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The Odyssey Ball returns: Kingsclere Cancer Research Fundraiser launches 2026 event with exciting new partnership

Kingsclere, Hampshire Tickets are now on sale for *The Odyssey Ball*, Kingsclere Cancer Research Fundraiser's (KCRF) highly anticipated third charity ball in support of **Cancer Research UK (CRUK)**. The event will take place on **Friday, 4 September 2026**, and marks the beginning of a new partnership with the CRUK-funded **Southampton Clinical Trials Unit (SCTU)**, part of the University of Southampton.

Following two sold-out events in 2022 and 2024, which raised over **£80,000** and welcomed more than **500 guests**, the 2026 ball promises another unforgettable evening, with all proceeds going directly to support the life-saving work of the **SCTU**.

A Community-Driven Cause with Global Impact

"Preparations for this year's event are ramping up, and once again we need our community to help us," said **Beccy Preston, Chair of KCRF**. "We can't do this without you. At heart, the ball is a community event with a global reach." Whether by **buying a ticket, making a donation, or becoming a sponsor**, supporters can make a real difference. Tickets and donation options are available now via the KCRF website: 🖱️ <https://kingsclerecrf.org.uk>

"We are calling on local, national, and international businesses to get involved," added **Claire Ellis, Deputy Chair**. "From sponsoring the event and donating auction prizes to booking tables, this is an opportunity to support a great cause while raising the profile of your business."

A New Partnership to Accelerate Cancer Research

KCRF is proud to announce that all funds raised in 2026 will go to the **Southampton Clinical Trials Unit**, a world-class facility at the forefront of developing new cancer treatments.

“It gives us enormous pleasure to nominate SCTU to be the recipient of the funds raised in aid of CRUK,” said **Sean Cleghorn, Secretary of KCRF**. “We’ve developed a close relationship with the team and have seen first-hand the importance of their work in advancing cancer trials.”

Professor Gareth Griffiths, Director of the SCTU, said: “We are so pleased that KCRF has recognised the work we do as a vital part of the journey to beat cancer. Their support, including sharing personal stories and highlighting trial opportunities, is invaluable and enables us to do research that detects cancer earlier and find new ways to treat patients.”

Mandy Keable, Treasurer of KCRF, echoed this commitment:

“We believe that funding scientific research is the key to beating this disease. We want to help ensure that fewer people face the fear of diagnosis and the pain of treatment. Ultimately, we want to help find a cure for cancer.”

Why It Matters

Thanks to breakthroughs in research, UK cancer survival rates have **doubled** since the 1970s. But the challenge remains urgent:

- **1 in 2 people** in the UK will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime
- Over **2.5 million people** are currently living with the effects of a diagnosis
- That number is expected to rise to **4 million by 2030**

Every ticket purchased, every donation made, and every sponsor that steps forward brings us closer to a cure.

Get Involved



Buy tickets, donate, or learn more about us:

<https://kingsclerecrf.org.uk>



For sponsorship and media enquiries:

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Follow us on social media for updates and behind-the-scenes previews.

<https://www.facebook.com/KingsclereCRF>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/kingsclere-crf>

<https://www.instagram.com/kingsclerecrf>

About

Kingsclere Cancer Research Fundraiser (KCRF) was formed in 2022 as a non-profit community group to raise funds to provide support for research into cancer and raising awareness of the disease. From a number of events, including two successful balls in 2022 and 2024, KCRF has raised over £80,000 in aid of Cancer Research UK (CRUK). More information about our stories, previous events, partners and opportunities to work with us can be found at kingsclerecrf.org.uk. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

The Southampton Clinical Trials Unit (SCTU) is a Cancer Research UK (CRUK) core-funded CTU with expertise in the design, conduct and analysis of interventional, multi-centre clinical trials. The CTU is based within the University of Southampton with offices at the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust Southampton General Hospital site. The unit is part of the NIHR Research Support Service University of Southampton Hub and partners in the NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre. For more information, visit the [SCTU website](#) and follow SCTU on social media, @SouthamptonCTU.

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) is the world's leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research, influence and information.

- Cancer Research UK's pioneering work into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer has helped save millions of lives.
- Cancer Research UK has been at the heart of the progress that has already seen survival in the UK double in the last 50 years.
- Today, 2 in 4 people survive their cancer for at least 10 years. Cancer Research UK wants to accelerate progress and see 3 in 4 people surviving their cancer by 2034.
- Cancer Research UK supports research into the prevention and treatment of cancer through the work of over 4,000 scientists, doctors and nurses.
- Together with its partners and supporters, Cancer Research UK is working towards a world where people can live longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer.