

Progress®

SPRING/
SUMMER
2026



175



**years at the forefront of
research, treatment and
innovation – made possible
by public generosity**



The
**ROYAL
MARSDEN**
Cancer Charity



From the beginning, charitable support has helped turn ambition into reality

Welcome to this latest, and very special, issue of Progress. In 2026, we mark an incredible milestone for The Royal Marsden – 175 years at the forefront of cancer research, treatment and innovation that has changed the lives of cancer patients around the world.

Ever since The Royal Marsden was established, philanthropic giving has played a pivotal role, enabling the hospital to deliver advances in diagnosis, treatment and care that help more people around the world survive and live well with cancer. From the beginning, charitable support has funded beds and buildings, bought equipment and supported research, helping to turn ambition into reality.

Thanks to you, teams at The Royal Marsden continue to push boundaries in cancer research and care, so that innovative new treatments reach patients sooner and give them more time with their family and friends.

To mark this special 175th anniversary, this issue features some of the milestones in The Royal Marsden's history that were made possible by charitable giving and shines a light on how your support is making a difference to patients.

This edition also features an interview with Professor David Cunningham OBE, Consultant Medical Oncologist and Head of the Gastrointestinal and Lymphoma Unit, who has led a number of practice-changing research trials at The Royal Marsden.



Finally, we celebrate some of our longest-standing supporters – remarkable individuals and community groups who have been fundraising for us for decades. We are deeply grateful to everyone whose generosity has helped to strengthen The Royal Marsden's extraordinary legacy, making a lasting and meaningful difference to the lives of people affected by cancer.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

Antonia Dalmahoy
Managing Director
The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

On the cover: radiotherapy in the 1960s (top) and today (bottom)

OUR LATEST NEWS

Her Royal Highness visits the Ever After Garden



HRH The Princess of Wales thanked volunteers and staff before dedicating a rose

Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales made a private visit to the Ever After Garden to thank volunteers and staff and to show her appreciation for their hard work and commitment.

During her visit, she also made a dedication in memory of those who have lost their lives to cancer.

Throughout the festive season, the Ever After Garden was lit up with more than 30,000 illuminated white roses, offering a tranquil haven where everyone everywhere could remember treasured friends and family they have lost.

Visitors were invited to dedicate a rose in memory of a loved one while making a donation to The

Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. The garden's rose dedications raised over £497,000 for the Charity in 2025 – its most successful year to date.

Since the Ever After Garden first opened in 2019, it has raised more than £1.7 million, thanks to everyone who has dedicated a rose. The funds raised support groundbreaking research at The Royal Marsden, which saves the lives of cancer patients across the UK and around the world.

The 2025 Ever After Garden was supported by Brookfield as Headline Partner, Nationwide Building Society as Supporting Partner, and Cadogan as Location Partner.

Find out more at royalmarsden.org/garden

Nationwide Building Society's brilliant support

We're thrilled to celebrate a year of our partnership with Nationwide Building Society, supporting groundbreaking research to develop new life-saving cancer treatments.

Through its social impact strategy Fairer Futures, Nationwide is

funding 30 specialist research staff at The Royal Marsden who are working on more than 100 clinical trials across different treatment types, including radiotherapy, surgery and immunotherapy.

We are incredibly grateful to Nationwide

colleagues across the country for their support throughout the year, including 2,273 colleagues who completed The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity Walk 50k challenge in September, raising more than £220,000. We are delighted that colleagues

from around the country will be participating in Walk 50k again this September.

Find out more about our partnership with Nationwide Building Society at royalmarsden.org/nationwide

A history of giving

Since its inception in 1851, The Royal Marsden's work has been made possible by public generosity

1851 Philanthropic origins

When it was founded in 1851 by Dr William Marsden as a free hospital for the treatment and study of cancer, the hospital was reliant on charitable donations. As the need to provide inpatient care grew, Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts, one of the Victorian era's most influential philanthropists, loaned £3,000 to secure the land for the current site on Fulham Road, which opened in 1862.



1992 Appeal raises millions

Thousands of supporters helped to raise £25 million for the Chelsea Wing as part of a major national fundraising appeal. The new clinical facilities were opened in 1992 by HRH The Princess of Wales, who was appointed Patron of The Royal Marsden in 1989.



2008 Restoration of Chelsea

The power of our supporters has never been more apparent than after a fire in January 2008 damaged the Chelsea hospital. Inspired by HRH The Prince of Wales (then Prince William), who visited staff and patients the day after the fire, a huge public campaign helped raise the funds needed to repair the damage and later open the first dedicated level 3 critical care unit for cancer in the UK.



2020 Emergency Appeal

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we launched an Emergency Appeal to support patients and staff. This raised over £2 million, supporting vital services at The Royal Marsden, from psychological support to research studies into COVID-19 and cancer.

1943 The power of the public

From the hospital's earliest days, the public gave generously towards appeals to fund new services and facilities, providing improved treatments for patients. Even during the hardest of times there was generous support, with the public continuing to donate throughout the Second World War, allowing the hospital to continue to carry out life-saving work.



2007 Surgical innovation

In 2007, donations from supporters enabled The Royal Marsden to become the first NHS trust to install the da Vinci S surgical system. Charitable support later enabled the purchase of the da Vinci Xi in 2015, generously funded by Don McCarthy and his children, Hannah and John.



2014 Life-saving research

In 2014, the West Wing Clinical Research Centre in Sutton opened, thanks to the generosity of Charity supporters. Following this, in 2016, The Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research opened in Chelsea. Staff in both centres work on groundbreaking clinical trials that improve treatment and care for cancer patients around the world.



2023 The Oak Cancer Centre

Thanks to the supporters of our £70-million appeal, including a £25-million donation from Oak Foundation, the Oak Cancer Centre was opened by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2023. The co-location of researchers and clinicians within the state-of-the-art centre is helping to accelerate the development of new treatments, diagnose more cancers earlier, and enhance patients' experience.





Clockwise, from above: nurses at The Royal Marsden, Sutton; freezing samples in the hospital's biobank; the pharmacy in earlier times; a scene of bedside care from the archive; the Charity funds the work of researchers such as Dr Irene Chong; care in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre; The Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research; the Charity-funded CyberKnife radiotherapy machine; patient support in years gone by



175 years of progress and hope, thanks to you

With the support of people like you, The Royal Marsden has made huge advances to save the lives of cancer patients over the decades – but there is still more to do

For the past 175 years, The Royal Marsden has been at the forefront of cancer care. Today, as a globally recognised, specialist cancer hospital, it sees and treats more than 66,000 patients every year, with thanks to the generosity of supporters of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

Over the years, the hospital led multiple, groundbreaking clinical trials that have informed the global standard of treatment and care, improving the lives of patients worldwide. **None of this could have been possible without your ongoing support.**

Driving innovation together
In the 1940s and 1950s, The Royal Marsden was instrumental in developing treatment methods and chemotherapy drugs that

are still used around the world today. For example, the hospital was one of the first to use artificial radioactive isotopes to treat patients with thyroid cancer, delivering a high dose of radiation while minimising damage to healthy tissue.

In 1973, The Royal Marsden carried out the first successful bone marrow transplant in Europe. This remains a life-saving treatment for patients with blood cancers such as leukaemia or lymphoma.

The hospital's drug development programme took a leap forward with the opening of the Oak Foundation Drug Development Unit (DDU), a joint venture between The Royal Marsden and The Institute of Cancer Research, London, in 2005.

The unit, made possible thanks to a generous donation by Oak Foundation, has enabled groundbreaking advancements over the years. These have included the development of olaparib, used to treat advanced ovarian, fallopian tube, peritoneal, HER2-negative breast, pancreatic and certain prostate cancers, and capivasertib, used to treat advanced HR-positive, HER2-negative breast cancer.

It has also seen the drug abiraterone become a standard treatment for advanced prostate cancer. Following trials run in the DDU in 2012, it was made available to men with aggressive forms of prostate cancer on the NHS for the first time.

Nurses, clinicians and researchers supported by you,



Phil Malling has treatment in the Oak Foundation Drug Development Unit

“I will always be grateful to the Charity”

Phil Malling (above) first came to The Royal Marsden in 2014. He had been diagnosed with colon cancer in 2012, but following two years of treatment at his local hospital, he was told his cancer was spreading and he would be unlikely to live for another year.

Phil joined a Phase I clinical trial at the Charity-funded Oak DDU. With treatment, his cancer became stable for the first time and his tumours drastically shrank.

Twelve years later, Phil has had almost 200 cycles of treatment and has been able

to see his three stepchildren and three grandchildren grow up. Your support helped to give him time he was told he may never have.

Phil says: “Cancer is a time thief. I will always be grateful to the Charity for funding this wonderful unit.”

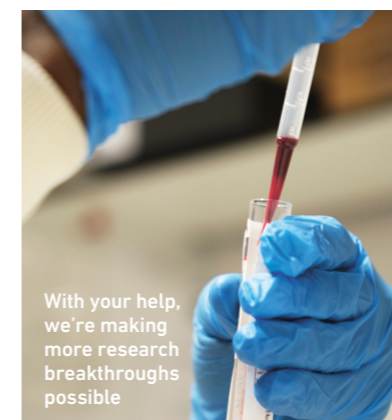
alongside funding from our partner Nationwide Building Society, treat hundreds of patients on early-phase trials at the Oak DDU every year. These trials aim to discover new ways to treat patients with all forms of cancer.

Supporting incredible breakthroughs

Every year, The Royal Marsden runs over 900 clinical research studies, offering hope to patients with rare, late-stage or difficult-to-treat cancers.

One such example is the CheckMate 067 trial. Led by Professor James Larkin, Consultant Medical Oncologist, this was a groundbreaking Phase III study that examined the long-term results of advanced melanoma patients treated with the immunotherapy drug combination nivolumab and ipilimumab.

The trial followed patients' responses to the drug combination and found that more than half survived for 10 years or more after the treatment. Just 15 years ago, only one in 20 patients with advanced melanoma would survive for five years or longer. These incredible breakthroughs are only possible because of the generosity of supporters like you.



With your help, we're making more research breakthroughs possible

“I’m incredibly lucky to have benefited from research”

Cait Chalwin was diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma in 2013. She was referred to The Royal Marsden, where she joined the CheckMate 067 trial.

After just six treatment sessions, scans showed that the immunotherapy had eliminated Cait's cancer.

Immunotherapy research at The Royal Marsden is supported by the Charity.

Cait has been in remission for 12 years and has recently seen her eldest son graduate with a Master's degree.

“To go from having a death sentence to having no evidence



Cait Chalwin at her son's graduation

of disease – as close to cured as you can get – is amazing,” she says.

“I realise how incredibly lucky I am to be in this position. I was on the trial, but now it has become first-line treatment for people with melanoma. It's really wonderful

to know I was part of that initial research.”

Thanks to your support, we can continue to make life-saving research breakthroughs such as these, developing new and better treatments that give people like Cait more time with their loved ones.

Professor James Larkin with research nurses Kim Edmonds and Sarah Sarker





Professor Nicholas van As with CyberKnife

Technological evolution

Throughout its history, The Royal Marsden has been able to invest in some of the most innovative technology to treat cancer patients – thanks to the Charity.

It was one of the first NHS trusts to install a CyberKnife in Chelsea in 2011, a radiotherapy machine that delivers treatment with pinpoint accuracy. Supporters like you made this possible, and your generosity also funded a second CyberKnife, installed in Sutton in 2020.

Access to CyberKnife technology was pivotal in the Charity-supported PACE-B study, which has resulted in a major change

in the way patients with localised, intermediate-risk prostate cancer are being treated across the UK.

Led by Chief Medical Officer and Consultant Clinical Oncologist Professor Nicholas van As, the study showed patients can be treated as effectively with fewer and higher doses of a type of radiotherapy called SBRT, delivered over five treatment sessions, as they can with lower doses delivered over a much longer period of time.

SBRT enables highly effective, rapid treatment, with low levels of side effects, meaning patients are able to get back to their normal lives sooner.

Donate today and help drive the breakthroughs that save lives

It's only because of generous supporters like you that The Royal Marsden has been able to conduct pioneering research, deliver outstanding care and save the lives of cancer patients since 1851. That is why we need your help to continue funding the incredible work that takes place here every day – saving more lives of people affected by cancer, like Phil, Cait and Martin. Your support will make a vital difference to the lives of people affected by cancer and their families across the UK and around the world. **Together, we can change the meaning of a cancer diagnosis.**

“The trial is a lifeline... it has given me hope”

In 2022, Martin Nathan was diagnosed with lung cancer, which later spread to his adrenal gland.

Martin was referred to The Royal Marsden in 2024 and enrolled onto the Phase I HyPeR trial, led by Dr Anna Minchom, Consultant Medical Oncologist, who is supported by the Charity.

HyPeR is investigating the effectiveness of a drug called ASTX727, which could help the immune system to spot cancer cells – enabling immunotherapy to work more effectively.

Thankfully, Martin's latest scans have shown a shrinkage in his cancer.

“I now feel the best I've felt in years,” he says. “The trial is a lifeline. Without it, I wouldn't be here – it has given me hope.”



Martin Nathan

Scan the QR code, visit royalmarsden.org/advance or call 020 7808 2233 to donate



Q&A

Professor David Cunningham OBE

Consultant Medical Oncologist, Head of the Gastrointestinal (GI) and Lymphoma Unit, Clinical Director of Philanthropy and Trustee of the Charity discusses past, present and future research



You joined The Royal Marsden in 1989. What's been the biggest breakthrough in treating GI cancers since then?

One huge milestone was collaborating with Consultant Surgeon Mr William Allum on the MAGIC trial, which ran from 1994 to 2002 and transformed how we treat gastro-oesophageal cancer patients globally. We studied a new chemotherapy blend – epirubicin, cisplatin and fluorouracil, or ECF – and evaluated the benefits of combining chemotherapy and surgery. Before this, surgery alone was thought to be the most effective treatment.

Why was that so significant?

Patients who had chemotherapy saw a

notable decrease in their tumour size and stage, and the survival rate for those patients who had chemotherapy for nine weeks before surgery and nine weeks after was almost 15 per cent higher – hugely significant for a cancer that had such high mortality rates.

MAGIC laid the foundation for the development of new chemotherapy combinations, which are still used today.

What research is now under way at The Royal Marsden?

We're pioneering liquid biopsies – a blood test to detect tiny fragments of circulating tumour DNA, or ctDNA, which can help to diagnose cancer and detect relapse sooner.

TRACC Part C is a UK-wide study led by The Royal Marsden evaluating the use of ctDNA to guide chemotherapy treatment decisions after surgery for patients with early-stage colorectal cancer.

Most early-stage colorectal cancer patients are offered post-operative chemotherapy, but many are already cured by surgery alone. We're investigating whether some patients can safely avoid chemotherapy entirely or receive a reduced dose.

We aim to be able to predict relapse by detecting ctDNA, helping to tailor treatment decisions for patients and potentially helping them to avoid chemotherapy side effects.

What does the future of cancer treatment look like?

With GI cancers and lymphoma, we're developing drugs that target the proteins that enable cancer cells to grow and spread, as well as immunotherapy to treat these diseases more effectively.

More broadly, exciting work continues across areas such as robotic-assisted surgery, tailoring treatments to an individual patient using the genetic profile of their cancer, and using AI to help us learn more about a patient's cancer and enable a more accurate diagnosis.

Time after time

We celebrate the dedicated supporters who have raised amazing sums for the Charity over many years

When The Royal Marsden was founded 175 years ago, charitable support was at its heart and remains so today.

Our supporters are the cornerstone of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity – without their generosity, we could not fund the innovative work that takes place every day at The Royal Marsden, saving the lives of cancer patients across the UK and around the world.

Among our thousands of incredible supporters, many have dedicated years, and even decades, to our cause. From community quiz nights to gifts left in Wills, we are so grateful to the people who have chosen to support the Charity.

Inspired by our amazing supporters? To find out more about ways to fundraise, visit royalmarsden.org/ideas



Golfers' milestone

The Jill Fisher Memorial Golf Day (above and right) is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2026.

The annual event was set up by Doug Fisher in memory of his wife Jill, who was treated at The Royal Marsden before she sadly died in 2005. Since then, the event has raised over £100,000 for the Charity.

Doug says: "The Jill Fisher Memorial Golf Day began as a way for our family to honour the memory of a wonderful wife and mother, and to give something back to The Royal Marsden, where she received care that was both world-class and deeply human."

"We are incredibly grateful to the golfers, golf courses and supporters who have helped us hit the £100,000 milestone over the last 20 years."



Two decades of quizzing support

On the Isle of Sheppey in Kent, the Abbey Quizzers (right) have been fundraising for 20 years. Their weekly quiz night has raised over £80,000 since it began.

Tony Pieri, who runs the Abbey Quizzers, says: "The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity was the main beneficiary when the quiz was first established, so we are proud that we have been able to continue our support over the years."

"We are so pleased that the money we have raised is helping to fund the incredible work that takes



place at The Royal Marsden to help cancer patients in the UK and around the world."

Beryl gives back to the future

Beryl Denton, 80, has been treated at The Royal Marsden twice: in 1999 for breast cancer and in 2007 for bladder cancer. She has received chemotherapy at the hospital, undergone surgery, and even been an inpatient on Christmas Day.

Beryl credits The Royal Marsden with saving her life and allowing her to see her three sons and eight grandchildren grow up. She and



her husband Alan have chosen to leave a gift in their Will to the Charity, as a way of giving back to the hospital.

Beryl (below left, with her family) says: "I'm so grateful for the care I had at the hospital. I feel so lucky – this is why I wanted to leave money in my Will to The Royal Marsden. I really didn't think I was going to get through my last cancer diagnosis, and I have, and it's all down to The Royal Marsden."

"We know how much work is put into research at The Royal Marsden, so we're glad that the money in our Will can help support further research in the future."

To find out more about including a gift in your Will, or how to write your Will for free, visit royalmarsden.org/giftsinwills, call 020 7808 2233 or email giftsinwills@royalmarsden.org

Heart and soul

A regular soul, funk and reggae night in Surrey has raised over £70,000 for the Charity.

Surrey Soul Train was established in 2016 by Julie Barkley and Elaine Frost, who wanted to bring together like-minded music lovers while raising money for a good cause.

Julie says: "We are so proud to support The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, a cause that is very close to our hearts. Not only is Surrey Soul Train an event where people can come together for a fun-filled evening, but it is amazing that we have been able to support the Charity for so many years."

"We know so many people whose lives have been affected by this disease, and the more we bought it to the forefront of our events, the more people wanted to help us. We couldn't think of a more deserving charity to support."

Cycle from capital to coast

On Sunday 13 September, thousands of riders will take part in the famous London to Brighton Cycle Ride, covering 55 miles from south London to the Brighton seafront.

In 2025, 150 cyclists participated as part of Team Marsden, raising funds for the Charity. Louis and his father Sinclair (below) took part in the event together, raising an incredible £29,000.

Louis said: "Everybody riding had a reason to be there, which led to a great atmosphere on the day. The day was extremely well organised. I'd advise anyone to sign up, whatever your ability!"

"This is a day my dad and I will never forget and it's all for an excellent cause. The remarkable doctors and nurses at The Royal Marsden took such incredible care of my dad during his treatment and recovery – we felt truly blessed."

To find out more about cycling for Team Marsden in 2026, visit royalmarsden.org/londontobrighton



Team Timothy's Royal Parks run

Peter Timothy and his children Max, Katie and Josh (above) ran the Royal Parks Half Marathon to fundraise for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

The race sees more than 16,000 people take to the streets of London. The 13.1-mile route passes many of London's landmarks and participants run through four of the capital's Royal Parks – finishing in the iconic Hyde Park.

"Team Timothy" took on the challenge for Peter's sister Fiona, sister-in-law Lucy and nephew Joe, who are all undergoing treatment at The Royal Marsden.

Peter said: "Being part of Team Marsden was amazing. We saw lots of runners on the course, and

had people tap us on the shoulder who were running for the Charity too. There was a real camaraderie.

"The cheer points around the course gave us a huge boost, and all of the spectators were really encouraging.

"The whole race just had the most amazing atmosphere."

Interested in joining Team Marsden at the 2026 Royal Parks Half Marathon? Visit royalmarsden.org/royalparcs

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Special support on a 60th anniversary

Last year, Caterina and Luigi Romano (below) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Caterina has been a patient at The Royal Marsden for over 13 years, following a diagnosis of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

The couple chose to use their special occasion to give back by asking guests to donate to The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. The whole Romano family have

supported the Charity since Caterina was first diagnosed.

Maria, their daughter, said: "As a family, we have always supported The Royal Marsden so they can continue their extensive research to help others, just as they helped us."

Find out more about fundraising at your own special occasion at royalmarsden.org/special



Walk with us in 2027

You can now register to be the first to hear when early-bird registration for The Banham Marsden March 2027 is open.

Each year, thousands of our supporters take to the streets to raise vital funds to support cancer patients everywhere, completing the 15-mile route between our Chelsea and Sutton hospitals or the family-friendly five-mile distance.

There is also the option of taking part in The Banham Marsden March at Home, where you can choose your own route and distance anywhere in the UK and around the world.

Sign up for early-bird alerts at royalmarsden.org/march



WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE that we have recently launched our Weekly Lottery. The Weekly Lottery is just £1 a week to play, and for every entry, we'll allocate you a unique six-digit number. Match three or more numbers in the correct place and you could win cash prizes from £5 to an amazing £10,000! By playing The Weekly Lottery, you're not just in with a chance of winning, you're helping fund groundbreaking cancer research, making a difference to people with cancer everywhere.

To enter or find out more, visit royalmarsden.org/win

Entrants must be 18 or over. Gambling can be addictive and poses financial risks.

The Big Marsden Trek

Sponsored by
BANHAM



The scenic Surrey countryside

Trek 26.2 miles across stunning, open countryside to help save the lives of people affected by cancer.

Sunday 13 September 2026
fundraise.royalmarsden.org/trek



**Don't miss out: 50% off when
you sign up before 21 May**

