would result in 'cancer phobia', an excessive fear of the disease, and encourage unrealistic expectations of a cure. They also worried the country didn't have sufficient capacity to cope with a large increase in public demand for access to doctors. Cecil Rowntree, a pioneering surgeon and BECC Trustee, summed up the prevailing mood succinctly: 'the dissemination of knowledge will merely result in mental suffering'.



Sir Berkeley Moynihan did not agree. In a 1926 radio broadcast entitled 'The Enlightenment of the Public, the Attack on Cancer' he had emphasised that 'the earliest possible recognition of the disease and immediate operative treatment are the conditions of success'. If an individual suspects they may have cancer but does nothing about it 'the growth drifts along, increasing in size through every hour of every day until it ceases to be a local disease and invades first the adjacent parts and later the more distant parts of the body. It is then incurable ... We are told that if we talk about cancer to the public we shall increase their fear of it. Is that conceivable? ... It is not cancer we have to fear so much as the neglect of cancer. It must surely be a part of our duty as members of the medical profession to educate the public, to let knowledge banish fear'.



A radio set of the time



Dr Malcolm Donaldson
by Isobel Donaldson

Taking the message to the silver screen

Moynihan had an ally in Dr Malcolm Donaldson, a pioneer in radiotherapy treatment. A fellow BECC member, Donaldson was a relentlessly persuasive advocate of the need for public education and through the late 1920s and early 1930s he slowly won over his doubtful colleagues. In 1934 the BECC agreed to set up a committee to champion the dissemination of cancer information to the public. Initially this focused on providing lectures about breast and womb cancer to community groups, but Donaldson had much more ambitious plans – he wanted to take the 'gospel of early detection' to the big screen.

The result was 'Out of the Shadow', a film produced in 1939 which received 'universal approval' and was rolled out in cinemas across the country. It was considered innovative for the time with an early detection message wrapped up in a human-interest story. The film focuses on a young newly-wed who is distressed to find a lump in her breast. She fears it may be cancer but instead of making an appointment to see a doctor she keeps her concerns to herself. Over the following days her increasing anxiety leads her husband to beg to know what's wrong. With his encouragement she sees a doctor and an operation quickly follows. She is relieved to discover the tumour was harmless but the doctor advises if it had been left it could have developed into cancer.



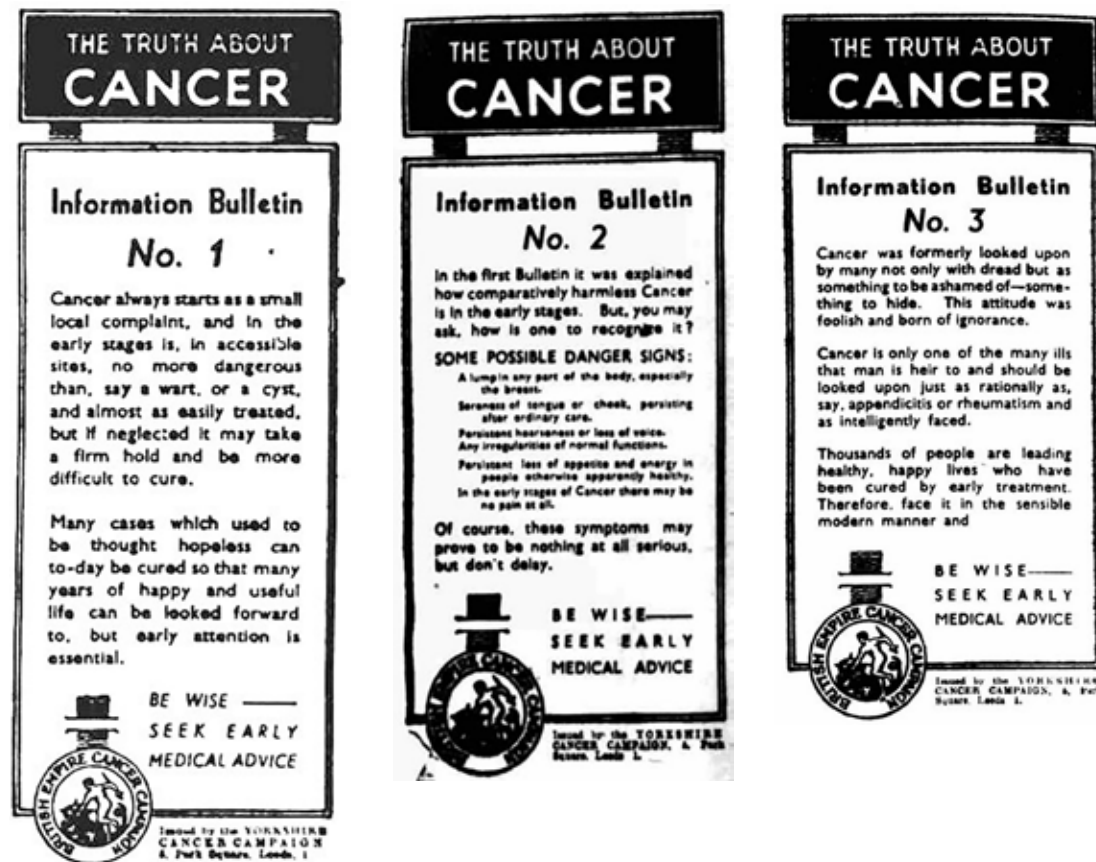
A scene from 'Out of the Shadow'

The charity was asked to help with screening the film across Yorkshire. Reaction among the charity's leaders was very positive with the consensus that 'the necessity of early diagnosis and treatment is admirably put forward'. Chairman Sir Harold Mackintosh was pleased to be able to help 'promote the seeking of earlier medical advice which is so important a matter'.

1940

Pioneering public education

Two years later, in 1941, the charity invested in a publicity campaign to further encourage early diagnosis. A series of 'Information Bulletins' ran in newspapers across the county, urging readers to 'Be wise and seek early medical advice'.



In 1952, Malcolm Donaldson took on a research project funded by the charity - an intensive public education programme focused on the East Riding of Yorkshire. The aim was to further educate the public about cancer signs and symptoms to generate 'earlier treatment and a greatly enhanced possibility of cure'. Donaldson's enthusiasm and experience drove the delivery of over 250 cancer awareness lectures in just two and a half years, supported by new literature and the formation of new committees. The charity's 1955 annual report acknowledged the limited period of observation of this campaign meant final conclusions couldn't be drawn, but recorded evidence suggesting 'the delay between the onset of symptoms and the seeking of medical advice has diminished'.

Distribution of a leaflet, 'The Secret Dread of Cancer', supported Donaldson's work, highlighting that cancer can be painless and a prompt appointment with a doctor could be a life-saver.

Supporting the war effort

In 1940, as Britain struggled through the early months of World War Two, the charity threw itself into a support operation. Keen for scarce public donations to be targeted towards agencies such as the Red Cross, the charity stopped its fundraising activities. Staff with medical expertise were released to join the Emergency Medical Service and others were called up for national service. In total more than half the research staff departed.

In 1941 the charity gifted its Leeds laboratory to the Blood Transfusion Service and it became their northern headquarters.

However, despite the loss of both staff and premises, the charity still functioned. Chairman Sir Harold Mackintosh was a driving force behind maintaining the research effort 'as vigorously as possible under the conditions of war'. In the 1941 annual report he drew a dramatic comparison to illustrate the importance of continued progress: 'Grievous as has been the loss of life in this country due to enemy air attack during the last year, cancer has claimed, during the same period, more than twice the number of victims.'



A poster appealing for wartime blood donors

1941

Part of the fabric

The origins of cloth manufacturing in Leeds go back to the 1100s when a fulling mill was established at Temple Newsam. Fulling was a way of cleaning and thickening wool to produce better quality cloth. By the 1300s there was a fulling mill right in the heart of Leeds and by the late 1600s there were twice-weekly cloth markets which drew people from miles around. The town was on the map as a textiles centre, but it was the completion of the Aire and Calder Canal in 1699 which was the catalyst for Leeds to become one of the clothing capitals of the world.



A fulling mill

The canal allowed coal and wool to be shipped in and cloth and clothes to be shipped out. By the 1770s Leeds produced around a third of all the woollen clothing made in England. Hugely successful tailoring companies sprang up in the 1800s including Hepworths, which was to become the Next chain, and Montague Burton which, by 1925, was able to boast the largest clothing factory in the world. With such huge capacity at hand, Burton got a contract to provide demob suits to World War Two servicemen as they returned to Britain and civilian life. Each suit comprised a jacket, trousers, waistcoat, shirt and underwear and gave rise to the phrase 'The Full Monty'.



The textile industry provided vast wealth for the Leeds elite but for most of the city's working classes it meant a lifetime of long hours, squalid housing, scant education and poor diet. In addition, working conditions were often dangerous and it became increasingly clear in the early 1900s that 'industrial cancer' was one of the many prices being paid by the workforce.



Workers in the Burton factory, Leeds, 1951



The dye house at Salts Mill, Bradford

In support of the flourishing clothing industry, there had been huge growth in dye manufacturing. One of the most commonly used cloth dyes was aniline. Derived from coal tar, it was easy to use on a range of cloth types and provided stronger and more consistent colouring than other dyes. The downside was it was deeply unpleasant to work with, causing irritation of the skin, eyes and lungs. By the early 1900s there was also increasing concern it could be causing bladder cancer. A young researcher at the Leeds centre, Isaac Berenblum, was tasked with reviewing bladder cancer incidence among aniline dye workers and when he moved to Oxford in 1936 this work fell to a rising star of the Leeds cancer research team – Dr Georgiana Bonser.

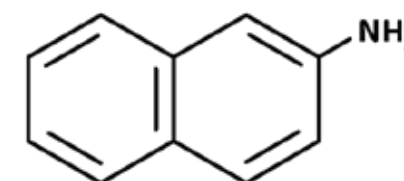


Dr Georgiana Bonser

The charity's first female researcher

Cancer research was a man's world in those days and it is testament to Georgiana Bonser's professional and personal qualities that she rose to become one of the most respected researchers of her time. Born in Manchester she passed her medical exams with distinction and was the first female surgeon to work at Manchester Royal Infirmary. In 1927 she crossed the Pennines and joined the small team in the new Department of Experimental Pathology and Cancer Research at the University of Leeds.

Her 'keen mind and dogged persistence' were admired by her colleagues. For her entire life she fought for women to get their rightful opportunities in the medical world and young female researchers were particularly drawn to her, finding her an enthusiastic mentor and champion. She helped them with their studies, offered guidance on future careers and employed the most promising when vacancies arose in her team. One of her proudest moments came in 1959 when she was voted president of the Women's Medical Federation.



beta-naphthylamine

Initially Bonser's research focused on breast cancer genetics, but when Isaac Berenblum left she took the lead on bladder cancer research as well. It was proving difficult to establish which of the chemical compounds within aniline was causing the bladder cancers but in 1937 research in America pointed towards beta-naphthylamine as the possible culprit. Bonser seized on this research and in 1941 was able to confirm it was indeed the cause. It was subsequently banned from use in the UK in 1952, helping not just the cloth-dyeing workforce

but employees in the rubber and cable-making industries where it had also been in common use. In the charity's 1966 annual report, Chairman Sir George Martin was proud to record that 'the incidence of bladder cancer has reduced in recent years, largely due to the evidence produced in our laboratories by Dr Bonser'.

Her research was aided in the 1940s and 1950s by a series of donations from the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers which amounted to around £200,000*, and by the arrival of Professor David Clayson, a talented chemist who worked closely with Bonser for many years. They went on to identify other cancer-causing chemicals used in industry and in the 1960s Bonser became a leading advisor to the government on the safety of food dyes, testing them meticulously in her Leeds laboratory.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Professor David Clayson

After Bonser retired, Sir Ronald Tunbridge, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University of Leeds, paid tribute to her: 'There was no appointment in the field of cancer research that would have been beyond her reach. Leeds is fortunate in having had her services for so long and we thank her for all that she did for the department, the University and the charity.'

She died in 1979 and in her obituary in the medical journal Nature she was hailed as a pioneering female scientist, ahead of her time. A determined and formidable woman who, in the smoke and grime of pre-war Leeds, quietly laid the foundation stones of product testing for carcinogens.



1930s industrial skyline, Hunslet, Leeds

1946

Committed fundraisers

The charity's first local voluntary committee was set up in Sheffield in 1946 by industrialist Sir Arthur Winder and proved very effective, bringing in around £260,000* in its first two years. Eager to capitalise on this success, in 1948 the charity's Chairman, Sir Harold Mackintosh, appealed 'to that sense of voluntary service, in which we in Yorkshire are so rich, that there may be those who might find time to help us in this humanitarian work. Offers of help with forming new committees will be very gladly received'.

The first to respond to his call were eager volunteers in Hull where a committee was quickly established. Three years later a committee was formed in Great Ayton. After decades of loyal service, the Sheffield and Hull committees eventually disbanded but the Great Ayton committee is still going strong in 2025. Over the decades the committee has raised over half a million pounds from countless cake sales, afternoon teas, wine and cheese evenings and door-to-door collections.



The Great Ayton committee celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2021 with an afternoon tea

Mine workers dig deep

The Mine Workers of Yorkshire began supporting the charity as early as 1926, implementing a one shilling levy on members, and by 1946 their annual contribution stood at around £61,000*. In the same year the Yorkshire branch of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) donated around £3,500*. Both organisations were cherished supporters, the Yorkshire Mine Workers making a huge £400,000* donation in 1949 and the NUM making a £3,500* donation every year for the next 23 years.

*Equivalent value in 2025



1947

Spreading the word

During 1947 the charity spent nearly £33,000* on 'regular announcements in 33 Yorkshire newspapers to educate the public in the right approach to the problems of cancer'.

Such an outlay was possible partly because of the generosity of the University of Sheffield Students' RAG committee who donated £196,000* that year. Sheffield RAG Week was started by medical students in 1920 and went from strength to strength. Thousands of people flocked to watch the annual city centre parades and raft races down the river Don, raising huge sums for charities. A donation of this size was a very welcome windfall but it was acknowledged with typical Yorkshire understatement in the charity's annual report as 'most acceptable'.

*Equivalent value in 2025



1948

A Princess for President



HRH Mary, Princess Royal

After the sad loss of the 6th Earl Harewood in 1947, there was delight the following year when his widow, Princess Mary, accepted an invitation to succeed him as the charity's President. She marked the start of her time in office with an appeal to the public: 'The work of the charity is a cause which I commend to the people of Yorkshire. If the centres at Leeds and Sheffield are to carry on their investigations into the causes, and, we hope, the cure of this all too prevalent disease, the necessary funds must be provided.'

Radiotherapy support for Hull

1948 also saw the charity collaborate with Hull Royal Infirmary and the Hull City Health Authority to set up a new radiotherapy centre in the city. The Hull and Leeds radiotherapy centres went on to work in close collaboration, sharing staff, expertise and research projects, the primary one being an investigation into the radio-sensitivity of breast cancer.

1949

Fundraising drive

In 1949 the Yorkshire Motorists began supporting the charity, with members coming together to organise the first Motorists' Dance at Leeds Town Hall. With the support of the lord mayor, the event proved a huge success and became a popular annual function throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, contributing many thousands of pounds to the charity. In addition, a number of individual members gave generous annual donations for many years.



Sheffield University RAG Week parade, 1982

1950 - 1974





The Mayo Clinic in 1914

'Great discovery' inspires researchers

Dr Philip Hench was an arthritis specialist working at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota in the 1920s. He treated his rheumatoid arthritis patients with all the various medications available at the time but none offered long-term relief. The situation seemed hopeless until one particular patient happened to develop jaundice and, intriguingly, his arthritis mysteriously disappeared. Hench then noted that women with rheumatoid arthritis sometimes saw an improvement in their symptoms during pregnancy. These observations led him to believe

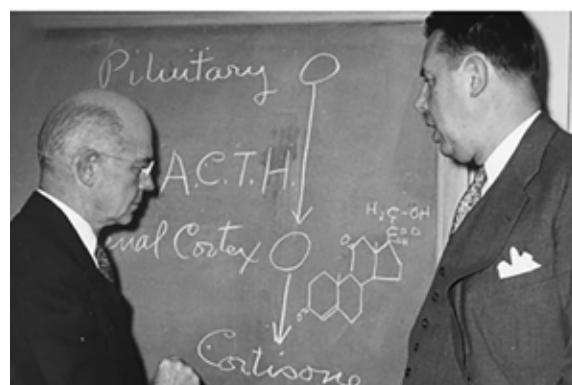
that jaundice and pregnancy were causing some kind of 'anti-rheumatic' substance to be naturally produced by the body. He didn't know what this anti-rheumatic was and dubbed it 'substance X' but he suspected it might be a hormone.

Meanwhile, one of Hench's colleagues at the Mayo Clinic, talented chemist Dr Edward Calvin Kendall, was leading research into hormones produced by the adrenal glands. Hench asked Kendall for help in identifying 'substance X' and they began a collaboration through which they eventually learned how to manufacture one of the adrenal gland hormones, naming it 'compound E'. At the time it was the most complicated compound ever produced for medical use.

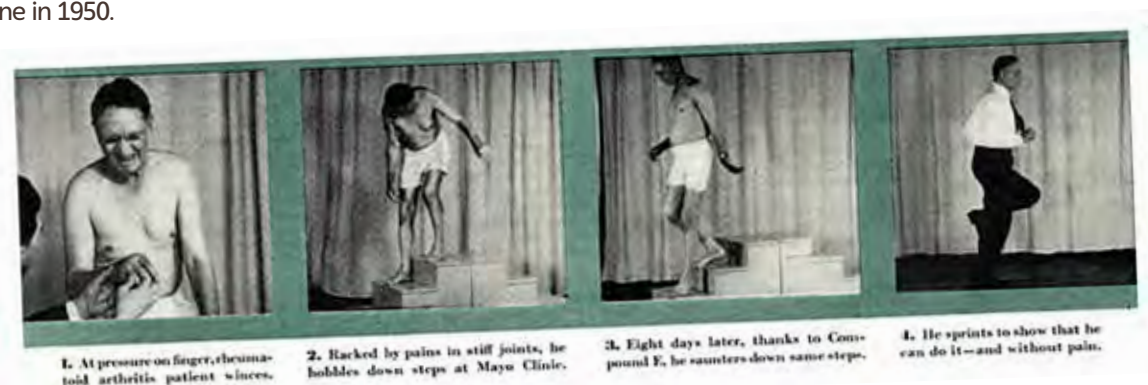
In 1948 Hench began to treat his rheumatoid arthritis patients with injections of compound E.

The results were astounding. In one well-documented case a 62-year-old Texan man arrived at the Mayo Clinic barely able to take a step and was filmed sprinting just eight days later (pictured below). All Hench's patients experienced huge improvements in their condition. Hench and Kendall were elated and compound E, now renamed cortisone, was hailed as 'one of the great medical discoveries of the generation'.

Unfortunately it was soon discovered the arthritic symptoms came back when treatment stopped and that cortisone could cause significant side effects, but despite these issues, Hench and Kendall were rewarded for their ingenuity and endeavour when they became joint winners of the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 1950.



Dr Philip Hench, right, and Dr Edward Calvin Kendall



Their achievement sparked worldwide interest in cortisone and staff at the Sheffield research centre began to investigate if it might be useful in cancer research. In 1951 they made a breakthrough, discovering healthy skin cells stopped dividing when cortisone was applied but cancerous and pre-cancerous skin cells were unaffected by it, continuing to divide freely. They also discovered the pre-cancerous cells stopped responding to cortisone at a very early stage, long before a tumour began to form. This was an important insight as it revealed the time taken for a healthy cell to transform into a cancer cell was longer than previously thought.

Further insights followed, including the discovery that if cortisone was continually applied to skin at the same time as a cancer-causing substance then no tumour would form.



The Steroid Research Laboratory, Sheffield

The creation of the new laboratory gave rise to other lines of hormone-related research and Sheffield established a strong reputation in the study of the pituitary and thyroid glands and in understanding the role of oestrogen in breast cancer. The thyroid research was led by Professor W. A. J. Crane who had been appointed Director of the Sheffield centre in 1968. The excellence of this work was acknowledged in 1969 when Sheffield was selected to become a national centre for thyroid cancer research.

*Equivalent value in 2025



A Sheffield cancer research laboratory in the 1950s

The cortisone research was boosted in 1958 when the charity contributed £80,000* to help the University of Sheffield establish a new Steroid Research Laboratory at the Jessop Hospital for Women.

Today cortisone, in the form of hydrocortisone, is used to help relieve the symptoms of some cancers and can be used alongside other cancer treatments to reduce side effects.



Professor W. A. J. Crane, Director of Cancer Research in Sheffield

1951

Saving lives, 25 years on

In the 1951 annual report, Chairman Sir Harold Mackintosh surveyed the 25 years since the charity's creation and was proud to report that Yorkshire was 'more than pulling its weight in the fight against cancer'.



The total amount raised in Yorkshire since 1925 was estimated at well over £13 million*, about a quarter of the total amount raised by the British Empire Cancer Campaign across the entire nation in the same period. Pointing out that the Yorkshire population stood at less than ten per cent of the national population, Sir Harold attributed this over-performance to two factors: 'the generosity and loyalty of the people of Yorkshire' and 'the devotion of as loyal a team of voluntary workers as any cause could wish to have'.



Sir Harold Mackintosh

In terms of progress in cancer research, Sir Harold lamented that the 'cause and cure' were yet to be discovered but celebrated the 'thousands of men and women alive today who, 25 years ago, would have had no chance of recovery'.

*Equivalent value in 2025

foundations for the charity's success through his excellent selection of staff, a number of whom went on to become university chairs and heads of other research organisations, and through his tireless persistence and zeal for his work. Passey summed up his general approach as being a willingness to 'pry into every nook and cranny of nature in the search for the truth, and more truth, about the disease'.

Noting that his Leeds department, 'largely financed by the Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign,' had 'attained increasing eminence for its contributions to our knowledge of cancer in many and diverse directions', the Nature article highlighted several areas as being key Leeds achievements. These included understanding the role of hormones in the development of breast and testicular cancer, investigating the cause of lung cancer and examining the initiation of melanoma skin cancer.

A worthy successor

Professor Harry Green had led research in Sheffield for 17 years and had made a big impact. The same Nature article noted the 'several hundred contributions to pathological literature and experimental medicine which had emanated from Professor Green and his Sheffield staff'. Green, 'an experimentalist of the highest order' according to Tunbridge, was highly regarded by the charity and was entrusted with the leadership of both the Sheffield and Leeds centres, a demanding role which he was to fulfil devotedly for the next 14 years.



Professor Harry Green

Green's greatest contribution to research was a theory he published in 1954 about the nature of cancer cells and how they interact with the immune system. This theory was well received by experts throughout the world, including Sir Macfarlane Burnett, the leading immunologist of the time and a future Nobel Prize winner. Burnett declared Green's theory to be 'the most plausible yet put forward'. A positive reaction in America led to Green being accepted into the New York Academy of Sciences in 1963. A review in the British Medical Journal in 1967 described his theory as 'undoubtedly a turning point' in consideration of the relationship between the immune system and the onset of cancer.

Professor Green died in 1967 just four months before he was due to retire. The charity's 1967 annual report records the 'profound shock' felt for the loss of a dedicated servant who had made 'an outstanding contribution to understanding of the disease'.

1953

The first department Director retires

1953 saw Professor Richard Passey retire 'after more than a quarter of a century of versatile directorship and distinguished personal research'. He had been Director of Cancer Research in Leeds since 1926 and was held in high esteem, not just in Yorkshire where Sir Harold Mackintosh attributed to him 'a contribution not exceeded by any other worker in the field', but nationally and internationally too. Medical journal Nature congratulated him on 'having built up from its beginnings a department with a record of achievement and a worldwide reputation as a centre of sound research' and praised his 'wide biological knowledge, his encouragement, his critical judgement and his love of truth'. In 1975, Sir Ronald Tunbridge, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the University of Leeds, credited Passey with laying the



Professor Richard Passey

1955

Charity starts at home

1955 marked the charity's 30th anniversary and Sir Harold Mackintosh, the charity's Chairman, was proud to report it was 'the best year yet' for fundraising. He offered his deepest appreciation to the thousands of volunteer helpers whose unfailing energy had seen over £5 million* raised during the previous decade from house-to-house collections, social events, subscriptions and donations.

House-to-house collections had long been a vital source of income for the charity. The 1955 annual report recorded 44 collections in that year alone, generating over £85,000*. The most successful was in Hull where residents donated over a third of the total sum.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Bean Street, Hull



Kent Street, Hull

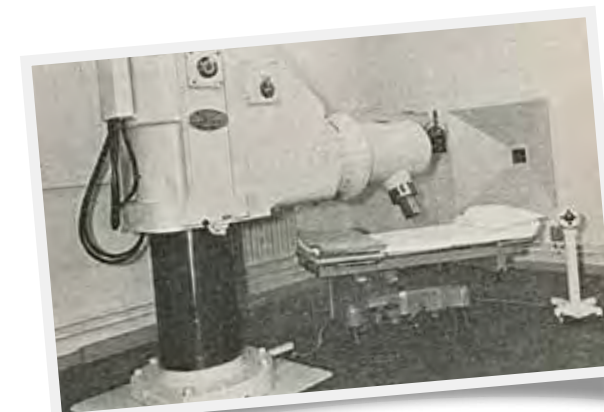
1956

'The beginning of a fine venture'

Several years of planning culminated in the opening of a new radiotherapy centre in Leeds in 1956. It had a grand title, the High Energy Radiation Treatment and Research Centre, and saw the charity working in partnership with the University of Leeds, the Leeds Regional Hospital Board, the United Leeds Hospitals Board and the Rockefeller Foundation. The charity's contribution was a 'cutting-edge' new cobalt beam radiotherapy machine which was capable of delivering higher doses with less damage to healthy tissue than the previous generation of deep X-ray machines. In what was described as a unique approach at the time, the machine was used for patient treatment during the day and for research during the night.



The High Energy Radiation Treatment and Research Centre at Cookridge Hospital, Leeds, 1956



The cobalt beam radiotherapy machine provided by the charity

The new facility was opened by the charity's President, Princess Mary, who declared: 'We stand at the beginning of a fine venture. I have no doubt that many people, and many families, will have the best of reasons as the years go by to give thanks in their hearts for the therapeutic work carried out here at Cookridge.'

1958

The 'workpeople' show their metal

The charity's 1958 annual report celebrated yearly income exceeding £50,000 for the first time and praised the contribution of the 'workpeople of Yorkshire'.

Weekly subscriptions from employees of Yorkshire companies were first received in 1945 and, by 1958, the annual amount received had exceeded £3 million*. Chairman Sir Harold Mackintosh wrote: 'It is quite impossible to adequately express our thanks to everyone who contributes in this way but they may be sure that this constant income is greatly appreciated.'

1958 saw sizable donations from workers at the Mackintosh toffee factory in Halifax and the Rowntree sweet factory in York, from police officers in York, Bradford and Leeds, and from three Sheffield steel companies - Samuel Fox and Co, Steel, Peach and Tozer and Spear & Jackson.

Employees at Samuel Fox and Co started sending weekly subscriptions to the charity in 1946 and continued to do so for the next 25 years. Over that period their generous support amounted to over £270,000*. Steel, Peach and Tozer staff contributed £233,000* over 14 years and Spear & Jackson staff supported the charity continuously for 37 years, contributing over £100,000*.



Rowntree staff in York made weekly contributions



This remarkable generosity prompted Sir Harold Mackintosh to comment in the charity's 1964 annual report that 'the whole of Yorkshire is our parish, but nowhere in Yorkshire have we received greater support in our fight against cancer than in Sheffield'.

In the late 1960s Samuel Fox and Co and Steel, Peach and Tozer were both absorbed into the newly created British Steel but the fundraising commitment of the transferred staff did not falter. Over the next decade the British Steel workforce donated around £240,000* to the charity.

Spear & Jackson remained independent and continue to fly the flag for Sheffield craftsmanship with their high-quality garden tools and saws selling around the world.

*Equivalent value in 2025

1959

Researchers in the limelight

Three decades of relentless effort by Yorkshire's cancer researchers were commended in the 1959 annual report. Sir Harold Mackintosh praised 'the very wide and fundamental nature of the work being carried out at the cancer research departments of the Leeds and Sheffield Universities. Some of this work is arousing interest in many countries. I would like to pay a very special tribute to our research workers who carry on, year in, year out, with patience and determination. It is often frustrating work, for the enemy only gives ground an inch at a time. Their work gets little limelight and is often not as well rewarded as scientific workers in industry, but there can surely be nothing more vital to the future happiness and well-being of humanity than the solution of this problem which still claims so many victims. I would therefore like to offer sincere thanks and appreciation for the devoted service of our own scientific staff in particular, and to all research workers everywhere'.



Mr G. Turnbull, Research Assistant, with a gamma counter at the Leeds cancer research centre

Improving care for those with terminal cancer

The quality of care for people with terminal cancer had been a concern within the charity since its earliest days and in 1959 the charity partnered with the University of Leeds to organise a conference at the General Infirmary to update medical practitioners on care for patients with incurable cancers. The event was attended by around 50 doctors, psychiatrists and pharmacists and met with 'widespread commendation'. It was repeated two years later and was supported by the formation of several working groups to progress the key issues.

1962

Equipped for success

In 1962 the charity spent over £250,000* to provide a new electron microscope for the Sheffield cancer research centre. It was used to study changes in liver cells as they were exposed to cancer-causing chemicals and to investigate changes on the surface of cancer cells and how these affected relationships with surrounding cells.

The charity also purchased a liquid scintillation counter and several other expensive pieces of kit for the Sheffield laboratory, prompting Professor Harry Green, Director of the Leeds and Sheffield research centres, to write: 'By themselves machines and equipment are no more than scrap metal, but when they are allied with the brains of expert scientists they can produce results which have hitherto been impossible. We are already making great use of the apparatus which the charity has provided for us in recent years and this will be reflected in the scientific work which we report in future.' The charity's Vice-Chairman, Sir George Martin, added: 'we have two of the best equipped laboratories not only in this country but throughout the world. Yorkshire can be proud of its cancer research centres and of the generosity of the Yorkshire folk who make this work possible'.

Also in 1962, several years of financial support for the Department of Medical Physics at the University of Sheffield paid off with the invention of a 'television-type' screen which gave doctors a much brighter and clearer view of X-rays. It also allowed the radiation dose to be significantly reduced when X-rays were taken, making the process safer for patients.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Dr John Shortland and Terrance Durrant with the new electron microscope at Sheffield

1965

University partnerships recognised

The charity had worked in partnership with the universities of Leeds and Sheffield since its very earliest days. In 1965, as Sir George Martin succeeded Sir Harold Mackintosh as the charity's Chairman, he took the opportunity to thank them: 'The research continues day by day in our two laboratories at the Universities. These laboratories are staffed by a large team of young and enthusiastic workers. We acknowledge with gratitude the help and cooperation of both Universities.'



The relationship in Sheffield became even closer in 1967 when the entire research staff, comprising eight different teams, were transferred into the care and management of the university while the charity continued to meet the full cost of wages, equipment and supplies.

The charity's first shop opens for business

The charity's first shop opened its doors for business in Northallerton in 1965. It was a proud moment for a group of local supporters who had initially organised jumble sales together. The first sale had raised £15, the equivalent of an average weekly wage at the time, and the second had done even better, raising £35. More jumble sales followed and the group eventually felt inspired to set up a shop. Premises were found on Romanby Road and a new chapter in the charity's history began.

Members of the Northallerton local voluntary committee gave thousands of hours of their time to keep the business going and by 2015, when the shop celebrated its 50th anniversary, over £625,000* had been raised. That same year marked 25 years of dedicated service by 84-year-old Enid Richardson who explained: 'Someone suggested that I start volunteering at the shop so I came in and that was it – I've been here ever since. We're just a little part of the fight against cancer but it's nice to know that we are doing our bit. I'll keep going as long as I can.'

By 2024, when the shop moved into new premises on the High Street, total takings had topped £1 million and the jumble sale organisers of Northallerton had been the inspiration for a network of Yorkshire Cancer Research shops stretching across the county.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Sir George Martin, the charity's newly appointed Chairman



Enid Richardson (centre) and fellow Northallerton shop volunteers in 2019, celebrating having raised £200,000 in the previous five years



Professor Craig Jordan

Tamoxifen, one of the world's most important cancer drugs

Craig Jordan's love affair with chemistry began early in life. At the age of 14 his mother gave him permission to turn his bedroom into a laboratory. 'I'd throw burning stuff out of the window and the curtains would be on fire but my mother's view was "at least we know where he is"'. He became obsessed, spending every lunchtime in the school laboratory and devouring any chemistry books he could get his hands on. In 1965 he was accepted to study for a degree in pharmacology at the University of Leeds.

He first arrived at the Leeds cancer research centre in 1966 on a summer placement. He was already excelling in his degree course, winning a prize in his first year for recording the highest ever score

in organic chemistry, but no one could have guessed the glittering career that lay ahead of him. He was to become Professor Craig Jordan, 'Father of Tamoxifen', perhaps the most important cancer drug in history. It is estimated hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of women are alive today because of it.

Tamoxifen began life in 1962 known as ICI 46,474. It was one of several drugs developed in the Fertility Control Programme at ICI Pharmaceuticals in Cheshire (now AstraZeneca). The programme was led by biologist Dr Arthur Walpole and chemist Dora Richardson, two experienced and highly-regarded scientists. Initially they had hopes that ICI 46,474 might prove to be an effective morning-after contraceptive pill because it had been proven to significantly reduce fertility in rats. However it turned out to have completely the opposite effect in women, making them more fertile, not less. It could very easily have been the end of the road for the drug, but thankfully Arthur Walpole had a keen interest in cancer research and knew the history of breast cancer treatment.



Dr Arthur Walpole and Dora Richardson

Sir George Beatson was a surgeon working in Glasgow in the 1890s. He was committed to improving breast cancer surgery and by chance he learned from a couple of Highland farmers that if cows had their ovaries removed, it changed the feel of their udders and altered their capacity to make milk. At the time there was no known connection between the ovaries and the breasts in women, but Beatson was intrigued by what he'd heard. In the words of medical historian Siddhartha Mukherjee, he then did something that was 'unorthodox beyond description' - surgically removing the ovaries of three women who had breast cancer.



Drovers with Highland cattle, Wester Ross, by George Washington Wilson, 1890s

As Mukherjee puts it, it was the modern-day equivalent of removing a lung to cure a brain tumour. To Beatson's astonishment and delight all three women responded well, their tumours shrinking dramatically.

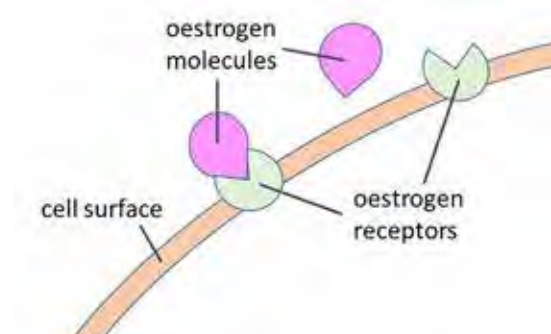
Word of this apparent miracle spread quickly and a group of London surgeons repeated Beatson's experiment with a larger number of breast cancer patients. They got a more varied outcome - two-thirds of the women responded well but one-third showed no improvement at all. It was an inexplicable result, both encouraging and frustrating. In 1902 one surgeon wrote: 'It is impossible to tell beforehand whether any benefit will result from the ovary removal or not, its effects being quite uncertain.'

It was nearly 30 years until the next step forward. Edward Adelbert Doisy was an American biochemist researching hormones at the St. Louis School of Medicine. In 1929, showing commendable commitment to the cause, he collected hundreds of gallons of urine from pregnant women and stored it in huge copper vats. From this vast reservoir he managed to extract a few milligrams of a hormone produced by the ovaries - oestrogen.



Edward Adelbert Doisy

Other researchers then proved that this newly discovered hormone had a role in driving the growth of breast tissue during puberty which prompted an interesting question - if oestrogen could make normal healthy breast cells grow and divide, could it also be making breast cancer cells grow and divide? This would explain why removing the ovaries, and thereby hugely reducing oestrogen production, was proving to be an effective breast cancer treatment. It made sense, but if it was the case then why did it only work for two-thirds of breast cancer patients?

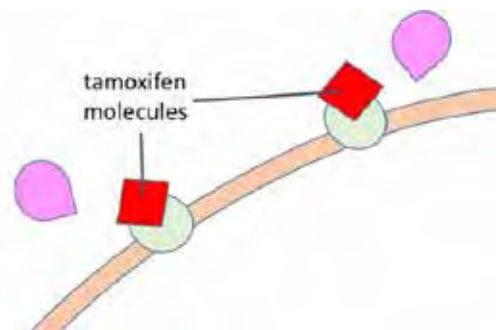


The answer to this mystery was revealed in the 1960s by a young researcher in Chicago called Elwood Jensen. Jensen knew that hormones typically worked by binding to a receptor structure on the surface of a cell and then relaying a signal which might, for example, instruct the cell to begin the process of division. Up until that point, no one had been able to discover a receptor for oestrogen. Using a radioactively labelled version of the hormone, Jensen managed to find the receptor. He then investigated

whether breast cancer cells from different patients had this receptor. He discovered the cancer cells from some patients had lots of oestrogen receptors and the cancer cells from other patients had very few. The proportions were interesting - about two-thirds of patients had breast cancer cells with lots of oestrogen receptors (termed 'ER-positive') and about one-third of patients had cancer cells with hardly any receptors ('ER-negative').

At last the results of the London surgeons who had followed up Beatson's initial experiments were explained. The two-thirds of breast cancer patients whose tumours had shrunk after having their ovaries removed must have had breast cancer cells with lots of oestrogen receptors - oestrogen had been the petrol fuelling their cancers, signalling the cells to keep dividing. Cutting the fuel supply by removing the ovaries had stopped the growth. The one-third of patients who had seen no benefit from ovary removal must have had breast cancer cells with very few oestrogen receptors - something else had been driving their cancers, not oestrogen.

Arthur Walpole knew all this historical background. He also knew ICI 46,474 worked by attaching to oestrogen receptors and blocking them up, preventing oestrogen molecules from binding to them and thereby stopping the signalling that would have initiated cell division. Putting two and two together, Walpole realised his failed contraceptive could possibly be a treatment for patients with ER-positive breast cancer and he was instrumental in getting a clinical trial of the drug underway at the Christie Hospital in Manchester which reported positive results.



Craig Jordan in a Leeds cancer research laboratory working on his PhD, 1972

By this time Craig Jordan had graduated and was working on a PhD in 'non-steroidal anti-oestrogens', or as Jordan himself put it; 'a PhD in failed contraceptives', a less than inspiring choice which he feared may lead him into a dead-end career. Arthur Walpole was chosen to visit Leeds to examine Jordan on his thesis and was impressed by the young student.

Jordan had already secured a post in Leeds as a pharmacology lecturer but it had been agreed he could have two years of study leave in America before returning to Yorkshire to begin his teaching duties. It was whilst he was at the Worcester Foundation in Massachusetts that his association with Tamoxifen began. Walpole encouraged ICI Americas to give Jordan an unrestricted research grant to further investigate Tamoxifen. Jordan was inexperienced in laboratory research at the time: 'I did a few experiments, sort of

self-taught by pictures', but he managed to prove Tamoxifen did have a significant impact on ER-positive tumours and his research also began to show the drug might be able to prevent breast cancer as well as treat it. However, as Jordan put it: 'the idea of using drugs to prevent cancer hadn't been invented yet, so I was talking to a brick wall. Prevent breast cancer? Oh God, here comes Craig Jordan again, talking about Tamoxifen. Pretend you haven't seen him'. Despite the fact Tamoxifen was approved for use as a breast cancer treatment in the UK during this period, Jordan felt much of his research was going under the radar: 'nobody in the scientific or clinical community really cared'.

Tamoxifen was proving itself a tricky drug to administer to patients, its effects and side effects seemed to depend on the exact dose and duration of therapy and there were fears women would become resistant to it if they had to take it for too long. It was clear a lot more research was required.

In 1974 Jordan returned to Leeds with continued generous support from ICI and the university and, in his own words, 'armed with additional grants from the Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign', he carried on with the investigation. It was to be the next few of years of laboratory research and further clinical trials which cemented Tamoxifen's place in history. Working closely with Walpole, Jordan began extensive studies into how Tamoxifen really worked and its true potential as a cancer preventative. Looking back on this period he said: 'the Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign gave me the freedom to discover what Tamoxifen can do'.

By the late 1970s the drug was being used in over 100 countries and it was to become the gold standard anti-hormone treatment for breast cancer for the next 20 years, also making history in America by becoming the first ever drug to be approved for use to prevent cancer. Today it remains a cheap and effective life-saving drug which is still widely used around the world.

In 2013 Professor Jordan co-wrote a book about the Tamoxifen story and was proud to recount his part in turning 'an orphan drug' into a medical phenomenon: 'no other cancer therapy is so widely approved or has had so dramatic an impact on cancer care'. A copy of the book, signed by Professor Jordan with an acknowledgment of his gratitude to the charity, is one of Yorkshire Cancer Research's most cherished possessions.



To all my friends
at the
"Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign"
With my gratitude and thanks
for investing in a young
Scientist
Craig Jordan
2013

1968

A Yorkshire-wide endeavour

For over four decades the charity's laboratory research was entirely focused in its two centres in Leeds and Sheffield but in 1968 the charity broadened its outlook. Projects were funded at the Universities of Bradford and Hull for the first time – drug dosage investigation in Bradford and breast cancer research in Hull. The following year saw the first support for research at the University of York where an amino acid project was funded.

These were all modest investments but they were the beginnings of long and fruitful relationships with all three universities. Research funding provided to them more than doubled over the next three years.



UNIVERSITY
of HULL



UNIVERSITY
of York



A researcher at the Cancer Research Unit, York

There was a major development in 1975 when nine Leeds-based staff were transferred to York to form the nucleus of a new Cancer Research Unit investigating carcinogens – chemicals which cause cancer. Two international conferences in the early 1970s had indicated that ‘up to 80 per cent of all human cancers may have chemical involvement’ and researchers had been testing for carcinogens for several decades. The Leeds centre, led by Dr Georgiana Bonser, had been at the forefront of the investigations. However, the testing procedures were slow and expensive and by the mid-1970s over 100,000 chemicals were in commercial use and well over 3,000 new ones were being introduced every year. It was clear new rapid testing techniques were required and developing them was to be a key priority for the new unit in York. Within a year their tests were rated as being 90 per cent accurate in distinguishing between

carcinogens and non-carcinogens and an independent, non-profit service was set up to allow industry, government and local councils to quickly test chemicals. One of the unit’s first successes was to prove that dichlorobenzidine was a carcinogen. At the time it was commonly used in the production of dyes and printing inks.

The team in York were also tasked with investigating carcinogenesis – the process by which a normal healthy cell turns into a cancer cell. They focused on understanding the changes taking place inside the nucleus of a cell as it transformed with the aim of developing more effective drugs to control the growth and division of cancer cells.

In order to provide the unit’s staff with a suitable and safe working environment, the charity funded the construction of a purpose-built research complex which was completed in 1979. Costing over £880,000*, the accommodation comprised five research laboratories, a toxic hazards laboratory and five offices. It was heralded as ‘one of the most up to date facilities in the country’.

Bingley committee put the fun in fundraising

Marjorie Hodgson is the charity’s longest serving volunteer. In 1968 she helped set up the Bingley local voluntary committee and 57 years later she is still involved and as enthusiastic as ever.

The inspiration to get the committee going came from local ‘milk lady’ Tina Emmott. Marjorie remembers: ‘Tina knew of a group raising money for the charity in Keighley and questioned why Bingley didn’t have one of its own. So we thought we’d better set one up! I’ve never looked back.’

*Equivalent value in 2025



Marjorie Hodgson with faithful companion Sasha

A tentative first coffee morning raised 17 shillings. ‘Gradually we became more adventurous’, explained Marjorie. ‘We did some raffles and then put on a fashion show, but it’s often been the weird and wonderful events that have been the most successful.’

A ‘Grocery Grab’ trolley dash at the local Presto supermarket proved a huge hit and Marjorie remembers one of the three winners was very keen to grab a large box of Persil washing powder, her ‘dream item’.

The committee’s biggest success was a barbecue at the home of international show jumper Harvey Smith. This was no run-of-the-mill back garden get together - around 4,000 guests crowded into Smith’s indoor jumping arena to enjoy ‘roast bullock’ and listen to chart-topping musician Aker Bilk. The evening raised over £32,000*.



Harvey Smith (right) with the charity’s Chairman Sir George Martin (second left), Barbara Standcliffe, Chairman of the Bingley local voluntary committee, and the charity’s General Secretary Clive Wilson

One of Marjorie’s favourite memories is of taking part in the Bingley Lions Pram Race in 1975 with four friends from the committee. They made their way around the town decked out in black leotards and white knickers pushing a Yorkshire Cancer Research branded pram. ‘I will never forget that day. One of us had to be in the pram the entire time while the others pushed. It was such fun.’

*Equivalent value in 2025



Mrs Beckwith of Baildon in action during her Grocery Grab

Their biggest disaster came a couple of decades later - a luncheon for 100 people at Shipley golf club. Marjorie recalls: ‘Everyone was sitting down waiting for their lunch to be dished up when a digger outside cut through an electricity cable. All the lights and power went out, leaving us with half-cooked chicken in the oven. We thought it was best not to risk giving everyone food poisoning and thankfully all the guests were very understanding and voted to reschedule rather than receive a refund.’



The Pram Race team

1969



Professor Edward 'Teddy' Cooper,
Director of Cancer Research in Leeds

Teddy takes charge

Professor Edward 'Teddy' Cooper was appointed Director of Cancer Research in Leeds in 1967, arriving from the Chester Beatty Research Institute in London. He brought a wealth of research expertise combined with natural enthusiasm, a keen intellect and a talent for securing financial support from both the academic world and industry.

In the charity's 1969 annual report Cooper took the opportunity to review the breadth of research being carried out across the Leeds and Sheffield centres. Praising the teamwork which saw biochemists, organic chemists, physicists and surgeons collaborating for the greater good, he was able to highlight a very diverse portfolio.

In Leeds the research included a number of bladder, liver, breast and kidney cancer projects. There were also investigations into how smoking affects cancer recurrence, how lymphoma cells proliferate, how genetics affect susceptibility to cancer and how cancer cells adapt to low oxygen environments.

In Sheffield there was focus on the role of viruses in causing cancer and the impact of hormones on thyroid, pituitary and breast cancer. This was in addition to investigations into the immune system response to cancer and projects relating to blood, womb, liver and pancreatic cancers.

1970

A new look, a new name, the same aim

On 15 May 1970 the charity changed its name. After 45 years, the long and increasingly outdated 'Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign' was consigned to history and the charity entered the new decade as the 'Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign'.



A new logo, bright orange branding and a major newspaper advertising campaign were designed to bring the charity's work 'to the notice of everybody in the county'. There was no change in the charity's main aim however. This was simply outlined by Chairman Sir George Martin in the 1970 annual report as being 'to continue research into the disease of cancer in an unremitting effort to determine its causes and cure'. The key to

continued success would be 'to retain, encourage and recruit the very best men and women to carry out the research'.



Halifax shop volunteers celebrate the new orange frontage

'Loveable Les'

Tadcaster butcher Les Emmott was inspired to start fundraising for the charity after members of his family were affected by cancer. In the late 1960s he set up a table in the corner of his shop and began selling books, then persuaded family members to start house collections. In the early 1970s he retired as a butcher and went to work at Samuel Smith's Brewery. With the brewery's support he secured premises in the town centre and was proud to open a new shop on behalf of the charity in October 1971, juggling running it with his shifts at the brewery. His energy and determination saw the shop go from strength to strength and he was delighted to see total sales hit £500,000 by 1998. He had a brisk, unassuming, always-ready-to-do-a-deal manner which endeared him to the local population and the shop became something of a Tadcaster institution.



Les Emmott standing outside the Tadcaster shop



Les celebrates raising £500,000 with Anne Holmes, Chair of the Tadcaster local voluntary committee

Over the years he found buyers for all kinds of weird and wonderful donations, including an artificial leg. At his funeral in 2006 'Lovable Les' was described as 'the charity's greatest ever salesman'. Reverend Richard Burton paid tribute to a 'determined, mischievous, shy, witty, stubborn, sensitive, awkward and loveable Yorkshireman' who was 'very persuasive'. He recounted an occasion when Elaine King, the charity's Chief Executive, had been due to visit and had been assured by Les that a parking space would be reserved for her on the busy street outside the shop. When she arrived she discovered he had placed a big second-hand pram in the road with a sign on it reserving the spot. As soon as she got out of the car he tried to sell it to her.



Les's legacy

By 2021, when the shop celebrated its 50th anniversary, over a million donated items had been sold and over £2 million had been raised. Les and his team of volunteers, and those who followed in their footsteps, had given over a quarter of a million hours of dedicated service.

Unfortunately repeated flooding forced the closure of the shop in 2022 but Les would be pleased to know he helped pave the way for a chain of Yorkshire Cancer Research shops across the county which were raising over £1.5 million annually by 2024.



Celebrating 50 years of successful trading at the Tadcaster shop in 2021 - former shop manager Linda Park (second left) with shop volunteers Julia Weighell (left), Audrey Fothergill (right), Dr Kathryn Scott, the charity's Chief Executive, and Tony Graham, Director of Retail, Services and Operations

Funding vital equipment

1971 also saw the charity spend around £220,000* to provide an additional electron microscope for the Sheffield research. It was used to investigate the activity of white blood cells in tumours and the spread of cancer cells into the lymphatic system.

*Equivalent value in 2025

1972

Star-studded support

1972 saw several Yorkshire-born celebrities get involved with the charity. Comedian Ernie Wise and film star James Mason fronted a newspaper and poster advertising campaign. Mason urged 'If you want to support this campaign - as you surely must - please do so today' and Wise asked 'I want to help, why don't you?' Additionally comedian Charlie Williams made several appearances at fundraising events around the county.



The James Mason advertising campaign



Comedian Charlie Williams prepares to push over a pile of pennies at the White Horse Inn, Bradford



Comedian Ernie Wise

1973

Going viral

In 1911, American pathologist Peyton Rous discovered a virus which could cause cancer. It spread between chickens and became known as Rous sarcoma virus. It was further investigated in Sheffield in the 1920s and 1930s by Sir Edward Mellanby.

In the decades that followed scientists became increasingly convinced that viruses could cause cancer in humans as well as in animals but nobody could provide definitive proof.

By the 1970s virology was seen as one of the most promising fields of cancer research and in 1973 the charity invested in an expansion of the virus research programme at Sheffield. A new post, The Sir George Martin Chair of Virology, was created. The university chose the name to honour Sir George, the charity's Chairman, in recognition of his 'outstanding contribution to the cause of cancer research over the past 50 years'. A new Lecturer in Virology post was also created. With a dedicated virus research laboratory already established, the additional funding from the charity helped cement Sheffield's reputation as a leader in the field.



Peyton Rous in his laboratory at Rockefeller University, New York



Epstein-Barr virus

Today it is known there are several viruses which can cause cancer, including human papillomavirus causing cervical cancer, hepatitis B and hepatitis C causing liver cancer, Epstein-Barr virus causing lymphoma and HIV causing a number of cancers.

In addition to the two virology posts, 1973 saw the charity fund two other lecturer posts in Sheffield, in immunopathology and chemotherapy, along with providing technical support for all four posts. The total outlay was nearly £360,000*.

A focus on breast cancer

The same year the charity made 'a generous donation' to help establish the Yorkshire Breast Cancer Group. It comprised surgeons, radiotherapists and biochemists who were keen to investigate factors influencing the long-term wellbeing of breast cancer patients. By 1976 the group had collected standardised records of over 200 breast cancer patients which were being used for a study into tumour diagnosis and a chemotherapy investigation. An open meeting of the group was held in Leeds in 1977 and attracted over 100 attendees.

*Equivalent value in 2025

1975 - 1999



Tireless commitment

The charity's annual general meeting was held on 21 May 1975, 50 years to the day since the organisation was founded. Those gathered were addressed by Sir Ronald Tunbridge, former Chairman of the charity's Scientific Advisory Committee. He praised the continuous support of the Yorkshire public since the very first appeal for funds in 1926 and thanked 'the vast army of voluntary workers who, with coffee parties, sales of work and other special efforts, have continued to raise money for the charity. The number of such people must run into thousands'.



(left to right) Helen Davies, Helen Kidd, Louise Jennings, Beverley Wilson and David Wilson with their collection. (Joanne Murphy also helped)

Among that number were six children who went knocking on doors in their home village of Dunnington asking for food donations. They were supporting their neighbour Gladys Clay who had raised money for the charity for many years. Gladys organised whist drives and used the donations as prizes. The children collected over 160 items and proudly displayed their haul on a table in Gladys's front room.

In his speech, Sir Ronald went on to praise 'the doctors and scientists whose work has contributed so much to improve the situation. The past fifty years have seen tremendous strides in both the diagnosis and treatment of cancer'.

Sir Len lends support

1975 also saw the charity launch an appeal to raise £500,000 in its 50th year. Legendary Yorkshire and England cricketer Sir Len Hutton led the appeal, urging the public to 'hit Cancer for six'.

Services for Yorkshire's medical community

Some of the funds raised went to support a new breast cancer service at the Leeds centre. Surgeons across Yorkshire were invited to send in breast tumour tissue for analysis to discover if the samples had many oestrogen receptors ('ER-positive') or very few oestrogen receptors ('ER negative'). This was of great value to surgeons in deciding on treatment options – patients with ER-positive tumours could be given Tamoxifen while patients with ER-negative tumours would need alternative treatment. Leeds was one of the few centres in Britain offering the test at the time and the service was welcomed by the Yorkshire medical community.



A second new service was established the same year. The charity worked in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Security to set up a cancer information unit in the medical library at the University of Leeds. It was designed to support the Yorkshire medical community by disseminating cancer literature and responding to individual requests for information, 'keeping them up to date and well informed'. Initially set up for a trial period of three years it cost the charity £75,000* per annum but it turned out to be money well spent. Within its first year more than 200 enquiries had been dealt with, mainly from hospital consultants, and plans to extend the service were already in hand. By 1978 over 600 medics were subscribed to receive regular bulletins and the service had been expanded to include practitioners across the UK and overseas. The unit had proven its worth and the trial period eventually turned into a permanent commitment which saw the charity hand full control and funding responsibility over to the Department of Health and Social Security.



Pauline Collins and John Alderton with Wendy Jameson (right), Chair of the Northallerton voluntary committee

Midnight Matinee is a sell-out success

Husband and wife TV stars John Alderton and Pauline Collins spent some time in Yorkshire during 1975 because Alderton was filming It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet, playing the role of James Herriot. The Northallerton local voluntary committee were delighted when the celebrity couple agreed to attend a fundraising event - a 'Midnight Matinee' screening of The Towering Inferno. A sell-out evening helped the committee raise around £12,000* across the year.

Finding cancer sooner

1975 ended on a high with the opening of a new laboratory at the Regional Radiotherapy Centre at Cookridge Hospital, Leeds. It was funded by the charity in partnership with the regional health authority and the main objective of the research was to improve early detection, looking for indications of cancer before the first symptoms became evident. It was considered 'long-term work of great complexity' but with huge potential benefit for patients.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Dr Dyson (left) and Dr Smith in the new laboratory at the Regional Radiotherapy Centre, Cookridge, Leeds

1977



Emmerdale Farm star Frazer Hines (left) supports the Aireborough voluntary committee

TV star pitches in

A new local voluntary committee was formed in Aireborough in 1977 and actor Frazer Hines helped get it off to a flying start. He was the heart-throb star of ITV's Emmerdale Farm at a time when there were only three television channels and the programme was prime-time viewing. As the main attraction at a charity cricket match organised by the committee, he helped swell both the crowd and the takings.

Jumbled up

Not far away in Eccleshill the 'Jumbler Boys' were proud to hand over a cheque for around £5,600*, the result of four years of organising jumble sales on behalf of the charity.



The Eccleshill Jumbler Boys with Mrs Crawshaw, the charity's Assistant Secretary

Charity office move

Redevelopment of the charity's Park Square office in Leeds forced a move to new accommodation. Park Square had been the charity's home for over half a century and there was some sadness to be moving but also enthusiasm to be leaving the increasingly busy city centre. The ground floor of the Techno Centre in Horsforth was leased for three years, long enough to allow for a permanent office to be found which could be purchased rather than rented.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



The Techno Centre, Horsforth, Leeds

1978

High pressure research

In the early 1970s the charity provided funds to employ a medical physics technician as part of a clinical study into the use of hyperbaric oxygen for patients with cervical cancer and head and neck cancers.

Hyperbaric oxygen is administered by placing a patient in a pressurised chamber. Pure oxygen is fed in and, because of the higher pressure, the patient breathes the oxygen in greater quantities than normal - helping to promote healing and reduce infection.



A hyperbaric oxygen chamber

The study results were published in 1978 and were disappointing with regards cervical cancer – hyperbaric oxygen provided no clear benefit for these patients. However, for head and neck cancers it had a significant impact, reducing tumour size and contributing positively to survival rates.

The treatment received a further boost in the 1980s when an American trial concluded that giving hyperbaric oxygen to head and neck cancer patients reduced the risk of osteoradionecrosis - a condition which can occur months, or even years, after head or neck radiotherapy, and which can cause pain, swelling, ulcers, infection and weakened bones.

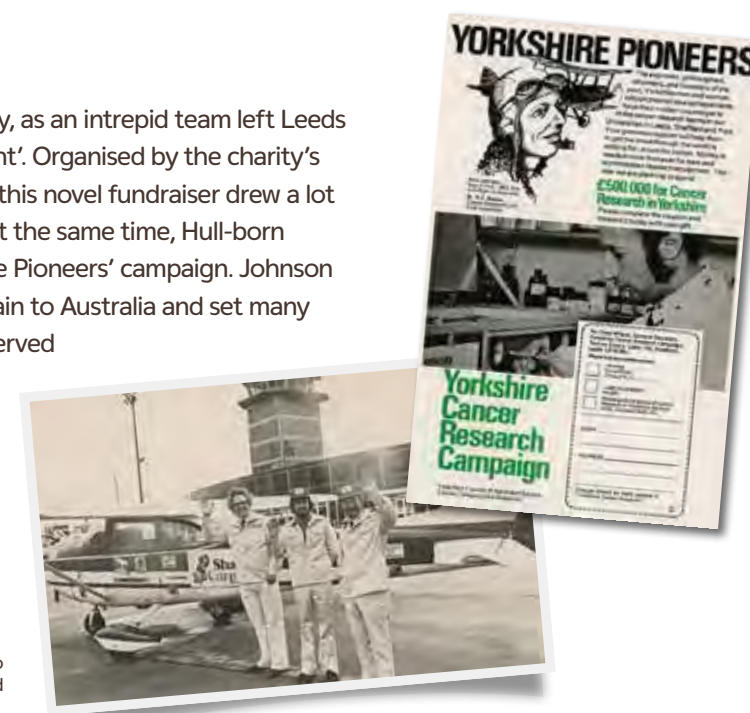
In the following years, hyperbaric oxygen became a common treatment for head and neck cancer patients. Nowadays it is becoming less widely used due to improvements in the delivery of radiotherapy, increasing doubt about the extent to which it really reduces osteoradionecrosis and concerns about the expense and inconvenience for patients in having to travel to facilities where it can be administered. However, it has been - and in some cases still is - an important treatment option.

Taking flight

Fundraising took off in 1978, quite literally, as an intrepid team left Leeds Bradford Airport on a 'Round Britain Flight'. Organised by the charity's Huddersfield local voluntary committee, this novel fundraiser drew a lot of interest and raised around £40,000*. At the same time, Hull-born Amy Johnson was featured in a 'Yorkshire Pioneers' campaign. Johnson was the first woman to fly solo from Britain to Australia and set many other long-distance flying records. She served with the Air Transport Auxiliary during World War Two and died when her plane ran out of fuel over the Thames Estuary. The charity was proud to honour her memory as part of a campaign to raise £500,000.

**Equivalent value in 2025*

The 'Round Britain Flight' crew prepare to depart Leeds Bradford Airport



1980

Local voluntary committees make a 'splendid effort'

1980 was an outstanding year for the charity's local voluntary committees. A total of 62 committees across the county raised over £1.2 million*. It represented a 27 per cent increase on the previous year and was celebrated by the charity's Chairman Dr Douglas Shortridge as a 'splendid effort' and just reward for 'all those who put in so much time and effort on our behalf.' Contributions came in from 'committees large and small' and all were welcomed.

The Huddersfield committee celebrated collecting £100,000 since forming in 1963 and there was special praise for the enthusiastic efforts of Aireborough Juniors who raised over £1,200*. The York committee took over the window of Barclays Bank in the city centre, raising awareness of their fundraising efforts which included a men versus women rugby league match attended by TV commentator Eddie Waring.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Eddie Waring (left), with a member of the York committee (centre) and a representative of the British Rugby League

Fashion show gets celebrity support

The Ilkley local voluntary committee held a fashion show with Judith Chalmers as compère. She had been involved in radio and TV broadcasting since childhood and had become a household name as the star of ITV's popular travel programme *Wish You Were Here?* The Ilkley committee were elated when she accepted their invitation to host the evening. The show raised over £2,000* and helped the committee raise over £14,000* during the year.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Judith Chalmers (front row, third from left) with members of the Ilkley committee

1979

So long Leeds, hello Harrogate

There was a big change for the charity's employees in 1979 as the office moved away from Leeds for the first time. Chairman Dr Douglas Shortridge spoke of his sadness to be leaving the city which had been home for so many years but welcomed the move to permanent accommodation in Harrogate. After more than five decades of renting, the charity would own its headquarters for the first time, resulting in a reduction of long-term costs. He reported the move had gone 'very smoothly indeed' and thanked all employees involved. Three years later the charity's Treasurer, James Whitehead, was able to confirm the move had brought advantages 'as regards both finance and location. With hindsight we are able to congratulate ourselves on our foresight!'



The charity's new office – 39 East Parade, Harrogate

1982

Paul Daniels becomes the face of the charity

Magician Paul Daniels was at the height of his fame in 1982. His Saturday night TV show was watched by over 15 million people every week in Britain and viewed in 43 countries around the world. He had just been awarded 'Magician of the Year' by the Academy of Magical Arts, becoming the first magician from outside the United States to receive the accolade, and his 'It's Magic' stage show was a huge hit in London's West End. It was therefore a real coup for the charity when he agreed to lend his support.



Paul Daniels

Born and brought up in North Yorkshire he had a natural affinity for the county and a passion to help. 'I feel very strongly that one should not be too busy to give time, thought and money to help this excellent cause.' He became the face of the charity, featuring on an array of leaflets, posters, adverts and collection tins and attending several events in person. He remained closely associated for the best part of a decade and played a vital role in raising the charity's profile.

Further expansion of research facilities

Four years of joint planning with the regional health authority and the University of Leeds culminated in the opening of a new research facility in May 1982 – the 'Tunbridge Building'. Constructed to house the university's Department of Radiotherapy and Radiobiology and located next to Cookridge Hospital in Leeds, the new building cost the charity over £1.7 million*. Dr Douglas Shortridge, the charity's Chairman, reported the project had cost less than expected and, on behalf of the university, Senior Radiotherapy Researcher Dr H. Anthony thanked the charity and the health authority for the 'generosity and trust put in us to make full use of these excellent facilities'.



The new Tunbridge Building, Cookridge Hospital, Leeds

Taking the relaxed approach

Dedicated supporter Mr Elgey raised over £3,000* with a 'sponsored sit' on Pudsey Town Hall steps. He was 'in situ' from 7am to 7pm every day for a week.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Mr Elgey

1983

Understanding likely patient outcomes

1983 saw the completion of an important database at the Leeds research centre. Over the previous six years, data relating to more than 1,000 tumours had been collated and transferred to the 'university main computer'. Statistical analysis of the data could then begin with particular emphasis on trying to improve prognosis - the predicted likely course of a cancer in a patient. The data covered five types of cancer including prostate, which was considered the priority. The early 1980s had seen a shift towards a 'watch and wait' approach for slow-growing prostate cancers where patients receive no initial treatment, so any information which could help predict the future likely behaviour of these cancers would be of great value.

40,000 not out

England cricket legend Sir Ian Botham lent his support to the charity when he handed over a cheque for around £40,000* on behalf of the charity's Leeds local voluntary committee.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Ian Botham (second left), the Deputy Lord Mayor of Leeds (centre), his consort (left) and Alan and Judith Caplan of the Leeds local voluntary committee

1984



Sir Ronald Tunbridge, Emeritus Professor of Medicine

Sir Ronald Tunbridge

Professor Sir Ronald Tunbridge had been a member of the charity's Executive Committee for over three decades and was the first Chairman of the charity's Scientific Advisory Committee. His passing in May 1984 was a huge loss. The Dean of Medicine at the University of Leeds paid tribute to him: 'He is remembered with affection by a host of people and organisations in the city, in the county, nationally and worldwide ... His clinical skills and advice have benefitted innumerable individuals and groups ... Recognised and honoured by many societies including the Association of Physicians, he was a professional man with a concern for people, a strong faith and a gentle and courteous manner.'

Brothers stir up support

Brothers Chris and Nick Felton raised over £300* from a coffee day at their home in Leeds. They charged for each cuppa and collected sponsorship for every drink sold.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Chris and Nick Felton

1985

Yorkshire leads the world in photodynamic therapy

In September 1985, the charity made a modest investment in an emerging concept in cancer treatment – photodynamic therapy (PDT). Professor Roy Parker began pulling together a team at the University of Leeds that would go on to be a world leader in establishing the new treatment. The team would also collaborate on a new drug which would benefit not just people with cancer but also millions of people around the world with deteriorating eyesight.



Photodynamic therapy targeting a tumour

Photodynamic therapy works by giving a patient a photosensitising drug which, over a period of hours or days, accumulates in high concentration in cancer cells. In this state the drug has no effect but when red light is focused on the tumour the drug reacts to the light and kills its host cancer cells. The drug only accumulates at low levels in healthy cells so they are much less affected and they are further protected because the red light beam can be carefully focused on the cancer cells.

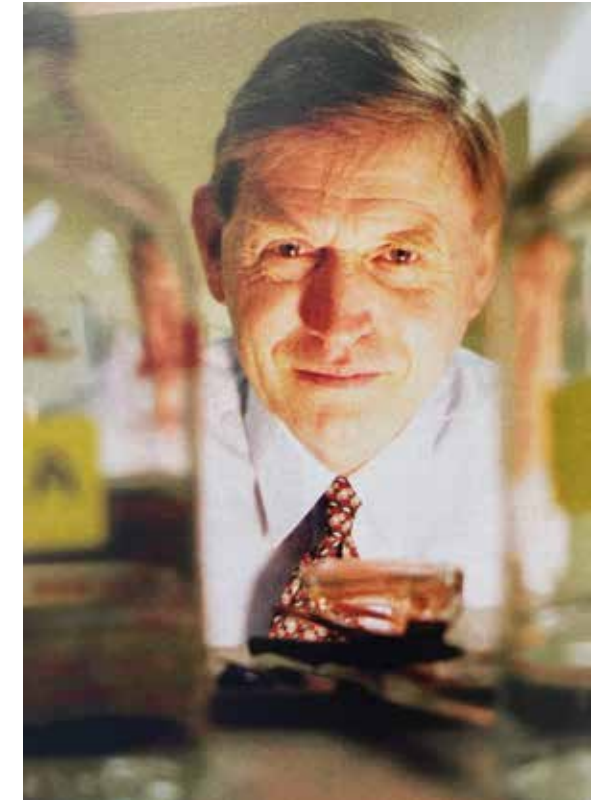
Sadly Professor Parker died soon after the project began and Professor Stan Brown stepped up to lead the initiative, continuing to bring together a talented team drawn from the university's departments of biochemistry, medical physics and radiotherapy.

Within two years, the modest initial investment had turned into the charity's biggest single annual expenditure and the 1987 annual report was proud to record that research into the therapy 'was proceeding with commendable success and has obtained very favourable comment in the scientific press ... The omens are encouraging'.

In the early 1990s, the project expanded in scope and began to draw upon expertise at the universities of Hull and Sheffield. The involvement of renowned chest surgeon Keyvan Moghissi in Hull was a particular benefit, bringing the opportunity to perform photodynamic therapy treatments on lung and oesophageal cancer patients for the first time. The charity spent nearly £200,000* to furnish Mr Moghissi's operating theatre with the necessary equipment.

The team's first big breakthrough came in 1993. Several years spent developing, producing and trialling the drug Polyhaematoporphyrin paid off when the analogous American drug Photofrin became the first photodynamic therapy treatment to be approved for patient use, establishing the Yorkshire group as a world leader in the field.

One of their biggest contributions was in developing a new type of photodynamic therapy which used aminolaevulinic acid instead of a photosensitising drug. This naturally occurring substance is converted into a powerful photosensitiser by the body. It is given as a cream which is applied to the cancerous area. Over the next couple of hours the body converts the aminolaevulinic acid and then red light is directed at the affected area for about 15 minutes, killing the cancer cells. The concept was first floated in Canada but it was the Leeds team who developed it and it is still regularly used in the treatment of melanoma skin cancer.



Professor Stan Brown



Professor Keyvan Moghissi (right) receives photodynamic therapy laser equipment from Professor Eddie Dawes, Chair of the charity's Scientific Advisory Committee

By 1996 over 400 patients had received photodynamic therapy in Yorkshire, mainly for lung, oesophagus, chest wall and skin cancers, and many thousands had been treated worldwide for these and other conditions, including bladder cancer. The same year saw medics at Leeds General Infirmary use it to treat a pituitary brain cancer, a world first.

By 1998 photodynamic therapy had been licensed as a cancer treatment in the UK, USA, Canada, Japan and a number of European countries and by 2001 it was being used in standard clinical practice in around 30 centres across Britain.



Dr Joan Miller treating an eye patient with Verteporfin PDT

While the cancer research was taking place, another story had been evolving. The Yorkshire team had collaborated on a photodynamic therapy drug called Verteporfin. Photofrin had an unfortunate flaw in that treated skin remained photosensitive for a prolonged period after therapy. Verteporfin didn't cause the same problem and therefore represented a significant step forward. However, it was to be in a completely different healthcare field that Verteporfin really made its mark on the world. In the mid 1990s Dr Joan Miller, an eye specialist working in a hospital in Massachusetts, spotted Verteporfin's potential as a possible treatment for macular degeneration,

the most common cause of blindness in the elderly. In 1995 she treated an eye patient with Verteporfin for the first time and successful clinical trials followed in America and Europe. By 2003 the treatment had been approved for use in many countries and by 2005 over one million people worldwide had had their eyesight preserved by the drug.

In total the charity funded photodynamic therapy research in Leeds for almost 20 years and spent in excess of £9 million*. The project was considered a 'spectacular success' which brought 'major benefits to people in the region and beyond'.

**Equivalent value in 2025*

1986

Full tilt fundraising

Charity supporter Bill Tilt took on a huge challenge in the summer of 1986 in memory of his first wife who had died from cancer. He pedalled a 70-year-old ice cream bike from Hull to Devon – a 320-mile trip which took him 12 days. His journey ended on the seafront in Paignton where he was greeted by the local Mayor and delivered a goodwill message on behalf of Hull Council. That should have been the end of the adventure but Bill had received some good news. His daughter had given birth and he was eager to see her and meet his new grandson. He didn't let the fact they were 180 miles away in the West Midlands put him off and after a brief rest he got back in the saddle and pedalled northwards. He ended his challenge at Birmingham Council offices, covering over 500 miles and helping the Hull local voluntary committee raise around £38,000* during the year.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Bill Tilt setting off on his marathon ride, cheered by members of the Hull local voluntary committee, the Lord Mayor of Hull (second right) and Mrs Tilt (right)

The sweet sound of success

The biggest series of events ever staged by one of the charity's local voluntary committees began in November 1987 at a packed Royal Albert Hall. Seventy coaches took singers, musicians and supporters to London for a spectacular '1,000 Yorkshire Male Voices' concert. Twenty-five choirs from across the county came together with the Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band to put on a truly unique performance.

The concert was the brainchild of Ron Massey and Ron Platt, Chairman and Treasurer of the Huddersfield local voluntary committee and they were grateful to be able to draw upon the expertise and enthusiasm of local choir master Roy Firth. It took three years of planning and was a huge undertaking but raised over £88,000* and was praised in the charity's annual report as 'a magnificent effort'.



'1,000 Yorkshire Male Voices' concert, Royal Albert Hall, London, 1987



Roy Firth was a talented choir master, organist and singer and put huge effort into preparing the various choirs for the concerts



Ron Massey (right) is joined by other members of the Huddersfield local voluntary committee to hand over the takings from the second Albert Hall concert to the charity's secretary Maureen Smalley (centre)

The event proved so popular the committee repeated it in 1991 with even greater success, raising over £115,000*.

From then on, the concert became a permanent fixture, repeated every three years. It took an enormous effort on the part of everyone involved but it was a much-anticipated highlight of the charity's fundraising calendar. The 2003 concert saw female singers added to the chorus, now over 1,500 strong, and members of the Gledholt Choir warmed up for the evening with some impromptu busking in Covent Garden. They got a fantastic reception and raised over £3,400* in under an hour. Actor Gorden Kaye hosted the 2003 event and proved a big hit with the audience. The Huddersfield-born star of the popular TV comedy 'Allo 'Allo was something of a national treasure at the time and the organisers felt very fortunate to have his support. He was involved again a year later, compèring another huge fundraiser, 'Yorkshire Brass and Voices', in Hull. He retained an interest in the charity for the rest of his life, leaving a generous bequest when he died in 2017.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Gorden Kaye (left) with Ron Massey and the charity's Chief Executive, Elaine King

Huge investment in cancer medicine research

The idea of using chemicals to treat cancer, or chemotherapy as it has become known, first gained momentum in the 1950s. By the 1970s it had become an essential part of cancer care around the world, both as a treatment in its own right and as a complementary therapy used alongside surgery and radiotherapy. However, its development was extremely challenging. Working out which drugs to give, when to give them and how to combine them, managing complicated side effects and improving quality of life for patients were all ongoing issues which needed continual assessment and research.

Consequently the 1970s saw the emergence of a new type of university department. Essentially they were cancer medicine departments although they were more commonly called departments of medical oncology or clinical oncology. By 1982 there were six such departments at universities across Britain but none were in Yorkshire and the charity became convinced that major investment was needed.



The Institute of Cancer Studies, Leeds

Several years of joint planning with the universities of Leeds and Sheffield bore fruit in 1988 with the appointment of Professor Peter Selby as Chair of a new Department of Cancer Medicine in Leeds and Professor Barry Hancock as Chair of a new Department of Clinical Oncology in Sheffield. Funding these new departments for an initial four-year period required a very substantial commitment from the charity of over £9 million*.

In terms of laboratory space, Sheffield was well set to accommodate a new department but Leeds was at capacity, so the charity committed to funding the construction of a new laboratory block at St James's Hospital. It was to become the Institute of Cancer Studies with Professor Selby as its new Director. The charity worked in partnership with the university and Leeds Eastern Health Authority to complete the three-storey building. When it opened in 1992 one floor was allocated to the health authority for 'scientific endeavour of their choice' and the other two were devoted to cancer research.

**Equivalent value in 2025*

Patients first

The appointments of Professors Selby and Hancock were to prove inspired.

Professor Peter Selby arrived from the Royal Marsden in London and with a patient-focused and collaborative approach, he drove a total transformation of oncology services in Leeds. In his time as a junior doctor he had been unimpressed by the condescending way patients were treated by many senior consultants. Consequently his focus was always on respect, communication and empathy at the bedside. Among a wide array of achievements was the work he collaborated on to develop quality-of-life assessments which improved patient care during chemotherapy. He was to become highly respected for his expertise in treating a wide range of cancers including leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma, melanoma, sarcoma, urological cancers and childhood cancers where he helped to set up the Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Service in the city. He was president of the Association of Cancer Physicians and director of the National Cancer Research Network but perhaps his greatest achievement was in leading the drive for a new cancer treatment facility in Leeds, the Bexley Wing, which opened in 2006 and remains one of the largest and best-equipped cancer centres in Europe.



Professor Peter Selby



Professor Barry Hancock

Professor Barry Hancock had been born with a severe hearing impairment and it was his childhood visits to hospitals for ear operations which inspired him to become a medic: 'I utterly revered the nurses and doctors who took care of me. I was totally struck by their kindness and care towards their patients. I knew I wanted to do the same.' He studied medicine at Sheffield and within a week of graduating was working at Sheffield Royal Infirmary, gaining experience in different departments but unsure what to specialise in. It was an encounter with a very ill teenager in 1973 which made up his mind. A 15-year-old boy with Hodgkin lymphoma was admitted into the hospital in very poor health. Professor Hancock recalled: 'We decided to treat him with chemotherapy which was quite new at the time. Within 24 hours of starting treatment he was considerably better and that sealed it for me. I knew what I wanted to do.'

Professor Hancock dedicated the rest of his career to caring for people with cancer and established a worldwide reputation in the treatment of lymphoma and cancers which occur during pregnancy. On his retirement in 2009 Dr Mike Richmond, Medical Director at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, said: 'Barry has given the people of Sheffield a lifetime of dedicated service and during this time has helped so many patients. He has made an enormous contribution in the field of oncology and has been a tremendous asset to Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and to this city.'



Clive Wilson

'A perfect gentleman and an inspiration to us all'

Clive Wilson was with the charity for 24 years, firstly as Appeals Organiser and then as General Secretary. There was great sadness over his death in November 1988. Chairman Dr Douglas Shortridge mourned his passing: 'He was a man of easy charm with a delightful sense of humour. Respected and liked by all, his enthusiasm and dedication to the cause will be sadly missed ... He was outstandingly successful in extending the local voluntary committees who provide the very bedrock of our continued existence ... A perfect gentleman and an inspiration to us all ... He will be sadly missed by all who knew and worked with him.'

1989

A well versed fundraiser

'People's Poet' Pam Ayres was the star turn at a concert organised by the Thorne local voluntary committee. She had become one of the nation's most loved celebrities after shooting to fame on the TV show Opportunity Knocks in 1975. A recital of her comedic poems attracted a full house and raised almost £2,000*.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Pam Ayres (second left) with members of the Thorne local voluntary committee, (from left to right) Mrs Woolley, Mrs Pennington and Mrs Wakefield

1990

Popular prize raises thousands

May 1990 was declared 'Cancer Month' by the charity and a number of fundraising activities took place, culminating in a Grand Prize Draw with a brand new Ford Fiesta Popular as first prize. Tickets were sold across the county by local voluntary committees and the raffle raised over £40,000*. The winning ticket was sold by the Huddersfield committee and the lucky winner was invited to a celebration in Harrogate, receiving the keys from the charity's Chairman Dr Douglas Shortridge.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



The winner of the Grand Prize Draw receives the keys to her new Ford Fiesta

1991

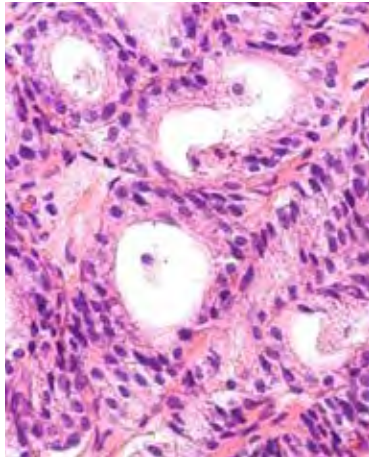
The 'singing scientist' who led the world

Professor Norman Maitland had two main passions in life as a teenager: science and singing. He pursued both with a passion, blowing a hole in the chemistry lab ceiling at his school and taking his singing so seriously he contemplated making a career of it. Some wise words from his father steered him towards a life in science and he never looked back. He developed 'an obsession to understand and treat prostate cancer' and was to go on to become a world-leader in the field.

Professor Maitland arrived in York in 1991 excited to take up the post of Yorkshire Cancer Research Professor of Molecular Biology: 'It gave me the opportunity to bring modern molecular biology to bear on research into prostate cancer. The charity was prepared to trust my judgement and to fund research into an area that was at that stage still relatively undeveloped.'



Professor Norman Maitland



Prostate cancer cells

His first big breakthrough came in 1998 when his team were among the first in the world to show cancer cells are not all the same within a tumour. In fact the cells can be remarkably different and this discovery paved the way for another breakthrough which helped explain how prostate cancers are often resistant to treatment. His team discovered about one in every thousand prostate cancer cells is a type of stem cell, described by Professor Maitland as 'the root cells at the base of the cancer from which all the other cancer cells are produced'. Further investigation then revealed these stem cells were resistant to treatment. While other cancer cells within the tumour would generally succumb quickly to chemotherapy or radiotherapy, the stem cells survived and therefore tumours would start to regrow as soon as treatment ended.

Encouraged by these discoveries, the charity made a very significant investment in 2005, spending well over £1 million* to build new laboratories for the 20-strong research team. At the opening day celebration, Professor Maitland said: 'Yorkshire Cancer Research should be proud of the fact that it was one of the first cancer charities to grasp the nettle of treating prostate cancer in men. These new laboratories offer us the opportunity to make a real impact in the outcome of this dreadful disease.'

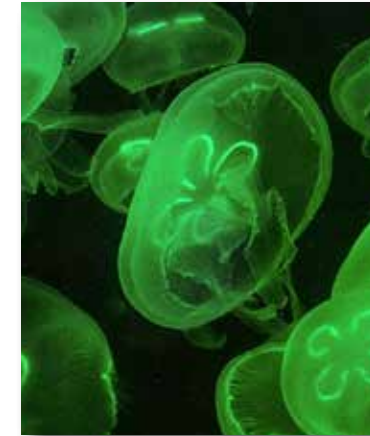


Professor Maitland with members of his team

With state-of-the-art facilities at their disposal, the team continued the stem cell investigation, determined to discover exactly how these cells managed to survive treatment. It was to take a decade. Numerous prostate tumours, removed by surgeons at Castle Hill Hospital in Hull, were treated with radiotherapy and then examined alongside painstaking analysis of over 25,000 genes within the stem cells. Eventually it was established the resistance was to do with the coiling of the chromosomes in the nuclei of the stem cells. The investigation also revealed a potential Achilles' heel which suggested treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs alongside chemotherapy and radiotherapy may be a way to kill off all the cancer cells in a tumour, including the stem cells.

Another vital contribution related to the assessment of prostate cancers at the point of diagnosis. Prostate cancers are sometimes referred to as being either 'pussycats' or 'tigers', pussycats being slow growing and unlikely to spread and tigers being fast growing and very likely to spread. A pussycat prostate cancer may need no treatment at all, the individual potentially dying in old age 'with the cancer' but not 'of the cancer'. Tiger prostate cancers on the other hand need immediate treatment which can take a serious toll on patients. It is therefore vital to know which type of prostate cancer an individual has so those with pussycats can be spared the treatment. Professor Maitland's team developed a test which indicated with increased accuracy what type of prostate cancer a patient had.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Fluorescent jellyfish

Other avenues of research included taking green fluorescent proteins from jellyfish and absorbing them into cancer cells. It was an idea first developed in America and the York team saw the potential to use it as a way to find cancers deep within the body which are difficult to spot at an early stage. A special camera detects the luminous cancer cells and indicates exactly where a tumour is.

Throughout his 28 years leading the York research team Professor Maitland remained firmly focused on patients: 'All the wonderful discoveries and all the wonderful science doesn't mean anything unless it comes into the clinic for the patient's benefit.' Many evenings were spent touring Yorkshire, building relationships with members of prostate cancer support groups and speaking with the general public about the need for early diagnosis. 'I've always known that raising awareness of this disease is key to improving survival rates. Lots of men aren't keen to discuss concerns about their health and the majority still aren't sure where the prostate is and what it does. We hope we have inspired many men to seek help and get tested for prostate cancer.'

Investment in Bradford

By the early 1990s the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Bradford had a reputation of 'world standing' and the charity was keen to increase support. An investment of nearly £800,000* funded a Cancer Medicine Research Unit which opened in 1991. The new facility boosted ongoing investigations into how to improve the effectiveness of chemotherapies and how to most effectively deliver chemotherapy for bladder cancer.



Dr Michael Crawford demonstrates equipment in the new Cancer Medicine Research Unit at the University of Bradford to Dr Douglas Shortridge, the charity's Chairman

A little 'Xtra' help from the Halifax committee

Members of the Halifax local voluntary committee enjoyed dressing the part to run a tombola during a Victorian themed fair at the town market.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Halifax local voluntary committee members including Assistant Secretary Audrey Habbergham (right)

New MRI centre opened in style

Professor John Mallard and magician Paul Daniels came together in Hull in April 1992 to open a unique medical facility. The charity provided over £22 million* to help fund a new Centre for Magnetic Resonance Investigation at Hull Royal Infirmary. Working in partnership with Hull Health Authority and the University of Hull, the charity was proud to provide an innovative facility supported by a multi-disciplinary team 'equal to any in the world'.

Professor Mallard was an honoured guest.

He invented magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)

at the University of Aberdeen in the 1960s and, ignoring the initial indifference of the wider medical world, resolutely pushed the concept forward, building the first scanner with a small team on a shoestring budget and overcoming considerable technical hurdles along the way.

After spending years experimentally scanning themselves, Professor Mallard and his team scanned a cancer patient for the first time in 1980 and the machine immediately proved its worth, revealing not just the primary cancer but also previously unsuspected spinal tumours. Since then, MRI scanners have become a routine part of medical practice, allowing clinicians to see inside the human body with clarity and detail.



Professor John Mallard (left) and magician Paul Daniels unveil a commemorative plaque at the opening of the new Centre for Magnetic Resonance Investigation, Hull



Paul Daniels and his wife and fellow performer Debbie McGee, with one of the new centre's two MRI scanners

MRI uses strong magnets and radio waves to produce detailed images. Tiny particles, protons, lie at the centre of each hydrogen atom in the human body. They are very sensitive to magnetic fields and as the scanner's magnets make them align and realign they send out radio signals which are picked up by receivers. The variations in these signals can be used to distinguish between different tissues in the body.

The Hull facility was the first in Britain to have two MRI machines under one roof. One was funded by the charity and used by the university for cancer research purposes and the other was funded by the NHS and primarily used to examine patients for early signs of cancer.

**Equivalent value in 2025*

The dedicated research machine quickly proved its worth. Within two years of the centre opening Dr Stephen Blackband had won an international award for producing images deeper into the body than was previously possible and discovering how to increase image quality to show greater anatomical detail. Investigations into how best to use these enhanced images to improve surgical outcomes then followed in centres in Britain and America.



Dr Stephen Blackband, winner of the Coolidge Award

A further major investment by the charity came in 2005, when a 'whole body 3 Tesla' machine was installed, the first of its kind in Britain. It generated twice the magnetic field strength of the previous machine and produced much better image quality. Richard Whiteley was given the honour of officially opening the new scanner. The popular Bradford-born celebrity was the host of ITV Calendar news and presenter of Channel Four's Countdown. He appeared in both programmes every weekday evening which earned him the memorable nickname 'twice nightly Whiteley'. With his modest eccentricity and jovial demeanour he was a big hit with the members of the charity's various local voluntary committees who joined him in Hull for the celebration.



Richard Whiteley with Wakefield local voluntary committee member Lily Zeigler

Under the guidance of Professor Lindsay Turnbull, the centre's Scientific Director, the research continued to go from strength to strength. Other notable achievements over the years included improved understanding of blood supply to brain tumours, new imaging techniques to uncover important differences in the composition of healthy prostate tissue and prostate tumours, enhanced imaging of uterus cancers to spot early signs of tumour recurrence, and improved accuracy in determining the stage breast cancer has reached when first diagnosed.



Professor Lindsay Turnbull, Scientific Director of the Hull MRI Centre

The breast cancer research was of particularly high quality and Professor Turnbull was justly proud of the 'international reputation' the centre enjoyed.

The charity continued to ensure Professor Turnbull and her team benefitted from the very latest in technology and in 2009 another major investment saw Europe's first operational GE Signa MR750 installed at the centre. The new machine offered at least a two-fold increase in signal strength compared to its predecessors, providing enhanced images.

Investment in clinical trials in Sheffield

1992 saw a new initiative in Sheffield which was to go on to pay huge dividends. A clinical research facility was established at Weston Park Hospital to coordinate the work of a wide range of medics and researchers in the delivery of clinical trials. Under the direction of Professor Rob Coleman this multi-disciplinary approach flourished and within a year over 300 patients had been recruited into trials. The charity hadn't been involved in the initial set up of the facility but, encouraged by the excellent progress, made a major investment in 1996 with a five-year commitment to fund key posts. This expenditure, combined with NHS 'Support for Science' funding, catalysed a further expansion of the trials programme and by the year 2000 over 2,000 patients had been entered into trials for a wide range of cancers. That same year saw the opening of a new Cancer Research Centre which became home to over 50 members of staff working on trials and provided treatment facilities, a laboratory and office space all under one roof. Further expansion of the trials programme followed and, over the years since, the centre has continued to prosper with the team achieving national and international recognition for their work.



Professor Rob Coleman

On course to raise thousands

A series of 'commando style' assault course events were staged at Yorkshire universities during 1992. Student and staff teams raced against employees from local businesses around a course inspired by the popular TV show The Krypton Factor. Blue skies and sunshine blessed every event and helped make the venture a great success, raising around £25,000*.

A larger programme was rolled out the following year incorporating schools and colleges as well as the universities. Players and staff at both Sheffield United and Leeds United helped publicise the events which again proved popular.

*Equivalent value in 2025



All set for the action

1993

Jose Carreras opens new Institute for Cancer Studies

Cancer research at the University of Sheffield had expanded in size and scope with every passing decade and teams were accommodated in various buildings across the campus. By the early 1990s it had become clear it would be helpful to bring them all together and so the university and the charity began a collaboration to create a new research centre.

The result was the Institute for Cancer Studies which opened in December 1993 with a £9 million* commitment from the charity. Taking up a floor of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, it provided facilities for over 50 researchers to work alongside each other, fostering enhanced collaboration between oncologists, biochemists, immunologists and molecular biologists. Core research areas were early diagnosis, cancer genetics and the relationship between cancer and the immune system.



Jose Carreras touring the new Institute for Cancer Studies, Sheffield



Dr Kash Purohit (centre) with his supervisor Professor Rob Coleman (left) and Professor Barry Hancock

The Institute was opened by Jose Carreras, world famous operatic tenor. As a former leukaemia patient, he was delighted to tour the new facility and speak with researchers and supporters.

One of the rising stars of the new Institute was Dr Kash Purohit who had just received the Pain Merit Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). The fact this award was rarely given to researchers outside the USA is testament to the extremely high quality of his work. He was invited to Dallas to address a huge audience of medics and researchers at the annual ASCO conference and his

presentation aroused considerable interest. His research focused on the drug Pamidronate which is used to treat breast and prostate cancers which have spread to the bones. Dr Purohit proved that using higher doses and improving the timing of delivery 'dramatically reduced' pain levels and improved mobility and quality of life.

Where there's muck there's brass

An asparagus shed was the unusual setting for a 'Midsummer Madness' fundraiser organised by the Galtres local voluntary committee. The Bogus Brothers band and a bucking bronco were the highlights of a very successful evening which helped the committee raise over £13,000* through the year and contribute to an outstanding 12 months for local voluntary committees as a whole.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Galtres local voluntary committee members take a break from cleaning an asparagus shed

Over £1.3 million* was raised across the county and in the charity's annual report Chairman Dr Douglas Shortridge celebrated the achievement: 'All credit must be given to the members of our 65 voluntary committees who provide the solid bedrock on which all our research effort is based. I cannot praise too highly, or thank too much, these good people of Yorkshire.'

Stylish fundraising event is a huge success

A fashion show in Bawtry proved a huge hit and raised over £14,000*. It was organised by Tony Robinson, owner of the 'Robinsons of Bawtry' boutique, in memory of his wife Jeanette who had died from cancer. Tony and Jeanette's daughter Sian was given the honour of handing over the cheque. The event was such a success it became an annual event in the town and even after the store was sold to new owners, the Jones family, the show was kept going.



Sian Robinson presents the proceeds of the first Bawtry fashion show to the charity's Chief Executive Maureen Smalley



Wendy and Russell Jones and their son James, owners of Robinsons of Bawtry

In 2012, the Jones family responded to an appeal by the charity for Yorkshire companies to help fund talented young researchers. The £19,000* raised at that year's fashion show went to help fund James Hackland through the early stages of his career at the University of Sheffield. His research focused on the development of cancer in children and teenagers.

In total the Robinsons of Bawtry fashion shows raised around £400,000*.

Paul Daniels generates interest

Yorkshire Electricity gave a donation of over £8,000* to fund a new range of leaflets and posters and Paul Daniels was on hand to lead the publicity. He was thanked in the charity's annual report for his 'no cost' support over many years.

*Equivalent value in 2025

Paul Daniels with a new range of leaflets



New laboratory for world-leading scientist

Scientists from around the world gathered with Yorkshire Cancer Research supporters in June 1995 to celebrate the opening of a new laboratory at the University of York. It was funded by the charity, at a cost of over £1 million*, to provide a facility worthy of the world-class research being led by Professor Jo Milner.

Professor Milner had arrived in York in 1991 from the University of Cambridge and took up the post of Director of the Yorkshire Cancer Research Unit. She quickly established herself and within two years her research was attracting 'worldwide interest' which persuaded the charity she and her team deserved a bigger, better laboratory.



Professor Jo Milner (standing) demonstrating a new laser scanning microscope to Kathie Brydson of the York voluntary committee

p53 is a protein found in the nucleus of cells which is important for cell division, cell repair and cell death. Crucially it will halt the division of a cell and kill it if the cell has sustained irreparable damage to any of its chromosomes. This is vital in keeping the body healthy as cells which do divide with damaged chromosomes can eventually turn into cancer.

p53 was first discovered in 1979 by a small team at Princeton University led by Professor Arnold Levine and it was a great honour for the charity when he accepted an invitation to attend the opening of the new laboratory in York and give a lecture which drew researchers from across the north of England.

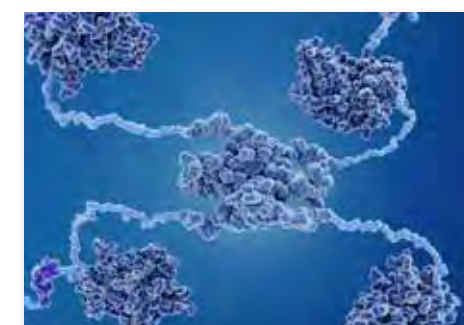
The protein was initially misunderstood. Scientists thought it played a part in actually causing cancer, but by the late 1980s its positive role had become clear and the startling discovery had been made that p53 was either missing or damaged in more than half of all cancer cells.

The protein became the focus of huge attention in the scientific world and Professor Milner was at the forefront of the research.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Professor Arnold Levine opens the York p53 laboratory



p53 protein

In 1996 the York team made a discovery which 'intrigued and excited world attention'. They had observed that p53 remained inactive until chromosome damage caused it to 'fly apart' into several specific fragments. Only after splitting did the fragments perform the p53 control functions within the cell. The team then went on to study the precise role of each fragment.

For two decades p53 was only thought to be involved in cell division and cell death but in 1999 the team in York made another major breakthrough, discovering that the protein also plays a critically important repair role. It is vital that damage to chromosomes is fixed as quickly as possible to reduce the chances of damaged cells dividing and potentially becoming cancerous. The York team discovered that p53 can initiate a process which repairs chromosome damage within 20 minutes of it occurring and they also discovered that when p53 itself mutates or becomes damaged, as is frequently the case in cancer cells, it often loses this capacity so cancer cells can accumulate much greater chromosome damage.



Professor Jo Milner with Dr Ming Jiang

Alongside the p53 research Professor Milner's team also developed expertise in cervical cancer, making another world-leading breakthrough in 2003. They were the first to successfully harness a technique known as RNA interference to kill cancer cells. In laboratory tests the approach led to cervical cancer cells 'committing suicide' while the surrounding healthy cells were unaffected. There has been huge interest in developing RNA interference treatments ever since. Several have been successfully developed for other conditions but the science is challenging and, with regards cancer, progress has been slow. However, RNA interference has the potential to effectively treat some types of bowel, breast, lung, pancreatic and ovarian cancers in addition to cervical cancer and many investigations are ongoing. It could yet be harnessed for the benefit of people with cancer around the world.

Sadly Professor Milner passed away in 2024 but she leaves a great legacy, not just in terms of her contribution to cancer research, but also in her nurturing of the next generation of researchers. Dr Ming Jiang worked with Professor Milner in York for nearly a decade and said: 'Working with her was a great privilege. She not only showed exceptional leadership but also brought out the best in everyone around her, including me. Her guidance, kindness and firm support always impressed me and she taught me how to persist and grow. She is greatly missed and her impact on cancer research will live on in the many lives she touched.'



Maureen Smalley, retiring Chief Executive

Chief Executive retires after decades of service

Maureen Smalley retired after 30 years with the charity. She witnessed huge changes during her career. When she arrived the charity was housed in 'two tiny rooms' in Park Square, Leeds and her appointment as office administrator doubled the workforce - from one to two. She was later promoted to deputy secretary, then secretary, and then, for the last seven years of her career, chief executive. Dr Douglas Shortridge paid tribute to her in the charity's annual report: 'She could not have been a greater success. During her last seven years she has presided over a charity which has doubled its income and doubled its expenditure, all done with very few staff. We owe a lot to the work and tremendous effort that Maureen has put in over her thirty years.'



Elaine King, Chief Executive

Celebrating 70 years

Elaine King took over as Chief Executive and was delighted to mark the charity's 70th anniversary by thanking supporters past and present: 'Yorkshire folk can be proud of the reputation enjoyed by the county as a world centre for cancer research. Credit for that reputation is due in great part to the generosity of the people of the old three Ridings whose donations and bequests to the charity over the last 70 years have sustained the enormous costs of equipping and funding teams of researchers at every major medical centre in Yorkshire. Every penny raised by the charity - most of it through the efforts of our magnificent army of local voluntary committees who toil ceaselessly to organise fundraising events throughout the year - goes to supporting projects within the county.'



The charity becomes fully independent

Back in 1937 the Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, as the charity was then known, had agreed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with its parent body, the British Empire Cancer Campaign (BECC). This limited the Yorkshire Council to 'raise and spend funds solely within the boundaries of the county' while the BECC undertook to pass on all future donations and legacies originating in Yorkshire, deducting a small handling fee in the process. In 1996 the national charity ended the agreement and began fundraising in the county. In turn, the Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign announced it would become a fully independent organisation. It was the end of a long and fruitful relationship which had stretched back over seven decades.

Lucky golden ticket wins star prize

Diane Gilbert of Pontefract was thrilled to win the charity's 70th Anniversary Prize Draw. Magician Paul Daniels had the honour of drawing the winning ticket from a giant top hat at the Grand Opera House in York where he was starring in pantomime. Diane's lucky number was plucked from among 30,000 golden tickets filling the huge hat and she won a brand new Ford Fiesta which, inspired by its registration plate, had become affectionately known as 'the little red jug'.



Paul Daniels pulls the winning ticket for the 70th Anniversary Prize Draw with help from charity employees – (from left to right) Elaine King, Chief Executive, Jean Heaton, Appeals Secretary, and Sally Crerar, Head of Fundraising



Diane Gilbert (red jacket) receives the key to her new Ford Fiesta watched by husband David, mum Joyce (second left), children Emma and Daniel, and Dr Brenda Jackson, the charity's Deputy Chairman



Brian Sutcliffe on his Fordson Dexter tractor

The old ones are the best ones

Brian Sutcliffe from Northallerton raised nearly £4,000* from a marathon adventure on his vintage Fordson Dexter tractor. The challenge, in memory of his father who had died from cancer, saw him cover nearly 1,000 miles between John O' Groats and Lands End at an average speed of 15mph. It took him just over a week and at the finish line he was quick to praise the generosity of the British farming community. Free meals, accommodation and fuel had been provided for him by farmers along the route. Most generously, a group of

farmers at Black Isle near Inverness gave him an expensive cab for his tractor so he could keep dry during his trip, insisting he should keep it when his journey ended. Reflecting on his achievement, Brian said: 'The Fordson ran really well, I had no mechanical problems but I did get some glares from overtaking car drivers!'

Generous gift from Halifax shopper

Actor Richard Thorp, who played Alan Turner in ITV's Emmerdale, joined staff and volunteers at the official opening of the charity's new Halifax shop. Members of the Halifax local voluntary committee went on to play a key role in running it and aimed to raise around £23,000* a year. At the heart of the effort were husband and wife committee members Jim and Joan Maudsley. Joan's commitment to the charity began after she was diagnosed with breast cancer and she devoted a huge amount of time to fundraising, including selling many bags of her homemade 'secret recipe' toffee. Jim was Vice-President of the committee and equally dedicated and together they ran the shop every Wednesday.

One particular day an elderly gentleman came in and bought a jacket for £3. Joan and Jim thought no more about it until the following week when the man, Alfred Ross, returned and presented them with a cheque for almost £6,000*. He explained he had lost his sister and a close friend to cancer and wanted to help.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Alfred Ross (right) presents his cheque to Jim and Joan Maudsley

Going high-tech

A computer was installed for the first time at head office. There was initial wariness of the new technology but the charity was soon proudly announcing that fundraisers could now be provided with 'in-house' posters, flyers and tickets.

Tribute paid to highly respected Chairman

The charity mourned the loss of Dr Douglas Shortridge. He had been chairman for over 20 years, giving 'unstinting service' throughout that time.

At his funeral Professor Stan Brown spoke eloquently of Dr Shortridge's qualities and commitment:

'He was a remarkable man in so many ways. In his vision, in his determination to succeed, in his commitment, and not least in the personal sacrifices he made, especially in his later years when lesser men would have looked for an easier life. He was never prepared to see the charity's money spent unless

the research was of the highest quality - not only nationally but internationally. In support of this vision he was very single minded ... One thing I will always remember about him is something he used to say quite often at meetings of scientists or fundraisers. He would explain the purpose of the charity was to support research into the causes and cure of cancer and he would then go on to say "our main aim is to put ourselves out of business". Sadly for him, and for all of us, that aim has not yet been realised but the fight goes on. I think the best way we can remember Douglas is to make sure that the work that he led for so many years does go on, and goes on from strength to strength.'



Dr Douglas Shortridge



Office Manager Jacki Beginn and Treasurer Professor John West show off the charity's first computer

1997

Top hat show comes to Yorkshire

Members of the Beverley local voluntary committee had fun modelling hats at a fundraising talk and demonstration given by Donald Lovatt Frazer. Donald had been a milliner in London's Mayfair and had built up a huge collection of hats dating back as far as 1509. After retiring he toured the country with his 'fabulous historical hats' and the Beverley committee were delighted to book him. The money raised helped them to an annual total of over £75,000*.



Vicky Jones and Ann Cooke of the Beverley local voluntary committee wearing 'Victorian era straws'

Big band night goes with a swing

Not far away, the Bridlington committee were putting on their fifth annual dance night with the famous Joe Loss Orchestra. The event had begun as a one-off in 1993 but proved so popular it became an annual fixture.

The Joe Loss Orchestra have been performing constantly since the 1940s and were one of the headline acts during the big band era. They went on to have several chart hits in the 1960s and have so far racked up 14 world tours.

The fifth anniversary event proved just as popular as those which had gone before it, drawing a sell-out audience of almost 1,000 to Bridlington Spa and raising over £11,000*.

Committee member Jan Jagger was the inspiration behind the dance nights. She had lost her father to throat cancer and staged the first event to raise some money in the hope other people would not have to suffer in the same way he had. 'My mum and I nursed him through the cancer at home. There was nothing we could do apart from keep him as comfortable as possible and give him as much love as we could. He died just three months after he was diagnosed.'

By 2015, Jan and her friends on the committee were celebrating the event's 20th anniversary. 'It's amazing,' said Jan, 'the years have gone so quickly. We still have people coming who were at the very first event. Some people even arrange their holidays around it so they don't miss it.' Over 20 years the dances raised £165,000* for the charity.



Todd Miller, leader of the Joe Loss Orchestra, with Bridlington local voluntary committee members Mavis Richardson (centre upper) and Jan Jagger (centre lower), and Elaine King, the charity's Chief Executive

The end of the road as a 'Campaign'

1997 also saw a change to the charity's name. The Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign was shortened to Yorkshire Cancer Research.

*Equivalent value in 2025

1998

Race day fundraiser proves a winner

'Yorkshire Cancer Research Day' at Thirsk Racecourse proved a very successful event for the charity. Members of the Thirsk local voluntary committee collected at the racecourse entrances and also ran a raffle and a stall. With further income from race sponsors and racecard advertisers, the charity raised nearly £8,000*.

Members of the Thirsk voluntary committee collecting at Thirsk races



The next generation of Driffeld fundraisers (from left to right) - Katherine Atley, Julia Atley and Polly McClean

Keep it in the family

The annual Driffeld Steam Rally saw two generations of the Driffeld local voluntary committee swing into action. Committee members Jill Atley and Colette McLean enlisted the enthusiastic support of their daughters and between them they raised over £600*.

Everything must go

The Wakefield local voluntary committee put a huge effort into organising a 'mammoth' two-day sale of donated goods in East Ardsley. They were happy to sell anything and everything, including the kitchen sink.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Wakefield local voluntary committee members (from left to right) - Sandra Broadhead, Gill Hatfield and Gwen Murtland

1999

Switching on more research in Bradford

Over the years, the University of Bradford established an international reputation in cancer drug development and in 1999 the charity announced an investment amounting to almost £2 million* to further advance the research. The five-year programme saw the establishment of a Drug Design Research Group led by Professor Terry Jenkins. Working with colleagues across the university and at Bradford Hospitals Trust, the team initially focused on developing drugs which become active, or 'switched on', when inside tumours but which remain 'switched off' when in healthy tissue. This capability can reduce the number of medications patients have to take during treatment. Collaborations with European and American universities saw computer-aided molecular modelling also become a specialism.

Two years later the charity funded the construction of a Yorkshire Cancer Research Laboratory of Drug Design at the university, providing a suite of new facilities. It allowed the team to expand the scope of their work to include refining tumour targeting and reducing the time taken to develop new drugs.

In 2006 more funding from the charity contributed to the construction of a new Institute of Cancer Therapeutics. This state-of-the-art, 'concept to clinic' research centre was part of a £130 million* upgrade of facilities across the main university campus and saw the arrival of Professor Laurence Patterson as the Institute's new Director. He was on a mission to 'conduct the highest quality research and development to enable the progress of cancer medicines from design to clinic'. A further broadening of the research followed to include investigations into new drugs to tackle chemotherapy-resistant cancers and drugs which prevent cancers spreading within the body.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



John Lyles, Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire, and Dr Brenda Jackson, the charity's Chairman, open the Yorkshire Cancer Research Laboratory of Drug Design at the University of Bradford



Professor Laurence Patterson

ture free from cancer

Yorkshire Cancer
Research

2000 - 2025



'The musical event of the millennium'

The charity marked its 75th anniversary with an ambitious celebration at Sheffield Arena. The Yorkshire Festival of Music was dubbed 'the musical event of the millennium'. It was led by Syd Harris and the Huddersfield local voluntary committee, but filling the 10,000 seat arena took a significant effort from the entire network of local voluntary committees and everyone associated with the charity. On the night over 2,000 singers, drawn from 72 choirs across the county, were supported by three brass bands and thoroughly entertained the audience. The event raised over £21,000* and generated free publicity for the charity which was estimated to be worth much more.



ITV Calendar presenter Christa Ackroyd gets an earful from members of the Huddersfield local voluntary committee while promoting the Yorkshire Festival of Music



Yorkshire Festival of Music performers

Yorkie's most important job was visiting schools across the county to encourage children to take part in the 'Teddy Bear Appeal'. Participating schools were sent a cuddly teddy complete with a Yorkshire Cancer Research sash. They could then use the bear however they liked to help reach a £75 minimum fundraising target. The charity's local voluntary committees provided considerable support, liaising with their local schools and encouraging their efforts. The committees also sold teddy bear badges and urged the public to 'Wear the bear'.



The delighted winner of a teddy at Beech Hill Primary School, Halifax



Hilary Tammer (left) and Rosalind Peters of the Leeds local voluntary committee give a teddy a quick cuddle before dropping him off at a local school



Bear with us

The launch of a major fundraising appeal saw the arrival of one big bear and an abundance of little ones.

New mascot Yorkie Bear proved an instant hit and had a very busy year, helping to promote the Festival of Music, sprucing up the Halifax shop and greeting guests at the 75th Anniversary Ball.

Yorkie Bear on one of his many school visits



Having a ball

Solicitors Lee & Priestley showed their support by organising a 75th Anniversary Ball on behalf of the charity. Held at the Royal Armouries in Leeds, the event was a big success and raised over £11,000*.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Members of the Halifax local voluntary committee

New branding has more heart

The charity introduced a fresh look for the new millennium. Orange was out, blue was in and a white rose with a central heart was adopted as the new logo. The members of the Halifax local voluntary committee were among the first to wear the new T-shirts, proudly posing in blue to help promote a new event - Yorkshire's Biggest Teabreak.

With the support of Taylors of Harrogate, boxes of Yorkshire Tea were sent out to companies across the county so they could treat their employees to a 'proper brew' and a break from work on Yorkshire Day. Over 2,000 staff took part, each donating £1 to the charity.

Kathy Staff, one of the stars of the popular TV sitcom Last of the Summer Wine, teamed up with the Huddersfield local voluntary committee to help promote the event.

Actress Kathy Staff, complete with famous 'wrinkly stockings', enjoyed an over-sized cuppa with Jane Dutton, Vice-Chairman of the Huddersfield local voluntary committee



Flood fails to dampen spirits

Disaster struck in Tadcaster as heavy rains brought flooding to the town centre and the charity's shop was badly damaged. The flood ruined stock and caused structural damage but the combined efforts of members of the Tadcaster local voluntary committee, charity employees and an anonymous benefactor had the shop open again before the end of the year.



Yorkie Bear joined members of the Tadcaster local voluntary committee to celebrate the re-opening of the shop

Shining a light on the past to brighten the future

Former coal miner Frank Possett became a published author at the grand old age of 85 and donated the proceeds from his book, 'My Life with Miners and Disasters', to the charity. Frank had a remarkable 50-year career in the mining industry, starting as a 14-year-old pony driver and ending as Area Production Manager for North Yorkshire. He lost his wife, brother and sister to cancer and, at the time his book came out, he was being treated for cancer himself but was remarkably matter-of-fact about it: 'It's nothing out of the ordinary, everybody knows somebody whose life has been affected by cancer. I hope the money from my book will help to make a difference to future generations.'



Frank Possett examines a miner's lamp at the National Coal Mining Museum in Wakefield

Un très bon Yorkshire Day

When Margaret and David Gatenby realised they were going to be abroad for Yorkshire Day 2002, they decided to pack a box of Yorkshire Cancer Research T-shirts and do some fundraising on the French Riviera. Margaret was Chairman of the Wharfedale local voluntary committee and didn't want to miss an opportunity to help the charity.

'We used to go to the same caravan park near Valbonne several times a year,' explained Margaret. 'We built up a lovely group of friends there and we knew they would be up for some fun so we decided to export Yorkshire Day to France. Everyone pitched in on the day and we had such a great time. There was an auction, a raffle, a tombola, 'une stalle d'éléphant blanc' and cakes and coffee. I remember that my scones with jam and cream were a real novelty to our French and Dutch friends and were a big hit. We raised an amazing £1,800* in a day - everyone was in such a lovely relaxed holiday mood and so generous with their time and money. It all went so well that French Yorkshire Day was back by popular demand for several years afterwards.'

*Equivalent value in 2025



Margaret and David Gatenby (centre) celebrating Yorkshire Day with friends in the south of France



Margaret (left) with fellow committee members Pamela Laurie and Val Luty preparing for a cream tea fundraiser

Margaret had joined the Wharfedale committee in 1987 when her son Neil was diagnosed with a brain tumour. 'He was only given six years to live,' remembers Margaret, 'but by some miracle he is still alive today, nearly 40 years later, and we are so thankful.' She remained on the committee until 2021 and received a long-service award from the charity in recognition of more than three decades of tireless fundraising.

The Wharfedale committee was formed in 1971 and has raised almost £380,000 over the years since. Now chaired by Ros Carthy, the committee puts on quiz nights and Christmas fairs as well as an annual luncheon at Otley Golf Club which attracts over 80 guests and has become a highlight of the social calendar.



All set for the annual luncheon: Wharfedale local voluntary committee members Ros Carthy (left) and Susan Hope (right) raise a glass with guests Anne North and Yvonne Merkin

Toy story

Naomi Raanan lost her father to cancer when she was just seven years old. When she was nine she decided she would like to help other people with cancer: 'I made a little outdoor shop on the street and sold lots of my old toys with my friend Hannah.' By the end of the day she had made over £60*. Charity employees were so touched by her kindness they arranged for her to visit the Leeds cancer research centre. Professor Sir Alex Markham was delighted to show her round and present her with a Yorkshire Cancer Research teddy bear.



Naomi Raanan with Professor Sir Alex Markham and her new teddy

Naomi's mum, Sally, had encouraged the toy sale and the pair later teamed up to fundraise for the charity. They completed a 5,000 metre swim together and raised more than £12,000*.

Naomi said: 'Dad had a rare form of cancer that was terminal and untreatable. Progress in cancer research is being made all the time in Yorkshire so hopefully, one day, there will be a cure.'

**Equivalent value in 2025*



One of the charity's 300 competitors in the Great North Run



Melanie Albrighton and Andrew Smith relax at the end of the New York Marathon

New approach is a runaway success

The charity stepped up its interest in running events in a big way. For many years individual runners had chosen to collect sponsorship when taking part in races and the total amount raised had been significant but it had all been done on an ad hoc basis. That changed in 2003 when, for the first time, the charity bought places in runs and actively promoted taking part. The scale of the response took everyone by surprise. Around 300 runners sported the charity's vivid green shirts in the BUPA Great North Run and together raised over £223,000*, compared to around £18,000* per year previously.

Among the two dozen runners who crossed the Atlantic to represent the charity in the New York Marathon were friends Melanie Albrighton and Andrew Smith from Middleton Tyas near Richmond. They ran in memory of Melanie's husband Ken who had died from cancer the previous year. 'Taking part was an incentive to help me focus on something other than our sadness', explained Melanie. The pair set themselves a target of £5,000* but ended up raising three times that amount, making a huge contribution to the £62,000* raised by the charity's full complement of New York competitors.

Jazz Picnic anniversary

Ripon local voluntary committee celebrated the tenth anniversary of their popular Summer Jazz Picnics in style at Swinton Park near Masham. In gorgeous weather, 1,000 guests gathered on the lakeside lawn to enjoy local bands before being treated to a spectacular fireworks display. The event raised almost £18,000* and the charity's Chairman, Dr Brenda Jackson, was quick to congratulate the committee on ten years of hard work and success: 'This magnificent event has become one of the highlights of the Yorkshire Cancer Research calendar.'

It was a typically busy year for the Ripon committee as they also organised a successful Halloween Masked Ball which raised over £4,000*.

**Equivalent value in 2025*



Jenny Moss (left) and Pru Boddy of the Ripon local voluntary committee at the Halloween Masked Ball

Valuable support from TV star

Celebrity antiques expert Eric Knowles visited York and Harrogate to meet the charity's supporters and value their heirlooms. One of the stars of the BBC TV programme Antiques Roadshow, Eric was hosted by two shops - Red Door Antiques in York and The Ginnel in Harrogate. Guests paid an entrance fee and were treated to a buffet and a chance to chat with the celebrity and have items valued. Over £4,000* was raised for the charity.



Eric Knowles weighing up the value of a Harrogate antique

Landlady locked up

Skipton landlady Louise Caunt raised funds by swapping serving pints for serving time. Along with Craven Herald Editor Ian Lockwood, Louise spent 12 hours locked in a cell at Skipton Police Station. She did admit that the pair escaped a couple of times to put the kettle on but nevertheless, their stint in custody generated over £1,800*.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Louise Caunt and Ian Lockwood in the cells at Skipton Police Station

2004

Breakthrough in breast cancer genetics

In Sheffield, Professor Angie Cox and her team made a breakthrough in the understanding of cancer genetics. Her research revealed that a common inherited alteration to caspase-8, a gene involved in controlling cell death, impacted an individual's chances of developing breast cancer. The finding was later investigated by an international consortium of laboratories which found the alteration to be a reliable risk predictor across a number of populations around the world. Professor Cox and her team began investigations for colon cancer, prostate cancer and other sub-types of breast cancer, identifying further variations in caspase-8 which were more strongly linked to breast cancer risk than their original discovery. More recently, other researchers have demonstrated the reason for these observations is that the inherited alterations of caspase-8 affect the ability of the immune system to kill breast tumour cells.



Professor Angie Cox

'Magic bullet' treatment gets approval

There was also success for the team at Sheffield Clinical Trials Centre as Rituximab, a drug they had helped to develop, was approved for use on prescription by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE). The drug is used to treat Non-Hodgkin lymphoma and has been described as a 'magic bullet' as it kills cancer cells without harming surrounding healthy tissue. It was a dramatic improvement in treatment options at the time but it was expensive, so it was cause for celebration when it received prescription approval and could be given to all patients who would benefit from it.



A row of Ford Anglias at Ripon Old Cars

Inspirational moment drives a decade of fundraising

2004 marked the tenth anniversary of Ripon Old Cars, an event founded by Len Wadsworth after he had treatment for throat cancer. He recalled: 'For a month I had to travel daily to hospital in Leeds for radiotherapy. I made the journeys in my 1953 split screen Morris Minor and got the inspiration to organise this event as a way of saying thank you.' It was an inspired moment as the rally proved a huge success and raised more than £100,000* over the following decade. The anniversary event attracted around 500 classic cars from all over the country as well as military vehicles, tractors and motorbikes.

*Equivalent value in 2025

Elite team complete the Gumball 3000

While the old cars were gathering in Ripon, a much newer model was being driven south on the trip of a lifetime. Ashley Woodman and co-driver Alan Pomeroy took part in the Gumball 3000, a six-day rally covering 3,000 miles across Europe and Africa. The pair took part in Ashley's Lotus Elite and raised over £5,000* from their adventure. The race started in Paris and ran down through France and Spain to Marbella where a private ferry took the cars across to Morocco. 'That was where the fun really started', explained Ashley. 'All the locals were out on the streets cheering us on and at one stage the police held the traffic up so we could drive on the wrong side of the road and ignore the red lights.' The route took them via Casablanca and Marrakesh before re-crossing the Mediterranean and ending in Cannes on the French Riviera. The pair finished the race about halfway up the field of 160 cars and were delighted with the experience: 'It was never about the finishing position. There was a fantastic spirit of camaraderie among the drivers and it was just about having fun on the road and raising money for a great cause.'



Ashley Woodman with his Lotus Elite as he prepared to take part in the Gumball 3000

2005



The Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine

World-leading bowel cancer research

The Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine opened at St James's Hospital in Leeds with the help of a £1.7 million* contribution from the charity. Providing six floors of state-of-the-art laboratories plus offices and meeting rooms, the Institute brought new opportunities for multi-disciplinary research. Around 300 staff with expertise in genetics, pathology, immunology, molecular medicine, haematology, epidemiology and clinical trials came together under one roof for the first time in Leeds, fostering collaboration and sharing equipment. It was a vital part of a drive by the university to foster more 'translational research' where medics, researchers and patients joined forces to ensure research results more effectively improved treatments.

*Equivalent value in 2025

Professor Ed Hillhouse, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health, explained the new Institute would help 'promote stronger collaboration between medicine and the biological sciences. We now have a complete map of all the human genes at our disposal. The challenge is to use this knowledge to better understand the causes of cancer and other serious diseases and develop more effective tests and treatments'.

Professor Phil Quirke and his pathology team were among the first to move in to the new building. Professor Quirke had been supported by the charity since 1984 and over the years had developed a world-class reputation in bowel cancer pathology. His team was the perfect example of the multi-disciplinary approach, bringing genetic understanding to bear on drug selection and dosage for patients. Professor Quirke explained: 'It is not always clear how patients will respond to treatment until they receive it. Our research helps us identify in advance whether a drug will work for a patient or not. If we know it won't work then we can spare the patient unnecessary treatment. Being all together in this one building gives us the opportunity to pool knowledge more easily across disciplines, to the benefit of all.'



Professor Phil Quirke

In 1986, Professor Quirke and his University of Leeds colleague Professor Michael Dixon published a highly influential paper in *The Lancet*, a world-leading medical journal. At the time around 30 per cent of rectal cancer patients suffered a recurrence of their cancer in the same place or close to it, termed a 'local recurrence'. The paper investigated how these results could be improved. Working with esteemed surgeon Professor Bill Heald, Quirke and Dixon identified how surgical technique could be enhanced. They went on to organise masterclass training programmes for surgeons in the UK and other countries, showing them how to change their approach. As a result, local rectal cancer recurrence now occurs in less than ten per cent of patients.

The team's analysis of surgical technique didn't end there. In 2007 they showed a new approach to surgery for cancer of the lower rectum also produced improved results, with the cancer being completely removed more frequently and with less tearing of tissue. Again, surgeons were trained in the new technique and results improved.



Dr Debamita Bhattacharjee examining a bowel tumour cross section

Subsequently, together with Dr Nick West, Professor Quirke published an investigation into surgical techniques for colon cancer which showed taking a leap back in time would improve outcomes for patients. They had discovered the style of operation carried out a century ago for colon cancer was more effective than the modern approach. In the past, surgeons removed a larger area of the mesentery, the membrane which holds the colon in place, and thus more effectively removed the area a cancer may have spread to, decreasing the chances of the cancer coming back. Reducing recurrence is absolutely vital because, as Professor Quirke explained: 'Very sadly, many patients who get a recurrence of their cancer will die.'

It is deeply unpleasant and is avoidable for some patients if a different style of operation is used. It is technically more difficult but it can be done by open surgery as well as keyhole or robotic surgery. A vital feature of all of these operations is the very gentle handling of tissues, as encouraged by the great Leeds bowel surgeon Sir Berkeley Moynihan, first Chairman of Yorkshire Cancer Research. There is great truth in his famous words 'The perfect surgeon must have the heart of a lion and the hand of a lady; never the claws of a lion and the heart of a sheep. An operation is done quick enough when it is done right.'

Managing bowel cancer with biomarkers

In 2011 the results of a clinical trial, led by Professor Quirke, produced a breakthrough in predicting bowel cancer recurrence. The ten year long QUASAR trial was jointly funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research, Cancer Research UK and the UK Medical Research Council and examined tissue samples from around 1,900 patients. The trial revealed important signals, called biomarkers, for managing bowel cancer. These include certain types of changes in genes which can be used to predict the chances of recurrence.



Genetic information is stored in the human body in the form of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) which has a double-helix structure and looks like an elongated spiral staircase. Each step of the staircase is made up of two chemicals - each chemical is called a nucleobase. Sometimes, for example during DNA copying as a cell prepares to divide, nucleobases can occur in the wrong places. Cells have a system, called mismatch repair, which locates these incorrectly placed nucleobases and rectifies them. The QUASAR trial revealed tumours with deficient mismatch repair (15 per cent of cases) were less likely to recur, while tumours with mistakes, or 'mutations', in a gene called KRAS were more likely to re-grow. These results provided an opportunity to improve treatment - patients with deficient mismatch repair being spared chemotherapy and patients with mutated KRAS tumours being treated more intensively and spared drugs which would not work for them. Professor Quirke called for testing for genetic changes to become routine practice in hospitals across the country: 'it would be inexpensive and technically

simple to do and would spare significant numbers of patients needless treatment which can carry major side effects and high costs'. The NHS heeded the call and deficient mismatch repair testing and KRAS testing of bowel tumours is now standard practice.

Professor Quirke and Dr West have made vital contributions to a number of other clinical trials which have changed medical practice. The CR07 trial, led by University of Leeds colleague Professor David Sebag-Montefiore, proved a short course of radiotherapy followed by high-quality surgery improved outcomes for patients with rectal cancer. The EnROL trial proved Enhanced Recovery Programmes, designed to help patients recuperate as quickly as possible after an operation, were effective and keyhole surgery significantly reduced the time of hospital stays in comparison to open surgery. The Rolarr trial demonstrated that robotic surgery was safe for bowel cancer, facilitating its adoption.

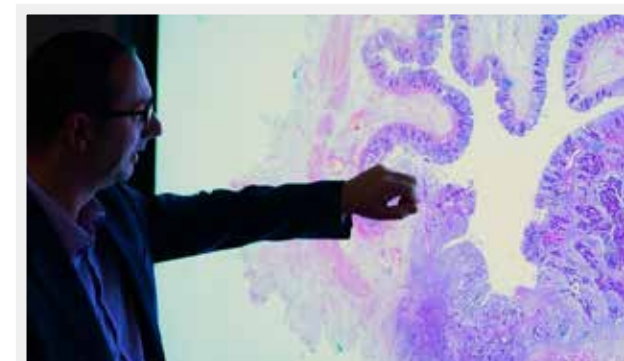


Professor Quirke examining the latest in surgical robots at the St Gallen bowel cancer meeting in Switzerland

Improvements to surgery have helped double the number of patients surviving bowel cancer since the charity started funding Professor Quirke's research. He commented: 'Thanks to Yorkshire Cancer Research funding we have changed the face of bowel cancer surgery. Surgeons around the world now operate differently and more effectively because of the work funded by the charity.'

Testing for Lynch syndrome

The diagnosis of Lynch syndrome is another area where Professor Quirke's team have led the way. Lynch syndrome is a hereditary genetic condition which greatly increases an individual's risk of bowel cancer. An estimated 14,000 people living in Yorkshire have Lynch syndrome but very few are aware of it. In 2017 the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommended everyone diagnosed with bowel cancer should be screened for the genetic fault. The guidance was welcome but a lack of funding meant most hospitals were slow to implement the testing. The charity stepped into the breach and funded Professor Quirke's team to provide Lynch syndrome testing for bowel cancer patients living across the county. Over 4,000 tumours have now been tested in the Leeds laboratories alone, with an additional 2,500 tested every year across Yorkshire. The test identifies people likely to have the condition, who are then referred to their regional NHS genetics service for counselling. They can then decide whether or not to have genetic tests to confirm or rule out Lynch syndrome. Once diagnosed, people with Lynch syndrome are offered routine aspirin therapy to reduce the risk of bowel cancer, regular colonoscopies - an investigation of the lining of the bowel using a flexible telescopic camera - and additional tests designed to find other types of cancer they may be susceptible to.



Dr Nick West examines a bowel tumour cross-section with the help of a powerwall

Professor Quirke's team have also been at the forefront of digitising pathology. Extremely high-quality images are taken of tumour cross-sections and these can then be quickly shared with experts at other institutions when second opinions are needed. They have also developed artificial intelligence algorithms to assist with cancer diagnosis and delivered new methods for teaching undergraduates.



Sparkling 80th anniversary celebration

The charity marked its 80th anniversary with a 'Glitter Ball' in Harrogate which saw employees, supporters and researchers come together to celebrate. An evening of glitzy dining and dancing raised over £27,000*.

*Equivalent value in 2025

Aerobathon and Splash for Cash

2005 also saw the roll-out of two new exercise challenges – ‘Yorkshire’s Biggest Aerobathon’ and ‘Splash for Cash’. The Aerobathon took place across 19 leisure centres simultaneously and saw over 1,000 people don Yorkshire Cancer Research T-shirts and work up a sweat. Splash for Cash encouraged fundraisers young and old to set their own swimming challenge in their local pool - from one length to hundreds. The charity’s Chief Executive, Elaine King, took the plunge herself and hundreds more swimmers across the county followed her lead, raising over £24,000*. The youngest participant was nine-month-old Jasmine McGuinness from Barnsley who splashed for cash in the shallow end while older brothers Jamie, aged four, and Joshua, aged two, clocked up a very creditable five lengths each and raised over £180*.



Jill Sharp and her family splashed for cash in Spenborough Baths raising over £3,700* in memory of Jill’s parents

Moonlight and music

The third Beningbrough Ball was a huge success with 450 guests enjoying an evening of dining and dancing. The walled garden at Beningbrough Hall provided the perfect setting for the event. Organised by the Galtres local voluntary committee, the Ball included an auction and raffle and raised over £31,000*.



Members of Galtres local voluntary committee have a ball

Youngsters help the cause

It was a strong year for the charity’s junior fundraisers.

‘Cub sells brownies’ was the neat headline to a story about nine-year-old Dominic Voase’s fundraising. He made around £250* selling his mum’s brownies to family and friends and qualified for his ‘Caring Challenge’ badge at 1st Cottingham Cub Scout group.

Over £500* was raised at the christening of twins Jude and Morgan Phillips-Barrett in Leeds. The toddlers’ grandmother Muriel had recently recovered from breast cancer and the family wanted to do something positive on her behalf so they asked for donations to be given to the charity in lieu of gifts.

Youngsters at Dolphins Nursery in Huddersfield had fun taking part in a sponsored walk with a difference. They completed a one-mile route around Greenhead Park in pyjamas, dressing gowns and slippers.



Dominic Voase sold his mum’s brownies

*Equivalent value in 2025

2006

A cizzling investment

More people die from lung cancer every year in Yorkshire than from any other cancer and in 2006 the charity made an investment of over £330,000* to help tackle the problem. The funding was for research into the protein Ciz1 led by Professor Dawn Coverley and Dr Justin Ainscough in York.

Ciz1 plays a role in regulating the copying of information linked to chromosomes as a cell prepares to divide and Coverley and Ainscough discovered the function of Ciz1 is disrupted in lung cancer cells, allowing them to divide inaccurately. With the charity’s funding, the researchers investigated targeting cancer-associated variants of Ciz1 to generate new ways of diagnosing and treating cancers.



Professor Dawn Coverley

The research held potential for developing an early stage blood test for lung cancer. The cancer tends to cause no signs or symptoms in its early stages so generally isn’t discovered until it has had time to grow and spread. At this point the outlook for patients is poor, so it is vitally important to find the cancer early when it can be treated more effectively. The charity was therefore keen to find an early stage test and in 2007 partnered with White Rose Technology Seedcore Fund to invest in a new company, Cizzle Biotech.

CizzleBiotech

The company began developing ways to measure the Ciz1b variant protein and investigating whether it is present in the blood of patients with lung cancer.

The answer turned out to be ‘yes’ and additionally Ciz1b proved to be effective in identifying patients in the early stages of the disease, before any other symptoms had become apparent. The company has now produced a patent-protected test which is being applied in clinical trials in the USA to quickly and cheaply detect early stage lung cancer.



Cyclists pass Harewood House

On yer bike!

‘Pedal For Pounds’ was the charity’s first cycling fundraiser. Over 200 people took part, starting in the grounds of Harewood House and following 20 or 50-mile circular routes along the Wharfe valley. A perfect day saw early morning mist clear into sunshine and blue skies and the event raised almost £50,000*.

*Equivalent value in 2025

2008



June Sandford and Rachel Castle show support for International Breast Cancer Month

Breast cancer awareness

In October the charity threw its support behind International Breast Cancer Month, encouraging women to check themselves, attend screenings and help fundraise. Employees June Sandford and Rachel Castle posed with balloons on the steps of the charity's office to raise awareness. In 2025 June and Rachel are both still with the charity and have clocked up an outstanding 57 years service between them.

Dressed to impress

A stunning fashion show at the Rendezvous Hotel in Skipton raised nearly £13,000*. Organised by the charity's Keighley and Craven local voluntary committee and hosted by TV news presenter Christa Ackroyd, the show featured spring and summer designs and an appreciative audience enjoyed a great night out.



The Skipton fashion show

2007

Making a world of difference

Two groups of adventurous fundraisers headed off around the world in 2007 as the charity organised its first overseas challenges. The summer saw a party complete the Inca Trail in Peru and reach the stunning lost city of Machu Picchu, and in the autumn 16 cyclists took on a 12-day expedition through Vietnam and Cambodia, finishing at the famous Angkor Watt temple. Between them the intrepid explorers raised over £144,000*.



Trekkers reach Machu Picchu, Peru

10th anniversary races hog the limelight

Closer to home, Cruckley Animal Farm near Driffield celebrated the tenth anniversary of their popular pig racing fundraiser. Twelve piglets competed in two sprints and a grand final in front of a crowd of around 500. A tug of war competition and barbecue helped to raise almost £5,000*.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Piglets take on the hurdles at Cruckley Animal Farm

Exploring the art of fundraising

Yorkshire Day was celebrated in style at Harewood House. Charity employees and researchers teamed up with staff from Boots to offer a health and wellbeing marquee at the Best of Yorkshire Festival.

Activities included Indian head massage, keep fit, clog dancing and interactive chemistry displays but it was Harrogate artist Hugh Miller who stole the show, painting a huge landscape over the course of the three-day event and giving tips to admiring onlookers. A great team effort and a generous donation from Boots saw the event raise over £13,000*.

*Equivalent value in 2025

Hugh Miller discusses his artwork



Looking for the very earliest signs of lung cancer

The charity invested over £4 million* in 2009 to fund a new Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre for Pre-Cancer Genomics in Leeds. Under the leadership of Professors Terry Rabbitts and Pamela Rabbitts, a team of molecular biologists, doctors, surgeons, pathologists and statisticians came together to look for the very earliest signs of lung cancer. Using samples donated by patients under surveillance after being assessed as being at high risk of lung cancer, and making use of the extensive sample archive held by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the team searched for genetic abnormalities which show an individual is in the very earliest stages of developing the disease. If lung cancer can be caught early the patient has a much better chance of survival.

The Clangers touch down in Yorkshire

An 'out of this world' partnership saw popular children's TV characters The Clangers arrive in Yorkshire from their peaceful planet far, far away. The whistling space mice and their friend the Soup Dragon first appeared on BBC1 in 1969 and quickly won a place in the hearts of British children. Over the following years the 26 episodes became cult classics. In 2009 a fresh series was being planned for a new generation of children and the charity saw an opportunity to be associated with the lovable characters who would resonate with young and old alike. As it turned out the new series didn't materialise for another six years but it didn't matter, The Clangers proved a big hit right across the county. Two human-sized Clangers were in demand at events and pin-badges, small cuddly toys and keyrings were hot sellers.

Crafting fans were invited to design their own Clangers and send them in for judging at the annual Knitting and Stitching Show in Harrogate. Wendy Barrington's Captain Jack Sparrow was awarded first place, rated 'truly outstanding' by the judges. Wendy won a luxury hamper donated by Farrah's of Harrogate.



Free Clanger cuddles were available in Yorkshire supermarkets



A Clanger pin badge



Captain Jack Sparrow Clanger



Hull City FC mascot Roary launches 'Let's Kick Cancer'

New partnership is a roaring success

The charity teamed up with Hull City football club to launch a 'Let's Kick Cancer' appeal. Manager Phil Brown led by example raising nearly £8,000* by competing in the Great North Run and another £3,500* was collected at the club's home match with Manchester United and at a special golf day. Cancer awareness messaging was featured on match days on the scoreboard and in the programme. The partnership was so successful it was extended across a second season and fundraising at the Yorkshire derby against Leeds United generated over £2,000*.

Desert runners beat the heat

A team of eight intrepid athletes took on 'the adventure of a lifetime' in support of the charity. The Marathon des Sables is one of the world's toughest events - a gruelling six-day race across the Sahara desert. Participants run the equivalent of five and a half regular marathons over consecutive days while carrying all their own supplies. North Yorkshire police officer Paul Cording was one of the eight and even though he trained hard in preparation, the reality of desert conditions came as a shock: 'It was always above 40 degrees and at one point I just found the heat too much. I completed the event through sheer determination and the amazing camaraderie between participants.' All the Yorkshire Cancer Research team members made it to the finish line and together raised nearly £110,000*.



The Yorkshire Cancer Research team prepare to take on the Marathon des Sables

Bargain hunters make a fair profit

Penny Avison is a long-standing member of the charity's Helmsley local voluntary committee and in 2009 she teamed up with good friend Gill Hopkins to appear on BBC TV's Bargain Hunt.

On a warm sunny day they were filmed browsing the stalls of an antiques fair at Wetherby Racecourse, helped by expert David Harper.

Knowing that any items they purchased would later be sold at Tennants auction house in the countryside village of Leyburn, they kept an eye out for items which might appeal to a rural clientele. Three oval serving plates decorated with pheasants were snapped up for £12 and a metal dog statue was bought for £20. David Harper was keen for them to splash out on a very old china horse but on close examination Penny spotted it had a hairline crack so they passed on it, choosing instead a highly decorated box for love letters or poems to be kept in.

*Equivalent value in 2025

Penny and Gill chose their items wisely, ending the auction with a £57 profit which they kindly donated to the charity. Penny and her husband Maurice began supporting the charity in 1981 when Maurice's daughter Carolyn Ann died from cancer aged just 21. Penny was delighted when she managed to squeeze a mention of Yorkshire Cancer Research into the interview which ended the show.

Sadly Gill died of pancreatic cancer in 2024 and Maurice passed away in 2025. They are both greatly missed by family and friends.



Penny Avison (left) and Gill Hopkins on Bargain Hunt

A royal night out with Alan Bennett

Celebrated author and playwright Alan Bennett was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 1997 and was told he had 'much less than a 50 per cent chance of surviving'. He began work on a memoir which included recollections of his childhood in Leeds and which he fully expected to be published posthumously. Fortunately he survived and in 2010 chose to support the charity at the Harrogate International Festival. 'A Night with Alan Bennett' proved a very successful fundraiser, with a full house at Harrogate Royal Hall hearing readings from his books and diaries, interspersed with reminiscences about his times in Yorkshire. He also donated a selection of signed books which were later auctioned to raise additional funds.



Alan Bennett after his show at Harrogate Royal Hall

2010



Keen hoppers set a new world record at 'Bounce for Sheffield'



The charity's Chief Executive Mark Stevens leads a line of hoppers following Professor Tim Bishop across Roundhay Park, Leeds

Bouncing to a new world record

The fundraising highlight of 2010 was a new initiative called 'Bounce for Sheffield.' The event attracted eager participants of all ages and together they set a new world record for the most people competing in a 100-metre space hopper race. Much fun was had in the process and the charity decided to go for another world record the following year at 'Bounce for Leeds' – the most people bouncing on space hoppers at the same time. Sadly the record was narrowly missed but the 775 enthusiastic hoppers who gathered in Roundhay Park raised a fantastic £52,000*.

*Equivalent value in 2025

2011

New Sheffield Cancer Research Centre established

In 2011 the charity partnered with Cancer Research UK, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to create a new 'Sheffield Cancer Research Centre' under the leadership of Professor Rob Coleman. The focus was on collaboration, not just between the four organisations but also between medics and researchers across the city. Sheffield had developed a particularly strong reputation in breast, lung and bone cancer research and the centre brought new funding to further advance this work with the charity committing over £2 million* a year. Other core research areas included investigations into tumour blood supply, changes within cells in the earliest stages of cancer, cell growth in low oxygen environments and the relationships between cancer cells and surrounding healthy tissue. There was also a focus on training the next generation of researchers through fellowships and studentships.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Dr Toby Holmes using a hypoxia chamber to study the impact of low oxygen environments on cancer cells



Professor Eric Blair

Investigating human papillomavirus and cervical cancer

In Leeds the charity funded new cervical cancer research led by Professor Eric Blair. The investigation focused on improving understanding of the mechanism by which normal cervical cells are changed into cancer cells by human papillomavirus infection. It was already well established that the virus played a major role in cervical cancer development - it is present in over 90 per cent of cervical cancers – but the mechanisms by which the virus causes cancer was not clear. Professor Blair and his team used new gene sequencing techniques to examine the alterations taking place inside infected cells. Major changes were found in genes which help make proteins that protect the body against infections caused by viruses. These changes allow the human papillomavirus to hide within cells and then disrupt cellular processes, causing rapid cell growth and cervical cancer.

Professor Blair was also involved in another project the charity funded. He was part of a team with Dr Joan Boyes, Dr Gordon Cook, Dr Graham Cook and Professor Adrian Whitehouse which began researching a possible treatment for multiple myeloma, a blood cancer.

An American research team had discovered that even a modest reduction in the level of the protein IRF4 in cancerous multiple myeloma plasma cells resulted in their death but left normal healthy blood cells unaffected. The Leeds team seized on this breakthrough, seeing a possible opportunity to develop a treatment. By inserting a genetically engineered virus into multiple myeloma cells in their laboratory they delivered molecules into the cells which reduced the levels of IRF4. The team also investigated ways to improve virus targeting of the cells.

set out to explore this. Additionally, the team had shown that if people had low levels of vitamin D in their bloodstream at the time of diagnosis they were likely to have thicker tumours which are more difficult to treat. Again, the consortium assessed these findings.

The charity also provided funds to another successful research team at the University of Leeds. Led by Professor Reuben Tooze and Dr Gina Doody, the team had been the first in the world to successfully grow human plasma cells in a laboratory and keep them alive for sustained periods.

Prior to this breakthrough researchers had known mutated genes within plasma cells can cause cancers which are difficult to treat, such as myeloma. However, they had only been able to develop a partial understanding of the way mutated genes worked together because the cells died so rapidly.

With longer-living plasma cells now available for study, the charity funded Professor Tooze and Dr Doody to proceed with an investigation of how the mutated genes combine to make cancer cells grow rapidly and destroy normal tissue. The aim was to provide tools for the successful screening of myeloma drugs, improve treatment selection and allow more rapid development of new therapies.

In 2025 Professor Tooze looked back to 2012 and said: ‘Yorkshire Cancer Research were the first to support us in this work. Having the charity behind us was vital and helped to bring in funding from other organisations as well. This research is complex and progress is slow but it is central to what we do as a team and we are confident that it is going to produce impactful results which will really help patients.’



Professor Julia Newton-Bishop



Dr Gina Doody and Professor Reuben Tooze

2012

Funding Leeds-led melanoma and myeloma research

In 2012 the charity contributed around £70,000* to a major international collaboration focused on melanoma skin cancer. Professor Julia Newton-Bishop led a consortium of researchers from across Europe and America assessing DNA samples collected from many thousands of patients. Previous research by Professor Newton-Bishop’s Leeds-based team had suggested inherited variations in two specific genes could play a significant role in whether or not melanoma patients survived and the new collaboration

*Equivalent value in 2025



Valued support from The Terriers

Huddersfield Town football club chose Yorkshire Cancer Research as one of its three charity partners. The home match against Ipswich Town became the main focus for fundraising and awareness messaging but there was plenty of additional support from the club across the season and the charity was grateful for its ‘positivity and enthusiasm throughout’.



Hannah Baldock

Smart tie design is a winner

Ripon local voluntary committee launched a 'Design a Tie' competition which was won by 12-year-old Hannah Baldock from Catterick. She came up with her design while on the children's cancer ward at Leeds General Infirmary. She had B-cell mediastinal lymphoma and, interviewed at the time, she explained: 'I had to have a lot of chemotherapy which was horrible. It meant I spent quite a lot of time in hospital. I'm very pleased that my tie won, I've never really won anything like this before. Winning has motivated me to keep doing what I can to help others.' The design was printed on high quality silk and the ties were sold to raise funds for the charity.

Fortunately Hannah's cancer was in remission by 2013 and she now lives in Grantham in Lincolnshire, working as a Senior Assistant at

Stamford library. 'I love working with children and I do lots of activities with them such as story time, craft sessions and Lego coding. I still think about my own childhood a lot. My cancer had a big impact and I still have to go for annual scans and screenings but they just remind me that I'm really lucky to be where I am today and that I should always take opportunities and chances whenever they come along.'

Hannah's father is a teacher and wears a tie in school every day. 'All these years later he still regularly goes to work with my tie on', said Hannah, 'he was very proud of me when I won that competition.'

2013

Snow place like home

Heavy snow fell across parts of Yorkshire in January 2013 and inspired a novel fundraising idea. Craig Parker and a group of friends spent a full day on Harrogate Stray building a large igloo which they then put up for sale on eBay. Described as 'a smartly appointed, ground floor, stand-alone studio apartment with huge garden and easy access to Sunday football' the unique property drew around 15,000 views and eventually sold for £780* with a further £2,880* donated via JustGiving. Craig was

*Equivalent value in 2025



Craig Parker (left) with his fellow igloo builders on Harrogate Stray

delighted to have raised so much for the charity. He was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma at the age of 13 and went through numerous courses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, as well as having surgery to remove part of his shoulder, a lung and a rib. He said: 'We can't believe how much attention the igloo has received. We didn't think for one minute that people would bid so much and donate so much. It's amazing.'

Crocus Appeal blossoms in Bradford

New initiatives came thick and fast in 2013.

In May the charity teamed up with the University of Bradford, the Telegraph & Argus newspaper and Sovereign Health Care Charitable Trust to launch 'The Crocus Appeal'. The aim was to raise £1 million to purchase a new proteomics mass spectrometer which would allow scientists to analyse proteins within cancer cells faster and more accurately.

The Crocus Appeal was inspired by colchicine, a compound found in the Autumn Crocus plant. It had long been used as a remedy for gout but had been discovered to also be effective in killing cancer cells and was a key focus of the Bradford research team. The Crocus Appeal hit its £1 million target within two years and the charity's Chief Executive, Charles Rowett, celebrated the generosity of the local community: 'The support of people living and working in Bradford, along with the University's alumni, has been outstanding.'



Autumn Crocus or 'Colchicum Autumnale'



The potential of colchicine had seen the university create a spin-out company called Incanthera in 2010 which aimed to maximise any potential commercial development of the drug and in 2016 the charity took a stake in the company. In the years since, colchicine has proven to be very effective in killing cancer cells but unfortunately development has been hampered by toxicity

issues and Incanthera's main focus has shifted towards dermatology and the development of a range of sun protection skincare products. Branded as 'Skin + CELL', the range has attracted a lot of interest and the company has signed a deal with Marionnaud which will see Skin + CELL products available in over 1,000 stores across Europe in 2025 with further rollouts planned across Asia.

An addition to the calendar

August was designated 'Cancer Month'. Launched on 1 August, Yorkshire Day, the campaign urged the county's businesses to donate, support on social media, organise events and sell the charity's new white rose pin badges.



High tea launch for new campaign

September saw a 'Yorkshire Tea Party' campaign launched with 'the maddest of all tea parties' held at a local landmark. Alice in Wonderland characters The Mad Hatter, The White Rabbit and the Queen of Hearts gathered on Almscliffe Crag near Harrogate to enjoy alfresco cakes and cuppas. Tea lovers across the county were urged to host their own parties with the help of a special tea party pack.



The Mad Hatter's tea party



Jonathan and James King with their bamboo beach bar banger

Beach Boys rally to the cause

In October 'Yorkshire's answer to the Beach Boys' took on the Ramshackle Rally – a race which took them through eight countries in a beaten-up old Volvo complete with bamboo beach bar theming. Friends Jonathan King, Graham Wilson, Adrian Paul and Richard Bond started their adventure in Folkestone and travelled via France, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Liechtenstein and Italy to the finish line in Munich, Germany. The cars in the race

have to cost less than £200 and must be given a fancy dress makeover. Teams are only given seven days to make the journey and the Beach Boys had no choice but to make steady forward progress - reverse gear didn't work.

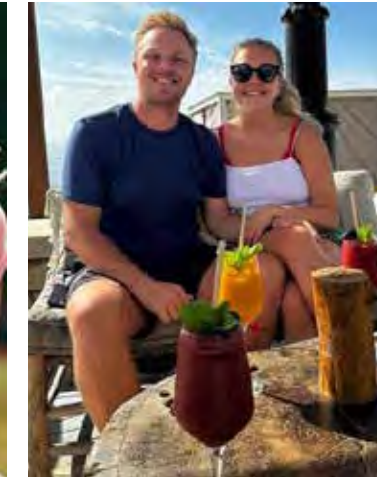
The inspiration for the crazy dash across Europe was Jonathan's son James. He had been just six months old when Jonathan and his wife Debbie were told he had an extremely rare cancer in his pelvis and only had days to live. He was put on a course of chemotherapy in the hope the tumour could be shrunk enough to permit surgery. A gruelling regime of two weeks in hospital followed by a week at home lasted for 18 months with James in constant pain. Then came the operation. It took hours and Jonathan and Debbie paced a local park as the time dragged by but when they eventually did see their little boy again they got a lovely surprise, he was sitting up and smiling. The surgeons had managed to remove 98 per cent of the tumour. It was a successful outcome given the circumstances, but Jonathan and Debbie were warned the cancer could come back at any time.



The Beach Boys



Two-year-old James with mum Debbie



James and Faye on holiday in 2024

By 2013 James was in his final year at Newcastle University, having regular check-ups but otherwise a fit and healthy 21 year old. The Ramshackle Rally was a way for Jonathan to say thank you for the treatment which had saved his son's life and the Beach Boys raised over £8,000* for the charity.

James is now a surveyor, living in Manchester with girlfriend Faye. For the first 21 years of his life he attended hospital for annual tests to help doctors better understand

the side effects of his treatment. He said: 'When I was in school I didn't really understand why I had to go back to hospital every year but now I'm really glad that I did. I'm very aware that my life could have been over before I knew it and a lot of sick children don't have the happy ending like I have. By contributing to the understanding of cancer treatment I hope I played a small part in passing on the gift of cancer research to someone else.'

**Equivalent value in 2025*

2014

A world-leading breakthrough

The charity celebrated a world first in 2014. Lynparza, also known as Olaparib, became the first 'PARP inhibitor' drug to be approved for use in patients, initially in America and then in other countries around the world.

The drug was developed at the University of Sheffield by a team led by Swedish researcher Professor Thomas Helleday with the help of funding from Yorkshire Cancer Research. Initially the drug was only approved for use for a certain type of hard-to-treat advanced ovarian cancer and it gave women, on average, an extra six months

Lynparza®
olaparib



Professor Thomas Helleday

before their cancer returned, compared to those who didn't receive Lynparza. As clinical trials of the drug have progressed, testing different doses and combinations, Lynparza has given more than nine years of extra life for some women. In the years since 2014, the drug has also been approved as a treatment for some types of breast, prostate and pancreatic cancers.

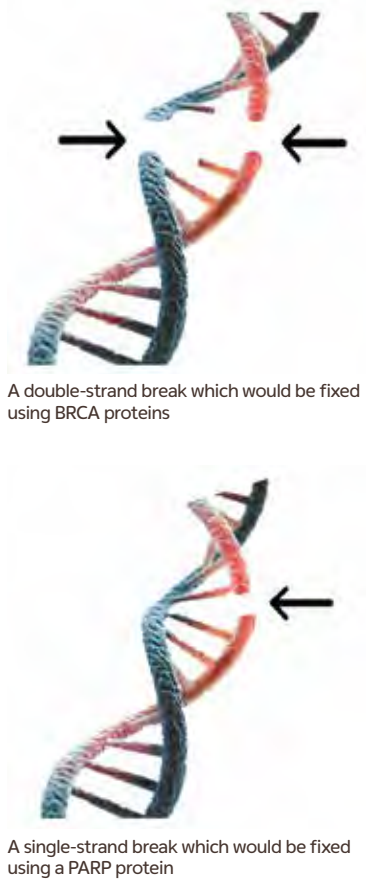
Genetic information is stored in the human body in the form of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) which has a double-helix structure and looks like an elongated spiral staircase. Each step of the staircase is made up of two chemicals, called a base pair, and these pairs are held in place by two long ribbon-like edges called strands.

It is possible for a strand to break and this can cause damage to the DNA, particularly if both strands break opposite each other at the same time which is called a 'double-strand break'.

When one of these double-strand breaks occurs the cell will attempt a repair. Two genes, BRCA1 and BRCA2, provide the recipes for proteins which will first investigate the damage then bind the broken strands back together. In most individuals this repair system functions well and the DNA is effectively repaired. However, some people inherit damaged, or 'mutated', BRCA genes meaning their cells are less capable of carrying out accurate double-strand repairs, leading to more mutations in genes. Genetic damage therefore tends to accumulate more quickly in these individuals and consequently their risk of developing certain cancers increases dramatically.

Several decades ago researchers realised that while mutated BRCA genes contributed to the development of cancer, they might also offer a route to a cancer treatment – a BRCA mutated cancer cell's inability to fix double-strand breaks accurately might just prove to be its Achilles' heel. If such a cell could be manipulated towards frequent double-strand breaks, which it then couldn't fix properly, it would eventually accumulate so much DNA damage it would malfunction and die.

If DNA has just a single-strand break, cells can repair the damage quickly and accurately. This fix involves a protein called PARP (poly ADP-ribose polymerase). The PARP protein holds the strand steady while the break is repaired and scientists theorised that blocking, or 'inhibiting', PARP in BRCA mutated cancer cells might be the way to exploit their Achilles' heel - unrepaired single-strand breaks would develop into double-strand breaks which could not then be fixed properly by the mutated BRCA proteins. Over time this would overload the cell with genetic damage and result in its death. This groundbreaking concept became known as 'synthetic lethality' as it would create a situation which was lethal for BRCA mutated cancer cells.



Dr (now Professor) Helen Bryant

Professor Thomas Helleday and his team were the first to turn this concept into reality with Dr Helen Bryant playing a vital role in the laboratory research. Since its approval in 2014, Lynparza has been used to treat over 140,000 patients around the world. It isn't perfect, it can cause significant side effects, but it has given these patients vital months and years of extra life - hugely important not just to them but also to their families. The drug was also crucial in proving that the synthetic lethality theory could be made to work in practice and it opened the gates for other successful PARP inhibitor drugs to follow behind it.

Yorkshire Cancer Research receives a share of the revenue from Lynparza and this income has transformed the charity, allowing major investments in projects such as lung screening and cancer exercise treatment programmes which are revolutionising research-led cancer services across both the county and the country.

Jo Beagley was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer in 2014. She had a hysterectomy and chemotherapy and underwent genetic testing which showed she had a mutated BRCA1 gene. Unfortunately the cancer came back in 2017. Another course of chemotherapy followed and she also began taking Lynparza. She explained: 'Facing up to a recurrence of my ovarian cancer was tough but knowing that my treatment plan was to involve a drug that has been proven to be effective for women with a BRCA gene mutation gave me cause to be optimistic. Lynparza was very new and not widely used at the time of my first diagnosis but it is reassuring to know that revolutionary new drugs are being discovered; presenting new treatment options for ovarian cancer and other cancers as well.'



Jo Beagley

Jo is a Yorkshire Cancer Research Trustee, drawing on 25 years' experience as a management consultant and project manager to help shape and guide the charity.

New clinical trials centre established

The 'Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre for Early Phase Clinical Trials' opened in 2014 - a partnership between the charity, the University of Leeds Clinical Trials Research Unit and clinicians and scientists at the universities of Leeds, Sheffield, York, Hull and Bradford.

Yorkshire Cancer Research committed over £2 million to fund the centre for a ten year period and developed a portfolio of 12 trials across brain, lung, breast, bladder and rectal cancers as well as palliative care. Over 600 patients accessed novel treatments through these trials, with around 220 of them resident in Yorkshire. Importantly the centre also leveraged several million pounds of funding from other cancer charities, the National Institute for Health Research and pharmaceutical companies.



The Queen's Centre for Oncology and Haematology, Hull, was part of the Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre for Early Phase Clinical Trials

A new home

Over previous years the number of employees at the charity had been growing and it was getting increasingly difficult to squeeze everyone into the Station Parade office, not helped by the fact the accommodation was split over five floors and the rooms were generally on the small side. So, a hunt began for new premises and in November 2014 the charity moved into Jacob Smith House on the west side of Harrogate town centre. There was much more space, convenient parking and just the one flight of stairs to run up - all welcome improvements.



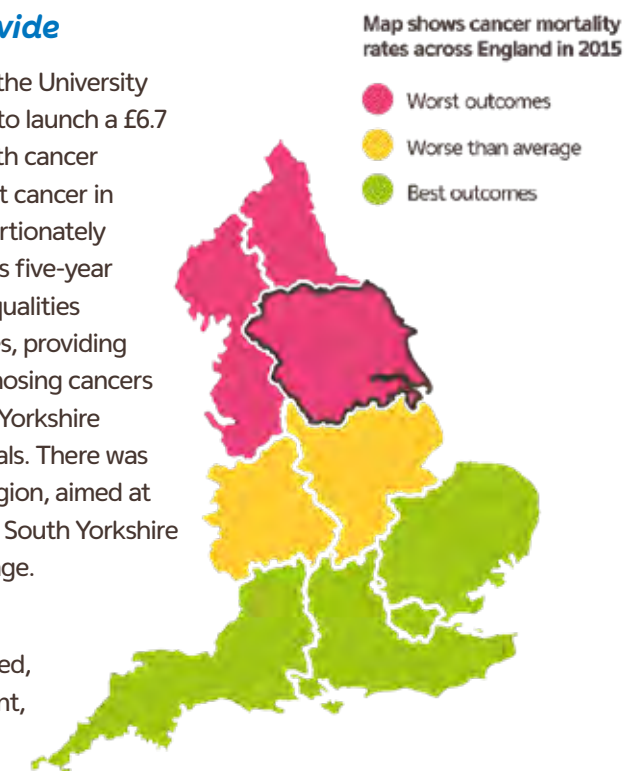
Jacob Smith House, Harrogate, the charity's new office

2015

Tackling the north-south cancer divide

In the summer of 2015 the charity partnered with the University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to launch a £6.7 million* initiative aimed at reducing the north-south cancer divide. Every year proportionately more people get cancer in the north of England than in the south, and proportionately more people die from the disease in the north. This five-year research programme set out to address these inequalities by analysing patient data and personal experiences, providing better patient support, improving screening, diagnosing cancers earlier and developing new therapies through the Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre for Early Phase Clinical Trials. There was also a focus on addressing inequality within the region, aimed at improving outcomes in Hull and parts of West and South Yorkshire where survival rates were significantly below average.

The funding also enabled nine new Yorkshire Cancer Research Fellowships to be created, focused on improving early diagnosis and treatment, including radiotherapy.



Bladder cancer research supported in Sheffield

A £1 million* investment by the charity funded two important bladder cancer projects. Led by Professor James Catto at the University of Sheffield, the research involved a clinical trial and a survey of over 5,000 bladder cancer patients across Yorkshire.



Professor James Catto

The clinical trial compared two different treatments for aggressive bladder cancers which had not yet spread to surrounding tissue. Patients in this situation receive one of two types of treatment – either immediate bladder removal or, more commonly, bladder-preserving therapy. The issue with the bladder preservation approach is it involves three years of treatment which can cause significant side effects and only around a third of patients manage to complete the course. Also, around a quarter of patients who opt for bladder preservation eventually have to have their bladder removed and outcomes tend to be worse because the procedure has been delayed. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence highlighted the situation, making optimising bladder cancer treatment one of its top priorities, and the charity responded.

The survey was the first of its kind for bladder cancer and focused on discovering what matters most to patients as they go through treatment, identifying gaps in care and investigating ways to improve quality of life.

*Equivalent value in 2025

Cricketers bowled over by successful partnership

‘Don’t get caught out by cancer’ was the message as the charity began a two-year partnership with Yorkshire County Cricket Club. The main focus was on sun awareness and skin cancer, particularly malignant melanoma which is the most serious type of skin cancer. The number of new cases in Yorkshire is increasing each year and with around 86 per cent of all melanomas caused by sun exposure and sun bed use, the charity saw a great opportunity to raise awareness of sun safety with players and spectators alike across all 747 cricket clubs in the county. Charity employees attended local league matches, county matches and the Headingley test matches against New Zealand and Sri Lanka, handing out sunscreen, UV wristbands and leaflets.

As part of the partnership a special screening was arranged for some of the county players at the dermatology clinic at Chapel Allerton Hospital. By chance it happened on the same day as the death of legendary cricketer and commentator Richie Benaud. The former Australia captain had been diagnosed with skin cancer on his forehead and scalp which he put down to never wearing a cap during his playing days, something he greatly regretted in later life. Yorkshire captain Andrew Gale said: ‘Today is a very sad day for cricket. Richie Benaud was a massive icon in the game so it’s very apt that we are here being checked for skin cancer. We spend a lot of time in the sun so it’s definitely beneficial for us all to have this opportunity.’



Perimeter advertising at Headingley Stadium



Yorkshire all-rounder Will Rhodes having a skin cancer check-up from Dr Wal Hussain

March hare ball is a spring sensation

The Vale local voluntary committee put on a hugely successful March Hare Ball in Leyburn. The Garden Rooms at Tennants provided the perfect setting for guests to enjoy a three-course meal and live band. An auction offered some unusual lots including a horse riding lesson from Olympic silver medallist Nicola Wilson and a dinner party for 12 people in their own home with the meal provided, cooked and served by the committee plus entertainment from a baroque music quartet. Guests also took part in a ‘balloon pop’. Around 200 balloons were sold with prize tickets inside including hampers, hairdos and hotel stays. In total the evening raised over £20,000*.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Vale local voluntary committee members at the March Hare Ball, from left to right, Helen Bell, Alison Booth, Alice Challis, Jane Scott-Priestley, Meg Barker, Lucy Black, Liz Fallows and Ginny Dick

2016

Patron Parky

Sir Michael Parkinson, or ‘Parky’ as he was affectionately known, was a journalist, radio broadcaster and author, but he is best remembered for his television work. His weekly prime time chat show Parkinson ran for over 25 years and saw him interview over 2,000 of the world’s most famous people. His relaxed style and willingness to listen without interrupting generally got the best from his guests. Sir David Attenborough appeared on the show a number of times and said: ‘Michael was always friendly, always thorough, always intelligent, always a pleasure.’

Not all his interviews went smoothly though. Two of the most memorable moments involved physical and verbal attacks from guests. On one occasion he was subjected to a flurry of assaults



Sir Michael Parkinson, ‘the man who met everyone’

from Emu, Rod Hull’s malicious glove puppet. Parky recalled: ‘I ended up shoeless, jacketless and without a shred of dignity, scrabbling around on the studio floor.’ On another occasion he was the focus of a furious tirade about race and religion from world champion boxer Muhammad Ali. ‘He became really angry. His eyes were bright with rage ... He was the most remarkable human being I ever encountered. I interviewed him four times and lost on points on just about every occasion.’



Interviews with Muhammad Ali packed a punch

In 2013 Sir Michael was diagnosed with prostate cancer and he became passionate about improving cancer care in his native Yorkshire. In 2016 he was pleased to accept an offer to become the charity’s patron, saying: ‘I am upset that cancer outcomes in the county are not as good as in other parts of the United Kingdom. Having been diagnosed with cancer myself I understand how important it is to have access to the very best treatments and care. I believe that everyone should have an equal chance of living a long and healthy life.’

Parkruns had become popular weekly events across the country and the charity saw the opportunity to put on a ‘ParkY Run’ with Parky himself as guest of honour. Cannon Hall Farm near Sir Michael’s home town of Barnsley was chosen as the venue and runners young and old gathered to take on 2km and 5km courses. It was the first time the farm had hosted a running event and setting up the course required some hard work moving livestock but the venue’s Director, Richard Nicholson, was fully committed to the cause. ‘My wife Maxine lost her personal fight with cancer six years ago at the age of 46’, he explained. ‘This has strengthened our family’s resolve to support Yorkshire Cancer Research and their efforts to assist the development of treatments for this terrible disease.’



ParkY runners



ParkY runners meet Parky

Sir Michael died in 2023 and his passing drew heartfelt tributes from around the world, including BBC Director General Tim Davie who described him as: ‘Truly one of a kind, an incredible broadcaster and journalist who will be hugely missed. He was the king of the chat show and he defined the format for all the presenters and shows that followed.’ On behalf of the charity Chief Executive Dr Kathryn Scott said: ‘Sir Michael was a staunch supporter of equality for people with cancer, no matter who they are or where they live. By speaking out about his own personal experience he played an important role in both raising awareness of cancer and raising funds for vital research into the disease.’

Festival fun in the sun

Summer visitors to Sheffield city centre got a unique opportunity to hurtle down Howard Street on a giant water slide. With the help of Sheffield Council and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, the charity set up a 100-metre-long ‘Slip and Slide’ as part of the city’s Cliffhanger Festival, a celebration of outdoor activities. Youngsters and grown-ups alike plunged down the slide on inflatables and the ride was so popular the charity brought it back to the city two months later.



2017

Transforming cancer inequalities in Hull

Hull is the most deprived local authority area in Yorkshire and in spring 2017 the charity announced ‘TRANSFORM’, a £6.4 million* programme of research aimed at tackling cancer inequalities in the city. Working in partnership with the University of Hull, the Hull York Medical School and Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the charity committed to fund a range of research projects aimed at raising awareness of cancer signs and symptoms, speeding up referrals, improving access to treatment and enhancing palliative care. In support of the work, 11 Yorkshire Cancer Research Fellowships were created to attract talented young researchers to come and work in the city.

TRANSFORM was led by Professor Una Macleod, Professor of Primary Care Medicine and former Dean of Hull York Medical School.



Professor Una Macleod

*Equivalent value in 2025



A previous Yorkshire Cancer Research funded project called 'Check Your Lungs' had encouraged people experiencing symptoms of poor lung health to visit their GP without delay and particularly focused on reaching people in the most deprived parts of Hull. Work was also done with GPs in those areas to improve onward referral of patients with potential lung cancer symptoms. This two-pronged approach had the ultimate aim of reducing the number of advanced stage lung cancers being diagnosed. As part of TRANSFORM, the WORKPLACE project brings the same approach into businesses in the city, especially those with high levels of manual and routine jobs which are statistically more likely to be filled by people who smoke. Raising awareness of potentially serious chest symptoms is combined with initiatives to help people stop smoking.

Currently everyone in the country aged between 50 and 74 is invited to take part in the bowel screening programme every two years. However, some of these individuals will be at higher risk of bowel cancer than others due to diet, family genetics and other issues. It may make sense to screen these 'at risk' individuals more frequently than every two years but there is a lack of research around the impact of doing so. The AT RISK project investigated whether it would be both acceptable and feasible to make such a change.

The EPOC study investigated bowel blockage, a problem experienced by about one in six of all cancer patients. It makes eating and drinking difficult and can cause severe pain, nausea and vomiting. Making decisions about treatment can be problematic for medics as there are no nationally agreed guidelines. EPOC aimed to ensure effective, patient-centred decision-making around treatment options.

Other TRANSFORM projects included improving the detection, management and prevention of delirium in palliative care units, investigating cancer diagnosis and care during the COVID-19 pandemic, evaluating the impact of lung cancer screening on health inequalities and understanding how socioeconomic factors impact the pathway of care for patients with colorectal and ovarian cancer.

Fellowship funding for Sheffield

The charity also funded ten new Yorkshire Cancer Research Fellowships at the University of Sheffield as part of a £5.9 million* investment. The posts were created to attract leading researchers and clinicians and further cement Sheffield as one of the country's leading centres for patient-focused cancer research. The appointments were part of a wider research programme centred on developing and testing new ways to diagnose and assess lung cancer, improving early diagnosis and access to treatment, and carrying out innovative new clinical trials.

*Equivalent value in 2025

Male breast cancer breakthrough

A team funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research and led by Professor Valerie Speirs announced a breakthrough in the understanding of male breast cancer in 2017. By analysing more than 700 tumour samples - one of the biggest studies ever conducted into male breast cancer - the Leeds-based team discovered that two proteins, eIF4E and eIF5, are present at significantly higher levels in the tumours of men who are most likely to die from the cancer. The findings had the potential to immediately impact patient treatment because it was straight-forward to adapt existing tests to look for these proteins. Men with high levels of eIF4E and eIF5 could be offered life-prolonging drugs from the outset, rather than treatments which wouldn't benefit them.



Professor Valerie Speirs and Professor Craig Jordan

In further research, through access to a separate archive of male breast cancers dating back as far as the 1940s, Professor Speirs' team noticed increasing levels of fatty tissue inflammation in the samples over time. The number of male breast cancers being diagnosed each year in Britain is on the rise and it is possible that this increasing inflammation could be a cause. The finding was supported by previous research Professor Speirs had undertaken with Professor Craig Jordan which showed a correlation between obesity and male breast cancer.



Richie Myler (darker shirt) joined an Active Beyond Cancer session

Rhinos help patients stay 'Active Beyond Cancer'

'Active Beyond Cancer', a rehabilitation course, was rolled out to patients across Leeds through a partnership with Leeds Rhinos Foundation. The programme aimed to help people with cancer build their fitness levels following treatment and also provided nutrition advice and opportunities to socialise. Offered at leisure centres in Armley, Rothwell and Gipton the sessions proved so popular they were repeated the following year with Rhinos scrum half Richie Myler acting as Ambassador for the programme.

The partnership between the charity and the club expanded in 2018 with the launch of 'RhINO to Cancer', a campaign aimed at raising awareness of cancer signs and symptoms among fans. The home game against Toronto Wolfpack became a 'takeover match' for the charity with drop-in GP consultations available at a special 'Check It Out' clinic, stadium advertising, a charity marquee and bucket collections at the entrance gates.



Public urged to 'Wise Up To Cancer'

The charity urged people in Leeds and Wakefield to 'Wise Up To Cancer' with the launch of a new community health programme. The scheme offered simple health checks delivered in pharmacies, community centres, shopping centres and workplaces. The checks aimed to encourage healthy lifestyles and increase participation in national screening programmes as well as alerting people to early signs of cancer.

Delivered in partnership with Leeds Beckett University, Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire and Barca-Leeds, the programme proved successful and was extended into Bradford the following year. The charity's £210,000* investment was boosted by a £283,000* award from the Tampon Tax Fund operated by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. There was a particular focus on helping South Asian women feel comfortable talking about health issues and on raising their awareness of screening services. At the time Bradford had the lowest uptake of bowel screening in the country and the fourth lowest uptakes of cervical screening and breast screening.

*Equivalent value in 2025



TV doctor Amir Khan helped to launch Wise Up To Cancer in Bradford

Festive fun run

The year came to a close with sporty Santas dashing through the snow in Dalby Forest near Pickering. Everyone who took part received a Santa suit and the stunning 2km and 5km courses took runners through some of the oldest and prettiest parts of the forest. The Santas were greeted with mince pies and medals at the finish line.



Mobile clinic saves lives in Leeds and helps inspire nationwide lung cancer screening

In November 2018 three articulated trucks drove into the car park at the White Rose Shopping Centre in south Leeds. It was the beginning of what was to prove to be one of the charity's most successful initiatives – a mobile lung screening unit which was to tour Leeds for the next six years, saving lives and helping to usher in a national lung screening programme covering the whole of England.



The Leeds Lung Health Check at the White Rose Shopping Centre, Leeds

The inspiration had come from America seven years earlier. Dr Kathryn Scott, Yorkshire Cancer Research's Director of Research and Innovation (now the charity's Chief Executive) was attending a conference in Chicago and spotted an interesting poster describing how a scanner had been fitted into the back of a truck in Detroit and toured around the poorest parts of the city. Smokers and former smokers were invited to have CT scans which would reveal if any signs of lung cancer were present.

Like Detroit, Yorkshire has a proud industrial heritage, areas of high deprivation and areas with higher than average smoking rates. These factors combine to make lung cancer Yorkshire's second most common cancer. In addition, the fact early-stage lung cancer often causes no signs and symptoms means people generally don't know they've got it and therefore don't seek help. As a result, lung cancer is frequently diagnosed late when limited treatment options are available and outcomes for patients are generally poor. One of the few ways to find early stage lung cancers is to scan people, so the idea of putting a scanner in a truck and taking it out to Yorkshire communities held a lot of appeal.

Dr Scott returned home and began trying to interest other organisations in the idea. Progress was slow but a breakthrough came when Professor Mat Callister expressed a willingness to head up a screening trial in Leeds. Professor Callister is a highly-regarded Consultant in Respiratory Medicine at St James's Hospital in



Dr Kathryn Scott

Leeds and with his involvement the proposal gained more momentum. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the University of Leeds and Leeds City Council came on board as partners and the charity weighed in with an initial £6 million* in funding. It had taken a long time and a lot of effort on many parts, but at last the idea had become a reality. The trial was named the 'Leeds Lung Health Check' and staff recruitment began.

In the first two weeks over 300 people attended checks at the White Rose Shopping Centre and then the unit moved to Elland Road Football Stadium for another two weeks of scanning. It was quickly apparent the trial was going well. A disappointment of the Detroit trial had been that less than 10 per cent of people invited for a scan had actually shown up at the truck so Professor Callister's team experimented with a much more proactive approach to the invitation process. It paid off and around 50 per cent of Leeds invitees attended in the early days, rising to around 70 per cent across the six years as a whole. Lung cancers started to be detected, along with other cancers such as breast, kidney and oesophageal, and all affected individuals went straight into treatment. Other chest issues, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, were also detected and these people were referred for further investigation and follow-up treatment where appropriate.

The project continued and the unit slowly progressed around Leeds with two weeks of scanning in each different location. Enhancements were made along the way. The charity funded a stop smoking team to join the staff, offering support to any smokers attending the unit. This extra funding was somewhat of a gamble as it would be completely up to each individual smoker as to whether or not they took advantage of the service. As it turned out the new team proved to be a big hit, with around 90 per cent of smokers

choosing to access their support. The charity also made another major investment to fund the world's first kidney cancer screening trial alongside the lung screening. As with lung cancer, kidney cancer is associated with smoking and tends not to cause signs and symptoms in its early stages, so adding a kidney scan was an obvious next step. Visitors to the unit were offered the opportunity



Professor Mat Callister



The CT scanner

**Equivalent value in 2025*

to have an additional ten-second scan of their kidneys while in the scanner and 93 per cent of attendees accepted. Analysis of the kidney trial has been positive: 'Uptake and participant satisfaction were high. The prevalence of serious findings, cancers, and abdominal aortic aneurysms, is in the range of established screening programmes such as bowel cancer.' Longer-term outcomes and the cost effectiveness of a national kidney cancer screening programme are now being evaluated.



Suzanne Rogerson, Lead Nurse for Research and Innovation

In 2019 the NHS announced its own initiative - a mobile lung screening pilot scheme. The Leeds project was important in helping to inspire the decision, as Lead Nurse for Research and Innovation Suzanne Rogerson explained: 'We were able to provide evidence that lung screening works in the real world and that it is possible to get a good response to invitations.' The NHS initially chose ten screening locations across England at a cost of nearly £9 million* and it was gratifying to the charity that three of those locations were in Yorkshire – Doncaster, Kirklees and Hull.

However, the key issue still to address was approval by the UK National Screening Committee (NSC) which is required for the full national rollout of screening programmes in England. Between 2020 and 2022, the UK NSC commissioned an evaluation of lung cancer screening and needed data on real-world programmes to decide whether such screening was likely to be effective and represent value for money for the NHS. A key question to answer was whether people would be willing to take part in lung screening in sufficient numbers because participation in Detroit and other similar American projects was low. The Leeds Lung Health Check staff were able to help by sharing data with the team compiling the review and the Leeds approach was used as the basis of the economic evaluation. In addition, the fact 51 per cent of people had responded to the initial invitations in Leeds was critical in demonstrating that lung screening would work for the NHS in England.

In late 2022 the UK NSC issued a formal recommendation to commence lung screening in the UK and in June 2023 came a major announcement – the Government committed to funding a permanent national lung cancer screening programme in England. It will be fully rolled out by 2030 for 55 to 74 year olds with a history of smoking, and is expected to find over 9,000 lung cancers every year. The charity and its partners in the screening trial had all been lobbying the Government to make such a commitment and there was elation when the news was confirmed. A project which started in Leeds had initially rippled out to help people in Doncaster, Kirklees and Hull and will now help people all across England.

The Leeds trial should have ended in autumn 2022 but results were so encouraging the charity chose to invest another £5 million* to extend it for an additional two years. In total, over a period of six years, more than 8,800 people were scanned and 400 individuals were diagnosed with lung cancers, with 80 per cent at an early stage making them easier to treat. One of those 400 was David Sutcliffe. He had been a smoker from his teenage years into his early 40s and was diagnosed with an early stage lung cancer after visiting the unit in 2022. Despite having smoked, the news came as a total shock because David was extremely fit – he had completed ten London Marathons and ten Great North Runs, hiked the British Three Peaks and the Yorkshire Three Peaks, walked the length of Hadrian's Wall and cycled from coast to coast. 'I had no idea

**Equivalent value in 2025*

that I had lung cancer but thankfully it was caught early – just a small nodule in my left lung. If it hadn't been detected it could have been many years before it had become apparent. Because the cancer was small it meant I could have a short, minimally invasive operation. In a matter of weeks I was completely recovered and it didn't feel as if I'd had lung cancer at all. Lung screening not only saved my life but also gave me the opportunity to walk my granddaughter to primary school for the first time. I was thrilled to hear about the national lung screening programme because it means many more people will survive lung cancer and experience those same joyful moments.'



David Sutcliffe speaking to charity employees about his experiences

2019



Adil Rashid

Putting the boot into Yorkshire Day

A new 'Give It Some Welly' campaign urged people across the county to help give cancer the boot on Yorkshire Day and was launched by a welly wanger of the highest pedigree. Just two weeks after having helped England win the Cricket World Cup at Lord's, spin bowler Adil Rashid was in Leeds city centre to take on delighted shoppers in a welly wanging challenge.

Supported by TV advertising, the campaign drew a lot of interest. Riders at Westwood Equestrian Centre in Sheffield painted and planted up their wellies, Eldwick residents held a Welly Fest including a 5km welly-walk, students and staff at Hull and York Medical School had a welly-themed cake sale, Leeds Rhinos players competed in a welly crossbar challenge, stall holders at Leeds Kirkgate Market got their customers involved and an art competition had children across the county creating welly-themed pictures.

The art theme ran through into the 2020 'Give It Some Welly' campaign which was launched in style at Castle Howard. The charity teamed up with Harrogate artist Anita Bowerman to create a stunning sculpture made of 191 stainless steel wellington boots, representing the 191,000 people in Yorkshire who had either survived cancer or were living with it. Entitled 'Give Cancer the Boot', the installation drew plenty of attention from visitors wandering the grounds. The boots were hung from a Cedrus Deodara fir tree, deliberately chosen because in its Himalayan homeland it is considered divine and is worshipped by Hindus. Anita said: 'I love the idea of 191 shiny boots on this tree of life. I hope the sculpture brings joy to those that see it.' Anita's brother, Mason Small, helped polish the boots and it was a labour of love for them both. 'Our parents were diagnosed with cancer', explained Anita. 'Our dad had breast and skin cancer and our mum died from ovarian cancer.'



A trader in Leeds Kirkgate Market gives it some welly



Anita Bowerman with her sculpture at Castle Howard



Young welly-wangers join in the fun in Eldwick

The sculpture also resonated with the Hon. Nicholas Howard, owner of Castle Howard: 'I have had prostate cancer and I'm in the middle of booting it out. I've had radiotherapy and I'm now having hormone treatment. It's always lovely to see an artist reflect something real in their work, which these 191 boots do, and I love how the tree can be seen from afar to draw people to it because of the way it glints in the sunlight.'

The COVID-19 pandemic meant charity employees had to get creative with the 2020 campaign. A planned Guinness world record attempt – biggest group of people wanging wellies at the same time – couldn't happen due to the ban

on public gatherings, but the charity was not deterred. Instead the challenge became virtual, with 255 participants filming and uploading their welly wangs onto Facebook on Yorkshire Day. A new Guinness world record was duly set.

Getting Active Against Cancer in Harrogate

September 2019 saw the charity launch Active Against Cancer, a new exercise referral service for people with cancer which was the first of its kind to be introduced as a standard part of NHS cancer treatment. In partnership with Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust, the two-year pilot provided activity programmes for people with cancer before, during and after treatment. Increasingly, research around the world was showing the fitter people can get as they prepare for treatment, and the fitter they stay as they go through treatment, the better their outcomes are likely to be. Additionally, the fitter they stay after treatment the less likely their cancer is to come back. Active Against Cancer gave patients a way to access these benefits, providing specialist trainers and personalised exercise plans. It proved so effective that when the pilot scheme ended, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust chose to keep the programme running. By the summer of 2024 over 3,500 patients had accessed the service and its success had been recognised with an NHS Parliamentary Award for Excellence in Health Care.



Step-up time

Flippin’ great fundraising team head north for the last time

Team Penguin took on the Great North Run for the last time, bringing to an end over a decade of dedicated fundraising. John Bretherick of Ilkley remembered: ‘Many moons ago, a beer-fuelled challenge was laid down that a penguin couldn’t complete the Great North Run. In 2005 the dream became a reality when Richard Logan completed the run in a penguin suit inspired by the 1990s John Smith beer adverts.’ From that date on the penguins went from strength to strength and took on their biggest challenge in 2013 -



Team Penguin show their Great North Run medals for one last time

The Penguathlon. Set on their way by Leeds Rhinos stars Jamie Peacock and Ian Kirke, the team biked from Yorkshire to Newcastle in specially designed penguin cycling outfits. The next day they donned their much more cumbersome furry penguin suits and completed the Great North Run, then put the cycling suits back on and pedalled home to Ilkley. Over the years they raised more than £62,000* for the charity.

*Equivalent value in 2025



Selby local voluntary committee members with the Mayor of Selby, from left: Kay Enion, Doreen Holmes and Irene Beaumont

Remembering loved ones at Christmas

A Selby institution, The Tree of Light, celebrated its 21st anniversary. The festive event, organised by Selby local voluntary committee, invites people to sponsor a tree light in memory of family and friends and has raised more than £25,000* for the charity over the years. The names of sponsors and their loved ones are recorded in a Book of Remembrance, available to read at Selby Town Hall. Committee secretary Kay Enion was inspired to start the celebration after her father passed away in 1998 and her aunt sponsored a light in his memory on a Christmas tree in Newcastle. Kay said:

‘It’s so nice to have these lights shining over the town throughout the Christmas season. It’s become a tradition in Selby and the whole town comes together to help put on the event. We have seen lights dedicated to the same people for many years as their loved ones continue to remember them each Christmas.’ Guests attending the switch on are treated to hot drinks, mince pies and carols.

2020

FOxTROting towards new bowel cancer treatments

An investment of over £3.4 million saw the charity fund two new clinical trials in 2020, FOxTROT 2 and FOxTROT 3, which aim to improve treatment for early-stage bowel cancer patients.

Prior to 2019, the standard procedure for most early-stage bowel cancer patients in the UK was surgery followed by chemotherapy - surgery to remove the tumour and chemotherapy to kill remaining cancer cells and make the cancer less likely to come back. However, in 2008 an international clinical trial, FOxTROT 1, began investigating a modified approach. Led by Professor Dion Morton at the



A patient about to begin a chemotherapy session

University of Birmingham, the trial gave patients chemotherapy before surgery as well as after it, in order to shrink the tumour prior to the operation and make it easier to remove. There were also grounds to suspect pre-surgery chemotherapy might make the cancer less likely to recur after treatment ended.

The results of FOXtROT 1 were reported in 2019 and changed medical practice in this country. The trial proved the new chemotherapy-surgery-chemotherapy approach increased the number of tumours fully removed during surgery, decreased the recurrence of cancer and reduced the number of patients experiencing problems such as infections after their operations.

FOXtROT 1 was a very successful trial but it was not perfect. It had an under-representation of elderly and frail patients and therefore treatment for these patients has not changed – they remain on the surgery-chemotherapy regime. Given the average age of a bowel cancer patient in the UK is 70, many patients fall into the elderly and frail categories and unfortunately, for a number of them, the impact of the surgery is so debilitating they can't cope with chemotherapy afterwards and therefore receive no chemotherapy at all.

FOXtROT 2 will address this issue and will hopefully show that elderly and frail patients can be safely moved onto the chemotherapy-surgery-chemotherapy regime and will benefit from doing so. FOXtROT 3 will investigate whether younger, fitter patients will benefit from having additional chemotherapy before surgery - further shrinking their tumours and thereby possibly increasing the number of fully successful operations. Both trials are being led from St James's Hospital, Leeds, by Professor Jenny Seligmann and from Birmingham by Professor Morton. Both have been developed through the University of Leeds Clinical Trials Research Unit, with support from the University of Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit.



Professor Jenny Seligmann



Dom Matteo

was very lucky in Leeds with my oncologist and my brain surgeon. Imagine this though, my brain surgeon, Ryan Mathew, was a Manchester United fan! He had to do ten hours of surgery on my brain and I've not got much in there anyway but he got me through it. I am very, very, very lucky to be here. The partnership with Yorkshire Cancer Research is massive for me. There are so many people in Yorkshire who have helped me through my illness. Now I want to give as much help as I can in return.'

United against cancer

After a 16-year wait, Leeds United were promoted back to the Premier League in 2020 and the charity was delighted to be selected as the club's official charity partner for their first season back in the top division.

Club, players and fans all got behind the charity to go 'marching on cancer together', and the partnership was particularly important to former club captain Dom Matteo. In 2019 he had collapsed in hospital during a routine check-up and was soon diagnosed with a brain tumour. He said: 'I



Players warmed up to face Newcastle United in the charity's T-shirts



Lucas the Kop Cat

Because the partnership was affected by the COVID-19 lockdown, Leeds United generously agreed to extend the relationship into a second season and the two-year association with the club was very beneficial to the charity. Over £50,000 was raised and the increased exposure from stadium advertising helped increase awareness of the charity with new audiences. The players warmed up for the Newcastle United and Chelsea home matches in Yorkshire Cancer Research T-shirts and even club mascot Lucas the Kop Cat showed his support. A 'Challenge 90' campaign encouraged fans to get more active to reduce their cancer risk and together they clocked up 300,000 minutes of exercise. Over 250 people with cancer and fundraisers were treated to match tickets and for a very lucky few there was a chance to take part in a penalty shoot-out competition on the famous Elland Road pitch.



The team of mascots for the Crystal Palace match

The biggest highlights of the partnership involved young people affected by cancer. At the home match against Crystal Palace the players were escorted on to the pitch by children who had all had cancer treatment in Leeds. Stars Patrick Bamford and Adam Forshaw also paid a surprise visit to the teenage cancer ward at St James's Hospital, taking on the youngsters at pool and chatting with them about their experiences. Another group of children undergoing treatment visited the club's Thorp Arch training ground, taking a tour and meeting their heroes. A further group did the same at Elland Road.



Children touring Elland Road got to meet Leeds United and England star Calvin Phillips



Providing stop smoking support during lockdown

During the COVID-19 lockdown access to in-person stop smoking services was restricted and the charity responded by creating a short-term remote stop smoking service. Working with the team behind the Yorkshire Stop Smoking Study which provided help to people taking part in the Leeds Lung Health Check, the new service offered up to 12 weeks of free support via regular one-to-one telephone and video calls, alongside provision by post of nicotine replacement therapies or vaping products.

The service proved a success with a self-reported quit rate among participants of 72 per cent, exceeding the 58 per cent rate for NHS stop smoking services across England in 2020. It led to the charity launching a permanent stop smoking support service comprising free weekly sessions with advisors and free quit kits.

A brand new look

In 2021 the charity unveiled a new logo and a refreshed brand, creating a stronger, clearer identity. The changes were shaped by extensive research with volunteers, fundraisers and people affected by cancer.

The new logo emphasised three important aspects of the charity's work. The word 'Research' featured more prominently, underlining the central reason for the charity's existence. The rose, which had been a very subtle part of the previous logo, was given much greater prominence and now more clearly resembled the Yorkshire Rose, emphasising the charity's dedication to the county. The deeper shade of blue behind the rose also more closely matched the standard colour of the Yorkshire Rose background. Most importantly, the rose comprised a circle of people coming together and holding hands - recognition that the charity's life-saving work is only possible through supporters, researchers and employees joining forces to make it happen.



The members of the Leeds local voluntary committee proudly welcomed the new brand



Vaping documentary reaches huge audience

The charity chose national No Smoking Day in March to launch 'Vaping Demystified', its first ever documentary. The 30-minute film tackled common misconceptions about vaping and provided smokers with the information needed to make an informed decision about using vaping products. By 2025 the documentary has been viewed over 1.5 million times on YouTube and has generated nearly 3,000 comments, the vast majority of which are positive - praising the quality of the film-making and recounting personal experiences of the health benefits of moving from cigarette smoking to vaping.



Fiona Lovell, Chair of the Helmsley local voluntary group and a keen advocate of We Walk for Yorkshire

Tour de Walkshire is a runaway success

The popular 'Tour de Yorkshire' cycle race had to be cancelled in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but its absence provided an opportunity for the charity to team up with Welcome to Yorkshire and launch a new initiative, 'Tour de Walkshire'. The campaign encouraged people across the county to get out and walk, run or cycle in the beautiful Yorkshire countryside during May, collecting sponsorship for the charity for every mile covered. Participants could choose to set their own target distance for the month or take on one of four challenge distances – 'Master the Mountains', 'Conquer the Coast', 'Defeat the Dales' or 'Beat the Border'.

An enthusiastic response from the Yorkshire public saw nearly a thousand people take part, collectively

raising over £122,000. Encouraged by the success, the charity repeated the initiative the following year. Again it was well received and, now rebranded as 'We Walk for Yorkshire', it has become a staple part of the charity's calendar of events.



Helping patients QUIT smoking in South Yorkshire

In June the charity invested £1.8 million to fund a new stop smoking initiative across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw. Delivered by the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, the QUIT Programme employed 45 tobacco treatment advisors across all the hospitals in the area to help patients stop smoking. Half of all long-term smokers die from a smoking-related disease and on average cigarette smokers die ten years younger than non-smokers, so help from a tobacco treatment advisor can literally be a life-saver. In addition, the QUIT Programme could save up to 2,500 hospital re-admissions a year, reducing pressure on beds and saving money for the NHS.



Steve Jones

Steve Jones became a Tobacco Treatment Advisor after benefitting from the QUIT scheme himself, being provided with nicotine replacement therapy and plenty of support and encouragement. Formerly a mental health nursing assistant, Steve is now proud to help others along their own journey to quitting. He explained: 'When we first see a patient we ask them to do a carbon monoxide test and for a smoker a typical result will be 10ppm (parts per million). I worked with a patient who was a very heavy smoker and his first carbon monoxide test had a result of 57ppm. I helped him with advice and support and a few weeks later his reading had gone down to 3ppm. He was absolutely over the moon and couldn't believe it. Since then he looks forward to doing the test. He says he sleeps better, his clothes don't smell, the stains have gone from his beard and he feels a lot better in general. He can't thank us enough for all we've done to help him. That's real job satisfaction.'



The Twelve Apostles, Ilkley Moor by Martin Priestley

New calendar is picture perfect

On Yorkshire Day the charity again teamed up with Welcome To Yorkshire to roll out 'The Big Yorkshire Photo Shoot'. People were encouraged to celebrate the glories of the county through photography, submitting pictures across three categories – 'Yorkshire', 'Life' and 'Together'. Entries were then assessed by a distinguished panel of judges - leading landscape photographer Joe Cornish, Bradford-based GP and TV doctor Dr Amir Khan and TV news presenter Christine Talbot. Twelve winners were chosen for inclusion in 'The Big Yorkshire Photo Shoot 2022 Calendar' and a public vote decided which of the 12 photographs should grace the front cover. The honour went to Martin Priestley's beautiful shot of the Twelve Apostles on Ilkley Moor.

Campaign helps Yorkshire shine at Christmas

The year ended in festive spirit as 2,000 stars were projected on to the west front of Ripon Cathedral to celebrate the launch of a new 'Yorkshire Stars' Christmas campaign. Each individual star represented one of the 2,000 lives the charity aims to save each year in Yorkshire. The campaign invited people to dedicate a star-shaped Christmas tree decoration in tribute to those with cancer, those who care for people with cancer or to remember those who have lost their lives to cancer.



Ripon Cathedral

The stars were then hung on a tree in the charity's Ripon shop. There was an enthusiastic response and since then the campaign has grown. The Thackray Medical Museum and Elland Road football stadium have both been lit up with stars, more trees have been decorated, including one at St James's Hospital in Leeds, and an online gallery of stars has been added.

Yorkshire Cancer Research volunteer Shiela Umpleby is an enthusiastic supporter of the campaign. She was diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer in 2021. It is rare and can spread quickly and unfortunately Shiela was told her cancer was incurable. She remembers: 'I felt lost, overwhelmed and worried. I didn't feel like myself any more.'



(From left to right) Martin, Thomas, Isaac and Shiela with their Yorkshire Stars

Christmas has become a very special time for Shiela, her husband Martin and their sons Thomas and Isaac. 'The first Christmas after my diagnosis, I was still having chemotherapy and that was really difficult for the family. It was a struggle to make sure the boys were happy and that it still felt like Christmas and that we should celebrate rather than feeling sad because mummy was poorly.' Being part of the Yorkshire Stars campaign has helped. 'I feel privileged knowing that there are lots of people who are showing their support for people with cancer like me. You feel less alone. There is a bit of hope.'

Since her diagnosis, Shiela has become a regular volunteer at the charity's Harrogate shop and has found the experience has helped her get through difficult times. 'Since I began volunteering I've started to feel more like myself. Instead of my life revolving around hospital appointments, volunteering has given me and my family a bit of normality. It means I get to speak to people without judgement. I can just be myself.' Shiela is also an enthusiastic member of the Yorkshire Cancer Research choir, enjoying the weekly opportunity to sing and socialise with employees and fellow volunteers.

In 2025 Thomas made a heartfelt speech at his primary school. Addressing fellow pupils and their parents he explained how important Yorkshire Cancer Research had become to his family and encouraged everyone to give their support. He finished his speech with the words: 'My mum is amazing because despite what she's going through she's still the best mum to me and my brother.'

Taking the lead in getting people with cancer Active Together

For over a decade an increasing number of research projects had linked fitness and exercise to improved treatment outcomes for people with cancer. Reviews found that physical activity before, during and after cancer treatment was associated with up to a 44 per cent reduction in the risk of dying from the disease and up to a 66 per cent reduction in the risk of the cancer coming back.

By 2018 the evidence was so compelling that Prue Cormie, Associate Professor, Chair of the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Exercise Cancer Group, was inspired to say: 'If the effects of exercise could be encapsulated in a pill, it would be prescribed to every cancer patient worldwide and viewed as a major breakthrough in cancer treatment ... If we had a pill called exercise it would be demanded by cancer patients, prescribed by every cancer specialist and subsidised by government.'

This growing body of research has fostered the emergence of a new field of cancer treatment, exercise oncology, which aims to incorporate appropriate exercise programmes into treatment plans for people with cancer. It is regarded as a treatment in itself, sitting alongside, and complementing, other treatments such as surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.



An Active Beyond Cancer session in Leeds

Yorkshire Cancer Research has been at the forefront of the introduction of exercise oncology. In 2017 the charity partnered with the Leeds Rhinos Foundation to introduce 'Active Beyond Cancer' exercise sessions across Leeds, improving the fitness of people who had been through cancer treatment and thereby reducing the chances of their cancer coming back. The success of the programme led to 'Active Against Cancer', a pilot project in partnership with Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust which improved people's fitness as they went through cancer treatment. The project was so popular and effective that the Foundation Trust developed it into a permanent service and the charity was inspired to begin offering the benefits of exercise oncology more widely across the county.



The Sheffield Active Together team

The result was 'Active Together', launched in Sheffield in 2022 in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University. Based at the university's Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre, an innovative new facility in the city, Active Together offers people with cancer personalised exercise programmes, alongside psychological and nutritional support, before, during and after treatment, along with opportunities to socialise. Delivered by an experienced team of healthcare professionals, cancer exercise experts and





An Active Together session in Harrogate



Nicola Noble speaking to charity employees about her experiences

researchers, the service has so far helped over 2,000 people. Gail Phillips from the Active Together programme explained some of the benefits: 'We know that cancer treatment can involve months of medical interventions which can take a significant toll on the body, so the fitter someone is as they go into it, and the better prepared they are mentally, the better they are able to get through it. If a patient's heart and lungs work well then there's less risk during surgery and a reduced chance of complications afterwards. Patients may also experience fewer side effects from radiotherapy and chemotherapy, and may have less anxiety and less fatigue.'

In 2024 the Active Together programme was extended to include a Harrogate service and one of more than 280 people to have benefitted so far is Nicola Noble. Nicola was diagnosed with breast cancer in October 2023, coincidentally the same month her sister, Michelle, had a mastectomy after also having been diagnosed with breast cancer. Nicola said: 'Our mother also had breast cancer and looking back on it now, we can see that mum's cancer defined the rest of her life - she never worked, drove or

exercised again. We were determined that we didn't want this to happen to us. I referred myself on to Active Together and met with two of the team, Amy and Andy, who were super - very empathetic and reassuring. I was quite nervous as my confidence had taken a battering from the diagnosis and treatment, plus my energy levels were really low after the radiotherapy. I needn't have worried, Active Together has been brilliant in helping with my recovery and getting some fitness back and I have also found that it has helped my mental health, my confidence and my sleep. My sister lives in Scotland and hasn't been able to access a similar programme but she has been inspired by my Active Together experiences and has started doing Parkruns.'

During 2024 more Active Together programmes were rolled out and patients in Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster, Wakefield, Pontefract and Dewsbury are now benefitting from the service. During the coming months, patients in Hull and Airedale will also gain access.

2023



The Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre on Hornbeam Park

A new home at Hornbeam

In September 2023, Yorkshire Cancer Research moved to a new home. The Grove Park Court office in Harrogate had served the charity well but the charity's shop network and the range of services being provided were both expanding and bigger premises were needed. The charity also wanted to create a more outward-looking and welcoming environment, somewhere where supporters, volunteers, people affected by cancer and employees could interact and feel at ease.



Cafe Hornbeam

The answer was the Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre on Hornbeam Park, just a couple of miles from Grove Park Court. The spacious accommodation houses the charity's first ever cafe, a boutique-style shop selling new and good quality second-hand items, a Donation Centre and an office.

Cafe Hornbeam received rave reviews from diners from the start and the Donation Centre was also an instant success as centre visitors and employees of neighbouring businesses quickly got into the habit of bringing in their pre-loved items.

Generous Jack gives the shirt off his back

The Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre also incorporates a suite of facilities for Active Together, the charity's cancer exercise treatment programme for people with cancer. Two gyms, consulting rooms and changing rooms were built at no cost to the charity thanks to the kindness of a Leeds United footballer and the generosity of an international philanthropic organisation.



Rebekah Sheldon (second left) with members of her family, Jack Harrison (centre) and the hat-trick match shirt

In January 2022 Leeds United beat West Ham United 3-2 with all three Leeds goals scored by winger Jack Harrison. Yorkshire Cancer Research was the club's charity partner at the time and after the game Jack donated his hat-trick match shirt to the charity to be raffled. There was a fantastic response from the club's fans and over £30,000 worth of tickets were sold. Rebekah Sheldon was the lucky winner, visiting Elland Road with her family to meet Jack and be presented with the shirt.

International Foundation makes huge contribution

In the following days the club contacted the charity to highlight that a very substantial number of raffle tickets had been bought by just one person, a man in New York named Andreas Dracopoulos.

Andreas had been born and brought up in Greece but despite living a very long way from Yorkshire he developed a boyhood obsession with Leeds United. His vast collection of newspaper clippings and magazine articles about the club were eventually published as a book and his love of Leeds United has never diminished. As an adult he moved to America and became co-president of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), a private, international philanthropic organisation which supports organisations and projects aimed at achieving lasting positive impacts in communities around the world.

The charity's Chief Executive, Dr Kathryn Scott, wrote to thank Andreas for his generous support for the raffle and he replied with an invitation for representatives of Yorkshire Cancer Research to join him at the Foundation's annual SNF Nostos Conference in Athens. After hearing about Active Together he invited the charity to apply to the Foundation for help supporting the programme under SNF's Global Health Initiative (GHI). The proposal was successful and resulted in a grant of £835,000



which fully funded the development of the Active Together facilities at Hornbeam Park and has also covered the programme's entire running costs for the first three years. SNF's grant is also funding an exercise oncology fellowship programme between Yorkshire Cancer Research and Regeneration & Progress, an SNF-affiliated non-profit organisation, which will provide valuable opportunities for exchange, learning, and collaboration between Greece and the UK.



Andreas Dracopoulos



'A perfect little thing'

Hayley Cragg and baby Louie were the stars of the charity's 2023 advertising campaign. Hayley, from Bridlington, noticed a lump in her breast just a day after finding out she was pregnant. She went to see her doctor the same day and was referred to Castle Hill Hospital in Hull for tests. When she went back for the results she was told she had cancer. 'It was a massive shock,' she said. 'I was heartbroken. I kept thinking how can I have cancer when I'm pregnant? There was so much going through my head.'



Hayley and Louie

Eighteen weeks into pregnancy Hayley had surgery to remove her breast. The operation successfully removed the tumour but she needed chemotherapy and radiotherapy to reduce the risk of the cancer coming back. 'When I started treatment I was really scared but I was reassured that the type of chemotherapy I would receive would be safe to be used in pregnancy.'

Hayley had chemotherapy every three weeks before a pause in treatment to prepare for giving birth. Louie was born in February 2022 and Hayley, partner Luke and their older children Sonny and Rory were thrilled. Hayley said: 'I was so happy when I saw him. He was just a perfect little thing. Thanks to research I was able to be treated effectively, even while pregnant.'



Angela Saxby with one of her collections

Top fundraiser

In 2019 Angela Saxby and her husband Steve began fundraising by collecting plastic milk bottle tops. Always a keen recycler, Angela knew of schemes in other parts of the country which encouraged people to collect their milk bottle tops to be sold to plastic recycling firms and she decided to see if she could get the idea going in South Yorkshire. The couple got everyone they knew to get involved and Angela recalled: 'The first time we delivered the bottle tops for recycling we filled our car with bags and I could hardly move in the passenger seat. They were in the footwell and piled on my knee but we managed to deliver about 100kg of plastic in one go.'

As more and more people got involved the car had to be abandoned in favour of a van. Businesses started collecting, including Morrisons, Costa Coffee and HSBC, and now the scheme involves 25 public collection hubs, dozens of community groups and organisations, 30 retail businesses and hundreds of individual collectors. Once collected, the tops are delivered to Van Werven Plastic Recycling in Selby, who pay the value of the plastic to the charity. After processing, the 'new' plastic is sold on to be used again in a range of products. By 2023 over 1,000 sacks of bottle tops had been recycled, equivalent to 2.5 tonnes of plastic, and in 2025 Angela, Steve and their dedicated team of collectors celebrated reaching over £10,000 in donations to the charity.

IMProVing prostate cancer screening

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the United Kingdom. In Yorkshire more than 4,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year and over half are diagnosed with late stage cancers where fewer treatment options are available. The situation is most acute among black men who are twice as likely to get prostate cancer as white men and who are also more likely to be diagnosed with fast growing, fast spreading tumours.

In its early stages, prostate cancer tends not to cause any symptoms so generally men aren't aware they have a problem and don't seek help. It would therefore be hugely beneficial to have a national screening programme which would find prostate cancers earlier and improve outcomes for patients.



One indicator of whether a man might have prostate cancer is the PSA test. PSA (prostate-specific antigen) is a protein, made in the prostate, which is found in men's blood. It tends to be made in greater quantities in prostates where cancer is developing and in the past there was hope a PSA blood test could be rolled out as a national screening programme – raised PSA levels being an

indication that a man may have prostate cancer and requires further tests. Unfortunately though, PSA testing on its own proved not to be reliable enough to justify national screening.

In recent years, several research projects in Europe have indicated a certain type of scan, a biparametric magnetic resonance imaging scan (bpMRI), is effective in revealing prostate cancers. This is an encouraging development as bpMRI scans are quicker, cheaper and less demanding on individuals than multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging scans (mpMRI) which are currently used in routine NHS practice to investigate for prostate cancers.

In 2024, Yorkshire Cancer Research committed £4.5 million to fund IMProVE, a new clinical trial led by Professor James Catto of the University of Sheffield, in partnership with Professor Peter Sasieni CBE and his team at Queen Mary University of London. IMProVE will involve 4,500 men in Sheffield and Leeds and will investigate how effectively PSA testing and bpMRI scanning can be combined when looking for prostate cancers. Recruitment will also proactively target black males. If the overall results are encouraging, they will be discussed with the UK National Screening Committee to determine next steps including whether a further, larger study is needed to provide enough evidence to see a national prostate cancer screening programme rolled out by the NHS.



Russell McFarlane of Sheffield raised concerns with his GP after hearing that one in four black men will get prostate cancer. A PSA test revealed a possible issue and he is now receiving treatment for prostate cancer

Protecting women in Yorkshire and beyond

It is estimated up to 12 in 100 cancers are caused by genetic faults passed down through families, yet the majority of people with these genetic faults don't know about them. If they did, there are things they could do to reduce their cancer risk, such as participating in regular screening or taking steps to prevent cancer from developing.



In 2024 the charity announced £3.8 million of funding for a new clinical trial led by Professor Ranjit Manchanda at Queen



Professor Ranjit Manchanda

Mary University of London. The trial, known as PROTECT-C, is investigating the concept of offering women tests to find out if they are at high risk of developing breast, ovarian, bowel or womb cancer. Several genetic faults can increase the risk of cancer and PROTECT-C will test for some of those known to be hereditary and related to the most common cancers in women. It is estimated around 19,000 women in Yorkshire have these faulty genes, but the vast majority remain unidentified.

With the support of NHS DigiTrials, 5,000 people from Yorkshire and the UK will be offered tests. Those identified as having genetic faults which put them at high risk of cancer will have the opportunity to access preventative medicine or surgery, receive support with lifestyle changes and have access to regular screening. The trial will also evaluate the impact of genetic testing on psychological health and lifestyle and will help indicate whether testing should be introduced for everyone in the country, a concept which could prevent thousands of cancers in Yorkshire and beyond.

New campaign is everyone's cup of tea

Throughout the summer tea-lovers were encouraged to get the kettle on and take part in 'Yorkshire's Big Brew'. The charity's new campaign provided fundraising packs to help people host their own tea parties or coffee mornings. A great response saw around 140 events take place, raising over £7,000.

One of the first people to sign up to host a Big Brew tea party was Jackie Buxton, a dedicated supporter of the charity.

In 2013 Jackie discovered a lump in her breast while showering and immediately booked a doctor's appointment. Her GP suggested it could be due to changes in her hormones and gave her the option to be referred immediately or come back in a month to see if anything had altered. 'I thought about how anxious I would feel having to wait for a month', she said. 'I figured it was better to be safe and check it wasn't



Jackie Buxton hosting her Big Brew tea party

Honouring the charity's founders

One hundred years ago, on 21 May 1925, 18 talented, industrious and generous individuals met in the library at the Old Medical School in Leeds intent on helping the people of Yorkshire by founding a cancer research charity.

One hundred years later, 18 talented, industrious and generous individuals met in that same library to honour the many thousands of researchers, fundraisers, supporters and organisations who have given their expertise, time, money, commitment and enthusiasm over the last century to help people in Yorkshire, Britain and around the world.



Entrance to the Old Medical School, Leeds



The eighteen were:

(front row, left to right) **Sir Alan Langlands** (Chair of Trustees at Yorkshire Cancer Research and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds), **Naomi Raanan** (fundraiser), **Professor Rob Copeland** (Director of the Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre, Sheffield Hallam University), **Saima Javeed** (member of the charity's Research Advisory Panel), **Lord Colin Moynihan** (former MP and grandson of Sir Berkeley Moynihan), **Suzanne Rogerson** (former Lead Nurse for the Leeds Lung Health Check), **Professor Dawn Coverley** (cell biologist, University of York), **Dr Bilal Tahir** (Senior Research Fellow in Lung and Cancer Imaging, University of Sheffield)

(middle row, left to right) **Professor Marcus Rattray** (retired neuroscience, pharmacology and community health researcher, University of Bradford), **Jo Beagley** (Trustee at Yorkshire Cancer Research and fundraiser), **Shiela Umpleby** (shop volunteer), **Professor Rob Coleman** (retired Consultant Medical Oncologist and former Head of the Cancer Research Centre and Cancer Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sheffield), **Margaret Stevens** (fundraiser, Chair of Great Ayton local voluntary committee for over 35 years), **David Sutcliffe** (beneficiary of the Leeds Lung Health Check), **James Platt** (Medical Oncology Registrar at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, managing recruitment to the FOXTROT trials), **Professor Una Macleod** (GP and former Dean of Hull York Medical School)

(rear, standing, left to right) **Dr Charlotte Kelly** (senior researcher in the TRANSFORM programme, University of Hull), **Professor Phil Quirke** (Head of the Division of Pathology and Data Analytics at the University of Leeds)

cancer, just in case. That turned out to be the best decision I could have made.' When test results confirmed that the lump was triple positive breast cancer, Jackie's consultant explained that it was fast-growing but there were good treatment options available because it had been caught early. 'I asked how long the cancer had been growing and the consultant said probably only a few months. Imagine if I hadn't taken the referral and waited another month? That thought still haunts me.'

Jackie had chemotherapy, radiotherapy and treatment with Herceptin and 12 years after her diagnosis she has finished her final round of hormone therapy and is cancer free. She wrote a book, 'Tea and Chemo', about her experiences and is a passionate advocate of the importance of early diagnosis: 'I was lucky to have my breast cancer diagnosed early. People are never wasting a doctor's time when asking about changes in their bodies that worry them. The second anyone suspects something they should make that appointment. It could save their life.'

As well as fundraising, Jackie has been a member of the charity's Research Advisory Panel, drawing on her cancer experiences to help assess which research projects fit most closely with the charity's mission: 'Taking action today to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer more effectively in Yorkshire.'

The Big Brew was back in 2025, this time as 'Yorkshire's Big Birthday Brew' to mark the charity's centenary year. Supporters were encouraged to enjoy a cuppa with friends to celebrate 100 years of life-saving progress.

Sandeep steps up to the challenge

Sandeep Gupta took on a Himalayan challenge in 2024 in memory of his best friend Sonu. A 14-day trek to Everest base camp pushed him to his limits but he succeeded in raising over £8,900 for the charity.

Sonu had died from bowel cancer earlier in the year, aged just 50, and the shock of losing him drove Sandeep to take on the trek and raise funds to help people in his home city of Bradford, and beyond. After landing in Kathmandu he flew to Lukla, a small town high in the Himalayan mountains. From there he began the expedition, climbing to over 5,000 metres above sea level to reach base camp. He said: 'The higher I climbed the harder it was to breathe. There were many moments when I wanted to give up but I thought of Sonu and that gave me the motivation to get to the end. Nothing compares to the huge sense of achievement I felt once I made it to the camp.'

Not content with his hiking exploits, Sandeep also pitched in and helped the Hindu Cultural Society of Bradford raise a further £2,300 for the charity from its annual Diwali celebration. The evening brought together over 400 people to celebrate the festival with music, dancing and food. Kamal Sharma, Managing Director of the Society said: 'Diwali is our festival of lights, so we chose to fundraise for Yorkshire Cancer Research to give light and hope to people living with cancer.'



Sandeep Gupta at Everest base camp

Celebrating 100 years

The charity's 100th birthday was marked at the Queens Hotel in Leeds with over 300 supporters, researchers and employees coming together to celebrate and pay tribute to the commitment of people across Yorkshire. Almost a century earlier the hotel had hosted the launch of the charity's first public appeal for funds and made the perfect setting for the occasion.

A three-course meal was interspersed with speeches looking back over the charity's history and looking forward to future ambitions. Guest speaker Lord Colin Moynihan entertained those gathered with anecdotes about his grandfather Sir Berkeley Moynihan, the charity's first Chairman, and Chief Executive Dr Kathryn Scott highlighted the key achievements over the century.

Every birthday party needs a cake and charity employee Rebecca Parker did the occasion proud, creating not one, not two, but three cakes to make a spectacular 100, lavishly decorated with summer fruits and meringues. The honour of cutting it went to nine guests who between them represented the many individuals and organisations who have supported Yorkshire Cancer Research over the years – local voluntary committee members, patients, fundraisers, Research Advisory Panel members, shop volunteers, researchers, businesses and trusts.

The celebration was a fitting tribute to the dedication of the generations of supporters and researchers who have made the charity a success and who go on working tirelessly, day in, day out, for the benefit of others.



All set and ready to go



In full swing



The birthday cake cutters (left to right) – Fiona Lovell, Sara Williamson, Angela Saxby, Saima Javeed, Nicola Mercer, Shiela Umpleby, Professor Mat Callister, James Cornell and Carla Marshall



Here's to the Changemakers.

Here's to the runners,
the bakers, the amazing
fundraisers.

Here's to the researchers,
the pioneers, the passionate
scientists.

Here's to the doctors,
nurses, volunteers and
people with cancer,
championing research.

And here's to everyone
who's played a part for this
generation and the next.

Here's to a Yorkshire free
from cancer.



Thank you

A sincere thank you to the local voluntary committees

Yorkshire Cancer Research has benefitted from the loyal support of local voluntary committees for many decades. Sir Arthur Winder led the way, establishing the first committee in Sheffield in 1946. In the following years committees sprang up all across Yorkshire and members have devoted many thousands of hours to the cause, raising many millions of pounds.

As we celebrate our centenary we pay tribute to committee members past and present who have done so much to help others. Over the years there have been more than 80 local voluntary committees and we are proud to recognise the contribution of each and every one:

Aireborough	Hornsea	Richmond
Anlaby	Horsforth	Ridings
Barnsley	Hoyland	Ripon
Batley	Huddersfield	Rivelin Valley
Bedale	Hull	Rotherham
Beverley	Hull Ladies	Scarborough
Bingley	Hunmanby	Selby
Boroughbridge	Hutton Rudby and Crathorne	Sheffield
Bradford	Ilkley	Sheffield Institute
Bradford Ladies	Keighley and Craven	Sheffield Ladies
Bramley	Kirkbymoorside	Sherburn in Elmet
Bridlington	Leeds	Skipton
Cottingham	Leyburn	Spen Valley
Dewsbury	Malton	Stocksbridge
Doncaster	Masham	Stokesley
Driffield	Middlesborough	Tadcaster
Dunnington	Middlesbrough Ladies	Thirsk
Farnley Tyas	Mirfield	Thorne
Galtres	Morley	Upper Wharfedale
Garforth	Northallerton	Vale
Gilberdyke	Ossett	Wakefield
Goole	Oulston	West Vale
Grassington	Oulton	West Yorkshire
Great Ayton	Patrington	Wetherby
Halifax	Penistone	Wharfedale
Harrogate	Pickering	Withernsea
Hatfield	Pocklington	Wolds
Helmsley	Pudsey	York

‘Local voluntary committees provide the solid bedrock on which all our research effort is based. I cannot praise too highly, or thank too much, these good people of Yorkshire.’

Dr Douglas Shortridge, former Chairman of Yorkshire Cancer Research

Index

A

Aberdeen, University of, 1992
Ackroyd, Christa, 2000, 2008
Active Against Cancer, 2019, 2022
Active Beyond Cancer, 2017, 2022
Active Together, 2022, 2023
Adair, Frank, 1929
Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre, 2022, 2025
Aireborough Juniors local voluntary committee, 1980
Aireborough local voluntary committee, 1977
Airedale, West Yorks, 2022
Ainscough, Dr Justin, 2006
Albrighton, Ken and Melanie, 2003
Alderton, John, 1975
Algernon Firth Pathological Institute, 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section), 1927, 1933
Ali, Muhammad, 2016
American Society of Clinical Oncology, 1993
Aniline dye, 1941
Angkor Watt, Cambodia, 2007
Anthoney, Dr H, 1982
Armley, West Yorks, 2017
Association of British Chemical Manufacturers, 1941
Association of Cancer Physicians, 1988
AstraZeneca, 1966
AT RISK, 2017
Athens, Greece, 2023
Atley, Jill, Julia and Katherine, 1998
Attenborough, Sir David, 2016
Avison, Carolyn Ann, Maurice and Penny, 2009
Ayres, Pam, 1989

B

B-cell mediastinal lymphoma, 2012
Bagg, Halsey, 1929
Bailiff Bridge, West Yorks, 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section)
Baldock, Hannah, 2012
Bamford, Patrick, 2020
Barca-Leeds, 2017
Bargain Hunt, 2009
Barker, Meg, 2015
Barnsley, South Yorks, 1927, 2005, 2016, 2022
Barrington, Wendy, 2009
Beagley, Jo, 2014, 2025
Beatson, Sir George, 1966
Beaumont, Irene, 2019
Beckwith, Mrs, 1968
Beech Hill Primary School, Halifax, 2000
Beginn, Jacki, 1996
Bell, Helen, 2015
Benaud, Richie, 2015
Beningbrough Hall, 2005
Bennett, Alan, 2010
Berenblum, Isaac, 1929, 1941
Best of Yorkshire Festival, 2008
Beta-naphthylamine, 1941
Beverley local voluntary committee, 1997
Bexley Wing, Leeds, 1988
Bhattacharjee, Dr Debamita, 2005
Big Yorkshire Photo Shoot, 2021
Bilk, Aker, 1968
Bingley local voluntary committee, 1968
Birmingham, West Midlands, 1986
Birmingham, University of, 2020
Birmingham, University of, Clinical Trials Unit, 2020

Bishop, Professor Tim, 2010
Black, Lucy, 2015
Blackband, Dr Stephen, 1992
Bladder cancer, 1941, 1969, 1985, 1991, 2014, 2015
Blair, Professor Eric, 2011
Blood cancer, 1969, 2011
Blood Transfusion Service, 1940
Boddy, Pru, 2003
Bolton Abbey, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)
Bond, Richard, 2013
Bone cancer, 1993, 2011
Bonser, Dr Georgiana, 1941, 1968
Booth, Alison, 2015
Boots, 2008
Botham, Sir Ian, 1983
Bounce for Leeds and Sheffield, 2010
Bowel cancer, 1995, 2005, 2010, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2024
Bowerman, Anita, 2019
Boyces, Dr Joan, 2011
Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust, 1999
Bradford, West Yorks, 1926, 1927, 1941, 1958, 1972, 2013, 2017, 2024
Bradford and District Trade and Labour Council, 1926
Bradford, University of, 1968, 1991, 1999, 2013, 2014, 2025
Brain cancer, 1985, 1992, 2002, 2014, 2020
BRCA 1 and 2 genes, 2014
Breast cancer, Foreword, 1930, 1939, 1941, 1948, 1950, 1953, 1966, 1968-69, 1973, 1975, 1992-93, 1995-96, 2004-06, 2017-19, 2021-24
Bretherick, John, 2019
Bridlington local voluntary committee, 1997
Bridlington Spa, 1997

Bridlington, North Yorks, 1997, 2023

Brighouse, West Yorks, 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section)

Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band, 1987

British Empire Cancer Campaign, 1925, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section), 1933, 1937, 1939, 1951, 1996

British Medical Journal, 1953

British Steel, 1958

Broadhead, Sandra, 1998

Brown, Phil, 2009

Brown, Professor Stan, 1985, 1996

Bryant, Professor Helen, 2014

Brydson, Kathie, 1995

Burnett, Sir Macfarlane, 1953

Burton, Montague, 1941

Burton, Reverend Richard, 1971

Buxton, Jackie, 2024

C

Callister, Professor Mat, 2018, 2025

Cambridge, University of, 1995

Cancer information unit, Leeds, 1975

Cancer Research UK, 2005, 2011

Cannon Hall Farm, 2016

Caplan, Alan and Judith, 1983

Carreras, Jose, 1993

Carthy, Ros, 2002

Castle, Rachel, 2006

Castle Hill Hospital, Hull, 1991, 2023

Castle Howard, 2019

Castleford, West Yorks, 1927

Catterick, North Yorks, 2012

Catto, Professor James, 2015, 2024

Caunt, Louise, 2003

Centre for Magnetic Resonance Investigation, Hull, 1992

Cervical cancer, 1973, 1978, 1995, 2011, 2017

Challenge 90, 2020

Challis, Alice, 2015

Chalmers, Judith, 1978

Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds, 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section), 2015

Check Your Lungs, 2017

Chemotherapy, 1929, 1973, 1988, 1991, 1999, 2005, 2012-14, 2020-24

Chest wall cancer, 1985

Chester Beatty Research Institute, London, 1969

Chicago, USA, 1966, 2018

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 2018

Clangers, The, 2009

Clay, Gladys, 1975

Clayson, Professor David, 1941

Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, 1927

Clegg, Barker Thomas, 1925, 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section), 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section), 1937

Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Exercise Cancer Group, 2022

Colchicine, 2013

Coleman, Professor Rob, 1992, 1993, 2011, 2025

Collins, Pauline, 1975

Colon cancer, 2004, 2005

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire, 2017

Connecticut, USA, 1929

Cook, Dr Gordon, 2011

Cook, Dr Graham, 2011

Cooke, Ann, 1997

Cookridge Hospital, Leeds, 1956, 1975, 1982

Cooper, Professor Edward, 1969

Copeland, Professor Rob, 2025

Cording, Paul, 2009

Cormie, Professor Prue, 2022

Cornell, James, 2025

Cornish, Joe, 2021

Cortisone, 1950

Costa Coffee, 2023

Cottingham, East Yorks, 2005

Covent Garden, London, 1987

Coverley, Professor Dawn, 2006, 2025

COVID-19, 2017, 2019-21

Cox, Professor Angie, 2004

CR07 trial, 2005

Cragg, Hayley, Louie, Luke, Rory and Sonny, 2023

Crane, Professor W. A. J, 1950

Craven Herald, 2003

Crawford, Dr Michael, 1991

Crawshaw, Mrs, 1977

Crerar, Sally, 1996

Cricket World Cup, 2019

Crimean War, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section)

Crocus Appeal, 2013

Cruckley Animal Farm, 2007

Curie, Marie and Pierre, 1930

D

Dalby Forest, North Yorks, 2017

Daniels, Paul, 1982, 1992-93, 1996

Davie, Tim, 2016

Davies, Helen, 1975

Dawes, Professor Eddie, 1985

de Bergh-Canning, Hubert, Second Marquess of Clanricarde, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section)

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), 2005, 2014

Department of Culture, Media

and Sport, 2017

Department of Experimental Pathology and Cancer Research, Leeds, 1926, 1927, 1941

Department of Health and Social Security, 1975

Detroit, USA, 2018

Dewsbury, West Yorks, 1927, 2022

Dibb & Co, 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section)

Dick, Ginny, 2015

Diwali, 2024

Dixon, Professor Michael, 2005

DLA Piper, 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section)

Doisy, Edward Adelbert, 1966

Dolphins Nursery, Huddersfield, 2005

Donaldson, Isobel and Dr Malcolm, 1939

Doncaster, South Yorks, 1927, 2018, 2022

Doody, Dr Gina, 2012

Dracopoulos, Andreas, 2023

Driffield local voluntary committee, 1998

Dunnington, North Yorks, 1975

Durrant, Terence, 1962

Dutton, Jane, 2001

Dyson, Dr, 1975

E

East Ardsley, West Yorks, 1998

East Riding of Yorkshire, 1927, 1939

Eccleshill, West Yorks, 1977

Eldwick, West Yorks, 2019

Elgey, Mr, 1982

Elland Road Stadium, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023

Emergency Medical Service, 1940

Emmott, Les, 1971

Emmott, Tina, 1968

Enion, Kay, 2019

EnROL trial, 2005

EPOC study, 2017

Epstein-Barr virus, 1973

Ewing sarcoma, 2013

F

Fallows, Liz, 2015

Farrah’s of Harrogate, 2009

Felton, Chris and Nick, 1984

Firth, Lady Janet, 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section), 1933

Firth, Roy, 1987

Forshaw, Adam, 2020

Fothergill, Audrey, 1971

Founding meeting, 1925

Fountains Abbey, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)

FOxTROT 1, 2 and 3, 2020, 2025

Frazer, Donald Lovatt, 1997

G

Gale, Andrew, 2015

Galtres local voluntary committee, 1993, 2005

Garwood, Billy, Ruth and Tom, 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section)

Gatenby, David, Margaret and Neil, 2002

George V, King, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section)

Gilbert, Diane and family, 1996

Gilman, Alfred, 1929

Gipton, West Yorks, 2017

Give It Some Welly, 2019

Glasgow, Scotland, 1966

Gledholt Choir, 1987

Goodman, Louis, 1929

Graham, Tony, 1971

Grand Opera House, York, 1996

Grantham, Lincolnshire, 2012

Great Ayton local voluntary committee, 1946, 2025

Great North Run, 2003, 2009, 2018, 2019

Green, Professor Harry, 1953, 1962

Gumball 3000, 2004

Gupta, Sandeep, 2024

H

Habergham, Audrey, 1991

Hackland, Dr James, 1993

Halifax, West Yorks, 1925 (Sir Harold Mackintosh section), 1927, 1958

Halifax Daily Courier and Guardian, 1927

Halifax local voluntary committee, 1991, 1996, 2001

Halifax shop, 1970, 1996, 2000

Hancock, Professor Barry, 1988, 1993

Harewood House, Leeds, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section), 2006, 2008

Harington, Sir Charles, 1932

Harper, David, 2009

Harris, Syd, 2000

Harrison, Jack, 2023

Harrogate, North Yorks, 1927, 1979, 1990, 2003, 2005, 2008-09, 2013-14, 2019, 2021-23

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust, 2019, 2022

Harrogate International Festival, 2010

Harrogate Royal Hall, 2010

Harvey, Hilda, 1926

Hatfield, Gill, 1998

Head and neck cancer, 1978

Heald, Professor Bill, 2005

Heaton, Jean, 1996

Hebden Bridge, West Yorks, 1925, 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section)

Heckmondwike, West Yorks, 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section)
Helleday, Professor Thomas, 2014
Helmsley local voluntary committee, 2009, 2021
Hench, Dr Philip, 1950
Hepatitis B and C, 1973
Hepworths, 1941
Herceptin, 2024
High Energy Radiation Treatment and Research Centre, Leeds, 1956
Hillhouse, Professor Ed, 2005
Hines, Frazer, 1977
Hindu Cultural Society of Bradford, 2024
HIV, 1973
Hodgkin lymphoma, 1988
Hodgson, Marjorie, 1968
Holmes, Anne, 1971
Holmes, Doreen, 2019
Holmes, Dr Toby, 2011
Hornbeam Park, 2018, 2023
Horsforth, West Yorks, 1977
Hope, Susan, 2002
Hopkins, Gill, 2009
Howard, Hon. Nicholas, 2019
HSBC, 2023
Huddersfield, West Yorks, 1927, 1987, 2005
Huddersfield local voluntary committee, 1978, 1980, 1987, 1990, 2000, 2001
Huddersfield Town AFC, 2012
Hull, East Yorks, 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section), 1946, 1948, 1955, 1978, 1986, 1987, 1992, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2022
Hull City FC, 2009
Hull City Health Authority, 1948
Hull Health Authority, 1992

Hull local voluntary committee, 1946, 1986
Hull, Rod, 2016
Hull Royal Infirmary, 1948, 1992
Hull, University of, 1968, 1985, 1992, 2014, 2017, 2025
Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, 2017
Hull York Medical School, 2017, 2019, 2025
Human papillomavirus, 1973, 2011
Hutton, Sir Len, 1975
Hussain, Dr Wal, 2015
Hydrocortisone, 1950
Hyperbaric oxygen, 1978
I
ICI Pharmaceuticals, 1966
Ilkley local voluntary committee, 1978
Ilkley, West Yorks, 1926, 1927, 2019, 2021
IMProVE trial, 2024
Incanthera, 2013
Institute for Cancer Studies, Sheffield, 1993
Institute of Cancer Studies, Leeds, 1988
Institute of Cancer Therapeutics, Bradford, 1999
J
J. D. (cancer patient), 1929
Jackson, Dr Brenda, 1996, 1999, 2003
Jagger, Jan, 1997
Jameson, Wendy, 1975
Javeed, Saima, 2025
Jenkins, Professor Terry, 1999
Jennings, Louise, 1975
Jensen, Elwood, 1966
Jessop Hospital for Women, Sheffield, 1950

Jiang, Dr Ming, 1995
Joe Loss Orchestra, 1997
Johnson, Amy, 1978
Jones, James, Russell and Wendy, 1993
Jones, LLewlyn, 1937
Jones, Steve, 2021
Jones, Vicky, 1997
Jordan, Professor Craig, 1966, 2017
Jumbler Boys, 1977
K
Kate, Princess of Wales, 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section)
Kathmandu, Nepal, 2024
Kaye, Gorden, 1987
Keighley, West Yorks, 1927, 1968
Keighley and Craven local voluntary committee, 2008
Kelly, Dr Charlotte, 2025
Kendall, Dr Edward Calvin, 1950
Khan, Dr Amir, 2017, 2021
Kidd, Helen, 1975
Kidney cancer, 1969, 2018
King, Debbie, James and Jonathan, 2013
King, Elaine, 1971, 1987, 1995-97, 2005
Kirklees, West Yorks, 2018
Knaresborough, North Yorks, 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section)
Knowles, Eric, 2003
L
Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, Delhi, 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section)
Lancet, The, 2005
Langlands, Sir Alan, 2025
Larynx cancer, 1930
Lascelles, George, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section)

Lascelles, Gerald, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section)
Lascelles, Viscount Henry, (also Earl of Harewood), 1925, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section), 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section), 1926, 1927, 1948
Las Vegas, USA, 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section)
Laurie, Pamela, 2002
Lawnswood Cemetery, Leeds, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section)
Lee & Priestley, 2000
Leeds, West Yorks, 1925, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section), 1925 (Sir George Martin section), 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section), 1926-30, 1933, 1940-41, 1948, 1958, 1977, 1979, 1984, 2004-05, 2010-12, 2017-20, 2022, 2024
Leeds Beckett University, 2017
Leeds Bradford Airport, 1978
Leeds Centre (for cancer research), 1927, 1931, 1941, 1948, 1953, 1959, 1962, 1965-66, 1968-69, 1975, 1983, 2002
Leeds City Council, 2018
Leeds Clinical Trials Research Unit, 2014
Leeds Eastern Health Authority, 1988
Leeds General Infirmary, 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section), 1925 (Sir George Martin section), 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section), 1930, 1959, 1985, 2012
Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine, 2005
Leeds Kirkgate Market, 2019
Leeds local voluntary committee, 1983, 2000, 2021
Leeds Lung Health Check, 2018, 2020, 2025
Leeds Mercury, 1927, 1931
Leeds Music Festival, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)

Leeds Public Dispensary, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)
Leeds Regional Hospital Board, 1956
Leeds Rhinos, 2019
Leeds Rhinos Foundation, 2017, 2022
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, 2009, 2015, 2018, 2025
Leeds United FC, 1992, 2009, 2020, 2023
Leeds, University of, 1925, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section), 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section), 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section), 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section), 1926, 1933, 1937, 1941, 1953, 1956, 1959, 1965-66, 1975, 1982, 1984-85, 1988, 2005, 2012, 2014-15, 2018, 2025
Leeds, University of, Clinical Trials Research Unit, 2020
Leeds YMCA, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)
Leukaemia, 1988, 1993
Levine, Professor Arnold, 1995
Leyburn, North Yorks, 2009, 2015
Lidbury, Sir Charles, 1937
Lightcliffe, West Yorks, 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section)
Liver cancer, 1969, 1973
Lockwood, Ian, 2003
Logan, Richard, 2019
London Marathon, 2018
Lovell, Fiona, 2021, 2025
Lukla, Nepal, 2024
Lung cancer, 1953, 1985, 1995, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2018
Lupton, Sir Charles, 1925, 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section), 1927
Luty, Val, 2002
Lyles, John, 1999
Lymphoma, 1929, 1969, 1973, 1988

Lynch syndrome, 2005
Lynparza / Olaparib, 2014
M
Machu Picchu, Peru, 2007
Mackintosh, John and Violet, 1925 (Sir Harold Mackintosh section)
Mackintosh, Sir Harold, 1925, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section), 1925 (Sir Harold Mackintosh section), 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section), 1926-27, 1930-31, 1939-40, 1946, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1965
Mackintosh's, 1925 (Sir Harold Mackintosh section), 1958
Macleod, Professor Una, 2017, 2025
Macular degeneration, 1985
Magnetic resonance imaging, 1992, 2024
Maitland, Professor Norman, 1991
Mallard, Professor John, 1992
Manchanda, Professor Ranjit, 2024
Manchester Royal Infirmary, 1941
Marathon des Sables, 2009
Markham, Professor Sir Alex, 2002
Marshall, Carla, 2025
Martin, Sir George, 1925, 1925 (Sir George Martin section), 1927, 1930, 1941, 1962, 1965, 1968, 1970, 1973
Mary, Princess Royal and Countess of Harewood, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section), 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section), 1948, 1956
Mary, Queen, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section)
Mason, James, 1972
Massey, Ron, 1987
Mathew, Ryan, 2020

Matteo, Dom, 2020
Maudsley, Jim and Joan, 1996
Mayo Clinic, 1950
McFarlane, Russell, 2024
McGee, Debbie, 1992
McGuinness, Jamie, Jasmine and Joshua, 2005
McLean, Colette and Polly, 1998
Medical Research Committee, 1932
Medical Research Council, 1932
Melanoma, 1953, 1985, 1988, 2012, 2015
Mellanby, Sir Edward, 1932, 1973
Mercer, Nicola, 2025
Merkin, Yvonne, 2002
Middleton Tyas, North Yorks, 2003
Miller, Hugh, 2008
Miller, Dr Joan, 1985
Miller, Todd, 1997
Milner, Professor Jo, 1995
Mine Workers of Yorkshire, 1946
Moghissi, Keyvan, 1985
Morley, West Yorks, 1927
Morrisons, 2023
Morton, Professor Dion, 2020
Moss, Jenny, 2003
Mount Everest, 2024
Mouth cancer, 1930
Moynihan, Andrew, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section)
Moynihan, Isabella, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section)
Moynihan, Lord Colin, 2025
Moynihan, Sir Berkeley, 1925, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section), 1925 (Sir Harold Mackintosh section), 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section), 1926, 1927, 1933, 1939, 2005, 2025
Mukkerjee, Siddhartha, 1966

Murphy, Joanne, 1975
Murtland, Gwen, 1998
Mustard gas, 1929
Myeloma, 1988, 2011, 2012
Myler, Richie 2017
N
National Cancer Research Network, 1988
National Coal Mining Museum, Wakefield, 2001
National Health Service, 2005, 2018, 2024
National Institute for Clinical Excellence, 2004, 2005
National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2005, 2015
National Institute for Health Research, 2014
National Institute for Medical Research, 1932
National Radium Commission, 1930
National Union of Mineworkers, 1946
Newcastle, Tyne and Wear, 2019
Newcastle United, 2020
Newcastle, University of, 2013
Newton-Bishop, Professor Julia, 2012
New York Academy of Sciences, 1953
New York Marathon, 2003
Next, 1941
NHS DigiTrials, 2024
NHS Parliamentary Award for Excellence in Health Care, 2019
Nicholson, Maxine and Richard, 2016
Noble, Nicola, 2022
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, 1929, 2004
Normanton, West Yorks, 1927
North, Anne, 2002

North Riding of Yorkshire, 1927
Northallerton, 1996
Northallerton local voluntary committee, 1965, 1975
Northallerton shop, 1965
Notes On Cancer For Medical Men, 1926
O
Oesophageal cancer, 1930, 1985, 2018
Old Medical School, Leeds, 1925, 1931, 2025
Osteoradionecrosis, 1978
Out of the Shadow (film), 1939
Ovarian cancer, 1995, 2014, 2019, 2024
Oxford Cancer Research Centre, 1929
P
p53 protein, 1995
Paignton, Devon, 1986
Pancreatic cancer, 1969, 1995, 2009, 2014
Park, Linda, 1971
Park Square, Leeds, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section), 1926, 1977
Parker, Craig, 2013
Parker, Professor Roy, 1985
Parker, Rebecca, 2025
Parkinson, Sir Michael, 2016
PARP inhibitor, 2014
Passey, Professor Richard, 1926, 1929-31, 1953
Patterson, Professor Laurence, 1999
Paul, Adrian, 2013
Pedal For Pounds, 2006
Pennington, Mrs, 1989
Peters, Rosalind, 2000
Phillips, Gail, 2022
Phillips, Calvin, 2020

Phillips-Barrett, Jude and Morgan, 2005
Photodynamic therapy, 1985
Photofrin, 1985
Pickering, North Yorks, 2017
Pituitary cancer, 1969, 1985
Platt, James, 2025
Platt, Ron, 1987
Poly ADP-ribose polymerase (PARP), 2014
Pomeroy, Alan, 2004
Pontefract, West Yorks, 1927, 2022
Possett, Frank, 2001
Powell, Enoch, 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section)
Priestley, Martin, 2021
Princeton University, 1995
Prostate cancer, 1983, 1991-93, 2004, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2024
Prostate-specific antigen (PSA), 2024
PROTECT-C, 2024
Purohit, Dr Kash, 1993
Q
Quality Street, 1925 (Sir Harold Mackintosh section)
QUASAR trial, 2005
Queens Hotel, Leeds, 1926, 1937, 2025
Queen Mary University of London, 2024
Quirke, Professor Phil, 2005, 2025
QUIT, 2021
R
Raanan, Naomi and Sally, 2002, 2025 (Naomi)
Rabbitts, Professors Pamela and Terry, 2009
Radiotherapy, 1926, 1929-30, 1939, 1948, 1956, 1975, 1978, 1982, 1985, 1988, 1991, 2004-05, 2013, 2015, 2019, 2022-24

Radium, 1930
Ramshackle Rally, 2013
Rashid, Adil, 2019
Ratray, Professor Marcus, 2025
Rectal cancer, 2005, 2014
Red Cross, 1940
Red Door Antiques, York, 2003
Regeneration & Progress, 2023
Regional health authority 1975, 1982
Regional Radiotherapy Centre, Leeds, 1975
Rendezvous Hotel, Skipton, 2008
Research Advisory Panel, Foreword, 2024, 2025
RhiNO to Cancer, 2017
Rhodes, Will, 2015
Richardson, Dora, 1966
Richardson, Enid, 1965
Richardson, Mavis, 1997
Richmond, Dr Mike, 1988
Rickets, 1932
Ripon, North Yorks, 1927, 2019, 2021
Ripon local voluntary committee, 2003, 2012
Ripon Old Cars, 2004
Rippon Brothers, Huddersfield, 1927
Rituximab, 2004
RNA interference, 1995
Robinson, Sian, 1993
Robinsons of Bawtry, 1993
Rockefeller Foundation, 1956
Rogerson, Suzanne, 2018, 2025
Rolarr trial, 2005
Rolls Royce, 1927
Roundhay Park, Leeds, 2010
Ross, Alfred, 1996
Rotherham, South Yorks, 1927, 2022

Rothwell, West Yorks, 2017
Rous sarcoma virus, 1932, 1973
Rous, Peyton, 1973
Rowett, Charles, 2013
Rowntree, Cecil 1939
Royal Albert Hall, London, 1987
Royal Armouries, Leeds, 2000
Royal College of Surgeons, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section)
Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, 1993
Royal Marsden, London, 1988
S
Samuel Fox and Co, 1958
Samuel Smith's Brewery, 1971
Sandford, June, 2006
Santa Run, 2017
Sarcoma, 1988
Saxby, Angela and Steve, 2023, 2025 (Angela)
Scott, Dr Kathryn, 1971, 2016, 2018, 2023, 2025
Scott-Priestley, Jane, 2015
Sebag-Montefiore, Professor David, 2005
Selby local voluntary committee, 2019
Selby, North Yorks, 2019, 2023
Selby, Professor Peter, 1988
Seligmann, Professor Jenny, 2020
Settle, North Yorks, 1927
Sharma, Kamal, 2024
Sharp, Jill, 2005
Sheffield Arena, 2000
Sheffield, South Yorks, 1927, 1932, 1946, 1947, 1958, 2016, 2022, 2024
Sheffield Cancer Research Centre, 2011, 2025
Sheffield Centre, (for cancer research), 1932, 1948, 1950, 1953, 1959, 1962, 1965, 1968, 1973, 2004

Sheffield Clinical Trials Centre, 2004, 2025	Spear & Jackson, 1958	Testicular cancer, 1953	Verteporfin, 1985	Wilson, Clive, 1968, 1988	Yorkshire Cancer Research Fellowships, 2015, 2017
Sheffield Hallam University, 2022, 2025	Speirs, Professor Valerie, 2017	Thackray Medical Museum, 2021	Vitamin D, 1932	Wilson, David, 1975	Yorkshire Cancer Research Laboratory of Drug Design, Bradford, 1999
Sheffield Independent, 1927	Spinal cancer, 1992	The Ginnel, Harrogate, 2003	Voase, Dominic, 2005	Wilson, Graham, 2013	
Sheffield local voluntary committee, 1946	Splash for Cash, 2005	The Times, 1925	W	Wilson, Nicola, 2015	Yorkshire County Cricket Club, 2015
Sheffield Royal Infirmary, 1932, 1988	St. James's Hospital, Leeds, 1925 (Sir George Martin section), 1988, 2005, 2018, 2020, 2021	Thirsk local voluntary committee, 1998	Wadsworth, Len, 2004	Winder, Sir Arthur, 1946	Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, 1925, 1925 (Sir Harold Mackintosh section), 1925 (Barker Thomas Clegg section), 1926, 1931, 1937, 1953, 1970, 1996
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, 1988, 2011	St. Louis School of Medicine, 1966	Thirsk Racecourse, 1998	Wakefield, Mrs, 1989	Windsor, Princess Elizabeth, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section)	
Sheffield, University of, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section), 1932, 1950, 1959, 1962, 1965, 1985, 1988, 1993, 2011, 2014-15, 2017, 2024-25	Stancliffe, Barbara, 1968	Thomson, J. W., 1927	Wakefield, West Yorks, 1927, 2017, 2022	Windsor, Princess Margaret, 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section)	Yorkshire Day, 2001, 2002, 2008, 2013, 2019, 2021
Sheffield, University of, Students' Rag Committee, 1947	Staff, Kathy, 2001	Thorne local voluntary committee, 1989	Wakefield local voluntary committee, 1992, 1998	Wise, Ernie, 1972	Yorkshire Electricity, 1993
Sheffield United, 1992	Stavros Niarchos Foundation, 2023	Thorp, Richard, 1996	Walpole, Dr Arthur, 1966	Wise Up To Cancer, 2017	Yorkshire Festival of Music, 2000
Sheldon, Rebekah, 2023	Steel, Peach and Tozer, 1958	Throat cancer, 1926, 1930, 1997, 2004	Waring, Eddie, 1980	Womb cancer, 1939, 1969, 2024	Yorkshire Motorists, 1949
Shortland, Dr John, 1962	Stevens, Margaret, 2025	Thyroid cancer, 1950, 1969	We Walk for Yorkshire, 2021	Women's Medical Federation, 1941	Yorkshire Post, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section)
Shortridge, Dr Douglas, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1988, 1990-91, 1993, 1995-96	Stevens, Mark, 2010	Tilt, Bill, 1986	Weetwood, Leeds, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)	Woodman, Ashley, 2004	Yorkshire Rheumatism Committee, 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section)
Sir George Martin Trust, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)	Sutcliffe, Brian, 1996	Tobacco Treatment Advisors, 2021	Weighell, Julia, 1971	Woodhouse Grove School, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)	Yorkshire Stars, 2021
Skin cancer, 1929, 1985, 2015, 2019	Sutcliffe, David, 2018, 2025	Tooze, Professor Reuben, 2012	Welcome to Yorkshire, 2021	Woolley, Mrs, 1989	Yorkshire Stop Smoking Study, 2020
Skipton, North Yorks, 1927, 2003, 2008	Swinton Park, 2003	Tour de Walkshire, 2021	West, Professor John, 1996	Worcester Foundation, USA, 1966	Yorkshire Tea Party, 2013
Slip and Slide, 2016	T	Tour de Yorkshire, 2021	West, Dr Nick, 2005	WORKPLACE, 2017	Yorkshire Voluntary Hospitals Committee, 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section)
Small, Mason, 2019	T. F. Firth & Company, 1925 (Sir Algernon Firth section)	TRANSFORM, 2017	Westminster Abbey, 1925 (Sir Berkeley Moynihan section), 1925 (Viscount Henry Lascelles section)	Yale University, USA, 1929	Yorkshire's Big Birthday Brew, 2024
Smalley, Maureen, 1987, 1993, 1995	Tadcaster, West Yorks, 1927, 1971, 2001	Tree of Light, 2019	Westwood Equestrian Centre, 2019	York, North Yorks, 1927, 1958, 1991, 2006	Yorkshire's Biggest Aerobathon, 2005
Smith, Andrew, 2003	Tadcaster local voluntary committee, 2001	Tunbridge Building, Leeds, 1982	Wetherby Racecourse, 2009	York, University of, 1968, 1995, 2006, 2014, 2025	Yorkshire's Biggest Teabreak, 2001
Smith, Dr, 1975	Tadcaster shop, 1971, 2001	Tunbridge, Sir Ronald, 1941, 1953, 1975, 1984	Wharfedale local voluntary committee, 2002	York local voluntary committee, 1980	Z
Smith, Harvey, 1968	Tahir, Dr Bilal, 2025	Turnbull, Mr G, 1959	Whitehouse, Professor Adrian, 2011	Yorkie Bear, 2000, 2001	Zeigler, Lily, 1992
Smith, Herbert, 1926	Talbot, Christine, 2021	Turnbull, Professor Lindsay, 1992	Whiteley, Richard, 1992	Yorkshire Arboretum, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)	
SNF Nostos Conference, 2023	Tammer, Hilary, 2000	U	White Rose Shopping Centre, 2018	Yorkshire Breast Cancer Group, 1973	
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, 2016	Tamoxifen, 1966, 1975	UK Medical Research Council, 2005	White Rose Technology Seedcore Fund, 2006	Yorkshire Cancer Research Campaign, 1970, 1996, 1997	
South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, 2021	Tampon Tax Fund, 2017	UK National Screening Committee, 2018, 2024	Whitehead, James, 1979	Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre for Early Phase Clinical Trials, 2014, 2015	
Sovereign Health Care Charitable Trust, 2013	Taylors of Harrogate, 2001	Umpleby, Isaac, Martin, Shiela and Thomas, 2021, 2025 (Shiela)	Wilkinson and Warburton, 1925 (Sir George Martin section)	Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre for Pre-Cancer Genomics, 2009	
	Techno Centre, Leeds, 1977	United Leeds Hospitals Board, 1956	William, Prince of Wales, 1925 (Sir Charles Lupton section)		
	Teddy Bear Appeal, 2000	V	Williams, Charlie, 1972		
	Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Service, Leeds, 1988	Vale local voluntary committee, 2015	Williamson, Sara, Foreword, 2025		
	Temple Newsam, Leeds, 1941	Van Werven Plastic Recycling, 2023	Wilson, Beverley, 1975		
	Tennants of Leyburn, 2009, 2015	Vaping Demystified, 2021			
	Telegraph & Argus, 2013				

Photo credits

Foreword: Sara Williamson: Jonathan Pow.

1925 - 1949 divider: The old Queen's Hotel, Leeds: KGPA Ltd/Alamy Stock Photo.

1925: The old Medical School: University of Leeds. The Times advert: The Times, 25 June 1923. Barker Thomas Clegg: Ruth Garwood.

Sir Berkeley Moynihan: Sir Berkeley Moynihan / Isabella Moynihan: © National Portrait Gallery, London. The Rifle Screen: National Army Museum. Nurses in a typical British Operating Theatre: Wellcome Collection; Attribution 4.0 International (CC by 4.0). Blue plaque: Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Viscount Henry Lascelles: King George and Henry Lascelles with the royal children: © Royal Collection Enterprises Limited, 2024. Royal Collection Trust. Hubert de Bergh-Canning / Viscount Lascelles and Princess Mary on their wedding day / Harewood House, Leeds: Reproduced by courtesy of the Harewood House Trust. Henry and Mary with their sons: © National Portrait Gallery, London.

Sir Charles Lupton: Sir Charles Lupton: By kind permission of Leodis Libraries, www.leodis.net Prince and Princess of Wales wedding day: Shutterstock. Princess Mary meets Sir Charles Lupton: The Leeds Mercury, 3 October 1922. The Headrow, Leeds: Copyright The Francis Frith Collection, www.francisfrith.com

Sir Algernon Firth: Sir Algernon Firth: University of Leeds Art Collection. Bailiff Bridge railway station: Lens of Sutton Association, lensofsutton.co.uk QE2 / QE2 stairwell: Shutterstock.

Sir Harold Mackintosh: Sir Harold Mackintosh: Portrait of Viscount Mackintosh of Halifax, Cowan Dobson, Sainsbury Centre, UEA © Estate of the artist. Toffee King and Toffee de Luxe: Wikimedia Commons. Quality Street tin: Image courtesy of York Museums Trust. Rolo and Toffee Crisp: From an original held at the Bothwick Institute for Archives, University of York. Mackintosh employees: Mirrorpix.

Sir George Martin: Sir George Martin: The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Martin Wing, LGI / Weetwood conservation area: Yorkshire Cancer Research. Trust logo: By permission of the Sir George Martin Trust.

Barker Thomas Clegg: Barker Thomas Clegg / Clegg's grandchildren: Ruth Garwood. View over Hebden Bridge: Reproduced by courtesy of South Pennine Archives. Female medical students at Lady Hardinge Medical College: Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, Delhi: women students in a laboratory. Photograph, 1921. Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-4.0) Wellcome Collection.

1926: The old Queens Hotel, Leeds: KGPA Ltd/Alamy Stock Photo. Slay the Dragon ad / Professor Richard Passey: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Park Square, Leeds: By kind permission of Leeds Libraries, www.leodis.net Notes on cancer for medical men: Thackray Museum Archive.

1927: 37 Great George Street, Leeds: Leeds Museums and Galleries. Map of Leeds: Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland. Origin of Donation: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1929: Isaac Berenblum: National Photo Collection of Isreal, Public Domain, adapted. World War One soldiers: Shutterstock. Diagram from J. D.'s medical records: Futurity.org, J. D.'s medical record.

1930: Pierre and Marie Curie: Shutterstock. Leeds General Infirmary: Copyright The Francis Frith Collection, www.francisfrith.com Orthovoltage treatment machine: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1931: The library at the Old Medical School, Leeds: Yorkshire Cancer Research.

1932: Sir Edward Mellanby: Wellcome Collection, Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) Rickets: Shutterstock. The Royal Infirmary, Sheffield: www.picturesheffield.com

1933: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1937: BECC logo: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Sir Charles Lidbury: Reproduced by kind permission of NatWest © 2024. The Queens Hotel, Leeds: By kind permission of The Queens Hotel, Leeds.

1939: BECC Committee logo / 'The truth about cancer' newspaper ads / The secret dread of cancer: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Radio set: Shutterstock. Dr Malcolm Donaldson: Courtesy of Barts Health NHS Trust Archives. A scene from 'Out of the Shadow': British Film Institute.

1940: Your blood can save him: National Archives Catalog.

1941: Fulling mill: World History Archive / Alamy Stock Photo. Workers in the Burton factory: West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds, WYL1951/118/4/16. Next logo: Next. The dye house at Salts Mill, Bradford: The Saltaire Collection at Shipley College. Dr Georgiana Bonser: Image courtesy of the Royal College of Physicians. beta-naphthylamine: Heather Green. Professor David Clayson: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. 1930s industrial skyline: By kind permission of Leeds Libraries, www.leodis.net

1946: Great Ayton committee: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. NUM banner: National Union of Mineworkers.

1947: 'Don't wait' newspaper ad: Yorkshire Cancer Research. Sheffield Rag week: University of Sheffield Library, University Archive (c.1982), Rag parade photo (uncatalogued).

1948: HRH Mary, Princess Royal: © Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 / Royal Collection Trust.

1949: Yorkshire Motorists' Dance poster: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1950 - 1974 divider: Rowntree workers: Rowntree Photographic Archive 7/132: Packing pastilles, 1920.

1950: The Mayo Clinic in 1914 / Dr Philip Hench & Dr Edward Calvin Kendall / Compound E photo sequence: Used with permission of Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. All rights reserved. Courtesy of the W. Bruce Fye Center for the History of Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. A Sheffield Cancer Research laboratory in the 1950s / The Steroid Research Laboratory, Sheffield / Professor W.A.J. Crane: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1951: Sir Harold Mackintosh: © National Portrait Gallery, London. Reports and Accounts sheets: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1953: Professor Richard Passey: [LUA/PHC/001/314] Reproduced with the permission of Special Collections, Leeds University Library. Professor Harry Green: Wellcome Collection, Public Domain Mark.

1955: Bean Street, Hull: Hull History Centre. Kent Street, Hull: Flickr, Attribution non-commercial, Tiger 2000.

1956: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1958: Rowntree workers: Rowntree Photographic Archive 7/132: Packing pastilles, 1920. 'Teeth that bite' poster: Spear & Jackson.

1959: Mr G. Turnbull: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1962: Dr. John Shortland and Terrance Durrant with microscope: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1965: Sir George Martin: The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Northallerton shop volunteers: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1966: Professor Craig Jordan: SDellis15; Wikimedia Commons. Dr Arthur Walpole and Dora Richardson: © 2014 Society for Endocrinology, “Tamoxifen as the first targeted long-term adjucent therapy for breast cancer”, V Craig Jordan. Drovers with Highland cattle: Reproduced courtesy of the Highland Archive Centre. Edward Adelbert Doisy: nobelprize.org; Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain. Craig Jordan in a Leeds cancer research laboratory: University of Leeds.

1968: A researcher at the Cancer Research Unit, York / Harvey Smith: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Marjorie Hodgson with Sasha: Maddie Grounds. Mrs Beckwith of Baildon / The Pram Race team: Marjorie Hodgson.

1969: Professor Edward ‘Teddy’ Cooper: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1970: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1971: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive

1972: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1973: Peyton Rous in his laboratory: Rockefeller University Archives, Rockefeller Archive Center. Epstein-Barr virus: Shutterstock.

1975 - 1999 divider: Richard Moran.

1975: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1977: Frazer Hines / The Eccleshill Jumbler Boys: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. The Techno Centre, Horsforth: Neil Preston.

1978: Hyperbaric oxygen chamber: Shutterstock. The Round Britain flight crew / Yorkshire Pioneers / Judith Chalmers with Ilkley committee: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1979: 39 East Parade, Harrogate: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1980: Eddie Waring: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1982: Paul Daniels: BBC Photo Archive. Paul Daniels poster / The new Tunbridge Building / Mr Elgey: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1983: Sir Ian Botham: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1984: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1985: Photodynamic therapy: Wikimedia Commons. Professor Stan Brown: Richard Moran. / Professor Kevyan Moghissi: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Dr Joan Miller: Reprinted from ‘Developing Therapies for Age-related Macular Degeneration: The Art of Science and Problem-solving: The 2018 Charles L. Schepens, MD, Lecture’ with permission from Elsevier.

1986: Bill Tilt: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1987: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1988: The Institute of Cancer Studies: Yorkshire Cancer Research. Professor Peter Selby: Courtesy of Professor Peter Selby. Professor Barry Hancock: University of Sheffield, University Archive (nd), Professor Barry Hancock photo (uncatalogued) / Clive Wilson: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1989: Pam Ayres: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1990: The winner of the Grand Prize Draw: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1991: Professor Norman Maitland: Courtesy of Professor Norman Maitland. Prostate cancer cells/Jellyfish: Shutterstock. All other images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1992: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1993: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1995: p53 protein: Shutterstock. All other images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1996: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1997: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1998: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

1999: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2000 - 2025 divider: Ben Prince.

2000: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2001: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2002: Margaret and David Gatenby celebrating Yorkshire Day / Margaret with fellow committee members: Margaret and David Gatenby. All set for the annual luncheon: Andrew Wilson. Naomi Raanan with Professor Sir Alex Markham: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2003: Louise Caunt: Craven Herald. All other images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2004: Professor Angie Cox: Courtesy of Professor Angie Cox. Ford Anglias / Gumball 3000: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2005: The Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine: Yorkshire Cancer Research. Professor Phil Quirke / Jill Sharp and family / Members of Galtres LVC have a ball / Dominic Voase: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Dr Debamita Bhattacharjee / Professor Phil Quirke examining the latest in surgical robots: Professor Phil Quirke. A nucleobase: Shutterstock. Dr Nick West examines a bowel tumour: Jonathan Pow.

2006: Professor Dawn Coverley: Simon and Simon Photography. Cyclists pass Harewood House / June Sandford and Rachel Castle: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2007: Trekkers reach Machu Picchu: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Piglets at Cruckley Animal Farm: Photo by Simon Kench.

2008: All images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2009: Clanger pin badge: Andrew Wilson. All other images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2010: Keen hoppers set a new world record: Andy Chubb Photography. All other images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2011: Dr Toby Holmes: Yorkshire Cancer Research. Professor Eric Blair: Courtesy of Professor Eric Blair.

Acknowledgements

2012: Professor Julia Newton-Bishop: Courtesy of Professor Julia Newton-Bishop. Dr Doody and Professor Tooze: Andrew Wilson. Huddersfield Town logo: Huddersfield Town AFC. Hannah Baldock: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2013: Snow place like home / Jonathan and James King with car: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Autumn Crocus: Wikimedia Commons. White rose pin badge: Andrew Wilson. The Mad Hatter's tea party: Jonathan Pow. The Beach Boys / James and Faye: Jonathan King. James with mum Debbie: The Newcastle Journal.

2014: Professor Thomas Helleday / Jacob Smith House: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Double-strand and single-strand breaks: Shutterstock, adapted. Dr Helen Bryant: Courtesy of Professor Helen Bryant. Jo Beagley: Robin Beagley. The Queen's Centre for Oncology and Haematology, Hull: © Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

2015: Cancer mortality rates map: NHS data produced by the National Disease Registration Service. Professor James Catto: Nikki Brady. Yorkshire County Cricket Club logo: Courtesy of Yorkshire County Cricket Club. Headingly stadium advertising / March Hare Ball: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Will Rhodes having a check-up: Hannah Webster.

2016: Muhammad Ali and Michael Parkinson: BBC Photo Archive. All other images: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive.

2017: Professor Una Macleod / Professor Valerie Speirs and Professor Craig Jordan / Santa dash: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Check Your Lungs: University of Hull. Richie Myler at Active Beyond Cancer / TV doctor Amir Khan in Bradford: Jonathan Pow. RhiNO to cancer: Yorkshire Cancer Research.

2018: Dr Kathryn Scott: Nikki Brady. All other images: Jonathan Pow.

2019: Team Penguin: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. Young welly-wangers: Simon Vine Photography. All other images: Jonathan Pow.

2020: Lucas the Kop Cat: Jill Hocking. Cigarette: Shutterstock. All other images: Jonathan Pow.

2021: The Leeds local voluntary committee: Fiona Lovell / Ripon Cathedral: Jonathan Pow. Steve Jones, Tobacco Treatment Advisor: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. The Twelve Apostles, Ilkley Moor: Martin Priestley Photography. The Umpleby family: Yorkshire Cancer Research.

2022: Nicola Noble: Yorkshire Cancer Research archive. All other images: Jonathan Pow.

2023: The Yorkshire Cancer Research Centre / Rebakah Sheldon / Hayley and Louie: Jonathan Pow. Cafe Hornbeam: Yorkshire Cancer Research. Andreas Dracopoulos: Vassilis Mantzoros I Trivision. Angela Saxby: Courtesy of Angela Saxby.

2024: PSA test: Shutterstock. Russell McFarlane: Courtesy of Russell McFarlane. Professor Ranjit Manchanda / Jackie Buxton: Jonathan Pow. Sandeep Gupta at Everest Base Camp: Sandeep Gupta.

2025: Entrance to the Old Medical School: Yorkshire Cancer Research. All other images: Jonathan Pow.

Many people have helped with the writing and publishing of this book and I would like to thank everyone who has given their time, expertise and support.

Special thanks go to Louise McCann, Vicky Napp, Heather Green, Will Hodgson, Leah Holtam, Rachel Bailey, Kathryn Scott, Stuart Griffiths, Nikki Brady and Maddie Grounds.

I would like to thank four people above all – Juliet Glendinning, Lucy Charnock, Charley Oakes and Lisa Wilson. Juliet for having faith in me to write a book when I'd never written one before, for thoughtful editorial support and for encouragement throughout; Lucy for proofreading and taking on the challenge of securing the many photo permissions with enthusiasm and patience; Charley for further proofreading and expertly guiding the layout; and Lisa for being sounding board, spell checker and cheerleader.

References

A full list of references is available by contacting Yorkshire Cancer Research:

Email: supportercare@ycr.org.uk

Telephone: 01423 501269

Layout by North Wave Design Ltd.

Printed by Platinum Print Ltd.

Yorkshire Cancer Research began life on 21 May 1925.

A public appeal for funds met with an enthusiastic response from the Yorkshire public. Donations flowed in 'from the Tees to the Don, from the Pennines to the North Sea' and the charity set to work, intent on 'the improvement of cancer research in this part of the kingdom'.

This book tells the story of the following one hundred years. From the discovery of the *world's first chemotherapy* to the discovery of *Tamoxifen*, perhaps the most important cancer drug in history. From the toffee king to the king of magic, from the Princess Royal to the Royal Albert Hall, from the people's poet to the singing scientist.

None of it would have been possible without the *talented researchers* and *dedicated supporters* who set out to 'slay the dragon cancer' in the 1920s and who remain just as committed today. We tell the stories of the *ingenious scientists*, the *inspirational fundraisers*, the *tireless volunteers*, the *loyal companies* and the *generous benefactors* who have helped to save lives, not just 'in this part of the kingdom', but across Britain and around the world.

