

head2head

The newsletter for Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust



SAMANTHA DICKSON
BRAIN TUMOUR TRUST

Head to head with brain tumours

AUTUMN/WINTER 2010



We give brain tumour research a £590,000 boost PAGE 3



Unveiling a new test for childhood brain tumours PAGE 3

Join us for the *head2head Challenge!* PAGE 6



Order your SDBTT Christmas cards now! PAGE 2



£236,000 Big Lottery Fund grant win PAGE 6

A word from our Chairman

I am very pleased to announce a number of recent successes, which you will be able to read more about in this newsletter. Most notably, we were delighted to receive a grant from the Big Lottery Fund for £236,977 that will enable us to expand our important work supporting the thousands of people who are diagnosed with brain tumours each year, and their families. As you will also see, we have made great progress on our research programme, with our clinical trials with CR-UK well underway. Having already achieved the £5 million milestone in research funding, our latest grant research round has enabled us to add new projects totalling nearly £600,000 to our portfolio. Angela and I are pleased to see our work now progressing from the laboratories into the clinics, to benefit patients. All this means that we are continuing to make great strides in the battle against brain tumours; and, with your continued support, we can do so much more.



Neil Dickson, Chairman

A message from our CEO

As well as funding vital research into brain tumours and supporting people who are diagnosed, our role as the UK's largest brain tumour charity is to raise awareness of the disease and to put pressure on the government to ensure that more resources and funding are channelled into brain tumour research and patient care. To this end, we are joining forces with other brain tumour charities to help re-launch the All Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours under the leadership of the new Chair, James Arbuthnot MP, who is also our local MP here in Hampshire North East. You can read more about this group on page 6 of the newsletter and we will keep you updated on our progress in future editions. We also greatly rely on you, our supporters, who work so hard on our behalf, fundraising and raising awareness – and we are continually humbled and grateful for all your support. Please do look out for our new **head2head Challenge** and find out more on page 6. We need all the help we can get to raise even more money for our research next year. Thank you, on behalf of us all at Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust.



Paul Carbury, Chief Executive

We remember...

All those who have lost their lives to a brain tumour, and those who have lost loved ones and friends. And we thank all of those who have sent us a donation in memory of a loved one. With your help we pledge to do all we can to improve the life chances of people with brain tumours in the future.

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Christmas cards now on sale!

Our lovely range of SDBTT Christmas cards is now on sale so please do think of us this festive season! All the money raised will go towards our work. They are also a great way to raise awareness of the cause among family, friends and colleagues.

To order your cards, please call 0845 130 9733, email enquiries@sdbtt.co.uk. Or, you can have a look at our website www.braintumourtrust.co.uk

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About us

SDBTT is the UK's leading brain tumour charity. We fund research that benefits children and adults and provide support and information for people who have been diagnosed, and their families. Our aim is to fight this devastating disease and give hope to brain tumour patients in the future.

**Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust
Saddlers House, 100 Reading Road,
Yateley, Hampshire GU46 7RX**



www.braintumourtrust.co.uk



enquiries@sdbtt.co.uk patientinfo@sdbtt.co.uk

0845 130 9733 or 01252 749990

Patrons: Dawn French, Earl Spencer, Jonny Wilkinson OBE, Fiona Fullerton, Alastair Stewart, Chris de Burgh, Michael Crawford, Delia Smith, Stephen Hendry, Hayley Mills, Christopher Bailey, Ciara Janson, Twiggy Lawson, Martin Amis, Sandy Lyle, Leslie Thomas, Julia Somerville, Dame Helen Mirren, Sir Thomas Lighton, Gayle McDermott, Tom Daley, Seamus Cullen

Six new research projects funded

This year we were able to fund six new brain tumour research projects, to the value of £590,000 over three years. These projects, which have been carefully selected for their potential according to our stringent criteria, are helping shed light on the cause of childhood and adult brain tumours.

The new projects we are supporting include three laboratory-based research projects at the Universities of Newcastle and Cambridge and the Institute of Cancer Research at Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. In addition, we have launched a joint clinical trials initiative with Cancer Research UK (CR-UK) through which we are co-funding two clinical trials for brain tumour patients, as well as providing a project officer and biomedical scientist to promote and support further UK-based trials.

This research, highlighted in the next two pages, has been made possible by the fantastic efforts of all our supporters in raising funds for brain tumour research; with your help we will be able to fund more research like this and help save and improve the lives of children and adults with brain tumours.



Pioneering test for childhood brain tumour to go Europe-wide

- update from the International Symposium on Pediatric Neuro-Oncology, Vienna

We are proud to have recently unveiled a test which will revolutionise the approach to tackling childhood brain cancer and improve the quality of life for hundreds of affected children. This test has now been given approval to be introduced across Europe.

Researchers at Newcastle University, funded by Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust, have developed a test for children who have been diagnosed with medulloblastoma, the most common malignant childhood brain tumour. It will allow doctors to gain a much more detailed understanding of the severity of a tumour, enabling more appropriate treatment options and a more accurate prognosis. The test has just been approved for implementation in European clinical trials in Vienna at the International Society for Paediatric Neuro-Oncology Conference. It is set to pave the way for the development of similar tests across other tumour types.

Angela and Neil Dickson attended the conference which was attended by over 700 clinicians and scientists specialising in childhood brain tumours. Neil, Chairman of SDBTT said: "The Conference was a great success showing that real progress is being made. The UK had the second most presentations after the USA. More than 50% of these were funded by SDBTT and it is no exaggeration to say our support has made the UK the second most active childhood brain tumour research centre in the world. This particular test is one of the biggest breakthroughs in the treatment of this tumour type."

Professor Steve Clifford, who led the research team at Newcastle University, said: "This test is incredibly significant in our understanding of this tumour type and it will lead to children being treated much more appropriately. Before now, sufferers have been treated in a uniform way. Now, we will be able to tell which of the children are at a lower risk and have a much higher chance of survival. Those at low risk can be given less aggressive treatment, which could significantly diminish long term treatment side effects such as hearing loss, attention deficit and learning difficulties."

Above: Founders, Neil and Angela Dickson and delegates and the team from Newcastle University at the Vienna conference

Investigating the genetics of childhood brain tumours

Professor Peter Collins and his team at the University of Cambridge are examining the genetics of three childhood brain tumour types in this project, which is funded by SDBT through a generous grant from GlaxoSmithKline.

Abnormalities in the genes within a cell can lead to the cell dividing in an uncontrolled way, resulting in a tumour. Studying these abnormalities could lead to the discovery of targets for new treatments, and identify tests to enable experts to confidently diagnose tumour type at an early stage.

The use of similar techniques led Professor Collins to discover a rearrangement of the genetic code that is present in around two-thirds of all cases of pilocytic astrocytoma, a specific type of brain tumour. It is hoped that this project will lead to further breakthroughs in the understanding of this tumour and in two further brain tumour types: pilomyxoid astrocytoma and ependymoma. The genetic abnormalities may then be targeted by new treatments to block over-active cancer-causing genes, or re-activate other genes that can stop cells from dividing uncontrollably.



Photo: Sharron Goodyear



Brian Cross Memorial Trust's £200,000 cheque presentation

We were delighted to hold a cheque presentation at the Samantha Dickson Brain Cancer Unit, University College London (UCL) with The Brian Cross Memorial Trust, which has generously sponsored the Unit through funding totalling £203,546. This grant will be used to pay for the Programme Lead, Professor Salomoni to head the Unit, the first centre of excellence for brain cancer research in UK. We are extremely grateful to The Brian Cross Memorial Trust for their vital support.

Above: Prof. Salomoni – Brian Cross Memorial Trust (Eastern Daily Press)

Analysing the role of MYCN in medulloblastoma

Medulloblastoma is the most common malignant brain tumour in children, and is currently difficult to treat in its most aggressive (high-risk) form, in which several genes are over-activated. Understanding how these genes cause tumour growth is necessary in order to design drugs to influence the genes themselves or the proteins they produce.

The study that we are funding, led by Dr Louis Chesler and his researchers at the Institute of Cancer Research, Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, will examine the role and interactions of key cancer-causing genes in medulloblastoma by measuring their levels and activity at different stages of tumour growth. MYCN is one such gene.

It is hoped that this research will help experts to determine specific targets for safe and effective treatments.

Above: Louis Chesler and his research group



Clinical trials selected and progressing



Left: Dr Colin Watts at the University of Cambridge

In the previous newsletter we outlined how the clinical trials were being reviewed and selected and we are now pleased to announce that two of these trials, being run in partnership with Cancer Research UK, have been chosen.

The first study, led by neurosurgeon Dr Colin Watts, aims to assess the safety of a specific type of surgery used in conjunction with two drugs called Gliadel® and 5-ALA, to treat glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), the most common and most harmful primary malignant brain tumour in adults.

Gliadel® is currently used to treat people with GBM in certain circumstances, whilst 5-ALA is not yet widely available in the UK. It is hoped the two drugs will prove to work safely together to improve survival rates for patients with GBM now and in the future.

This trial is of particular significance as the use of this type of treatment is an under-researched area, particularly when it comes to trials, and it focuses on a particularly aggressive tumour type. The details of this trial are currently being

“More research funding is urgently needed if we are to improve outcomes for our patients.”



finalised, and recruitment of patients should begin in the coming months. In a recent article in *Oncology News*, Dr Watts underlines the importance of funding for this type of innovative trial: ‘Clinical specialisation and more research funding is urgently needed if we are to improve outcomes for our patients.’

The second, Phase II study, led by Dr Bailey and his team at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, involves trialling the prolonged use of temozolomide chemotherapy in conjunction with radiation therapy in children with diffusely infiltrating pontine glioma (DIPG). This study is also co-funded with Cancer Research UK. Data taken previously from the study of high grade gliomas in adults suggests this approach may improve survival for children with DIPG. Interim results are promising, and if the new treatment schedule proves safe and effective, further children may benefit from larger-scale trials in Phase III.

Discovering the characteristics of childhood medulloblastoma

This project, led by Professor Steven Clifford at the University of Newcastle, is investigating the biological features of medulloblastoma and how these relate to disease progression, which we hope will lead to better and safer treatments for individual children.

The study will use 250 medulloblastoma samples from children treated similarly on two clinical trials. Samples will be examined under the microscope and undergo genetic analysis, the data from which will be compared with clinical information. This will enable the team to see how the biological characteristics

(‘biomarkers’) of a tumour indicate the likely course of the disease in each individual case, with the potential to help experts to select the most appropriate therapy for each child. It is also hoped that discovering more of the genetic changes underlying these tumours will reveal targets for new drug therapies.

The Head2head Challenge is coming!

Calling all cyclists, runners, parachutists, and walkers! Take part in the **head2head Challenge**



Whatever you enjoy doing, do it to raise money for our **head2head Challenge** during Brain Tumour Awareness Month in March 2011. We are seeking 250 people and companies who are up for the challenge of raising £250 each in order to raise funds for a research project.

WHAT? You choose the event – as part of the **head2head Challenge** we are organising some great events including the first ever sponsored cycle ride from the SDBTT-funded UCL Brain Cancer Unit to the University of Cambridge*. Plus we are planning SDBTT parachute jump days in Oxford and Nottingham.

If these do not appeal to you, why not take part in an event in your local area or even organise your own – for example, a school sponsored silence, mountain climb or a dress-down day.

WHEN? The **head2head Challenge** kicks off in March 2011, during Brain Tumour Awareness Month, so register your interest today!

INTERESTED? Register your interest now by emailing Sarah Ponturo or Nick Jones at enquiries@sdbtt.co.uk or calling 0845 130 9733. Also, check out our website www.braintumourtrust.co.uk/challenge for up-to-date news and information on the **head2head Challenge**.

*the route may change but will be connected to one of our research centres.

Re-launch of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours

Since the General Election, one of our key aims for the forthcoming year is to put pressure on the government to ensure that more resources and funding are channelled into brain tumour research and patient care. To achieve this, we are joining forces with other brain tumour charities to help re-establish the All Party Parliamentary Group on Brain Tumours under the leadership of the new Chair, James Arbuthnot MP, who is also our local MP here in Hampshire North East. Later in the year we will be launching a major campaign and we will be asking supporters to get involved by writing to their MPs asking them to address the inequalities that people with brain tumours face. Watch this space for more information.

Big Lottery Fund grant success

We are delighted to have been awarded almost £250,000 by the Big Lottery Fund to enhance our patient support services for the 6,500 people diagnosed with brain tumours in the UK each year and their families and carers.

Paul Carbury, Chief Executive of Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust, said: 'We are delighted with the award from the Big Lottery Fund. The funding will enable us to significantly expand our services for the benefit of children and adults who have been diagnosed with a brain tumour.'



Carly Hornbuckle, whose daughter Bella, aged 5, has been diagnosed with a brain tumour, was equally enthusiastic: 'The support provided to me by the Trust has been fantastic – I got a lot out of speaking to them while I was waiting for Bella's scan results during a very traumatic time. It's great news that this grant will enable the Trust to support many more families who are going through the same experiences as we are.'

The £236,977 will enable us to reach out to support many more children and adults with brain tumours and their families by expanding the telephone helpline, organising more patient-centred events throughout the UK and supporting our campaign to promote the early diagnosis of brain tumours.



House of Lords lunch

On 23 June, Lord and Lady Wakeham hosted a prestigious lunch to celebrate the charity reaching its £5 million milestone in research funding. A small number of guests joined trustees and patrons, including Alastair Stewart and Gayle McDermott, to promote the work of the charity.

Above: The House of Lords lunch was a huge success

Here to help

If you would like to talk to someone about your or your loved one's diagnosis, or would like more information about the different types of tumours and possible treatments, do give us a call. Our friendly, impartial and confidential support line provides a listening ear from people who understand your situation. Finding out more about the illness and talking things through can help you to feel more in control.

Call Roz Osborne or Jenny Gumbrell on 0845 130 9733 or email patientinfo@sdbtt.co.uk

Patient Support roadshows – coming to a venue near you!

The latest dates for our popular Patient Information Days are listed below. These events, held throughout the country, provide patients, their friends and relatives with the opportunity to hear from (and meet) leading clinicians in the treatment of brain tumours, find out about the latest research and treatments, and share experiences with people in similar situations. The Information Days cover child and adult tumours. They are free to attend (we also have some funds to assist with travel costs) and run from 10am to 3.30pm.

Forthcoming roadshows:

Oct 1st 2010: Belfast – Holiday Inn

Nov 19th 2010: Eastleigh Nr Southampton – Holiday Inn

We are also planning more events throughout the UK; details will be available on our website in the coming months. For more information or to book a place, please call Roz Osborne or Jenny Gumbrell on 0845 130 9733 or email patientinfo@sdbtt.co.uk

Full house at Edinburgh Patient Information Day

We had a full house at the March Patient Information Day, which was jointly hosted with Edinburgh Centre for Neuro-Oncology and held at Edinburgh University. A range of topics were discussed, including surgery and treatment options, complementary therapies and coping with a brain tumour diagnosis and its associated symptoms. The feedback we received from the event was really encouraging, and we are pleased that those of you who attended found it so useful and informative.

“...the day gave me an insight into the emotions and reasoning within the patient rather than just the family well-being.”

“...found the day very informative... good to know there is support out there.”

Desperately seeking... volunteers!

If you have just a few hours to spare each month, we would really appreciate your help. We urgently need volunteers to distribute leaflets and Patient Support materials to their local hospitals, clinics and community centres – anywhere there may be people who could benefit from our help. If you are able to help, please contact Roz on 0845 130 9733 or email patientinfo@sdbtt.co.uk – we'd be delighted to hear from you! Thank you.



London Zoo trip enjoyed by all

In April we organised a family outing to London Zoo for children with brain tumours, their parents and siblings. This proved a tremendous success with over 40 people attending, giving the children and their families some really special memories.

The aim of the event was to provide a much needed fun day out for children with brain tumours. These children's lives are limited by the illness and revolve around hospital stays and appointments, invasive treatments including brain surgery, as well as chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

The day was a huge success as families and children were given the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds, enabling them to share experiences and make new friends. Some of these families are now developing a peer network to support each other throughout their respective experiences.



Umbrella Groups

Groups explained...

Regular supporters who are raising money either in memory of a loved one or for someone living with a brain tumour can decide to form an SDBTT Umbrella Group or a Friends of SDBTT Group. Our aim is for each Umbrella Group to raise £5,000 - £20,000 and the Friends of SDBTT Groups to raise around £2,000 - £10,000 each year on an ongoing basis. For more information, please email the team at umbrella@sdbtt.co.uk

Thinking of setting up an Umbrella or Friends Group?

We now have 73 Umbrella and Friends Groups, based all around the country, who are all joining us in the fight against brain tumours. We have made it easier than ever to set up a group, with a new information pack and starter pack which we provide when new groups are registered. For more information on how to set up a group, please email the team at umbrella@sdbtt.co.uk or call us on 0845 130 9733

Welcome to our new Umbrella Groups:

SDBTT Sarah Kitchener Perrow Fund; SDBTT Alan Thomas Fund; Friends of SDBTT – Matt Till Group; Friends of SDBTT – Benjamin Reep Group; Friends of SDBTT – Richard Carr

STOP PRESS • STOP PRESS Friends of SDBTT Group wins JustGiving Award

SDBTT is delighted to announce that JustGiving has named the Friends of SDBTT – Edward Dyson Group as their 'Fundraiser of the Month' for April. The Group has completed a large number of challenge events, with many more planned for the future. Together, they have so far raised nearly £8,000. The Group was formed after Edward Dyson tragically died from a cancerous brain tumour, aged just 30. Many congratulations and our thanks go to all those involved in the Friends of SDBTT – Edward Dyson Group for all their ongoing hard work.

Story of hope: Anna Bambridge

In September 2008, Colin my partner, my daughter Isabella, who was five at the time, and I went to Switzerland for the weekend to attend a friend's wedding. Little did I know that it would be the day that would change the way I view my life forever.

I was chatting away quite happily in the car afterwards when out of the blue, I started to feel a bit strange. I thought I was going to faint as I felt a tingling sensation starting in my legs, then up my body and into my head. I had a seizure which lasted about three minutes. Colin struggled to get my airway open - thank goodness he persisted!

At hospital, the consultant told us that they had found a tumour the size of a golf ball. "It's in a place where we can remove it. You have a choice – you can be operated on here in Switzerland or you can return to the UK for the operation." At that moment I had another seizure and was taken to intensive care.

A week later, back in the UK I stayed in Parkside hospital where I had an MRI scan; they told me that they suspected the tumour was benign and that it had been growing slowly for about 20 years or so! It was a very traumatic time for everyone involved, and I was extremely tearful. I kept thinking, why me? I tried to remain positive for Isabella, and tried not to think of negative consequences, but it was very difficult.

Thankfully, the operation was a great success and they managed to get all of the tumour out. I came out of hospital the following week to begin a slow recovery process at home. I lost my self confidence and found the whole process really frightening. I wasn't allowed to drive and I couldn't fly for a year because of the seizures and so life became very different - and I didn't like it. I started to resent everyone who had a normal life. The only one thing that I did like was being at home for Isabella all the time and being able to take her to school and pick her up every day.

I went back to work in April 2009 and worked in the office for two days a week, but I couldn't retain any information and it all got too much for me – and as I started to get headaches again I had to take more time off. Over the next few months, things did get better. I made friends from the SDBTT Hartley Wintney support group and so I could talk to people who understood what I had gone through. Slowly but surely, things did get back to normal. When I was allowed to drive again, I was ecstatic! I had my freedom again. It made all the difference to me and to my confidence.

This year has been a particularly good one, so far. I started flying again part time and on certain restrictions. I find it difficult at times with the hours because I need my sleep, but it's a step in the right direction.

Most importantly, Colin and I were married in May. It was a very emotional intimate church ceremony, and I was overwhelmed with tears when I said my vows, "In sickness and in health," as the man standing next to me was there for me when I needed him most and I know he will always be there for me. To me he is my hero. He saved my life. I even made our wedding cake, and a lovely lady, Carole, from SDBTT made my gorgeous wedding dress!

You can never see it in the beginning, but life does get better. I have been very lucky that things have got somewhat back to normal for me. There are still things that I can't do that I used to be able to do – I just accept it. No matter how bad things are, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Above: **Anna Bambridge with her husband Colin and daughter Isabella**



Our fundraising heroes



Thomas's Battersea School raises £30,000

We are delighted to have been chosen by Thomas's Battersea School as their Charity of the Year and extend our warm thanks to all the pupils, parents and staff for raising a staggering £30,000 since November 2008. We are extremely grateful to Nimisha Raja, owner of The Square Sandwich, for all her support and are indebted to Patricia Pearce, Head of Upper School at Thomas's Battersea, Alison Mayne, Head of PTA, and to Anne Sinnott, all of whom who have been incredibly supportive and put in so much hard work over the past year.

Gala concert raises £5,000

On Friday 25 June Boscome Salvation Army held a very special gala concert in memory of Ged Whittingham who sadly passed away in February after bravely fighting a brain tumour for the past three years. A warm thank you to Ged's wife Joy Whittingham, her team of organisers and all those who attended the event for giving their support.



Father and son team up for band night

Following the success of last year's Live Music Fundraiser, Kris Oxland, his father, Nigel, and their team of music fanatics got together for another charity live

music event at The Cherry Tree Pub in Plymouth on 2 April. Guests were treated to some great music from local bands, with all ticket sales being donated to Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust. Thank you to Kris and Nigel and all those involved for making the night a big success. Kris, who has a brain tumour (benign) is a singer/songwriter; you can hear his music at www.myspace.com/oxymusic

Going sky-high for SDBTT

A big thank you to brave mother-of-two Sue Walkom, who has raised £1,500 from her parachute jump in May, three times her original fundraising target! Sue was inspired to do the jump after the death of her neighbour, Bethany Walker who was just 12 years old when she died from a brain tumour in November 2008. The Friends of SDBTT – Bethany Walker Group have also raised £4,500 through a sponsored walk in which 70 children from Bethany's primary school took part. Our sincere thanks to Sue and to all those who have helped fundraise through Bethany's Group, on behalf of the charity.



Findon village gets in the Swing

Thank you to the village and valley of Findon, West Sussex, who hosted a charity Swing night on 11 June at Findon Village Hall. This fantastic event, which included the spectacular voice of Antony Ferraro singing to the big band sound, raised £1,300 and special thanks go to Carol Maidment, the mastermind behind all the fundraising efforts. Carol's son, Dr Stephen Maidment, undertook 3 years of successful research which was funded by SDBTT. Stephen sadly died in 2003 and since then the wonderful people of Findon with Carol at the helm have been fundraising tirelessly in memory of Stephen, raising over £13,000, for which we are very grateful. By the end of the year they hope to break the £15,000 mark.

Athletes go international

Between March and July, Robert Martineau cycled the near length of Africa from Cape Town to Addis Ababa to raise money for our work. To date, Robert has raised an incredible £14,000 in support of SDBTT. He chose the Trust as a result of his father passing away from a brain tumour when Robert was a child. Another SDBTT supporter, Will Broadbent also raised £870 by running 26 miles through the streets of Paris for the Paris Marathon. Merci, Will!



Midsummer celebration and fundraiser

In June, Liz Watts organised a glorious midsummer celebration of storytelling, poetry and art in the beautiful setting of Abbey House Gardens, Malmesbury to raise funds for SDBTT. The event was held in memory of Liz's much-loved sister, Kate Hunter, who sadly lost her battle with a brain tumour in January this year. We are very grateful to Liz for all her hard work, and to the artists and contributors who made the event so special.

Our fundraising heroes continued...

Comedy night raises laughs and money

On 23 April Chris Ryan, whose husband, Nick died from a brain tumour in January 2009, held a fantastic night of comedy and music to raise money for the SDBTT Nick Ryan Fund. Over 120 people had a fabulous night resulting in a wonderful addition of £1,487.50 to Nick's fund. We are extremely grateful to Chris and to Anne Rowland and the cast and crew for producing such a great event for SDBTT, in Nick's memory.



Congratulations to Team SDBTT at British 10k

SDBTT had a record turnout for the British London 10k this year, which took place on 11 July. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our 50 runners, made up

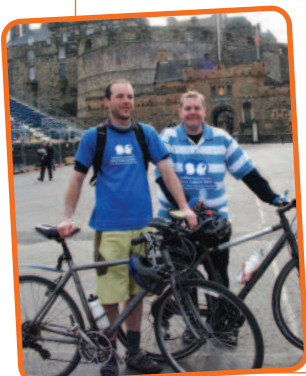
of our supporters, Umbrella Groups, UCL researchers and even a member of our very own SDBTT fundraising team, who gave their time and energy to raise funds for us; thanks to your hard work we are on target to raise £12,500 from the event – a great achievement. The day was blessed with beautiful blue sky and sunshine, and SDBTT staff and supporters were out in force along the route cheering and joining in the champagne celebrations and team photos in Trafalgar Square at the end. We hope you all enjoyed the day!

Our London Marathon runners did it again!

Many congratulations to all of our dedicated runners on completing the Virgin London Marathon 2010 in April this year; we do hope that you all found it a fantastic experience. We are extremely grateful for your support and for choosing us as your charity for the event. Team SDBTT has raised an incredible £40,000, all of which will help us in the fight against brain tumours. More than 36,000 people took part in the 30th Virgin London Marathon and we were thrilled to have such an enthusiastic, 20-strong team there in London to wear our colours and represent us on the day.

Pedal power in aid of brain tumour research

Keen cyclists and SDBTT supporters, Laurence and Tim, cycled from London to Edinburgh starting on April 24 to raise money for brain tumour research. The ride, which covered 500 miles and took 10 days, raised £2,359. A massive thank you to Laurence and Tim for all your pedalling and fundraising!



Manor Farm Music Festival supports SDBTT

The Manor Farm Music Festival held on 17 July, in Preston, Lancashire was once again a huge success, raising over £1,000 for SDBTT. This yearly event is organised by the friends and family of well-known horticulturalist, Keith Dickinson, who died from a brain tumour on 24 June 2008 and raises money for the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust and Marie Curie. Keith was a huge fan of live music – so the event was not only a fitting way to raise money for a worthwhile cause but also a real tribute to Keith's life. We are extremely grateful to Suzanne, Keith's daughter, and to everyone involved in the event, in particular to the bands and musicians who give their time for free. To find out more about Keith Dickinson and the festival, see www.manorfarmfest.org/about.htm



Charity ball for Sarah

The first annual SDBTT Sarah Kitchener Perrow Fund Charity Ball was held at Stock Brook Country Club, near Billericay, Essex on 23 July. The black tie event provided a wonderful evening for all, with welcome drinks, a three-course meal and great entertainment. On Wednesday 3 March 2010 Sarah finally lost her battle against the brain tumour that had affected her life so much, aged 27 years old. A sincere thank you to Sarah's family for organising this event on behalf of SDBTT, in memory of Sarah.

THHN first birthday charity ball

Torbay Holiday Helpers Network (THHN) is a network of local businesses who give free holidays and services to families who have terminally/seriously ill and recently bereaved children. To celebrate their first birthday, the group held a charity ball at the Riviera International Conference Centre, Torbay on 21 August in honour of the SDBTT Hannah Louise Jones Fund. Hannah, 17, who has a brain tumour, has herself worked tirelessly to raise funds and awareness on behalf of the charity – to date she has raised over £60,000 for SDBTT. We are extremely grateful to all those at THHN for organising such a spectacular event and as always, to Hannah for her determination and ongoing support.

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Get in the Christmas spirit with our Santa run!

This year we are excited to be teaming up with DoItForCharity.com to take part in the 2010 Santa 5k Fun Run on 5 December, in Greenwich Park, London. To register for this fun and santa-filled event simply email us at enquiries@sdbtt.co.uk and pay your registration fee of £20; all money raised after that will go to SDBTT (however, we do ask each team member to aim for a minimum of £100). Entry includes a free Santa suit, so what are you waiting for – sign up today!

Fancy a challenge?

If you want to combine fundraising with the challenge of a lifetime look no further than one of these amazing challenge events. For more information including event costs please contact Nick Jones on 0845 130 9733 or email enquiries@sdbtt.co.uk

Take the *head2head Challenge!*

March 2011

Whatever you enjoy doing – cycling, running or parachuting – do it to raise money for our *head2head Challenge* during Brain Tumour Awareness Month in March 2011. We are seeking 250 people who are up for the challenge of raising £250 each in order to raise funds for a research project. You choose the event – we are organising some great events including the first ever sponsored cycle ride from the SDBTT-funded UCL Brain Cancer Unit to the University of Cambridge. Plus we are planning SDBTT parachute jump days in Oxford and Nottingham. Take part in an event in your local area or even organise your own. Check out our website www.braintumourtrust.co.uk/challenge for up-to-date news and information on the *head2head Challenge*.

Cycle the Nile for SDBTT 19 - 27 November 2011

SDBTT has teamed up with Yorkshire Cancer Care to provide the opportunity of a lifetime to cycle along the Nile. The 5 day / 400km bike ride follows the banks of this mighty river, staying in a Nile cruiser each night. It promises to be an incredible challenge and a wonderful opportunity to raise much needed funds for SDBTT.

Future events

Still time to put the kettle on!

Our Tea Party campaign, to encourage supporters to get together with friends, families and colleagues over a relaxing brew and a some biscuits, is still going strong. Since kicking off in March with some wonderful tea parties including our very own Tea in a Tent in Yateley organised by our fundraising team, we have raised £21,318. There are plenty more tea parties on the go all around the country so it's not too late to join in! Organising a tea party is easy and great fun; simply contact us and we will send you a Tea Party pack today. Email enquiries@sdbtt.co.uk, call 0845 130 9733 or see www.braintumourtrust.co.uk for ideas and inspiration.

Get running for brain tumours in 2011!

Join us for the 2011 London Marathon

If you are hoping to run the marathon next year and would like to support us we would like to invite you to register for the Team SDBTT ballot. Please contact us on 0845 130 9733 or email Sarah Ponturo at sponturo@sdbtt.co.uk

Calling all 10k runners for next year

Each year the British London 10k race is a sell-out event, so enter now to avoid missing your chance to take part in the 2011 race. We are aiming to double our team to 100 runners next year so spread the word and please register now by emailing enquires@sdbtt.co.uk or call our office on 0845 130 9733. The date for the 2011 race has been set as 10 July 2011.

You shall go to the Ball... if you're quick!

The prestigious Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust Charity Ball, at The Dorchester Hotel, London is to be held on 13 November 2010. As ever, this year's event will feature a fantastic entertainment programme, delicious food and wine and an auction featuring some exclusive prizes. Attracting over 350 guests, the event will be attended by leading London and UK organisations, high profile business leaders and generous supporters. The evening will be hosted by news broadcaster and SDBTT Patron, Alastair Stewart, and will start with a stunning champagne reception at 7:30pm, followed by the delicious four course meal. Tickets are priced at £145 each or at £1,740 for a table of 12. There are only a few remaining so please contact us now to avoid disappointment: call 0845 130 9733 or email Sarah Ponturo at sponturo@sdbtt.co.uk



