

**From:** Topic of Cancer chair@topicofcancer.org.uk  
**Subject:** Our Summer Newsletter  
**Date:** 18 July 2023 at 08:12  
**To:** Scott Khammersley@me.com

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# ToC TOPIC OF CANCER

Immunotherapy saving lives

Dear Friend

We've had a busy and successful few months since I last wrote to you, both on the cancer research front and with fundraising events. And we have lots more exciting events lined up for the remainder of the year, so please do read on for all our news.

## Bladder Cancer Immunotherapy Research Update





Dr Guy Simpson at the University of Surrey labs

Hugely exciting news about the novel immunotherapy treatment (oHSV) for [bladder cancer](#) that Dr Guy Simpson has developed at our University of Surrey labs. The University has applied for a patent for the drug and once awarded, means that further steps can be taken forward towards clinical trials.

Non-muscle invasive bladder is the 10th most common cancer in the UK, with around 10,000 new cases each year. Bladder cancer costs the NHS more per patient than nearly every other cancer, because of the high recurrence rate.

Current treatments for this type of bladder cancer are invasive or can cause serious, toxic side effects. And constant, costly monitoring is needed to check that the cancer has not returned after treatment.



The ground-breaking treatment is based on a cold sore virus which has been genetically modified by Dr Simpson. This virus can specifically target and kill cancer cells at the same time as triggering an immune response to the tumour. Normally, tumours in the bladder are “cold” because they do not have immune cells to fight off the cancer. But the actions of the virus turn them “hot”, by triggering an immune response which leads to an influx of toxic immune cells into the tumour. Together with the action of the virus, the

cancer cells are then killed.

This revolutionary virus-based treatment of bladder cancer, in combination with immunotherapies, may well result in less side effects for patients.

All the years of research leading to this point, could not have happened without the support of people like you to fund it. Thank you. We so excited about the hope we are giving to bladder cancer patients and their families with this new treatment.

## Classic Car Festival - 10th September 2023

With special thanks to **Robert & Tanya Lewis**

# CLASSIC

## CAR DAY FESTIVAL

TICKETS **£25**

SUNDAY  
**SEPTEMBER 10TH**  
11.30AM - 4PM

OVER 70 CLASSIC CARS & MEMORABILIA!

INCLUDING A KOENIGSEGG REGERA, GULLWING 1955, 500SC, FERRARI PISTA AND A GEORGE RICARD!

### A FAMILY DAY OUT

**TOPIC OF CANCER**  
Immunotherapy saving lives

Help us raise funds for much needed diagnostic equipment!  
Tickets £25 Under 12s Free

REFRESHMENTS  
Caravanilla Ice Cream  
Sausage Man  
Ladda Thai  
Tea & Cakes  
Beer & Wine Bar  
Picnics Allowed\*  
\*no alcohol please

OWNERS TOUR AT 12:30PM

Buy Tickets On Our Website!

Churt, Surrey [topicofcancer.org.uk](http://topicofcancer.org.uk)

A once in a life-time opportunity to spend a wonderful day at a private collection of over 70 classic cars and memorabilia!

With special thanks to owners Robert and Tanya Lewis who are opening their doors to their amazing private collection to raise funds for the Topic of Cancer. Set in beautiful grounds, there are 1,000's of pieces of petroliana, a brilliant lego building display, and a live auction!

Tickets £25 per person and under 12's free!

Tickets, information about the day and a map will be sent 2 weeks prior to the event

Buy Tickets

## Fundraising galore!



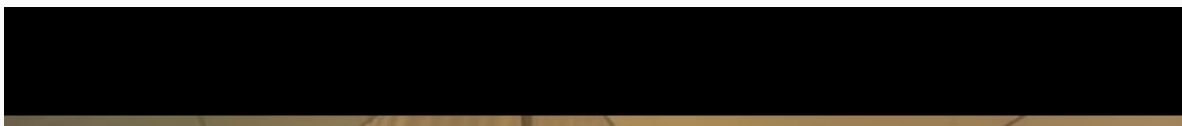
We've had a busy few months on the fundraising front and we've been blown away, yet again, by everyone's generosity. Be it volunteers rolling up their sleeves to organise and run the events, or people giving up their time and hard earned cash to attend.

- Firstly a huge thank you to **The Guildford Quilters** group who held a fascinating exhibition at West Horsley Place and chose Topic of Cancer as their charity. Visitors commented how generous the quilters were sharing their expertise and advice. They raised a whopping £3,500 for us.
- Next up, our great friends at **Surbiton Rotary Club** held their annual race night. Not only did we enjoy a really fun evening, but we also received £750 from the proceeds.
- And finally, we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III, at the **open garden at Great Tangle Manor**. Despite the gloomy weather, we had a wonderful turn out and everyone seemed to enjoy the host of activities. Again we were blown over by raising £8,500. Thank you to everyone who attended and a special thank you to Belgravia Gallery for donating a selection of King Charles' artwork.

Every penny raised will go towards our [Leica Bond RX appeal](#) and supporting the cancer immunotherapy research at the University of Surrey.

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## ToC Voices at Choir Blast!





Our choir ToC Voices performing at ChoirBLAST

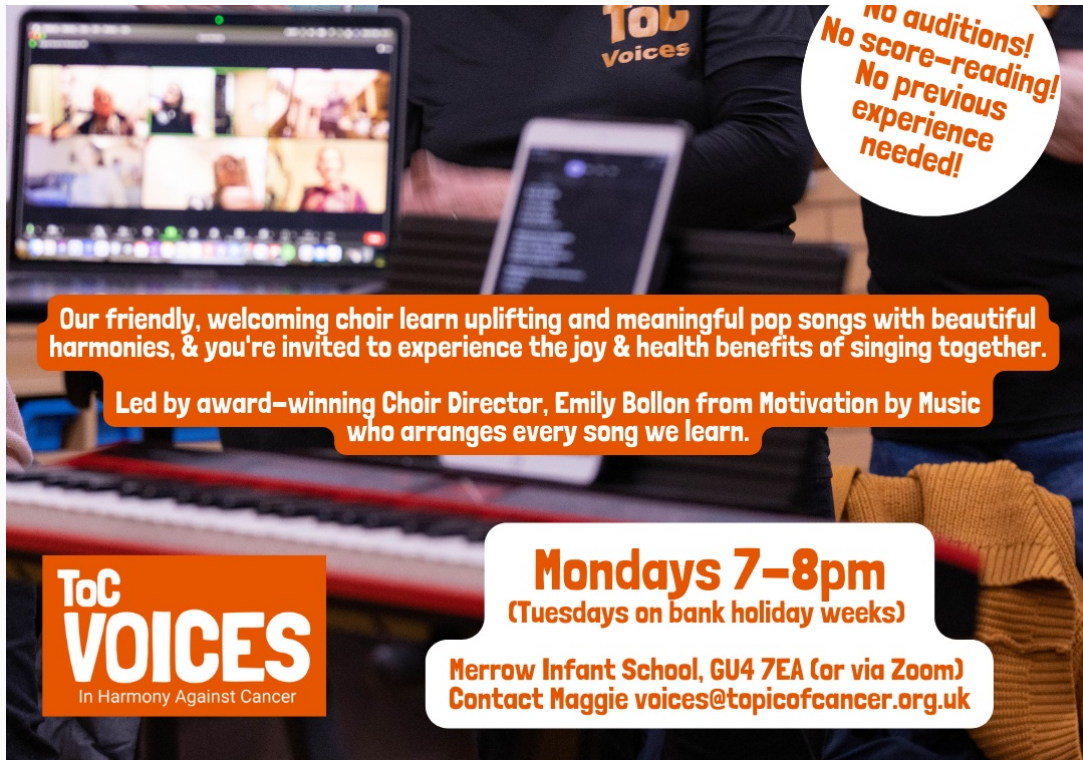
Our cancer choir, ToC Voices, certainly had a blast at [ChoirBLAST](#) last week.

ChoirBLAST brings together a huge variety of contemporary choirs for the day. With plenty of food, drink, singing and dancing, there was a real festival feel, and as you can see from the video above, our choir members sung their hearts out!

ToC Voices will be performing next at **The Plough Pub, Effingham on 23rd July** at 12 noon if anyone fancies a pint and a sandwich!

If you and anyone you know would like to get involved with our joyful choir, you will be welcomed with open arms. We meet on Monday evenings in Guildford, or you can join via Zoom. For more information, contact Maggie at [voices@topicofcancer.org.uk](mailto:voices@topicofcancer.org.uk)





**no auditions!  
No score-reading!  
No previous  
experience  
needed!**

**Our friendly, welcoming choir learn uplifting and meaningful pop songs with beautiful harmonies, & you're invited to experience the joy & health benefits of singing together.**

**Led by award-winning Choir Director, Emily Bollon from Motivation by Music who arranges every song we learn.**

**ToC VOICES**  
In Harmony Against Cancer

**Mondays 7-8pm**  
(Tuesdays on bank holiday weeks)

**Merrow Infant School, GU4 7EA (or via Zoom)**  
**Contact Maggie [voices@topicofcancer.org.uk](mailto:voices@topicofcancer.org.uk)**

Your donations help fund this choir and we are so grateful to you that we can offer this wonderful support.

## ToC Fit



Another way we support people living with or recovering from cancer treatment, is via our exercise group

ToC Fit. We partner with ThriveFit to offer FREE specialist exercise sessions for people of all ages. Contact us [here](#) if you would like more information.



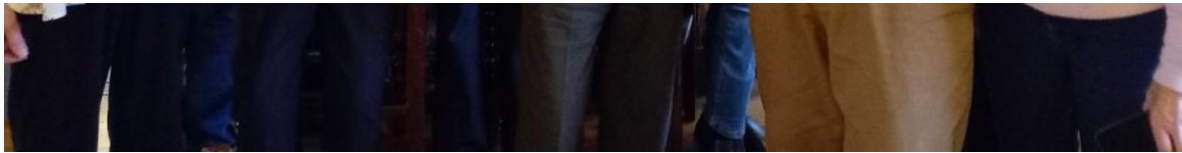
Every applicant, all of whom are undergoing or recovering from treatment for cancer, is assessed individually and directed to the class most suitable for them. All classes (5 a week) are specifically designed to improve strength, fitness and mobility in an un intimidating environment. Here is the weekly timetable of cancer -rehab classes:

- Mon 1:15pm Chair Yoga
- Mon 6:45pm Back to Fitness
- Weds 10.30am Pilates
- Thurs 11.00am Qi Gong
- Friday 10.30am Back to Fitness

And watch this space for exciting developments in offering pre- cancer treatment exercise, in conjunction with the research our team is conducting into the impact this has on effectiveness and recovery.

## Cancer Cafe Chat





Have you heard of the [Cancer Chat Cafe](#)?

Our Founder and President, Nigel Lewis-Baker, MBE set it up to offer a friendly and relaxed opportunity for anyone with a cancer experience, patient, carer, family, friends, charities and professionals to meet and share experiences with others who truly understand.

**On 26th July**, our very own Dr Nicola Annels will be updating the group on current immunotherapy research being carried out by their own team based at the University of Surrey.

Any one with an interest in our group or cancer research is welcome to join us but it would be useful to have an idea of numbers so please contact [chair@cancerchatcafe.org.uk](mailto:chair@cancerchatcafe.org.uk) if possible,.

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## Thank you!

We have now nearly reached 50% of the total funds needed to purchase the [Leica Bond RX](#) for the research team. We are hoping the University of Surrey will provide some match funding, and that they team will soon have the machine in the labs,

However you chose to support us, we can't thank you enough. Your donations help our wonderful clinicians and researchers carry out their amazing life-saving work. And because we are a volunteer-run charity, with extremely low overheads, nearly every penny donated goes directly to the point of need.

Together we are giving hope for a brighter future for cancer patients and their families. Thank you, from both myself and our Trustees

Anne Powell-Evans  
Chair

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## PS - Save the Date for the Purple Ball



Our popular Purple Ball will be at a stunning new venue, [Denbies Wine Estate](#), on **11th November**, set in the outstanding area of natural beauty of the Surrey Hills.

We are in the early planning





We are in the early planning stages, but as those of you who have attended our legendary balls will know, we can promise you a really fun evening of fabulous food, live music and other entertainment.

Topic of Cancer only exists thanks to the donations from people like you. If you are in a position to support our work, you can do so here:

[Donate](#)



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