



CELEBRATION EDITION



DAME KELLY HOLMES OPENS LIBRA FUNDED BLOOD CANCER UNIT

LIBRA Charity Trustees and our incredible supporter Col Dame Kelly Holmes MBE (mil) recently joined haematology experts to celebrate the grand opening of an enhanced unit for blood cancer patients at King's College Hospital, London. The Derek Mitchell Unit is a purpose-built chemotherapy and bone marrow transplant ward for young teens and adult patients.

As the official haematology charity for King's, backed by Lions Clubs International, we recently provided £100,000 of funding toward the vital enhancements. Funds have been raised through our current Going for Gold Campaign which was inspired by Dame Kelly.

IN THIS ISSUE

GRAND OPENING EVENT - WATCH OUR VIDEOS

LIBRA RECEIVES THANKS FROM HEAD OF NURSING HAEMATOLOGY

PHOTO GALLERY - VIEW THE EVENT IN PICTURES

CORPORATE GIVING - MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

The Grand Opening Event | Watch Our Videos



During the special event Professor Roopen Arya, Clinical Director for Haematology and Pathology gave a wonderful opening speech.

He provided an overview of the advanced therapies being developed at King's and also thanked LIBRA for our ongoing support.

He was followed by Michelle Kenyon, Nurse Consultant at King's. Michelle spoke about the history of the Derek Mitchell Unit.



Michelle also highlighted the amazing development of transplant nursing at the hospital which is making a huge difference to patient care.

She went on to say how beneficial the newly refurbished Derek Mitchell Unit will be for both the nursing staff and their patients.

Click the photos to view our videos!

LIBRA'S SUPPORT IS VITAL

The haematology team at King's called on LIBRA Trustees to provide funding to help cover the costs of enhancements to the unit to ensure that patients have the best possible experience, whether it is during treatment or end of life care.

LIBRA's donation of £100,000, raised through our current Going for Gold Campaign, has covered the cost of improvements to the young teenage adult room, the end of life room and patient day area.

Inspirational Words



LIBRA Trustee and Lions Clubs International member Eddy Warn also gave a heartfelt speech on behalf of our team. He went on to introduce our inspirational supporter Col Dame Kelly Holmes MBE (mil), who is an honorary member of Tonbridge Lions Club.

The double Olympic champion lost her own mother Pam to myeloma just six years ago. During treatment Pam received specialist care at King's for which Dame Kelly is most grateful.



Dame Kelly spoke about her own experience and was proud to declare the Derek Mitchell Unit officially open.

During the event she met with King's patients and their families to find out their thoughts about the enhanced unit and understand how it will make a positive difference.

GOING FOR GOLD CAMPAIGN

We need your help to raise £300,000 so that LIBRA can support the development of new and improved treatments for blood disorders and blood cancers at King's, while also helping to ensure facilities for patient care are of the highest standards.

We have raised over 50% of our Going for Gold target, but we need support to reach our goal! There are so many ways you can help to raise funds - from sponsored activities, through to online shopping and donations. Find out more [here](#).



Head Of Nursing Haematology Thanks LIBRA

Carole Cobain-Patel, Head of Nursing Haematology at King's said: "Many of our patients are receiving high dose chemotherapy or going through bone marrow transplants. Thanks to LIBRA funding our Young Teenage Adult and End Of Life Rooms on the Derek Mitchell Unit now feature wall beds, enabling loved ones to stay and provide support. Calming wall art has also been installed, making the rooms less clinical, and enhanced bedhead panelling allows for our nurses to administer treatments even more efficiently.

"Thanks to the funding we have also been able to modernise the patient day room on the unit. It will provide a peaceful and healing environment where patients can spend time relaxing or meeting with loved ones. Enhancements include the addition of floor to ceiling windows, providing patients with a view across Ruskin Park. The enhancements are truly transformative and will hugely benefit our patients.

"We rely on the support of LIBRA and there are more exciting projects in the pipeline that we will soon require funds to fulfil. We hope that supporters will continue to raise much needed funds for LIBRA's Going for Gold Campaign as this will make a real difference to patients with blood cancers and blood disorders."

Photo Gallery







Corporate Giving: How Your Business Can Make A Positive Difference

By working in partnership with LIBRA, your business can help to change the lives of patients with blood cancers and blood disorders today and in the future. Corporate donations, payroll giving and event sponsorships are a fantastic source of support for our Charity. Every penny you donate benefits the haematology department at King's.

Donating to LIBRA could make a big difference to you and your employees. Fundraising can be a great way to build team morale and have fun, while helping LIBRA at the same time. You can get involved during or outside office hours – it could simply be a dress down Friday, or the whole team taking on a fun challenge for sponsorship.

If you are in need of some inspiration, please visit our website or email our team to request a fundraising pack today.

STAY CONNECTED



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