

# Little Princess Post



## Inside...

- The 'One and Only' joins LPT
- Our wigs are for young men too
- Anna just can't stop smiling

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[www.littleprincesstrust.org.uk](http://www.littleprincesstrust.org.uk)

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LPT runners and supporters in Cardiff

## Getting our message out

### Hitting the road to raise Little Princess Trust's profile

A team of 50 created a piece of history for the Little Princess Trust by running 13.1 miles around the streets of the Welsh capital.

For those who ran the Cardiff half marathon in purple LPT uniforms were the first group to officially represent the charity in an event of this kind.

And there will be no stopping the Little Princess Trust from raising more money - as well as its own profile - next year as the charity will be taking part in the Bath half marathon and the London to Paris cycle ride.

The LPT team in Cardiff was led by fireman Alex Hustwayte. Despite being dressed in fairy wings and a skirt, he beat many club runners to be the first of The Little Princess

Trust supporters home in an incredible time of 1 hour and 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, Wendy Tarplee-Morris, Little Princess Trust co-founder and research manager, managed to combine running with media duties as she was interviewed live on the BBC by the former GB athlete Jamie Baulch.

Little Princess Trust chief executive Phil Brace said the LPT-50 showed "great fellowship" at an event that certainly "pulled everyone together."

Rose Wilesmith, the LPT events co-ordinator, is now compiling teams to run at the Bath half marathon on March 15 and ride from London to Paris from July 16 to July 18. Another big date for next year's diary is

The Little Princess Trust charity race day at Hereford Racecourse on March 24.

Legends from the track including Peter Scudamore and Richard Johnson will mix with guests as they watch the action from LPT tables at the on-course restaurant.

And when the races are over pop icon Chesney Hawkes, Nathan Moore from Brother Beyond and the Hey Ychs will bring the musical entertainment on a day not to be missed.

Anyone can help LPT improve the lives of thousands of children with cancer by sponsoring a race or booking a table

• For further information on any of the events, email [rose@littleprincesses.org.uk](mailto:rose@littleprincesses.org.uk) or call 01432 352359.

## \* First newsletter hot off the press

Welcome one and all to the new Little Princess Trust newsletter that will keep you up to speed with some of the wonderful work going on at our charity.

There really is so much for us to shout about as we continue to give wigs to children and young people who have lost their own

hair through cancer and other conditions.

Our fantastic fundraisers continue to amaze with their sponsored haircuts that give us the means to not only make and pay for wigs but also to fund research into childhood cancers at some of the country's top universities.

Our aim is to use this quarterly magazine to tell you what we have been doing and to explain why we do what we do.

Happy Reading...





## Royal recognition

The Little Princess Trust has received royal recognition in the form of a personal donation.

Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, gave the sum to our charity so we can continue our vital work.

We found out about the donation when a letter, addressed to our chief executive Phil Brace, was sent to our offices in Hereford.

We have been asked not to disclose the amount but can confirm it will help us give real hair wigs to young people up to the age of 24 and fund research into finding kinder, less toxic treatments for childhood cancers.

The donation from the Duchess of Cornwall comes almost two years after another member of the royal family helped our charity.

The Little Princess Trust gained headlines around the world when the Duchess of Cambridge joined thousands of others by donating her hair to us.

## Regional award



The Little Princess Trust came away with a prize at the regional finals of The Great British Entrepreneur Awards.

LPT chief executive Phil Brace and Wendy Tarplee-Morris, the charity's co-founder, rubbed shoulders with some of the biggest names in business at the event in Birmingham.

The Little Princess Trust was a finalist in the "entrepreneur for good award" and finished as a runner-up in the category which was won by Guy Schanschieff. He is the founder of Bambino Mio, one of the world's largest reusable nappy brands.

## Dates for diary



Join the LPT team at these events:

**March 15:** Bath Half Marathon

**March 24:** Hereford Racecourse Charity Race Day

**May 24:** Great Manchester Run

**July 16-18:** London 2 Paris cycle ride

**October 4:** Cardiff Half Marathon

# Chesney signs up



Chesney Hawkes, famed for his massive early '90's hit 'The One and Only', has joined the LPT family as an Ambassador.

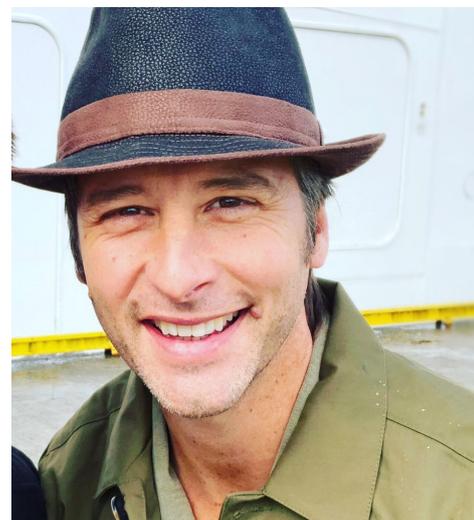
When the singer heard about the charity through a close friend, he was moved to act in any way possible to get involved and offer his support.

Chesney has pledged to support the charity through a number of events and appearances in 2020 and beyond.

He has been joined on the Ambassador scheme by Royal Ballet First Artist Tara-Brigitte Bhavnani and celebrity hairdresser Andrew Barton.



*Chesney Hawkes (right) has joined (above) Andrew Barton and Tara-Brigitte Bhavnani in becoming an Ambassador for The Little Princess Trust.*



# Research makes crucial discovery

A fundamental change in the understanding of a childhood cancer is on the horizon thanks to a project funded by The Little Princess Trust.

Scientists have now discovered the earliest genetic root of the kidney cancer, known as Wilms' tumour, after comparing tissue samples.

Understanding the root of the cancer promises to improve treatment and help prevent Wilms' tumours returning.

The discovery by the team at the Wellcome Sanger Institute also increases the chance of one day being able to screen for cancers like this before tumours develop.

Tim Coorens, the first author of the study, said: "A good analogy for what we found is that Wilms' tumour is not just an isolated weed on an otherwise well-maintained field.

"We discovered the weed has an extensive root underneath the soil. Now we know we need to look for the patch of soil where the root has taken hold. If we remove that patch, the weed isn't going to return."

LPT, which gave a grant of £63,844 to the research project, was started in memory of Hannah Tarplee after she was diagnosed with a Wilms' tumour in 2005.

Wendy Tarplee-Morris, Hannah's mother who is now the Research Manager at The Little Princess Trust, added: "As a parent

who lost my daughter to Wilms', it is very sobering to know that almost 15 years later a child with the same diagnosis is likely to have the same outcome.

"Therefore, the news of any advances which improve understanding and could potentially lead to preventing childhood cancer is very welcome indeed."



*It may pave a way to think about preventing childhood cancer.*



Dr Sam Behjati, from the Wellcome Sanger Institute, said the discovery not only signals a shift in the understanding of this particular cancer, but in childhood cancer more generally.

"Our findings represent a radical departure from how we think about Wilms' tumour because we never expected to find the root of cancer in normal-looking tissue," he added.

"It may even pave the way for us to begin to think about preventing childhood cancer."

# Smashing stereotypes

Callum Boyd knows just how much a wig can help a young person with cancer.

But like many young men who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy he was not initially told about the service offered by The Little Princess Trust.

Callum was diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma when he was 21 and now wants others to know his story in the hope that LPT can help more boys and young men get a real hair wig.

Less than 10% of Little Princess Trust wig recipients are male – and Callum believes many are missing out on a vital helping hand due to a lack of awareness.

Callum still has a vivid memory of his “consenting to chemo” hospital appointment when he realised he would not be considered for a wig.

He said: “A nurse ran through every possible side-effect that could happen as a result of my six-month treatment course: nausea, fatigue, infertility, nerve damage and hair loss.

“The last one didn’t surprise me but, without any real comment from the nurse, the words ‘Not Applicable’ were then written beside ‘Wig Referral’.

“It wasn’t until I had started to get used to some form of ‘chemo routine’ that I began to think again ... actually, why not?”

Undeterred, Callum spoke to his social worker from Clic Sargent and his Teenage Cancer Trust Youth Support Co-ordinator about the situation.



Callum Boyd

They told him about The Little Princess Trust and, before long, he was visiting the “amazing” Baguley’s of Cheshire for a wig fitting appointment.

Callum finished his treatment last year before being given the all-clear.

He now lives and works in London for a health research charity and is encouraging other young men – and boys – to get in touch with LPT if they need a wig.

“It’s not superficial and there’s no need for apologies – body image, can be a huge part of what makes you “you”, particularly at a time when everything else seems chaotic, scary and strange,” he added.

“The Little Princess Trust wig certainly helped me get back to being me – and I’m very grateful.”

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### MBE honour

The Little Princess Trust’s Chair of Trustees shared a joke with Prince William when he received his MBE at Buckingham Palace.

Tim Wheeler was awarded the MBE for his services to charity and education in the Queen’s birthday honours list.

Tim, who joined the LPT team during his headship at Hereford Cathedral Junior School, went to London for the investiture ceremony where he met The Duke of Cambridge.

The Prince asked about the work of LPT while the pair also spoke about the efforts involved in fundraising before The Duke of Cambridge made a quip about the day soon arriving when he would need a wig himself.

Tim, who is now head at Stockport Grammar School, joined other award recipients such as Dan Snow in the Palace Ballroom on a day that shone a light on so much of the good that happens in the country.

### LPT treasure



The Little Princess Trust received its own piece of treasure thanks to the efforts of the Midlands business community.

More than £10,000 was raised for LPT by the organisers of the Treasure Quest.

Over the past few years the event has seen vintage vehicles, sports cars and motorbikes be driven by colourful characters in all manner of fancy dress across Herefordshire countryside in search for clues.

This year was no exception, with teams setting off from Shelsley Walsh in Worcestershire before earning points by answering riddles to make their way to the finish line at the Baskerville Hall Hotel near Hay-on-Wye.

The event was once again run by Colliers’ Director Martyn Edwards, who is a stage IV cancer survivor. Now in its third year, the Treasure Quest has become a staple in the real estate social calendar and, over the years, participants have raised £20,000 for LPT.



### Keep growing

Extra demand is being placed on The Little Princess Trust for longer wigs. The charity’s logistics team is therefore calling on hair donors to delay their sponsored cut for as long as they can. LPT accepts wigs from seven inches but ideally prefers hair donations to be in excess of 12 inches.



## Swedish spectacular

The brilliant work of The Little Princess Trust was celebrated at a special party close to the charity’s Hereford home.

The fundraising ball at Lyde Arundel took on a Swedish theme to mark LPT’s move to offer its free service overseas.

LPT is now working with Carl M Lundh to ensure its wigs are being fitted and styled on children in Scandinavia who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment.

Ulf Rittemar and Sophie Lenormand, from LPT’s first European partner, were among more than 200 guests who enjoyed

*Dancing the night away are (l-r) Juliette Johnson, Andrew Johnson and James Arnold.*

Swedish food and danced to live music from Abba’s Angels.

The night also featured performances by the Hereford Academy of Dance and The Hey Yahs while an auction helped to ensure more than £15,000 was raised for the charity.

Phil Brace, The LPT Chief Executive, proudly informed all guests that the charity is now one of the biggest funders of research into childhood cancers in the UK.

# Anna's pride with new look



## Mum can't believe speed and ease of LPT's super service

Anna Spiller just cannot stop looking in the mirror after receiving her wig from The Little Princess Trust.

The 10-year-old from West Wales is now full of pride and confidence in her new look following a fitting and styling at one of the salons in the LPT network.

Anna began losing her hair in 2018 before she was diagnosed with Alopecia this year. She went on to lose all her hair so her mother Claire got in touch with the charity's wig referral team.

As well as providing wigs to people up to the age of 24 who have lost hair due to cancer, The Little Princess Trust also helps youngsters suffering hair loss from other conditions such as Alopecia.

Claire knew of the Little Princess Trust through Anna's friends but admitted she had no idea how easy it would be to get a free real hair wig.

"I thought I'd have to jump through hoops," she said. "But the process was quick and simple and we were referred to a salon within a couple of days."

Anna was in the seat at Alive and Klippin' in Pontardawe within 10 days of her mum's first email to have her new wig fitted. Claire said she "looks and feels incredible!"

"She's really happy with it and feels like herself again when she puts it on," Claire added.

"She keeps dressing up in her favourite pretty dresses and putting it on and looking



Anna in her LPT wig

in the mirror. Her face is filled with happiness and pride – it's lovely to see."

Claire praised Anna's fellow pupils at New Quay Primary School who have all been supportive and understanding of her daughter's situation.

Teachers have also helped explain the condition as mum and daughter decided on an honest and upfront approach from the start.

Anna spoke to each class at her school with the support of her teacher and answered children's questions.

And when she had the wig fitted she got a great reaction with many pupils struggling to believe it wasn't her own hair.

Claire said the whole experience with the Little Princess Trust was amazing and was so grateful that she donated her own hair to the charity.

"If my hair can help put a smile on a girl's face like I saw on my daughter's then it's well worth it," she said.



## Help us to improve the lives of thousands of children with cancer

It costs £550 to produce a wig and help restore a child's confidence and identity.

The Little Princess Trust is also one of the biggest funders of research into childhood cancer in the UK. But as the charity does not employ any specialist fundraisers it needs your support. There are lots of different ways to help the charity continue its work and give both hair and hope to thousands of children. You can call us on **01432 352359** and pay by phone or send a cheque, made payable to The Little Princess Trust, to the charity at Broadway House, 32-35 Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9AR. Supporters can also donate any whole amount from £1 to £20 by sending a text message. To send £3, for example, text **550LPT £3** to 70085. Join our family of fundraisers and help influence the outcomes of childhood cancer.



## Our promise

When a child loses their hair, we'll be there with a real hair wig to help them regain their identity.

We promise we won't stop our work until the research we fund ensures that no child should die of cancer



## Board of Trustees

Tim Wheeler  
Simon Tarplee  
Tim Lowe  
Kate Bliss  
Tania Hudson  
Rob Pizii



## Need answers

For questions, comments or more information please contact us at:

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