

WE ARE THE OFFICIAL HAEMATOLOGY CHARITY FOR KING'S  
COLLEGE HOSPITAL, LONDON

# GOING FOR GOLD



## HELP US TO REACH OUR £300,000 TARGET



SUPPORTED BY COL DAME KELLY HOLMES MBE (MIL)

Happy New Year from all of us at LIBRA and welcome to 2024! What a year 2023 was. An incredible amount of funds were raised for LIBRA by our wonderful supporters and we can't wait to see what this year brings.

We need your help to reach our £300,000 target so that we can support the development of new and improved treatments for blood cancers and blood disorders at King's and the cost of vital medical equipment, while helping to ensure facilities for patient care are of the highest standards.

There are so many ways you can raise funds individually or socially in a group. Below are some ideas:

- Cocktails and quiz night
- Comedy night
- Car boot sale
- Beauty evening
- Ultra Challenge
- Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K or 5k run
- Skydive

Head to [libra@lionscharity.org](mailto:libra@lionscharity.org) to find out more.

NEWSLETTER  
WINTER EDITION

## Newsletter Highlights

A message from Col  
Dame Kelly Holmes  
MBE (mil)

Patient success story

Quiz night raises £515  
for LIBRA

Lions member set to do  
a charity abseil



## NEW YEAR WISHES FROM LIBRA SUPPORTER, DAME KELLY HOLMES MBE (MIL)

Over the last twelve months, your support has made a huge impact on patients with blood cancers and disorders who are under the care of King's College Hospitals haematology department. The opening of the refurbished Derek Mitchell Unit at King's was a big highlight for me and it was an honour to be involved in such a momentous event. The LIBRA funded facilities are proving beneficial to both patients and staff.

During my visits to King's, I am always fascinated to learn about the new and improved treatments that are being created and future projects that will help to ensure that patients receive the best possible care. King's haematology team rely on funding from LIBRA to bring about positive change, so your fundraising is vital.

Thank you for your ongoing support and best wishes for 2024.

## YOUR IMPACT

"We are so grateful to LIBRA supporters for raising funds to help cover the cost of much needed ward enhancements this year. We are now calling for more support to help fund a ground-breaking sickle cell project and further enhancements across our haematology areas."

Carole Cobain-Patel, Head of Nursing Haematology at King's



## KING'S HAEMATOLOGY PATIENT RECEIVES THE ALL CLEAR AFTER STEM CELL TRANSPLANT

Earlier in 2023, Tony and Rosemary Carter's son was admitted to Davidson ward at King's College Hospital to have treatment for Lymphoma on his brain with B cells. Having previously been a very healthy 46 year old husband and father, the diagnosis came as great shock to him and his family, with symptoms that appeared out of the blue.

He received wonderful care in Davidson and LIBRA wards, having chemotherapy over four months and a stem cell transplant, which were both very successful. He is now home with his wife and eight year old daughter, ready to live his life to the full.

Tony said "We are truly grateful for all the wonderful care and attention our son received at King's College.

As we are members of our local Lions club COGS, we were aware of the contribution that the Lions make to LIBRA to enable the hospital to update wards and continue research into blood cancers and disorders. It is good to know that such amazing care exists and that the doctors, nurses and all other staff give exceptional care to all the patients in these wards."

Tony and Rosemary were also able to deliver a cheque to to an afternoon presentation for Lions clubs locally at the hospital, meet the staff who cared for their son and see the refurbishment of the Derek Mitchell Ward and new day room. The contribution that Tony and Rosemary have donated to LIBRA can now be put towards other lifesaving treatments, so more families can receive care like Tony and Rosemary's son.

## LIONS CLUB DONATE £1,500 TO LIBRA

Bexley and Sidcup Lions have presented LIBRA with a generous donation of £1,500. The funds were raised through the Club's popular annual Bollywood Night – for which we are most grateful.



## QUIZ NIGHT RAISES £515 FOR LIBRA

In November, Sarah and Tom King held a quiz night at The Westow in Crystal Palace to raise vital funds for LIBRA, Anthony Nolan and Billie's Fund. The event was huge success and Sarah very kindly agreed to share her story with us.

"I was diagnosed with APML last July and was transferred to King's for immediate treatment. I spent time on Elf and Libra ward, as well as a longer stint on Davidson. I finished treatment and achieved remission earlier this year and my husband and I wanted to give back to the hospital somehow. We read about LIBRA which has connections to both King's and obviously, haematology. We wanted to raise money for LIBRA to either aid with research, or possibly enable the hospital to purchase equipment.

We held a quiz night at The Westow (who kindly waived the room hire fee for the event) in Crystal Palace. We had roughly 80 people attend which made 15 quiz teams! We also ran a chocolate tombola and raffle - all the raffle prizes were generously donated by our family, friends and local businesses.

We hope to host at least one fundraising event every year for incredible blood cancer charities."

All of us at LIBRA are incredibly appreciative of the hard work Sarah and Tom put into organising their quiz night and we are sure the feeling is the same for Anthony Nolan and Billie's Fund.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

"We are always so grateful to our supporters for putting together events that will raise vital funds for LIBRA. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to support King's and the lifesaving treatment they provide. Sarah, Tom and all attendees looked like they had a wonderful time at their quiz night and we look forward to seeing what other events they organise in the future. Thank you!"

## LIONS MEMBER SET TO DO A CHARITY ABSEIL

After watching her sister suffer from Lymphoma and ultimately having to live with multiple health problems as a result of chemotherapy. Carol Cross and her daughter have decided to raise money for LIBRA through a charity abseil.

In May 2024, they will take the plunge on The London Abseil at Olympic Park. We wish Carol and her family the best of luck and we look forward to seeing pictures!

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
LIBRA AND FUNDRAISING:**

 [libralionscharity.org](https://libralionscharity.org)

 [info@libralionscharity.org](mailto:info@libralionscharity.org)