



Neath Castle to be lit purple for pancreatic cancer awareness

Neath Castle will glow with purple light from Monday, 12th November 2018 as part of the **Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer** campaign. Organised by individuals affected by the disease, the campaign is a way to remember loved ones lost to pancreatic cancer, as well as celebrate the lives of those who have survived and raise vital awareness of the disease during Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer is supported by charities Pancreatic Cancer UK, Pancreatic Cancer Action, Pancreatic Cancer Scotland, Planets and Guts UK. The campaign involves the act of lighting purple focal points in villages, towns and cities all over the UK in November, which is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

Almost 10,000 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the UK each year. Sadly, less than 7% of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer survive five years or more, and despite being the UK's fifth biggest cancer killer, the disease receives less than 3% of UK cancer research funding.

Cllr Mark Protheroe, Neath Town Council Mayor said: "We are delighted to be raising awareness of this dreadful disease, which is particularly personal to me, by taking part in the **Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer** campaign. We hope that by lighting up Neath Castle in purple, we will help put a spotlight on a disease that many people still know so very little about."

Nic Dakin, MP for Scunthorpe and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Pancreatic Cancer said: "Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer is a striking and effective way to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer in November. 24 people die a day from pancreatic cancer and the disease has the lowest survival rate of the 20 common cancers, so it is vital that people find out more about it. We'd like to thank all those who are supporting the campaign and helping to light up the UK in purple this November."

If you would like to take part or find out more about Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer, please visit purplelightsuk.org or e-mail info@purplelights.org.uk.



Notes to editors:

For further information please contact:-

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About pancreatic cancer

- Pancreatic cancer is the fifth deadliest cancer in the UK. Around 10,000 people are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer per year in the UK. That's 27 people every day.
- The five-year survival rate is less than 7%.
- Relative survival to one year is less than 20% and the UK has one of the worst rates in Europe.
- Pancreatic cancer receives less than 3% of overall cancer research funding in the UK.
- Only 10% of patients are eligible for potentially curative surgery due to late diagnosis.
- Patients able to have surgery to remove the tumour have up to a 30 per cent chance of surviving five years.
- Nearly half of people are diagnosed as an emergency in our A&E system.
- The average life expectancy on diagnosis is four to six months.
- It is the UK's 11th most common cancer.

About Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer:

Purple Lights for pancreatic cancer is a national campaign supported by UK charities who call upon supporters to organise for venues, landmarks and buildings in the UK to light up purple during the Month of November to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer.

Participating charities

Pancreatic Cancer UK <http://www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk>

Pancreatic Cancer Action www.panact.org

Pancreatic Cancer Scotland <https://www.pancanscot.org>

Guts UK <https://gutscharity.org.uk>

Planets <http://www.planetscharity.org>