



www.buckinghamwinslow.co.uk

# Charity patron in TV fundraising launch

A FAMOUS actress has lent her support to a local charity on national TV this week.

Sheila Hancock appeared on Lorraine Kelly's ITV show LK Today on Monday morning in her role as patron of Padbury charity Ali's Dream.

Her appearance was to launch a national campaign to raise £1 million a year for research at the Brain Tumour Research centre of excellence at the University of Portsmouth - where Ms Hancock is chancellor.

Ali's Dream is one of 18 member charities of Brain Tumour Research, also based in Padbury. Along with another children's brain tumour charity, Charlie's Challenge, Ali's Dream has already pledged £400,000 towards the funding of the centre of excellence.

Ms Hancock became an Ali's Dream patron after her grandson Jack underwent brain tumour surgery at just four years old, in 1999.

Fortunately, Jack's tumour turned out to be low-grade and,

after five years of follow-up scans, he was given the all-clear at the age of nine.

Sadly, seven-year-old Alison Phelan, the niece of Ali's Dream founder Sue Farrington-Smith, was not so lucky. Her tumour was untreatable and Ali died just before her eighth birthday.

But a special children's nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital unwittingly forged a link between the two women. Known at work as 'Harry', Sharon Taylor nursed both Ali and Jack while they were in hospital.

Sharon said: "It was a real privilege to nurse both Jack and Ali, and of course all the children I have nursed over the years. I am proud to be involved with Ali's Dream and think it is fantastic that the charity is leading the way in brain tumour research."

Launching the campaign, Sheila Hancock said: "We were incredibly lucky Jack's tumour was low-grade and he lives a normal healthy life now, but it is terrible to watch a family mem-

ber go through the diagnosis and treatment of a brain tumour."

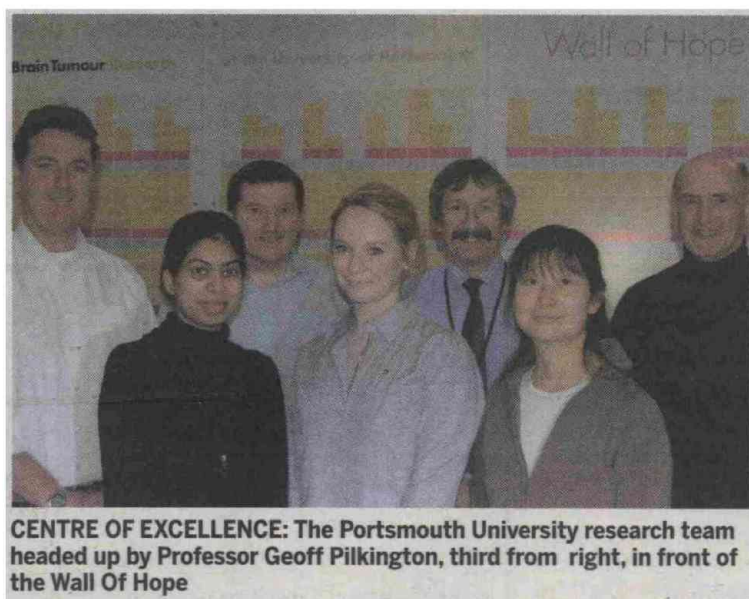
She is calling on businesses, organisations and individuals to fund brain tumour research at the centre by sponsoring a day of research for £2,740, which will be recognised by a commemorative plaque on the centre's Wall Of Hope, as well as on the Brain Tumour Research website.

The centre, under the leadership of Professor Geoff Pilkington, is one of seven planned in Brain Tumour Research's Centres of Hope campaign to address the serious underfunding of research into brain tumours, which are the biggest cancer killer of children and adults under the age of 40 in the UK.

Ms Hancock said: "I implore you to get involved and buy as many days as you can on the Wall Of Hope to support vital research here at the University of Portsmouth's centre of excellence."

Find out more at [www.brain-tumourresearch.org](http://www.brain-tumourresearch.org)





**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE: The Portsmouth University research team headed up by Professor Geoff Pilkington, third from right, in front of the Wall Of Hope**