

The Proton Effect

Press Release

11 April 08

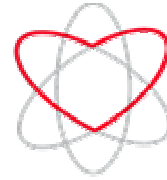
Jackie Jennings back on track with holiday plans already made

At long last Jackie Jennings' life is back to normal and with plans for her summer holiday in the West Country already made, the promise of a relaxing time is on the horizon. Three years ago this Kidderminster school catering assistant was diagnosed with a life threatening cancerous tumour at the base of her skull and faced a race against time to raise funds for pioneering proton beam therapy in Boston that has subsequently saved her life.

The determined 43 year old from Hurcott secured £75,000 from Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust in 2006 but still needed a further £25,000 to make the essential trip to the States where doctors at the Massachusetts General Hospital were waiting to try to save her life.

Friends and relatives launched the Jackie Jennings Appeal, which led an amazing programme of fund raising events. Their efforts swiftly gathered unbelievable levels of attention and attracted incredible support and determination from all those within the local community, as well as on a national level too.

Former Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant and fellow musician Mike Sanchez – personal friends of Jackie's who supported her at regular press conferences – played a huge role within the community effort, which included a number of fundraising events, and they shared headline billing at the December concert at Kidderminster Town Hall.



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Jackie's treatment has been successful and the tumour is now dormant but as with any former cancer patient, Jackie still has to undergo regular check ups. The good news is that with a 95% success rate recorded for this type of treatment, the future looks bright.

Due to the tremendous success of the Jackie Jennings Appeal, the friends who helped raise the money have now launched The Proton Effect Charity, with full support from Jackie. The Proton Effect will continue to hold fund raising events and support and assist other local worthwhile cancer causes with the proceeds. The short and long terms plans of this newly registered charity will be finalised at a meeting held this week amongst Trustees who are keen to reveal their plans as soon as possible, including the launch of the new website www.theprotoneffect.org

"It's like it happened to somebody else," Jackie comments. "My family life has settled down again and my daughter Nicole and husband Paul are mighty relieved.

"However, inevitably, I do look at life very differently now. People get so worked up about things that really aren't that important in the grand scheme of life. Maybe I used to be like that but not anymore. I relish every day and enjoy every moment. I am forever in the debt of all those who helped me get over to Boston and am delighted that the Proton Effect Charity is set to help others suffering from cancer."

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Note to Editors:

Please do not change any of the medical terms contained within the release, without our written permission.

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