

Lifestyle and Wellbeing

Personalised Care monthly news from the Fern Centre

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the Fern Centre.

We raised a staggering £1,166 at our recent Quiz Night at the Royal North Devon Golf Club, which will enable us to continue to support North Devon patients living with and beyond cancer. We will be returning to the Royal North Devon Golf Club in Westward Ho! on Friday 25th July for our next Bingo Night.

We would love to see you all at Swimbridge Village Hall on Sunday 8th June for the Big Breakfast to raise funds for the Fern Centre

Don't forget that the Fern Centre is open from 9.00am until 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. At the Centre you will be greeted by one of our lovely volunteers and be offered a hot drink which can be enjoyed in our comfortable open plan seating area.

The Fern Centre will be closed on Monday 5th May and Monday 26th May for the Bank Holidays and will reopen at 9.00am on the Tuesday mornings.

Monthly Hubs

FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AND BEYOND CANCER

If you are unable to make it to the Fern Centre, we hold outreach hubs at Holsworthy and Ilfracombe each month!





Royal Devon Hospitals Charity

Going over and above for your local NHS



Holsworthy Monthly Hub

FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AND BEYOND CANCER

2.00pm - 4.00pm on the

SECOND THURSDAY MONTHLY

Manor Suite, Holsworthy Memorial Hall North Road, Holsworthy, EX22 6HF

*support*coffee*help*tea*advice*cake*chat*company*













FROM **JUNE 2025**

please pop in and find out how we can help you!



contact the Fern Centre on 01271 311855 or email rduh.theferncentre@nhs.net

Ilfracombe Monthly Hub

FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH AND BEYOND CANCER

Tuesday 6th May 2025 10am-12pm

Lantern Centre, 44 High Street, Ilfracombe, EX34 9QB

*support*coffee*help*tea*advice*cake*chat*company*



ENERGY CIC

10 minute Reiki or Tuning Fork Therapy



South West Water

11.30am - 12pm

Drumming and Percussion Circle

Next Hub - Tuesday 3rd June 2025

please pop in and find out how we can help you!

For more information on 01271 311855 or email rduh.theferncentre@nhs.net

Holsworthy Monthly Hub

Wednesday 14th May 2025 2-4pm

Holsworthy Hospital, Dobles Lane, Holsworthy, EX22 6JQ

*support*coffee*help*tea*advice*cake*chat*company*



MACMILLAN



South West

3.15pm - 3.50pm Chair Yoga with Gill



DEVON CARERS

Next Hub - Thursday 8th June 2025 Manor Suite, Holsworthy Memorial Hal please pop in and find out how we can help you!



For more information contact the Fern Centre on 01271 311855 or email







What's on

May 2025

Date	Time	Activity
Thursday, May 1	ТВА	Bra Fitting Clinic with Nicola Jane. Booking required.
Thursday, May 1	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Qi Gong with Ali. Booking required.
Friday, May 2	9.00am - 12.00pm	Financial Advice with Macmillan/CAB. Drop-in.
Friday, May 2	10.30am - 11.30am	Chakra Dancing with Jackie. Booking required.
Monday, May 5	BANK HOLIDAY	CENTRE CLOSED.
Tuesday, May 6	10.00am - 12.00pm	Monthly Ilfracombe Drop-in Hub Lantern Centre, Ilfracombe, EX34 9QB.
Thursday, May 8	ТВА	Wig Fitting Clinic with Natural Image. Booking required.
Thursday, May 8	9.00am - 12.00pm	Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund Financial Advice with Peter Mitchell. Drop-in.
Thursday, May 8	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Strummin' and Hummin' afternoon with Ian Gracie and Russell Bave. Drop-in.
Monday, May 12	1.30pm and 2.45pm	Face to face Yoga Sessions. Booking required. £3 per session.
Tuesday, May 13	ТВА	Hospital Chaplaincy at the Fern Centre. Revd. Jonathan Daniel for 1:1 appontments.
Wednesday, May 14	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Monthly Holsworthy Drop-in Hub Holsworthy Hospital, Holsworthy, EX22 6JQ.
Thursday, May 15	10.00am - 2.00pm	361 Energy CIC Support Hub. Drop-in.
Friday, May 16	10.00am - 11.30am	Men's Support Group. Drop-in.
Monday, May 19	11.00am - 1.00pm	Bladder and Kidney Support Group. Drop-in.
Monday, May 19	NO SESSIONS	Face to face Yoga Sessions. Booking required. £3 per session.
Wednesday, May 21	10.00am - 12.30pm or 1.00pm - 3.30pm	Fatigue and Cancer Focus Group. Email: peninsula.ca@nhs.net to register.

Continued...





Date	Time	Activity
Thursday, May 22	ТВА	Wig Fitting Clinic with Natural Image. Booking required.
Thursday, May 22	9.00am - 12.00pm	Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund Financial Advice with Peter Mitchell. Drop-in.
Thursday, May 22	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Strummin' and Hummin' afternoon with Ian Gracie and Russell Bave. Drop-in.
Monday, May 26	BANK HOLIDAY	CENTRE CLOSED.
Tuesday, May 27	10.30am - 12.30pm	Heart Centred Mindfulness with Paul Beard. Booking required.
Thursday, May 29	ТВА	Wig Fitting Clinic with Natural Image. Booking required.
Thursday, May 29	10.00am - 12.00pm	Look Good Feel Better: Skincare and Makeup. Booking required.
Friday, May 30	10.30am - 12.00pm	Secondary Breast Support Group. Drop-in.
Monday, June 2	10.00am - 11.30am	Fern Gardening Group. Booking required.
Monday, June 2	1.30pm and 2.45pm	Face to face Yoga Sessions. Booking required. £3 per session.
Tuesday, June 3	10.00am - 12.00pm	Monthly Ilfracombe Drop-in Hub. Lantern Centre, Ilfracombe, EX34 9QB.
Tuesday, June 3	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Look Good Feel Better: HeadWrappers. Booking required.
Wednesday, June 4	9.00am - 1.00pm	Moving Forward. Booking required.
Thursday, June 5	ТВА	Bra Fitting Clinic with Nicola Jane. Booking required.
Thursday, June 5	10.00am - 2.00pm	361 Energy CIC Support Hub. Drop-in.
Friday, June 6	9.00am - 12.00pm	Financial Advice with Macmillan/CAB. Drop-in.
Friday, June 6	10.30am - 11.30am	Chakra Dancing with Jackie. Booking required.
Monday, June 9	10.00am - 11.30am	Fern Gardening Group. Booking required.
Monday, June 9	1.30pm and 2.45pm	Face to face Yoga Sessions. Booking required. £3 per session.

Our cancer health and wellbeing centre at North Devon District Hospital is open Monday to Friday, 9am-4.30pm. For more information about the centre and the services available, call us on 01271 311 855, visit our website www.royaldevoncharity.org.uk/fern-centre or scan here







@TheFernCentre











STRUMMIN

and

HUMMIN

at the

Fern Centre

2pm - 4pm

Thursday 8th May 2025
Thursday 22nd May 2025
Thursday 5th June 2025

Contact the Fern Centre on 01271 311855 or rduh.theferncentre@nhs.net for more information.







Support for all affected by

Head & Neck Cancer



Grosvenor Community Church, Old Station Road, Barnstaple, EX32 8PB 2nd Thursday of every month 6.30pm - 8.30pm Just drop in and ask for Jim Turner

Patients, carers and family members all welcome www.theswallows.org.uk or call 01253 428 940







2pm - 4pm

Saturday 8th February

CUI. Convatec & Medicare Plus comins

Saturday 10th May

so far Oakmed & Rapidcare coming

Saturday 9th August

Saturday 8th November

At the Boniface Centre, Crediton, EX17 2AH

SOCIAL EVENT • STOMA COMPANIES • STOMA NURSE • LIGHT REFRESHMENTS • RAFFLE

For more details please contact Janice at

ianice234ford@gmail.com or tel 07923975051



Help build a health service fit for the future

Your ideas for change

For the 10 Year Health Plan for England to be a success, it needs to draw on the experiences, skills and ideas of patients, carers, staff and members of the public.

On this page you can share a suggestion for what needs to change across the health and care system and then tag which topic(s) it relates to underneath. The ideas you submit will be visible to everyone taking part, and you can browse other ideas: these are all shown below.

Please submit one idea at a time, and you can add as many you like. These could be:

- · Ideas about how the NHS could change to deliver high quality care more effectively and what works well that the NHS should do more
- . Ideas about how other parts of the health and care system and other organisations in society could change to promote better health and/or improve the way health and care services work together
- · Ideas about how individuals and communities could do things differently in future to improve people's health

This is a space for people to share their ideas about how to improve health and care. Posts will be moderated in line with our community guidelines. There may be a delay before your idea is visible and comments are now closed.

https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/projects/start-here







10am - 11.30am

Friday 16th May 2025



Contact the Fern Centre on 01271 311855 or rduh.theferncentre@nhs.net for more information.







Welcome to Daylight!

Hearing the words "you have cancer" affects more than just your physical health. A cancer diagnosis may also impact your mental health and lead to heightened anxiety.

Daylight is your expert guide through worry and anxiety, whenever and wherever you need it.

Engaging and easy-to-use, Daylight teaches proven exercises to help you manage your worry, day or night, at home or in hospital.



What you'll learn

Daylight was designed by experts to help you control your worry with four proven exercises:



Learn how to relax

Use the Tense & Release exercise to discover how tensing up your body can actually calm your mind.



The Worry Time exercise trains you to worry only at a specific time and place – so you can be more present in the rest



Tackle unhelpful thoughts

Use the Thought Challenger exercise to identify and reframe thoughts that keep you stuck.



Address your fears

The Worry Story exercise empowers you to face your fears so they have less

Begin your journey to worrying less:



trydaylight.com/macmillan

or scan the QR code below to create your free account



Have questions for us? We're on hand to help you every step of the way. Just email we'll be able to help, whether it's a problem with your mobile or with your worry.

Sleepio

Don't let cancer stop you sleeping

Hearing the words "you have cancer" affects more than just your physical health, it can affect your ability to sleep as well as usual.

Macmillan has partnered with Big Health to offer free access to Sleepio, a sleep improvement programme to help you overcome sleepless nights brought on by increased worry.



Start sleeping better tonight, visit: sleepio.com/macmillan

How does Sleepio work?

Is it effective?

"I no longer think I have a sleep problem. I know what to do on the nights when I wake and can't get back to sleep; I no longer fear sleepless nights" -Alison, Sleepio user



Start sleeping better tonight:



For instant access, visit: sleepio.com/macmillan

the QR code below to create your free account



Have questions for us? We're on hand to help you every step of the way. Just email hello@sleepio.com and we'll be able to help, whether it's a problem with your mobile or with your sleep

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT







Cancer Café



2nd & 4th **MONDAY** monthly

1.30-3.30pm

Bude Cancer Support

Room 1 The **Parkhouse** Centre Bude

HEART CENTRED

MINDFULNESS

with Paul Beard

10.30am - 12.30pm

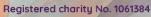
Tuesday 27th May 2025

Join Paul in this exciting new workshop where we'll be taking mindfulness further through connecting with the energy centre of the heart, through focussed moment-to-moment awareness. Learning to consistently connect with our heart centre strengthens our ability to engage with life literally more 'wholeheartedly' and supports our mental and emotional resilience.

Mindfulness practice involves facing ourselves; a heart connection is a wonderful inner support to mindfulness practice as the heart naturally takes the fear out of facing ourselves.

contact the Fern Centre
on 01271 311855 or
rduh.theferncentre@nhs.net
to book your place!









Need help and support with cancer?

The Macmillan Buddy Service

Get support that is right for you

Our free Macmillan Buddy service will match you to a volunteer buddy who understands what you're going through. They'll be a listening ear, ready to talk about how you're feeling and your support needs, or anything else you'd like to talk about. They can also point you to other support available in the local community.

Or, if needed, they might be able to help with some tasks around the home, like putting the washing away or a little cleaning. Support is usually for up to 12 weeks and can sometimes be extended. We'll review how it's going and signpost you on to other suitable support as and when needed.

The Buddy service showed me that Macmillan has got time for me as a person. It made me feel like a person again and not like I am a hassle to others.

MACMILLAN

Sign up at macmillan.org.uk/buddies at any time or call 0808 808 00 00 (7 days a week, 8am-8pm).



What to expect

Macmillan Telephone Buddies is a listening service. We offer a weekly call of up to an hour, for 12 weeks, supporting people living with cancer.

A volunteer can:

- Listen to how you are feeling and what is important to you Help you to get in contact with local support services
- Put you in contact with other Macmillan services
- Provide relevant information

A volunteer cannot:

- Provide counselling or therapy
- Give advice (including medical)
- Lend money
- Run errands for you (such as shopping)

Expectations:

- Volunteers expect to be treated with respect
- Calls will happen at agreed times, the volunteer will call you and their number will not be shared
- Cancellations or reschedule requests are made 24hrs in advance where feasible
- There will be no face to face support provided
- Volunteers must follow Macmillan policies
- An end of service review will be offered, conducted by the Macmillan Support Line

For service feedback please get in touch with your Macmillan contact (see below)

Confidentiality:

Macmillan treats information disclosed as confidential unless there is a risk of serious harm or abuse to you or someone else, in which case, we may have to pass this information onto a third party such as the emergency services.

If you have any worries (for example with money, work or treatment) that our volunteer buddies cannot help with, remember you can call the Macmillan Support Line: 0808 808 00 00 (7 days a week 8am-8pm)

Key contacts for you:

Name: Carl Pugh

CPugh@macmillan.org.uk

MACMILLAN **CANCER SUPPORT**



Cancer wellbeing for everyone

Penny Brohn UK is the cancer health and wellbeing charity. We support any adult with any type of cancer, anywhere in the UK.

Whether you are newly diagnosed, going through cancer treatment, adjusting to life after treatment or living with a terminal diagnosis, we can give you the tools and support you need to live better with cancer and feel more in control of your life.

www.pennybrohn.org.uk





Registered Charity No. 1061384

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE www.royaldevoncharity.org.uk











Some of the areas that will be covered are listed below, but can be tailored towards the knowledge and experience of the group:





DIY projects - raised beds, hedgehog houses, shelves etc for the Fern Centre Garden

Contact the Fern Centre
on 01271 311855 or
rduh.theferncentre@nhs.net
for more details or to
book your place.







Sunday 18th May 7.30pm - 10.30pm

Palladium Club, Bideford, EX39 2DE







8.30am 12.00pm



SWIMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT THE





Friday 11th July 2025

kindly hosted by Queen Anne's Café, The Strand, Barnstaple

(Ticket only entry)

Doors open at 6:30pm Eat at 7:15pm first race: 8pm

(Licensed Bar)



Tickets £18 pp to include: entrance, meal, and lucky number draw.

(Cash only on the Tote - £1 per tote ticket, please bring change if possible)

Want to own a horse?

Only £2 and you don't have to stable it!! For more

information and ticket sales contact either:

Royal Devon Hospitals Charity (01271 311772) Queen Anne's Café (01271 325232)

Your support will be much appreciated









JOIN A FOCUS GROUP!

Have you recieved cancer drug treatment in the last two years?

Do you live in Devon and Cornwall?

If so we want to hear from you!

We are holding a Focus Group on:

<u>Fatigue and Cancer</u>

Wednesday 21st May 2025

The Fern Centre, North Devon Hospital

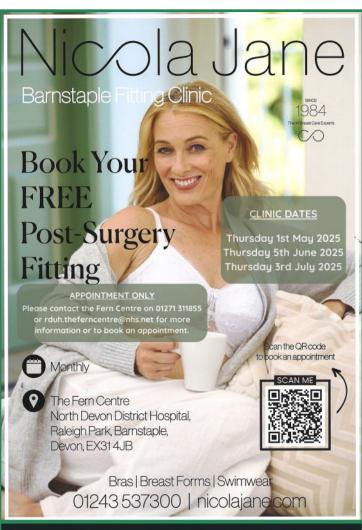
10-12:30 or 13:00-15:30

To express interest in attending or for further information, please email: peninsula.ca@nhs.net

Your experiences will help us shape future services













QI GONG

Fern Centre

2pm - 3pm

Thursday 1st May 2025

Thursday 5th June 2025

Qi gong is a system of coordinated body-posture and movement, breathing, and meditation said to be useful for the purposes of health, spirituality, and martial arts training. With roots in Chinese medicine, philosophy, and martial arts, qi gong is traditionally viewed by the Chinese and throughout Asia as a practice to cultivate and balance the mythical life-force qi.

Contact the Fern Centre on 01271 311855 or rduh.theferncentre@nhs.net to book your place!





Devon Carers is a FREE service aimed at providing support to unpaid carers.

You are a carer if you provide unpaid support for family or friends who need help because they are ill, frail, disabled or have a mental health or substance misuse problem.

Devon Carers is commissioned jointly by Devon County Council and the NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group to provide support services and assessments to unpaid carers across Devon. We offer a range of carers support services from preventative advice and information to carers assessments and support planning under the Care Act 2014. Devon Carers, delivered by Devon-based charity Westbank Community Health and Care, supports over 20,000 unpaid carers across Devon through a range of support and services.

Find the latest information about Devon Carers services in the following ways:

devoncarers.org.uk 03456 434 435

info@devoncarers.org.uk

CHAKRA DANCING

with Jackie

at the

Fern Centre

10.30am - 11.30am

Friday 2nd May 2025

Friday 6th June 2025

It is recommended that you bring your own water bottle for this activity!

Contact the Fern Centre on 01271 311855 or rduh.theferncentre@nhs.net to book your place!



with Lorna

Fern Cert re £3 per session

Monday 5th May - BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 12th May - 1.30pm and 2.45pm

Monday 19th May - NO SESSIONS

Monday 26th May - BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 2nd June - 1.30pm and 2.45pm

Contact the Fern Centre on 01271 311855 or rduh.theferncentre@nhs.net to book your place!





THE KAY KENDALL LEUKAEMIA FUND

The Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund (KKLF) project offers person-centred support around the following areas:

- · Benefits eligibility checks and help with applications, including Personal Independence Payment (PIP),
- Attendance Allowance (AA) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Debt Advice
- · Charitable grant applications
- Travel and transport schemes e.g. Blue Badge applications/bus pass applications/discount travel schemes/NHS Low Income Scheme
- · Housing issues
- Employment advice
- Consumer issues
- · Health e.g. access to services/complaints
- Referrals and signposting to other support organisations

DROP-IN SESSIONS AT THE FERN CENTRE

Thursday 8th May 2025 - 9am-12pm Thursday 22nd May 2025 - 9am-12pm Thursday 5th June 2025 - 9am-12pm

KKLF@citizensadviceplymouth.org.uk citizens 01752 507711





MACMILLAN **CANCER SUPPORT**

citizens advice

Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon

at the Royal Devon Hospitals Charity Registered charity No. 1061384

9.00am - 12.00pm Friday 2nd May 2025 Friday 6th June 2025

Macmillan and Citizens Advice are providing a specialist welfare benefit service to anyone diagnosed with cancer or their carers. There will be a drop-in an outreach service at the Fern Centre for patients having treatment at North Devon District Hospital.





Thursday 15th May 2025 10am - 2pm

Income Max - 361 Energy can check you are receiving all the benefits you are eligible for including Pension Credit, Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance, Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit, Carers and Attendance Allowance. Energy Comparison - 361 Energy can check you are on the cheapest energy tariff, speak to your energy provider to ensure you are in receipt of all the help they offer to vulnerable customers, check your meter is working correctly and your energy bills are accurate.

Referrals - 361 Energy can check you are on a Social Water and Social Broadband tariff, apply for Household Support Fund, Warm Home Discount, Blue Badge.

Access - 361 Energy can source energy top up vouchers, food bank vouchers, replacement white goods, portable heaters, heated throws.

We don't sell anything – we are a 100% not-for-profit, working to help our North Devon and Torridge community.

> Call us on 01271 599361 or email: info@361energy.org





















AGAINST CANCER 5k Your Way

5k Your Way is a support group for anyone living with and beyond cancer, their families and friends, and those working in cancer services. We're passionate about community, friendship and fun.

We meet up at designated parkruns on the last Saturday of every month. Everyone is welcome! You can walk, jog or run. Try 1k, 2k or 5k. Volunteer, cheer or come for coffee afterwards. Do it YOUR way. The best project you'll ever work on is you.

Time: 8:40am meet for 9am start. Saturday 31st May 2025

Where: Rock Park, Barnstaple - Ladies' Mile, Barnstaple, EX32 9AQ

Meeting point: Near the public toilets at the start of Parkrun

Contact: barnstaplegroup@5kyourway.org

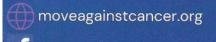
Register here: www.moveagainstcancer.org/5kyw-registration/

5K YOUR WAY IS PROVIDED BY:

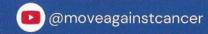
@5KYourWayMoveAgainstCancer



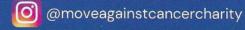






















UROLOGY TALKS

with Advanced Clinical Practitioner - Urology

Rachel Skews



Registered charity No. 1061384

Cancer Wellbeing Centre

opposite the Ladywell Unit, North Devon District Hospital

ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION (ED)

Improving sexual dysfunction before, during, and after bladder and prostate cancer.

5.30pm - 6.30pm Monday 2nd June

BLADDER COMPLICATIONS

Improving bladder dysfunction before, during, and after bladder and prostate cancer.

5.30pm - 6.30pm Monday 23rd June





It's official - singing is good for you!

Singing makes you feel good:

Recent studies show that singing has a significant effect on people's sense of wellbeing. Questionnaires show that people who sing regularly report higher levels of emotional stability and wellbeing even when suffering from mental health problems such as chronic depression and schizophrenia.

Singing improves your health:

Singing has been shown to have a positive effect on our immune systems, helping us to ward off disease. It affects our heart rates; choirs have been shown to synchronise their heart and breathing rates, increasing and decreasing them in response to the music. It also appears to help reduce high blood pressure.

Singing improves our breath control:

Even for people with lung conditions such as asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Patients suffering from neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease, stroke and dementia have all been shown to benefit from regular singing in terms of communication, sociability, reduction in aggression and improved mood.

Singing improves confidence and self perception:

One of the most valued benefits noticed by singers in these studies is that of improved self confidence and self worth. Singing in a group particularly helps people with low self esteem develop friendships which can impact positively on their social and work lives.

Come and join our Strummin' and Hummin' sessions at The Fern Centre on every alternate Thursday afternoon!

We're here to support you

Thank you for reading the Fern Centre monthly
Lifestyle and Wellbeing newsletter. If you would like to
find out more about the Fern Centre and the support
available to patients in North Devon, you can get in
touch using the contact details below.

Alternatively, if you're at North Devon District Hospital, please pop in for a cuppa and a chat. The centre is open Monday to Friday from 9am-4.30pm and you'll find us opposite the maternity unit.

The Fern Centre is only here thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts of the local community and the centre continues to be funded by Royal Devon Hospitals Charity (formerly known as Over and Above). If you would like to make a donation to support our work, please scan the QR code. Thank you.

















www.royaldevoncharity.org.uk/fern-centre



