

www.yorksbt.org.uk

**yorkshire's
brain tumour
charity!**

in this issue...

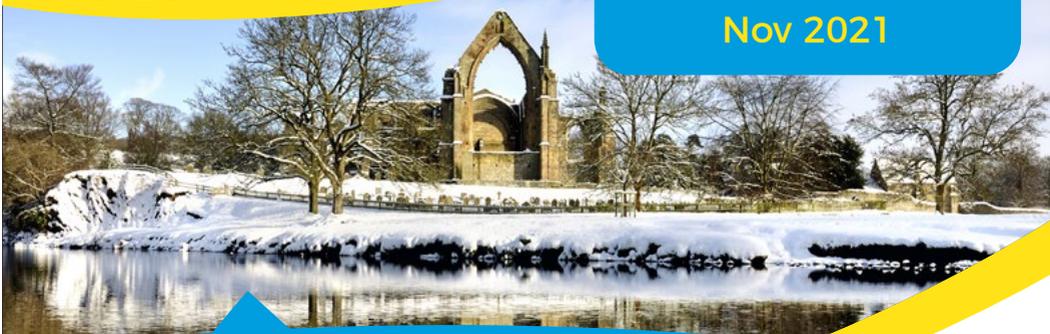
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**YBTC Newsletter
Nov 2021**



**welcome to the winter
2021 YBTC newsletter**

Take a look inside to read all about our latest fundraising activities, some exciting charity updates, research news and all the ways that we can support you.

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Investigating biomarkers of glioblastoma using “chip” technology

We are proud to have awarded Dr Pedro Beltran-Alvarez at the University of Hull a £18,000 grant to explore potential biomarkers of brain tumours.



The “tissue-on-chip” technology, initially developed by Beltran-Alvarez using YBTC funding, enables researchers to flow a nutrient-rich fluid over pieces of tumour tissue. In this project, the fluid that has been flown over the tumour tissue will be collected and analysed. Researchers hope to be able to detect new molecules which have been released by the tumour into the circulating fluid.

Identifying these molecules, which act as “markers” of the existence of a tumour, will hopefully enable earlier future diagnosis based on, for example, patient blood tests.

Using tissue-on-chip technology to assess glioblastoma treatments

YBTC has awarded Dr Lucy Stead at the University of Leeds a grant of nearly £6,000 to develop new treatments for GBM using pioneering “tissue-on-chip” technology.



Sadly, almost 100% of glioblastomas recur between six and nine months after surgery. Understanding what allows these tumours to grow back will help us to more effectively treat GBM.

This research focuses on profiling GBM cells kept “on-chip”, to discover what might be causing treatment resistance. Currently, trials are carried out in test tubes that do not fully replicate the natural tumour environment. The “chip”, on the other hand, is able to keep cells “alive” for up to 8 days post-surgery, enabling much more accurate results. Researchers will pump various drugs into the cells kept “on-chip” to measure their success at blocking treatment-resistant molecules.

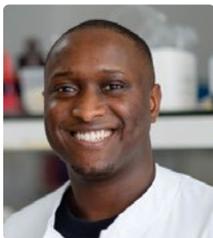


Supporting L52

Carrying on the great work of Will's Way, we've been supporting the neurological ward at Leeds in a number of ways, including offering bridging grants for children and their parents when awaiting their diagnosis and providing craft items, toys, furniture and other items needed to support parents and children during their stay.

Finding common weaknesses within difficult-to-treat cells

Ola Rominiyi at the University of Sheffield is researching 'spatiofunctional heterogeneity' in brain tumours thanks to YBTC funding.



Most chemotherapy treatments work by damaging the DNA of cancerous cells. Unfortunately, survival rates continue to be poor, as each tumour contains several groups of difficult-to-treat cancer cells that are able to quickly repair the DNA damage.

This project will use 'neuronavigation' to take samples from different geographical locations within a tumour. These samples will be 'grown' into a model of the tumour, and then scientists will compare the properties of the different cells and find out how they manage to survive current treatment. The project seeks to find common weaknesses that can be used to tackle all difficult-to-treat cells simultaneously to yield better patient survival rates.

Celebrating our first brain tumour tissue donation

Back in March, we celebrated the first donation to the Leeds Brain Tumour Tissue Bank, jointly funded by YBTC and Oscar's Paediatric Brain Tumour Charity.



Led by Steven Pollock, the Tissue Bank enables improved collaboration locally and nationally, providing state-of-the-art resources to collect, examine and conserve fresh tissue samples needed for research into better treatments.

Marie Peacock, CEO of YBTC, said, "It has been no small feat developing and launching the Tissue Bank during the current times and we are grateful to the teams at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Leeds for making it happen. We are delighted to be a part of this project which will help improve treatments and increase survival for brain tumour patients."



loving recycling

We have recently joined forces with the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett and our local Co-op stores to install recycling bins, helping raise funds for Ellie's Fund while saving pens and ink cartridges from landfill.

We are looking for people who can help us "Go Green"! If you're passionate about the environment, get in touch with jen@yorksbtc.org.uk to join our initiative and help us find more ways to spread our eco-friendly mission.

to read more about our current projects,
go to yorksbtc.org.uk/current-research

loving fundraising

What we've been up to...

In-person events were back in full swing (minus a few postponements!) this year. Our Active Events Fundraiser Kate was very busy helping people conquer skydives, Europe's Longest Zipwire, the Leeds 10k, the Great North Run and the London Marathon, as well as taking on the National Three Peaks challenge with a group of 6 climbers.

Thank you...

YBTC Golf Day

We set out to create a really enjoyable day of golf and were so happy with how it all went and want to thank all our sponsors for their contribution towards this. In total, we raised an incredible £3,545! It was such a successful day that we are already planning next year's event, on Friday 9th September at Headingley Golf Club.



Ashes Dinner and Lord Taverner's Match

We were delighted to be involved in the Beefy's Charity Foundation Cricket Dinner at Headingley Stadium, celebrating 40 years since Ian Botham's 1981 Ashes. All surviving England team members shared their memories, and compere David Gower was brilliantly supported by Geoff Miller as auctioneer. A huge thank you to The Sporting Club for organising the event, it was a privilege for our team to help out by raffling chocolate bars!



The next day, we were proud to serve cricket teas at the Lords v Commons Cricket Match at Pudsey St Lawrence Cricket Club. Organised by former MP Andrew Bingham and sponsored by Sunbelt Rental, the Lord's Taverners President, David Gower, was the umpire and conducted the prize giving.



Thank you to Henshelwoods Delicatessen, Moores Bakery, Stateside Foods, Bentleys Butchers of Pudsey and our Cake Ambassador Dawn Clark for generously providing enough food to allow us to feed not only the players, but the crowd too, raising £1,400 in total!

Regular Giving

Could you give a small amount each month to help us keep providing support for patients and their loved ones? Regular giving is one of the best ways to help us plan for the future; you can choose any amount and alter or cancel the donation at any time.

Our supporter Neil told us why he chose to set up a regular donation:

"I donate to YBTC on a monthly basis as the charity has offered vital support to my family.

"18 years ago after my wife was diagnosed the charity helped us with childcare, as my wife spent seven months in hospital and we had a two-year-old daughter. Then my wife needed support a few years ago and YBTC were able to provide counselling. We still attend support groups, this allows us to share our brain tumour journey with others and support each other.

"Without monthly donations, YBTC wouldn't be able to support patients and their families through their brain tumour journeys."

To find out more about regular giving, go to yorksbtc.org.uk/regular-giving

In 2020, three local Co-op stores chose to support YBTC as one of their nominated charities.

The annual Local Community Fund initiative ended this October and the support we received from shoppers was incredible - we raised an amazing £3,144 in total! Despite Covid variants and everything that has been thrown at us, the Co-op members and staff have continued to be there to support us. Thank you to everyone involved, especially the Cardigan Road and Leeds University stores and Co-op Funeralcare in Headingley.



Thank you to Chauvet, entertainment sponsor for the Step Into Christmas Ball in 2019 and Step Into Strictly 2021.

Chauvet started in 1990 as a distributor of rope lights and has since grown into a global professional lighting brand.

Michael Brooksbank, MD for Chauvet Europe, said, "Having seen a family member go through the ordeal of having a brain tumour and all the distressing complications it brings, I am pleased to have found a local charity that helps to make things a bit easier for families like mine. I am delighted to support YBTC, both personally and professionally, and pledge to help wherever we can with entertainment sponsorship and technical expertise at their events."



YBTC is a proud member of the We Are In Business networking group, who in turn are brilliant supporters of YBTC, kindly pledging a £25 donation each time a new member joins.

The group held an online talent competition at the end of 2020, raising over £700 for YBTC. In Business member Jeff Cohen offered invaluable advice to help us organise our Golf Day, and all members took part in our Flat Cap Friday event.



We are thrilled to have recruited our new trustee Phil Myerscough and new chairperson Danielle Heward through In Business. In Business owners Tracey and Ian Earl are putting on their dancing shoes this November as one of our Step Into Strictly couples! Thank you to everyone at We Are In Business for your support.

Well done and thank you also to all our incredible fundraisers who tackled skydives, open water swims, runs, treks and bike rides - we absolutely couldn't do it without you, so thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Could your organisation support us?

Back this charity because you want:

- To make a difference locally
- To change the statistics
- Your money to be put to good use
- To help fund brilliant science
- Someone to be there for brain tumour patients and their loved ones
- To work with a trustworthy team
- To find a cure
- To help other families who have gone through what you've gone through
- Your organisation to be part of something worthwhile

To find out more and get involved, contact nicki@yorksbtc.org.uk

why...
back
this
charity?

Jam Jar campaign

Here at YBTC we want to make 'Change for the Better' - you can help by sparing a thought and donating your loose change.

Head to shop.yorksbtc.org.uk to order your FREE sticker. Place it on an empty jam jar and start collecting those coins. Once your jar is full, visit yorksbtc.org.uk/jamjar for instructions on making your donation.

If you don't carry cash you can also donate £1 simply by texting CHANGE to 70480.





loving christmas



Christmas Fair



At this year's fair we'll have arts and crafts, presents, music, refreshments and a wrapping stall run by our friendly elves. From 10am-2pm, your little ones can visit our grotto and meet Santa Claus!

Help us deliver presents from Santa

We're inviting the children we support to come and meet Santa at our Fair. We'd like to have special presents waiting for them in the grotto - to make this happen we're asking for small donations. Go to app.investorsincommunity.org/charity/498/project/1663 to find out more.

Get your cards from us



We have a lovely collection of Christmas cards on our online shop, with packs of 10 from as little as £3.95: shop.yorksbtc.org.uk

Alternatively, make a difference by donating the cost of postage and sending your loved ones a festive e-card instead: go to dontsendmeacard.com/charities/7tuk

FREE

Festive
drink voucher

This voucher entitles you to one FREE festive drink per party at our Christmas Fair!

Simply show this page when you order to redeem

loving support



Remember our support is for everyone; adults & children, patients, carers and family members.

We are always here for you: to ask questions, get support or just chat.
Our Support Line is open every day, 9am - 10pm

0113 511 8111



Whether you're a patient, a family member, a carer or a friend, at these informal drop-ins you'll have the chance to chat to others who've experienced something similar, or simply relax and listen with a hot drink.

Leeds Drop-in Café

Where: The Loft Coffee Shop, 13a Springfield Mills, Bagley Lane, Farsley, LS28 5LY

When: The second Saturday of every month, any time from 10am-12pm

Wakefield Drop-in Café

Where: Create Café, Burton Street, WF1 2EB

When: The fourth Thursday of every month, any time from 10.30am-12.30pm

For directions & more information, go to yorksbtc.org.uk/drop-in-cafes



We offer counselling for both adults and children, with support from our specialist counsellors:

Mary Martin - reception and primary age children

Emma Johnston - children and young people age 11+

loving support



Our meetups offer a safe space for patients, carers and loved ones to speak to others with a similar experience, share stories, ask questions or just chat.

Leeds

Where: Maggie's Centre, St James's University Hospital, Alma Street, Leeds LS9 7BE

When: The second Monday of every month, 1pm-2.30pm

Online

Where: From the comfort of your own home - let us know if you need help with using Zoom!

When: The first Tuesday of every month, 6.30pm-8pm

Sheffield

Our meetup for Sheffield residents will start in January. Please email support@yorksbt.org.uk to register your interest

To get involved in any of our Support Meetups, call us on **0113 511 8111**, email support@yorksbt.org.uk or speak to your Clinical Nurse Specialist

We're delighted to be working with Good Footing to offer free Wellbeing Walks at beauty spots across Yorkshire.

The **group walks**, which give patients, carers and family members a chance to unwind in nature and chat with others going through similar experiences, have been a huge success. So far we've walked at St Aidan's Nature Park, Oakwell Hall and Wentworth Woodhouse - with more dates and locations to be announced soon!



All the routes are gentle and suitable for beginners - anyone who would prefer not to take part can stay at the café for a cuppa and a natter with a member of YBTC staff.

We can also offer a series of up to six **1-2-1 walks**, at a time and location to suit you. A trained Good Footing volunteer will be there to guide you and offer advice, positivity and a listening ear.

Visit yorksbt.org.uk/wellbeing-walks for more.



loving support



Our Bereavement Support Group, which runs fortnightly on Zoom, is led by our volunteer Janet and gives you chance to meet others with a similar experience.

Where: From the comfort of your own home – let us know if you need help with using Zoom.

When: Every other Thursday at 7pm.

Our other specialised bereavement support includes counselling, peer support, our phone line, hypnotherapy and our wellbeing walks. To find out more, go to yorksbtc.org.uk/bereavement-support



Our new Friends Get-togethers are a chance to chat, share experiences and get to know each other in an informal setting. The groups are led by YBTC volunteers with personal experience of a brain tumour, and are open to all adult patients, carers and loved ones.

Bradford Friends Get-together

Where: The Harold Club, 393 New Works Road, Low Moor, BD12 0UD

When: The third Wednesday of every month, 6.15pm-7.45pm

More Friends Get-togethers are coming soon: check yorksbtc.org.uk/friends-get-togethers for more information.

It's so important to speak to someone who understands. Check In and Chat is one of our new support initiatives that brings people together who have a similar brain tumour journey for some one-to-one support.

We provide volunteers with full training and a DBS check to get you ready for your match. If you'd like to volunteer with us and support someone affected by a brain tumour, or if you feel you would like to access support, please get in touch at support@yorksbtc.org.uk.

“check in & chat”

For more info go to yorksbtc.org.uk/check-in-and-chat

events

2021

dates for your diary...



The Engine Shed,
Wetherby

Sat 27th Nov, 7.30pm start
Doors open 6.30pm

Our brave amateur couples have been learning two ballroom routines with local dance schools. Come along to watch them perform and see who'll win the Strictly crown – plus enjoy food, drink, special guest performances and the post-show disco!

We're delighted that Harry Gratton will be joining us as head judge on the evening! To get your tickets, go to shop.yorksbtc.org.uk



The YBTC Christmas Fair can help you get ready for the festive season with arts and crafts, beautiful gifts, a wrapping stall run by our friendly elves and plenty of festive refreshments. Your little ones will be able to come along and meet Santa Claus at our grotto for just £5 between 10am and 2pm!

For families that we currently support, we offer a chance for your little ones to receive a special surprise from Santa, free of charge. Please book this in advance to ensure Santa brings all the gifts he needs by emailing support@yorksbtc.org.uk, letting us know their names, ages and interests so we can guarantee they'll love their treat!



join us to remember
your loved one
Sun 5th Dec

We'd like to invite you to come together to remember a loved one at our special event at Oulton Hall, where there'll be a chance to reminisce, and hang a personal message on our tree. To RSVP, contact jen@yorksbtc.org.uk with your name, number of guests and contact details.



If you can't make it to the event, but would still like to do something special to remember a loved one, you can light up a virtual star with a small donation to YBTC. Your star will shine brightly on our page and can be personalised with photos and a message.

Go to visufund.com/yorkshires-brain-tumour-charity-stars

events

2022

dates for your diary...

March

All Month - Brain Tumour Awareness Month & launch of Flat Cap Friday

May

22nd - YBTC's Big Bike Challenge

All Month - Miles In May

June

24th - Total Warrior

July

3rd - Leeds 10k

30th & 31st - Skydive

September

9th - YBTC Golf Day

10th - North Yorkshire Coastal Ramble

11th - Great North Run

All Month - Step Into September

October

2nd - London Marathon

**we'll be adding more dates to the calendar soon
go to yorksbt.org.uk/Events to stay tuned!**

If you'd like to take part in any of our planned events next year, or have another fundraising idea you'd like to make reality, email info@yorksbt.org.uk to get the ball rolling.