**Macmillan & S.U.R.E. Taunton cancer patients to benefit from total £3,600 donated by local Freemasons – Queen’s College Taunton Lodge No. 6988.**

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Recently, H. Geoffrey Dolling, the outgoing ‘Worshipful Master’ of **the Queen’s College Taunton Lodge No. 6988**, was delighted to present cheques of £1,800 each at the **Beacon Centre**, Musgrove Park Hospital, to **Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment (S.U.R.E)** and to **Macmillan Cancer Support**. Pictured receiving their cheques are Vanessa Marchmont, Secretary of S.U.R.E. and Jill Clarke, Cancer Information and Support Officer for Macmillan.

**Geoffrey said “Like most masonic lodges, when we meet (and Queen’s Lodge only meets four times a year) we raise funds, usually by raffle with the emphasis on donating to a local charity/charities nominated by our current ‘Master’. The past year has been a challenging one for me personally in dealing with illness generally and in particular, a cancer which entailed several weeks of intensive radiotherapy. My wife and I have been immensely impressed and so grateful for the friendly, caring support received at the Beacon Centre throughout this ordeal. In deciding which deserving local cause should benefit from the money we raised during my year in office, it was natural for me to choose these charities of whose wonderful work we should all be very proud.”**

**Geoffrey will install his successor, Alan Watkins, a former Queen’s parent, on 17th March.**

**Macmillan Cancer Support** (<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI_of_scLu2QIVhJUbCh1UUwvKEAAYASAAEgJbOPD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds>) needs little introduction. Since Douglas Macmillan founded the charity in 1911, it has grown to be one of the UK’s leading sources of cancer support – a household name.

 **Somerset Unit for Radiotherapy Equipment** (<http://www.surecharity.org.uk/>) or **SURE** - a local cancer charity founded in 2000 whose aim is to support cancer services at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton. Over forty items of advanced technology have been funded by SURE. Fund raisers give their time freely so 99.5p of every pound donated is available. As a result of the initiative most patients no longer have to travel to Bristol for treatment. **Paul Alway**, Chair of SURE says “the donation will be used towards funding additional software called **‘Resolve’\*** for one of the Musgrove Park MRI scanners. This will cost around £13,000 including maintenance, so your donation will go a good way towards that”.

**Paul offers a brief explanation (edited) of what the \*Resolve\* software does and why it will be particularly benefit prostate patients**.

*“MRI has always given excellent anatomical images, but for the last 10 years or so a new sequence,* ***‘diffusion’****, has been used to give extra functional information. In particular, the* ***‘diffusion sequence’*** *helps to detect cancer and to distinguish it from other tissues. However,* ***‘diffusion’*** *is a technically challenging sequence to get right – it is prone to aspects which reduce the quality of the images.* ***Resolve*** *is a software enhancement which Siemens have released to improve the quality of ‘diffusion sequences’. It has been tested at Musgrove and found to make a huge improvement in the quality of images and thus the diagnostic benefit of the scans.* ***Diffusion MRI******is most often used for prostate.******‘Diffusion’*** *is a vital sequence within prostate MRI for detecting small tumours within the gland which might be invisible on the more conventional sequences. However, prostate MRI remains technically challenging and the addition of* ***Resolve*** *software will make a big difference to diagnostic efficacy – even more important if there is a national push to use MRI to actually avoid the need for prostate biopsy in certain situations.*

*In 2017, SURE funded the purchase of additional functionality (cost £32,000) to enable MRI Ultrasound Fusion on the equipment used for prostate biopsies, improving the accuracy of biopsy targeting. The funding of the* ***Resolve*** *software will complete the project to enable world class prostate cancer diagnosis at Musgrove Park – a Centre of Excellence.*

*Examples of other tumour sites where we routinely use* ***diffusion MRI*** *sequences are bladder, cervix, endometrium, liver, breast and whole body MRI; the addition of* ***Resolve*** *will improve image quality and diagnosis accuracy – meaning fewer biopsies, fewer follow-up scans and less uncertainty”.*

***If anyone has a particular interest in this subject, I commend the websites above and I will happily copy on Paul’s full email as well. RB.***

***FOOTNOTE: It seems…. “Musgrove Park Hospital needs a new MRI scanner”…. https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/lovemusgrove/mrimillion***