

Welcome to Neighbourhood News

Welcome to the thirteenth issue of Neighbourhood News - a newsletter from the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) to keep our neighbours up to date with developments and news from the MCRC and the new cancer research building for MCRC scientists. The newsletter is distributed to over 2,000 households in the local community and is produced every two months. We hope you find Neighbourhood News informative and helpful.

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About the MCRC

- Since the 1890s, doctors and scientists in Manchester have been making ground-breaking discoveries that are saving thousands of lives every year
- The breast cancer drug tamoxifen was first tested at The Christie in 1969 and is one of the most widely used cancer drugs of all time - improving survival for millions of women worldwide

Find out more about the new cancer research building and the MCRC here:

www.mcrc.manchester.ac.uk/newbuild/

Neighbourhood News

Coping with cancer in childhood



Amber's story began five years ago in April 2009 when a red rash turned out to be a symptom of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL).

Amber Irvine was just five years old when she was diagnosed with ALL. Mum, Samantha, noticed Amber was extremely tired all the time but, despite several visits to the GP, it was only when Amber came out in a rash then started passing red, bloody stools and complained of pain in her spine that blood tests were carried out at an A&E unit. A diagnosis of ALL soon followed leaving Samantha terrified.

Her advice to any parents finding themselves in the same situation is to make the most of support offered by other families with similar experiences. Amber underwent two and a half years of treatment, losing her hair twice in that time and having to use a wheelchair. Fortunately she was given the all clear in winter 2013 and now has blood tests every six weeks and will be followed up until she's 18 years old.

As a result of her experience, Amber has helped mark key milestones of the MCRC building and helped 'break the ground' for the new research centre in November 2012. Aged 11, Amber is now a happy year 6 pupil at Broad Oak Primary School in Ashton where she is fast catching up on the studies she missed because of her ALL.

Amber explained what she thinks of the new cancer research centre and why she was happy to get involved: "The new centre will make it better for other children - it will mean better treatments and care. Getting involved feels like I'm giving something back for all the treatment I received." Her advice to other children facing the same challenge? "It's scary but you will get through it - you'll get there in the end," said Amber.

Find out more about More Tomorrows and how you can get involved with fundraising for the new MCRC building here: www.moretomorrows.org

More Tomorrows campaign on target



With the MCRC building nearing completion, dedicated supporters and volunteers continue to generously devote their time, effort and donations.

To date, the campaign has raised £5.9 million towards the MCRC building. Recent local fundraising successes include the Stockport Relay for Life raising £45,000 (£10,000 more than last year) and the Sandbach and District Local Committee raising £14,000 to date for the campaign.

More Tomorrows was selected by Thomson Airways employees as their charity of the year in 2014/15 and a partnership with Swinton has lots of great fundraising activities planned over the coming months. A number of exciting events have helped raise awareness of the campaign including an event at Chester Racecourse, a dinner hosted by the Governor of the Isle of Man and a ball recently held by Payzone UK Limited that raised £9,500, taking their fundraising total to £17,500. The enthusiastic support of donors and volunteers is helping to make Manchester a world leading cancer research hub.

Proposed parking restrictions and green travel update

In the last edition of Neighbourhood News, we reported that Manchester City Council anticipated that the earliest parking restrictions could be implemented on residential streets around The Christie would be September/October 2014.

However, following further consultation carried out by the Council with residents, the proposed restrictions are expected to be implemented in February 2015 at the earliest.

Planning applications have been submitted to Manchester City Council in line with The Christie's approved Strategic Planning Framework to develop temporary and long-term car parking spaces at the Golden Lion site on Wilmslow Road and the Cotton Lane car park. These spaces will maintain parking provision levels when development commences on the Maggie's Centre and the Proton Therapy Centre.

In addition to current sustainable travel programmes, The Christie is implementing a staff park and ride facility in January 2015, which will initially provide 150 additional staff car parking spaces. The Christie continues to work with staff to encourage them to use alternative forms of transport where possible and has recently completed refurbishment to existing showers, with plans to build further shower blocks for cyclists.

Success for Manchester Science Festival



MCRC's contribution to the Manchester Science Festival kicked off with an evening of interactive theatre - 'The Immortal Woman'.

Guests were invited to extract DNA from strawberries and use a simulator to have a go at keyhole surgery, before enjoying a play about the life of Henrietta Lacks.

Henrietta was born into a poor farming family in Virginia in the 1920s and died of cervical cancer just thirty years later with no idea that she was about to make an immense contribution to the world of science. Her cancer cells – so called HeLa cells – were 'immortalised' and grown in the lab. For almost 100 years they have been used for research into cancer, polio, TB and AIDS and are still being used in Manchester today.

During the Festival, Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute also opened its doors for an afternoon of public lab tours and there was a public debate to celebrate the launch of the new Prostate Cancer UK Movember Centre of Excellence.



News from around the MCRC

New insight into how outcomes can be improved for children with leukaemia

A study led by MCRC scientists is giving doctors more information on the best treatment approach for children with leukaemia who experience relapse. Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) is a disease that results in the overproduction of immature white blood cells and is most common in young children.

Unfortunately, the disease can return after treatment – often in the brain or spinal cord – part of the central nervous system (CNS). The Children's Cancer Group looked at data from an international eight-year trial to investigate the potential benefits of different therapies to treat nervous system relapse. They found that patients treated with the drug mitoxantrone fared better than those receiving idarubicin and their results were convincing enough to stop this part of the trial early.

The study also suggested that a simple approach of offering a stem cell transplant to all CNS relapse patients – except those relapsing more than six months after treatment - would improve outcomes. However, children over ten years old did not show the same level of benefit so a new trial is now underway to see if non-toxic targeted drugs can improve treatment for these patients.

Medical Research Council award boosts cancer research in Manchester

The University of Manchester has been awarded £24 million for three large projects, two of which will drive forward the development of clinical sample testing and improve our understanding of basic cancer cell biology. The funding aims to support innovation in clinical research across three areas – stratified medicine, dementia and single cell functional genomics – and Manchester has been successful in all three areas of the new scheme.

Some £13 million will be spent establishing a Clinical Proteomics Centre allowing researchers to measure multiple proteins from donated samples in one single step and to detect differences between samples from healthy donors and cancer patients. These differences could provide opportunities for earlier treatment and better understanding of who will respond to specific drugs. Another £5 million will be used to set up the Manchester Single Cell Research Centre – a new facility that will help world-leading experts in Manchester better characterise circulating tumour cells that give rise to drug-resistant cancers.

Maggie's Centre gets planning permission



Maggie's, a charity that provides practical, emotional and social support for people with cancer, has been granted planning permission to build a new Maggie's Centre at the southern end of Kinnaird Road.

Enabling works will start soon with construction starting in early 2015. The Centre has been designed by world-renowned architects, Foster + Partners.

Working in partnership with The Christie, the new Maggie's Centre will provide free practical, emotional and social support for anyone living with cancer, as well as their family and friends. The Centre will enhance the cancer support already offered at The Christie and will include psychological support, benefits advice, nutrition workshops, relaxation and stress management, art therapy, tai chi and yoga, all of which aim to transform the way people live with cancer. The new Centre is due to open in 2016, with construction scheduled to last around 12 months.

Proton Therapy Centre approved



Manchester City Council approved planning permission for The Christie's Proton Therapy Centre in early September 2014.

Subject to final business case approvals by the Department of Health and HM Treasury, the first patients will be treated in Spring/Summer 2018.

Proton beam therapy is a very precisely targeted type of radiotherapy that can treat hard-to-reach cancers, such as spinal tumours, increasing success rates and reducing side-effects. Currently, patients needing proton therapy are sent to the United States for treatment. The centre will be part of a new five-storey building on Oak Road and will be situated on the first three floors. It will contain waiting areas, consulting rooms, anaesthetics and imaging rooms, equipment and treatment rooms and staff and office areas. It has been designed to provide an appropriate environment for children who will be visiting or being treated at the centre.

Construction update



M+W GROUP

The project remains on course for occupation in Spring 2015 with construction of the new MCRC building now in its final stages of completion.

The internal fit-out works are starting to take shape and final finishes, such as painting and carpet installation, are well underway. The remaining

testing and commissioning of the services and equipment are also progressing well.

External landscaping works are also nearing completion and the area occupied by the contractor's site cabins will progress following removal of the cabins next year.

Working hours

Construction work will generally be carried out from 08.30 to 17.30 from Monday to Friday, although personnel will access the site from 07.00. A small team will progress with the internal fit-out works from 17.30 to 20.00 from Monday to Thursday but will be restricted to quiet working. Some weekend works are also planned to finish off the access road to the north of the MCRC building. Noise/disruption will be kept to a minimum during these works.

For any queries about working hours, contact David Day, M+W Project Manager on 07770 667 899.

Timeline

- ▶ **November 2012**
Breaking the ground event marks start of construction
- ▶ **November 2013**
Topping out ceremony as building reaches its highest point
- ▶ **January 2014**
Building weather-tight enabling internal works to progress
- ▶ **June 2014**
Visitor Centre removed to allow completion of the external landscaping
- ▶ **Spring 2015**
Building completed and ready for use

Building facts

- A rainwater harvesting system will make the most of the North West's weather by collecting and recycling rainwater and using it to flush the lavatories in the building - this will save around one-third of the water needed for flushing every year
- The MCRC research building incorporates a central lightwell to allow daylight to penetrate through the centre of the building and reduce the amount of artificial lighting needed during daylight hours

Contact us

For queries about the MCRC or general questions about the new cancer research building you can email us on newbuilding@mcrc.man.ac.uk or call **0161 446 3111** during office hours.

For queries about construction, or issues related to work on site, you can contact David Day, M+W Project Manager, 24 hours a day, by calling **07770 667 899**.

Withington Green

The works to re-landscape Withington Green are still planned to commence very soon in preparation for the opening of the MCRC building.

