A National Brain Tumour Strategy? It’s a no brainer

Taking on brain tumours cure by cure

Fill your Will with hope
When I joined The Brain Tumour Charity as CEO last year, I knew I was joining a special charity. But I’ve only recently been able to appreciate just how special it really is.

It’s not unusual for organisations to say they’re committed to collaboration. But, it is rare for a charity – especially a charity of this size – to actually live that value each and every day.

In the last six months alone, we’ve strengthened our relationship with the Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce, united with the Scottish Steering Committee behind a new direction of travel and announced an exciting collaboration with Brain Tumour Research at its Centre of Excellence at The Institute of Cancer Research in London, where money raised by Emily Oliver’s Fighting Fund - a valued Supporter Group of The Charity - will support a dedicated research project.

In the last year, we’ve worked with our Scientific Advisory Board – a veritable who’s who of the finest minds in neuroscience – to award three new rounds of research grants totalling £7m. including our new Quest for Cures projects (pages 6-13).

To mark Brain Tumour Awareness Month, we’ve launched our new campaign calling for the government to develop and implement a National Brain Tumour Strategy (pages 14-15).

Brain tumours are unique and don’t fit neatly into existing strategies designed to tackle cancer. That’s why we believe a National Brain Tumour Strategy – one developed in partnership with the brain tumour community and devoted to tackling the challenges of both high grade and low grade tumours - is the best way forward.

I hope you’ll stand with us in calling for the government to join us as we move towards a world where everybody affected by a brain tumour lives a longer, better life.

Thank you,

Dr Michele Afif, CEO
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Mark and Nicola Nuttall have donated £25,000 in Laura’s name to help fund our pioneering ARISTOCRAT clinical trial.

They have subsequently launched the Be More Laura Foundation, a collective fund under the umbrella of Prism The Gift Fund (reg charity number 1099682) to continue Laura’s legacy. Its aim is to support researchers as they search for better treatments and ultimately a cure for glioblastoma. For more information on Laura’s story https://www.bemorelaura.com

In September, we were delighted to see one of our fundraisers, Harry, win Young Fundraiser of the Year at the JustGiving awards after the brain tumour community rallied behind him for the public vote.

Harry took on a series of challenges in memory of his younger sister, Emily, who sadly passed away when she was just eight years old after being diagnosed with a brain tumour.

We’re so glad we got to cheer Harry on in-person at the awards ceremony and wanted to wish him hearty congratulations once again!
We were also delighted when Ravi, one of our young fundraisers, was awarded the Child of Courage award at the ITV Pride of Britain awards in October.

Ravi was diagnosed with a low grade tumour on his brain stem in September 2021. After surgery to reduce the size of the tumour, he had to learn to walk and feed himself again.

Despite still struggling with the effects of the tumour and treatment, Ravi has thrown himself into raising funds and spreading awareness of brain tumours. So far, he’s raised a whopping total of more than £100,000 through a charity fashion show, charity football day hosted by Worthing FC and his charity single – “A Million Dreams”.

We were so pleased to see him win this well-deserved award!

In November, two of our funded researchers – Dr Tyler Miller and Dr Mara De Martino – were both recognised by The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC).

Dr Miller was awarded the 2023 SITC-Bristol Myers Squibb Postdoctoral Cancer Immunotherapy Translational Fellowship Award and Dr De Martino won a 2023 SITC Abstract Travel Award.

Congratulations once again to Tyler and Mara! We’re so glad to see their excellence being recognised on the global stage.
Our vision is a world where people diagnosed with a brain tumour live longer and better, where cures for brain tumours mean families have more hope. We’re funding the best, world-class research, right now, to improve our understanding of brain tumours, push treatments from bench to bedside faster and improve quality of life.

We aim to invest at least £50 million into research by 2030 and attract £150 million more from others. This will make a momentous difference and get us much closer to our goals of doubling survival and halving the harm of brain tumours.

Our new Quest for Cures grants

Our three new Quest for Cures grants – which you can read about on pages 8 to 13 – are aimed at advancing cures for high-grade brain tumours in children and adults.

These exciting projects aim to increase survivability and enhance quality of life for those diagnosed with three devastating types of tumour: paediatric diffuse high-grade glioma (PDHGG), medulloblastoma, and recurrent glioblastoma in adults. All three projects have the potential to help people diagnosed live longer and better.

But first, we take a look at two previous, and still ongoing, Quest for Cures grants and the incredible progress they’ve already made...

What is our Quest for Cures grant programme?

We know that collaboration is key to unlocking cures for brain tumours. So our Quest for Cures grants aim to bring together the knowledge and skills of researchers from around the globe and from different disciplines to drive scientific discovery and speed up clinical translation.

Our Quest for Cures grants invest in teams with transformational research ideas, whose projects have game-changing potential. They aim to accelerate the understanding and translation of discoveries, helping to push breakthroughs from the lab to the clinic in order to benefit patients faster.

By setting up a regular donation, no matter the size, you’ll help fund research projects like our Quest for Cures grants and accelerate us towards our goals of doubling survival and halving the harm of brain tumours: thebraintumourcharity.org/donate
Take a look at two of our previous, and still ongoing, Quest for Cures grants, the milestones they’ve reached and the amazing potential they’ve unlocked!

**Mapping glioblastoma cells**

**Lead researcher:** Professor Simona Parrinello  
**Where:** University College London  
**When:** September 2019 – February 2025

We’re so excited by the fantastic progress already made on this project, which was made possible by full funding from The Oli Hilsdon Foundation (olihilsdonfoundation.org).

Professor Parrinello and her team aim to understand how glioblastomas spread in the brain and whether treatments can be tailored to where in the brain the cancer has formed. They will also identify new molecules against which drugs can be developed to block cancer spread and recurrence.

Among other key findings, the team have already:

- identified molecules that are related to invasive behaviour
- created mathematical models to understand how tumours spread
- discovered an important molecule that plays a role in the spreading of the tumour.

**Targeting SRC in childhood glioma**

**Lead researcher:** Professor Louis Chesler  
**Where:** The Institute of Cancer Research, London  
**When:** December 2020 – January 2025

Previously, Professor Chesler and his team directly measured thousands of cancer proteins in brain tumours. They discovered changes in a cancer protein called SRC that appears to drive the formation of Group 4 medulloblastomas and gliomas in preclinical models.

The team now aims to build on this work, to understand in more detail the role SRC plays in the development of these tumours, and to test whether or not blocking SRC activity can halt their growth.

Excitingly, the team have already:

- confirmed SRC is present in children with aggressive brain tumours
- developed new cell lines and preclinical models for Group 4 medulloblastoma
- indicated the potential origins of SRC-driven medulloblastoma
- seen promising early results in multiple different models!
IMMUNOTHERAPY TO ELIMINATE GLIOMAS

Dr Jun Ishihara

Imperial College London

Dr Jun Ishihara is a Lecturer in the Department of Bioengineering at Imperial College London. His laboratory works in the field of protein engineering, in research areas including cancer immunotherapy, autoimmunity and regenerative medicine.

He aims to engineer an immunotherapy drug that could prevent recurrent glioblastomas, and will trial the treatment in pet dogs with naturally occurring gliomas. So far, experimental models have been extremely promising.

The project in brief...

Immunotherapy harnesses the body’s immune system to fight diseases. But glioblastomas, the most aggressive type of adult brain tumour, is often resistant to this type of therapy as it’s challenging to get drugs across the blood-brain barrier.

Dr Ishihara and his team aim to engineer an immunotherapy drug that could be used to prevent recurrent glioblastoma. It uses a type of interleukin called IL-12. Interleukins are helpful messengers in the body which tell the immune system how to fight diseases. So far, experimental models have been extremely promising, extending survival by up to 260%.

The project includes a stage of trialling the treatment in pet dogs with naturally occurring gliomas. Gliomas in dogs have many similarities to those in humans, including an equally poor prognosis. This will allow scientists to see how well the treatment works and lay the foundations for taking it to human clinical trials.
At the age of 19, doctors diagnosed Jay Hellis, from Essex, with a glioblastoma. Two years on, Jay has responded well to treatment. But the road to recovery has been long since his diagnosis in September 2021.

Symptoms and diagnosis

Jay’s first symptoms were headaches and loss of peripheral vision. His GP put them down to migraines. Still worried, Jay and his family went to A&E at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Essex for a scan.

Toni, Jay’s mum, said: “After waiting for 10 hours, the results came back that Jay had a brain tumour. We couldn’t believe what we were hearing, it was so surreal.”

The surgical team removed the mass after nine hours of surgery. Thirteen days later the family received the devastating news that tests showed it was a glioblastoma – the most aggressive type of brain tumour.

Toni said: “There will never be the right words to describe how we felt receiving this devastating news. The closest I can get is: our whole world fell apart.”

Research is vitally important

After surgery, treatment included six weeks of radiotherapy and 20 gruelling months of chemotherapy. Jay has had to surrender his driving licence and suffers from memory loss and confusion doing day-to-day tasks. Despite this, he is trying to rebuild his life with support from his friends and family.

Jay has regular scans to monitor his tumour and he and his family praise the care he received and thank the vital research into brain tumours that has allowed Jay to be here today.

Toni said: “There is nothing more important than saving people’s lives and without research the devastating reality is that lives will be lost.”

In April this year, Toni ran the London Marathon to raise vital funds for us to continue supporting the community and funding research.
Professor Marcel Kool is a leading expert in paediatric brain tumours. His work focuses on precision diagnostics and innovative therapies. He leads a research group at the Hopp Children’s Cancer Center Heidelberg (KiTZ), Germany, and the Princess Máxima Center in Utrecht, and has recently been appointed as Professor of Childhood Brain Tumours at the University Medical Center in Utrecht.

Professor Kool and Professor Becker aim to advance our understanding of different types of medulloblastoma in order to help develop effective treatments tailored to each subtype of tumour.

The project in brief...

Medulloblastomas are one of the most common aggressive brain tumours in children. They’re very likely to spread and the prognosis is poor. Not to mention, the available treatments can have severe side-effects and have a dramatic impact on quality of life. We must move faster towards a cure for these children.

This project brings together experts from around the world who will use advanced cell culture techniques to grow human organ structures from stem cells. These will imitate the growth and development of the cerebellum, where medulloblastomas begin, allowing the scientists to explore the DNA changes that lead to these tumours.

This will allow the teams to advance our understanding of medulloblastoma and ultimately accelerate the discovery of new, effective treatments tailored to each subtype of tumour.
Treatment can already take so much away from a child. They don’t deserve to also have their futures taken away from them. Ultimately, there needs to be a cure.”

Nimita, Layla’s mum

Layla Mistry, now nine, from Sonning in Berkshire, was just two when she was diagnosed with medulloblastoma in July 2016.

Her mum Nimita considers it a blessing that Layla was too young to properly remember the extent of her treatment: “There’s no other word for it, her treatment and the side effects were brutal. It was like going to hell and back, although you would never be fully back before having to endure the next chemotherapy cycle.”

Layla had to have surgery to relieve the pressure on her brain and also remove the golf ball-sized tumour. Five cycles of chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant of her own cells followed.

However, less than four years later, in February 2020, the tumour showed signs of growing back. Layla had more surgery a month later, then 30 sessions of proton beam radiation to her brain and spine at The Christie Hospital.

Later that summer, she had a bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor. The family hope that one day they will find this donor and thank them for saving Layla’s life.

Happily, today, Layla is doing well. She has scans every six months to monitor the situation.

She goes to school, enjoys ballet, and tap dancing, and is also learning to swim and to play the piano – all the things little girls her age should be doing. But, Layla’s mum says, “the future is unknown.”

Layla’s parents say, “There needs to be more effective, kinder treatments designed for children that can give them a better future and a chance of living life.”
**TARGETING NON-DIVIDING CELLS**

**Professor Juan Pedro Martinez-Barbera**

University College London

Professor Juan Pedro Martinez-Barbera is the Head of the Developmental Biology and Cancer Research & Teaching Programme at Great Ormond Street ICH. He has a background of research in paediatric craniopharyngioma and senolytics, and more recently has been investigating senescence in other types of paediatric brain tumours.

He will study senescent (non-dividing) cells in order to identify and develop new treatments for paediatric diffuse high-grade gliomas (PDHGGs), as well as improve existing treatments.

**The project in brief...**

Paediatric diffuse high-grade gliomas (PDHGGs) are a type of aggressive brain tumour in children and young adults. ‘Diffuse’ means they spread into surrounding brain tissue, which makes them difficult to remove surgically. Prognosis is poor, with less than 20% of those diagnosed surviving five years. New therapies are urgently needed.

Tumours are made of rapidly dividing cells and non-dividing cells. Previous work by Professor Martinez-Barbera and his team found that non-dividing cells can encourage tumour development by releasing chemicals that stimulate cancer cell growth. Radiotherapy and chemotherapy tend to be ineffective at removing these cells.

Professor Martinez-Barbera’s project will study the role of non-dividing cells in PDHGG formation and relapse, and test whether killing the cells improves the effectiveness of radiotherapy. Going forward, this could support the development of clinical trials.
Lizzie Bramall, from Nayland in Suffolk, was just nine when she was diagnosed with a diffuse midline glioma – one of the most aggressive paediatric high-grade gliomas.

In the weeks leading up to her diagnosis, Lizzie experienced symptoms including double vision, a slight squint and generally being a bit wobbly on her feet.

Then, when Lizzie, mum Sally and dad Mark were due to go on holiday, Lizzie’s symptoms got worse. At A&E, Lizzie had an MRI scan, which showed that Lizzie had a diffuse midline glioma, an inoperable brain tumour in her brainstem. The family were told the devastating news that there were no effective treatments for this type of brain tumour.

Lizzie participated in the BIOMEDE clinical trial, partly funded by us, to give her the best possible treatment.

But after a few months, it became clear that her treatment was not stopping the progression of her tumour, and she sadly died nine months after her diagnosis, just before her tenth birthday.

Lizzie was full of life – and her love for baking shone through even following her diagnosis. She used her love for baking to raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity to fund vital research. She even published a baking recipe book called “Keep Baking”, which helped maintain positivity for Lizzie and her family during those difficult months.

Sally said: “From early on we understood the importance of research and the funding it needs. We continue to raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity in Lizzie’s memory and we are really passionate about the research The Charity funds.”

To date, the family have raised over £500,000, and Lizzie’s baking recipes were shared far and wide for our Big Bake, which took place in September.
We know that current NHS strategies to tackle cancer are having an impact. Overall cancer survival in the UK has never been higher and average five-year survival rates for cancer increased by 8% between 2005 and 2020.

This is incredible progress! So why aren’t these strategies having the same effect for people diagnosed with a brain tumour?

The short answer is that the pillars of current NHS Cancer Programmes don’t work well for the brain tumour community for four key reasons:

- Earlier diagnosis (targets are largely based on staging whereas brain tumours are graded rather than staged)
- Prevention (people taking steps, such as making lifestyle changes, to prevent cancer from occurring but only a very small percentage of brain tumours are preventable)
- Screening programmes (brain tumours can only be identified by an MRI or CT scan and there are very few preventable risk factors)
- Cancer specific (they inadvertently exclude people diagnosed with low grade, non-cancerous tumours; nearly half of the brain tumour community are diagnosed with low grade that present their own unique challenges)

If we’re going to achieve our goals of doubling survival and halving the harm done by brain tumours, we need the government and NHS to get behind a strategy dedicated to tackling the unique challenges presented by brain tumours – both high and low grade.

That’s why we think that calling for a National Brain Tumour Strategy this Brain Tumour Awareness Month is a no brainer! Will you join us?

What would a National Brain Tumour Strategy include?

A National Brain Tumour Strategy needs to be developed for – and in partnership with – all people with lived experience of brain tumours – whether they’ve been affected by a low or high grade tumour.
We believe that any strategy dedicated to tackling brain tumours needs to do four key things:

**Improve diagnosis**
More than 1 in 7 people wait more than six months for a brain tumour diagnosis and nearly half of people (39%) diagnosed with brain cancer are diagnosed through A&E. We need a strategy to ensure people have a faster diagnosis opening more options for support, treatment and research.

**Improve access to new treatments**
Research shows that people diagnosed with a brain tumour make up some of the lowest recruitment onto cancer clinical trials. We need a strategy that encourages robust research opportunities for members of the brain tumour community to participate in.

**Improve care for those with brain tumours**
84% of people say they didn’t have the support they needed following a diagnosis. We need a strategy that ensures everybody diagnosed with a brain tumour is connected to the support they need across their whole pathway.

**Improve the research landscape**
We need leaders to invest in transforming the research landscape to move research out of the lab, into clinics and available to the community.

Do you think that backing a National Brain Tumour Strategy is a “no brainer“?

Get behind us by visiting www.thebraintumourcharity.org/its-a-no-brainer
OUR ONLINE BRAIN TUMOUR SUPPORT GROUPS CELEBRATE A MOMENTOUS MILESTONE

Our Losing Myself report found that nearly a third of people we spoke to who were living with a brain tumour felt “severely isolated” following their diagnosis.

To help people in the brain tumour community connect with other people who’ve been through similar experiences – whether they’re living with a diagnosis themselves or a loved one has been diagnosed – we set up our Online Brain Tumour Support Groups.

Since then, we’ve launched many new ways for our community to connect with each other online, from new groups specific to certain experiences to new platforms like HealthUnlocked and Instagram.

And, in October, our Online Brain Tumour Support Groups grew to over 30,000 members!

These groups are safe online spaces where people who’ve been affected by a brain tumour can get support and advice from people who’ve had similar experiences.

QUOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

“Being in the group allows us to get access to unlimited support whenever it’s required.”
Shane

“It was such a relief to find people that knew exactly what I was talking about”
Margaret

“I quickly realised how helpful it was to read about others going through the same experiences that my daughter and I were.”
Bettina

"There is an abundance of information which is a wonderful resource."
Annette

To find out how to join a support group scan the code below:
Our Children and Families team were back at Tamworth SnowDome in December to celebrate the holiday season with our festive Family Day.

Our Family Days are for families with a child under the age of 18 who’s living with a brain tumour or families where a parent is living with a brain tumour and has children under the age of 18. We aim to give families the chance to spend time together away from hospital, meet other people who are going through similar experiences and enjoy a day out without having to worry about finances.

Our festive Family Day made great use of the indoor SnowDome with snowball fights and sledding, as well as the chance to meet Santa’s reindeer. And we were as surprised as anybody when Santa himself made an appearance to hand out presents.

“Thank you so much. We had an amazing time. The pantomime was really good. We couldn’t stop laughing! We are forever grateful for the opportunity to attend the event.

My daughter has been really poorly since April and had three operations which in themselves have caused further complications and hospital admissions so it really has been a horrible few months. It was nice to do something fun away from the hospital and ignore the pending hospital appointments this week.

It really suits her ability and level of understanding so it really works for her at the SnowDome. We felt really Christmassy afterwards. Thank you so much.”

“Thank you so much. We had an amazing time. The pantomime was really good. We couldn’t stop laughing! We are forever grateful for the opportunity to attend the event.

A big thank you to the Lewis Moody Foundation (LMF) who also kindly support our Children and Families team in bringing our Family Days to life.

“It is nice to be around families who understand our situation and are familiar with our struggles”
“The event today made us feel that we are not alone going through a tough time, thank you.”

Want to help support our life-changing support services? Visit thebraintumourcharity.org/donate to help us move further, faster towards a world where everybody affected by a brain tumour lives a longer, better life.
Scientist, entrepreneur and trustee of The Brain Tumour Charity, Professor Alan Palmer, talks about his career studying the human brain and its various disorders, as well as why he made the incredible decision to leave us a gift in his Will.

I first developed an interest in the brain at school, then later studied for an MSc in Neurochemistry and a PhD on the neurochemistry of Alzheimer’s disease.

As I delved deeper into the study of the biological basis of neurological disorders, a profound sense of hope for discovering ground-breaking treatments was ignited.

At the University of Pittsburgh, I played a pivotal role in founding one of the most prominent brain trauma research centres in the United States.

I then co-founded the UK’s first neuroscience start-up, Cerebrus (later Vernalis), where I led a major project to discover novel sodium channel blockers as neuroprotective agents for stroke and other neurological disorders.

Now, I’m a visiting Professor at the University of Reading and a co-founder and Chief Executive of Elixa MediScience, which is developing innovative new medicines to slow the progression of disability associated with neurodegenerative disorders.

I applied to become the first Life Science Trustee at The Brain Tumour Charity in 2016, as I was so impressed by The Charity, particularly its clear and ambitious goal of doubling the survival time and halving the harm of living with a brain tumour.

Knowledge of neuroscience and cancer is like a treasure, but its value is unlocked only when it’s put into action. I feel that I can contribute to the unlocking of the knowledge we have about brain tumours by helping The Charity deliver improvements in the management and treatment of people with brain tumours.

I have included The Brain Tumour Charity in my Will, which is something I believe can make a huge difference. By leaving a charitable gift to a well-run medical charity, I am contributing to the health and well-being of people living with a brain tumour, thus creating a lasting legacy.

Understanding that this will have a positive impact on others brings personal fulfilment and a deep sense of purpose. I hope that my decision might serve as inspiration for others to consider a similar gesture.
With this crucial backing, we can propel The Charity towards its ambitious mission: to double the time people survive with a brain tumour while significantly reducing the suffering it inflicts upon them.

Together, we can make this hopeful vision a reality.

The Charity’s holistic and dynamic strategy to conquer the challenges posed by brain tumours is a powerful way forward. It encompasses the synergy of ground-breaking research, cutting-edge medical treatments, technological innovations, cooperative efforts, and unwavering community support.

I envision a brighter future where The Brain Tumour Charity thrives with the support of legacy gifts in Wills.

Find out more at thebraintumourcharity.org/gift-in-will or by scanning the QR code:

Email mygift@thebraintumourcharity.org or phone 01252 749990
It’s **GAME OVER** FOR BRAIN TUMOURS

Every day in the UK, 34 people hear these life-changing words - “You have a brain tumour.”

We’re on a quest to make sure every one of these people has access to the support, care and treatment they need. But we can’t do it alone.

That’s why we’re calling on the brain tumour community to power up and pick up their controllers to take on a Game 34 challenge.

**WHAT IS GAME 34?**

Game 34 is your chance to put your gaming and streaming skills to the ultimate test and unlock the greatest achievement of all - a future where everybody affected by a brain tumour lives a longer, better life.

What’s great about Game 34 is that it’s your challenge and you can take it on your way – whether you want to stream yourself completing a game 34 times, take on a sponsored 34-hour gaming marathon with your friends or anything in-between.

But don’t worry! We’ll be there to back you up and provide support at every step.

We can help you with anything from supporting you to get started with streaming and making sure you’re comfortable talking about The Charity’s goals to sending you everything you need to promote your Game 34 challenge. We can even join your stream to cheer you on if you’d like us to.

And, whether you’re a superstar streamer, a fully-levelled-up gamer or a complete newcomer to the world of gaming and streaming, getting started is as easy as 1-2-3!
1. Let us know what you’re up to

Fill in our Game 34 form so we know your plans and can send you everything you need to get started.

2. Set up your fundraising page

Collecting donations online has never been easier and it’s no different when it comes to Game 34. We recommend using Tiltify, especially if you’re planning on streaming as part of your challenge.

3. Power up and get gaming

Nothing’s left but to hit start and dive into your challenge. This can be scary, especially if you’ve decided to stream for the first time – but we’ll be with you at every step.

Want to take on your own Game 34 challenge? Know a gamer or streamer who might want to power up and take part? Find out more by visiting thebraintumourcharity.org/get-involved/game-34
From Thursday 7 to Monday 11 September, staff across Wickes’ more than 230 UK stores held Big Bakes to help us build a better future for everyone affected by a brain tumour.

There truly is no ‘do-it-yourself’ when it comes to defeating brain tumours and with the whopping £87,339 the team at Wickes’ raised, we’ll be able to help those diagnosed live longer, better lives.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit their local Wickes store, the volunteers who spent their weekend meeting the teams all across the UK, and thank you to the Wickes team for showing your flour power and raising dough!
We were thrilled to have our BBC Lifeline Appeal broadcast to the nation on 17 September!

The appeal, presented by our much-valued ambassador Nicki Chapman, also featured members of our community: Ravi Adelekan and family, Mel Kelly, and Alan Johnstone, who met one of our Future Leaders, Dr Ola Rominiyi.

Thank you to all of them for taking part, and thank you to everyone who watched and donated. We were delighted to raise over £18,000 from the Appeal, funds which will go a long way to helping people with a brain tumour live longer and better!

This autumn events season, 10 daring rugby fans took on the Western Front Way for The Lewis Moody Foundation.

The team cycled the 1,000km across France in seven days, raising an amazing £54,000! Coinciding with the 2023 Rugby World Cup, the cyclists rounded up the challenge with tickets to England v. Samoa in Lille. What an incredible way to celebrate their achievements!

Thank you to The Lewis Moody Foundation for organising this exciting challenge, the sponsors who made the trip happen and of course the riders for all you do for the brain tumour community!
Ryan, a 27-year-old police researcher and keen sportsman, is determined not to let his diagnosis get the best of him. Since being diagnosed with a grade one astrocytoma in 2022, he’s been busy raising funds to accelerate a cure by taking part in events.

Even after two rounds of surgery, not all of the tumour could be removed, so Ryan will need MRI scans every six months for the near future. And possibly the rest of his life.

“If they do surgery again, it would be difficult and dangerous, so if there ever were a treatment to help with my condition, that would be amazing.”

Last year, Ryan took part in the 70km Jersey Island Walk and the Royal Parks Half-Marathon to raise money for The Brain Tumour Charity. So far, he’s raised an incredible £1,235 - nearly tripling his target of £450.

“I’ve always been a keen sportsman, and running has enabled me to cope with the mental pressure of a brain tumour. When I run, it is just me and the road - I can forget about everything happening in my life.”

“I have always had a good mentality from my cycling days (I used to race for the island). I love training - it allows me to have a routine which was taken away from me after surgery and it makes me feel like a normal person. Right now, my training is quite up and down as I get fatigued a lot easier following my surgery, but that is something I’m having to get used to.”

Inspired to take on a challenge of your own? Check out our Summer 2024 Events Calendar to find your perfect event.
Prefer to arrange your own fundraising event or challenge?

We’re here to support you every step of the way – from fundraising tips and help preparing for the big day to cheering you on at your event.

To find out more, contact our Community Fundraising Team by emailing communityfundraising@thebraintumourcharity.org
WILL YOU BE OUR NEXT BIG WINNER?

Want to help us take on brain tumours and be in with the chance of winning a whopping £25,000?

You can play our Win Big Weekly Lottery for as little as £1 per week with cash prizes of £25,000, £1,000 and £25 up for grabs.

SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE or visit lottery.thebraintumourcharity.org

18+

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