

# The GOOD NEWS




Artist's impression: Morgan Carn Partnership

## New chemotherapy day centre receives the green light

THE MAIN EVENT this year has been the successful conclusion of negotiations with the Hospital Trust and Medical School for a new building to be constructed on the roof of the Linear Accelerator building.

The charity has committed an initial contribution of £450,000. This will provide us with the lowest floor of the new 3 storey extension which will be the Sussex Cancer Centre's much needed new chemotherapy Day


Centre. This will offer much more space, facilities and comfortable surroundings for our patients before, during and after treatment. 

See story on page 3.

## 24 years of the Sussex Cancer Fund

THE NEWLY RENAMED Sussex Cancer Fund was started 24 years ago, by consultant oncologists, Dr Deutsch, Dr Hodson and Dr Murrell. Originally called the Sussex Cancer Treatment Fund, the charity progressed to include the funding and development of research programmes, and became known as the Sussex Cancer Fund for Treatment and Research. The goals of the fund are to work hand in hand with the NHS to give all Sussex cancer patients the best available treatment and facilities.

Some of the achievements of the fund in recent years have been to refurbish patient areas, including an area for chemotherapy, clinic rooms, waiting areas, reception and access to the Sussex Cancer Centre. Through the generosity of Sussex people, the fund has been able to pay for additional equipment and fund new building works to improve facilities. The Cancer Centre car park for patients and their carers is one of the Fund's greatest achievements. Last year, the fund paid for a new immobilisation system for cancer patients, which is the latest technology for keeping a patient's head positively still whilst undergoing radiotherapy treatment, maximising safety and comfort for the patient.

Future plans for the fund include enhancing facilities further by funding further works to the Sussex Cancer Centre, including building a new chemotherapy day centre and refurbishing the patients lounge. The fund also enables a detailed cancer research programme to be carried out at the centre which benefits patients locally and also contributes to the national research programme. 



Just some of the improvements the Fund has achieved over the last 24 years



### Dr George Deutsch


CONSULTANT ONCOLOGIST Dr George Deutsch semi-retired in June this year after over 30 years in the Sussex Cancer Centre. The good news is that he is staying on as Chairman of the Sussex Cancer Fund, which along with Dr Hodson & Dr Murrell he established over 24 years ago. 




Photo: Kenny McCracken

## Charity champions

DO YOU REMEMBER the naughty-but-nice calendar of nude estate agents that proved such a success at the turn of the year? Produced by *Latest Homes* in collaboration with the Brighton and Hove Estate Agency Association (BHEAA), copies of the calendar were sold to raise funds for a local cancer charity - and boy, did it do the trick.

According to Kath Davis of the Sussex Cancer Fund for Treatment and Research, the 2004 calendar netted thousands. Kath told us "The excellent total of £4,267 was raised for the Sussex Cancer Fund and we intend to purchase a visual therapy picture for the new linear accelerator with the donation."

The fund administrator went on to thank estate agents and staff for helping out and added "Our thanks go to *Latest Homes* for the design and printing of the calendar, and everyone who contributed to this fun idea."

Pictured above is the Sussex Cancer Centre's Dr George Deutsch receiving the cheque from BHEAA chair Mike Davis, boss of Alpha Contracts lettings, Stephanie Hike and *Latest Homes* creative director, Andrew Kay. 

(From an original article in "*Latest Homes*")

# New chemotherapy unit

**By Jenny King**

Nurse Specialist,  
Manager of Chemotherapy Services



ANYONE WHO HAS visited the Sussex Cancer Centre Chemotherapy unit lately will be aware that we are almost out-growing it! Although it is a pleasant environment the unit gets very crowded and sometimes patients have to wait even to get a seat! So our next important project is the design and build of a fantastic new Chemotherapy Unit to allow for the rapid expansion of the Sussex Cancer Centre out-patient chemotherapy service. We anticipate that this project will be complete by 2006.


Why is this project so important? Chemotherapy is developing all the time. Every year there are new chemotherapy drug combinations available so we are able to successfully treat more patients than ever before. Patients are now *living* with cancer for many years. Our figures show an annual 16% increase in the number of treatments given in the Sussex Cancer Centre. Previously many chemotherapy treatments could only be given whilst patients stayed in hospital but now the focus is on out-patient chemotherapy allowing patients freedom to live a normal

life as much as possible. With all these developments on the horizon we need a larger unit that will also meet the future needs of the service.

We have thought long and hard about the design of the new Chemotherapy Unit as it is so important to get it right for our patients. We are always aware that coming to the Sussex Cancer Centre for chemotherapy can be a daunting prospect for most patients so we want to create a unit that is cheerful, comfortable and relaxed. Some treatments are quite long and require patients to be in the unit for most of the day. We have asked our patients what they would like to see and used their ideas for the design.

The new unit will have 19 comfy reclining armchairs for patients and these will be in small bays to allow for more privacy. However the overall design will be open plan so that the nurses can see all the patients all of the time. We will have more space and seating for friends and relatives. There will also be an area for those patients who do need to lie down. A separate preparation area will be in the unit

so that nurses can prepare and store drugs / medical equipment away from the patients receiving treatment. At the moment this is done on a small work surface in the patient treatment area which is not ideal.

The new Chemotherapy Unit will have its own waiting room and reception area. Patients will have easy access to drinks and toilets. Incorporated into the waiting area will be a small 'kitchenette' with a hot water urn and fridge facilities. Chemotherapy patients often have to be at the unit for several hours so they will be able to store food and drink items as well as help themselves to hot drinks whilst waiting. The unit will have a comfortable 'Information Room' where nurses can sit with patients and their relatives in private to explain about the treatment and what's involved. Finally we have even thought about what we can do to create a relaxing environment with lighting. Nobody wants to sit having treatment in a room with harsh fluorescent lights, so we will be installing state of the art huge natural light pictures. These are beautiful pictures that actually emit natural light to create the same effect as daylight. 



## Fund-Raising

A BIG THANKS you to all you fund-raisers. Donations are increasing every year. In 2003 you collected over £20,000 and fund raising is set to top that in 2004.

The pictures opposite represent just some of the many ways in which people gathered much needed funds.

**1.** Four of the porters representing a group who raised £510 from raffles and discos at their local pub.

**2.** Sarah Best (far right) held a month-long fund raising event at her salon Arches Health and Beauty and raised £501.

**3.** Andrew Creegan and his wife Lesley organized musical concerts during his year as the Mayor of Telscombe and raised £3175.91.

**4.** Karla Del Castello's Sky Dive from 1500 feet on the 19th June 2004 raised £140.

Thank you to all our other supporters who are too numerous to mention. ☺

All donations should be sent to:

The Administrator  
Sussex Cancer Fund  
Sussex Cancer Centre  
Royal Sussex County Hospital  
Eastern Road  
Brighton BN2 5BE

Cheques should be made payable to 'Sussex Cancer Fund'.

Registered Charity No. 282050

