

Welcome to Neighbourhood News

Welcome to the sixth 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

- The MCRC brings together the expertise, vision and resources of its partner organisations to provide a range of specialities that achieve a common goal: better treatments and tests for cancer patients
- The MCRC provides unique opportunities for local patients to access the latest and most innovative cancer treatments more rapidly

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

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

Neighbourhood News

Patients' stories highlight men's cancers



Adam Irvine and Andy Smith, both survivors of testicular cancer who were treated at The Christie, talk about their cancer journey.

Thirty-two year old Adam Irvine was diagnosed with testicular cancer in June 2008 – a diagnosis that came out of the blue as his only symptoms were an ache in the groin region. Scans and tests showed the cancer had spread to his stomach and lungs so he had surgery followed by nine weeks of intensive chemotherapy. "My treatment started in September 2008 and was very tough. It didn't just take away my image – it took my confidence, sense of humour, everything. Not knowing what to expect that was hardest. Being treated at The Christie was like going into a safe bubble where everyone understands what you are going through. I had lots of support and help," says Adam.

Andy's story began when he noticed a lump in his testicles. No-one was sure for a while what it was, but in June 2011 he was diagnosed with testicular cancer and immediately referred to The Christie. Within weeks, scans and further tests confirmed that the cancer had spread to lymph nodes behind his

abdomen. "I knew straight away that I would need chemotherapy and began an intensive nine-week regimen," says Andy, now 28 years old. "Chemotherapy was tough but I wanted to be kept in the loop and know what was being done and why. My medical team were brilliant every step of the way – even when I asked difficult questions."

Adam and Andy first met when they were both very little but it was their common experience that brought them together. "When Andy was diagnosed three years after me, my mum told me and I got in touch to offer support. Being able to talk to him about my experience was priceless as having cancer can feel very isolating," said Adam. "The best thing for me was having Adam there as he'd been through this already. I also had support from my partner Sophie and my family but Adam was invaluable. I could talk to him openly without worrying if it would be too upsetting. He was just what I needed at the time and I think I helped him too," says Andy.

By November, Andy will have been given the all clear for just over two years. "To start with, I was very nervous in case the cancer came back. The two-year milestone gave me the confidence to plan for the future. I don't feel I have the label of cancer anymore and because of the ongoing check-ups I know I am in really good hands," said Andy.



New build provides hands-on construction experience for young trainees

Young trainees aiming for a career in construction are getting hands-on experience on the new MCRC site. Pochin Construction Limited, who are building the shell of the new cancer research centre, have been able to offer placements to three under 25 year olds and work experience to two students.

Although women make up less than 10% of construction project teams and only 1% of on-site operatives, three of the placements have gone to promising female trainees. Abigail Pearce is a trainee Quantity Surveyor, Candice Fathay, studying Civil Engineering at Loughborough University, is on a year-long industrial placement, and Tara Goodwin is an 'A' level student at The King's School in Chester who was offered summer work experience on site.

Abi's first foray into construction was a four-week summer work experience placement with Pochin while she was doing an extended diploma in Construction and the Built Environment at Stockport College. She worked part-time with the company while completing her course and now works full time as a trainee Quantity Surveyor on the MCRC site. Abi has just completed the first year of her degree in Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management at The University of Salford funded by Pochin. "Working and studying part-time means I have a better understanding of the industry which I then apply to my assignments and coursework. It will take me five years to complete my course however I will graduate with no debts, five years of experience on my CV and a job," said Abi.

MCRC scientists first to use new screening technology for lung cancer targets

Scientists from the MCRC are the first to use an efficient new screening strategy to identify gene faults in tumour cells that are possible drug targets for the most common form of lung cancer.

Researchers from the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute within the MCRC studied six different non-small cell lung cancer cell lines growing in the lab, each of which carried more than 60 gene faults. The team found three key gene faults responsible for producing proteins that cause uncontrolled cell growth. Importantly, these proteins are potential targets for precision cancer drugs that block specific molecules in tumour cells.

Institute director, Professor Richard Marais, said: "This vital work helps to bring forward personalised medicine for lung cancer patients. Understanding the genetic faults that drive each individual patient's cancer will help to make sure they get the right treatment for their disease, at the right time. This is exactly the kind of work that will take place in the new Manchester Cancer Research Centre building."

Strategic Planning Framework prepared

The Christie has been working with Manchester City Council (MCC) to prepare a Strategic Planning Framework.

This will provide an agreed framework for the ongoing development of the site and is intended to cover the next 15 years. It identifies the significant projects that are known or envisaged and will be essential components of the future development of this world-class facility. The Framework will undergo public consultation and will ultimately be endorsed by MCC. It follows an established approach by MCC to areas of change in the City.

Visitor Centre opening times

The Visitor Centre can be accessed from Kinnaird Road and is open fortnightly on Wednesdays from 2-5pm.

Opening dates over the next few months are: 2 October, 16 October, 30 October, 13 November, 27 November, 11 December 2013, 8 January and 22 January 2014.

MCRC research inspires RHS Tatton garden

Brave cancer survivor Amber Irvine helped to dig the first piece of ground for the foundations of the new MCRC building last year and this summer, opened the "Networks" garden for Cancer Research UK.

The garden, designed by Mary Hault from Stockport who has been designing gardens at RHS Tatton since 2001, was inspired by plans for the new centre. It was named "Networks" to represent the unseen network of volunteers in the North West who give up their time to support the charity.

Amber Irvine, aged nine, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in 2009 but has now been in the clear from cancer for more than 20 months. Mum Samantha Irvine said: "Without research, Amber might not be here today. Having the chance to officially open the Cancer Research UK garden is so exciting for her and a real honour for the whole family."



Green Travel Plan update

The Christie's Green Travel Plan includes a range of measures that promote sustainable travel such as public transport, car sharing, cycling and walking.

In order to promote alternative travel options, The Christie has participated in the annual Sustainable Travel Day, held meetings with Metrolink's customer liaison team to agree discounts on tickets and established a Bike User Group (BUG) to engage new and existing cyclists. An internal green travel webpage has been launched and car share spaces in prime positions of the main car park are being reinstated.

On-street parking

In June, Manchester City Council surveyed over 1,300 households and businesses in the streets surrounding The Christie.

Thanks to the help of local Community Champions, around a third of the surveys sent out were returned. The large number of responses shows the keen local interest in the future of parking in the area.

Local people's input in this process has provided the Council with valuable insight into local parking issues. The range of opinions has given plenty of food for thought when trying to balance the differing needs within the local community.

In the coming weeks, the Council will again be contacting local households and businesses to reveal the first survey results and to seek opinions and suggestions about how to move forward. Again, responses to that consultation will be a major factor in deciding the future of on-street parking in the area.

Construction update



M+W GROUP

Throughout the recent dry and sunny weather of the summer months, construction work on the MCRC building has progressed on schedule.

The steel frame of the building is now complete, revealing the overall size and design of the new research centre. The office block ground floor slabs are also complete, with work on the roof due to finish within the next few months. The next stage will see the office blocks' external cladding installed, after which the construction of internal walls and ceilings will commence.

Over the next few months, you will be able to observe the following activities:

- Installation of external building façade
- Completion of the roofing
- Installation of the ventilation system, pipework and electrical wiring
- Construction of the partition walls and ceilings
- Installation of the lifts
- Drainage and hard landscaping around the office area

Parking for new build contractors

The Golden Lion site was recently purchased by The Christie and work began immediately to ensure that adjoining residents' boundaries were secure by replacing damaged hoarding, removing graffiti and general site clearance. Planning permission has been granted for temporary car parking for around 60 vehicles for MCRC building

contractors, with the aim of reducing pressure on local street parking.

A condition of the purchase was the demolition of the Withington Indoor Cricket Club building, with the exception of the wall forming garden boundaries, which have been reduced to 2m in height. This work has now been completed. Plans for the longer-term use of the site have yet to be agreed.

Working hours

Construction work will be carried out on site from 08.30 to 17.30 from Monday to Friday, although personnel will access the site from 07.00. No work is currently planned on Saturdays and Sundays, although it is likely that admin/surveying personnel will be on site at times.

Deliveries to site will be between 07.30 and 18.00 from Monday to Friday. No deliveries are currently planned on Saturdays and Sundays. For any queries about working hours, contact David Day, M+W Project Manager on 07770 667 899.

Timeline

- ▶ **May 2012**
Enabling works started on site
- ▶ **November 2012**
Breaking the ground event marked the start of construction
- ▶ **January 2013**
Access Road from Cotton Lane completed and work on the new building began
- ▶ **February 2013**
Ground levels across the site consolidated and recycled crushed concrete spread across the footprint of the building to prepare the ground for the start of foundation works
- ▶ **March 2013**
Foundations excavated, reinforcement steel and concrete placed in the building foundations, and structural walls start to emerge out of the ground
- ▶ **May 2013**
Structural walls become clearly visible above the boundary fence and installation of structural steelwork commences
- ▶ **September 2013**
Construction of the steel frame completed
- ▶ **Summer 2014**
Building completed and ready for use

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**.