

### HELLO EVERYONE

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. And so we say goodbye to Summer and, hopefully to the worst of the pandemic. In recent weeks we have noticed that business in general is beginning to move forward to a new normal. Of course, that doesn't make it any easier for the many thousands of people coping with a new primary or secondary cancer diagnosis, interrupted or delayed treatment, or caring for a loved one, and, on top of this trying to manage their work, deal with colleagues and reassure worried spouses, children, friends and relatives.



**So, let's start on an upbeat note with a blog by Harmer Parr** about living with malignant melanoma and the philosophy by which he lives. A personal tragedy some years ago now makes it easier for him to think 'why not me?' than 'why me?' Harmer is a former teacher and Ofsted inspector and published an article here on our website in 2017.

#### In this issue we also include:

- A blog by Sara Casemore, the Managing Director of a small mental health charity who talks about the challenges of managing cancer during Covid on a restricted sick leave allowance
- An article about coping with cancer and redundancy now that the furlough scheme has ended. We have also provided a link to a BBC website which has lots of useful information about how you might manage the end of furlough if you are in a difficult situation.
- An update about speaking engagements in the UK and Europe, including our involvement with the Advanced Breast Cancer Global Alliance in a new campaign to raise awareness on what it means to be an advanced breast cancer patient who is working or trying to work.
- And news about our upcoming free and paid for workshops and masterclasses.

### WORKING WITH CANCER® WORKSHOPS

There are 3 more workshops planned until the end of this year:

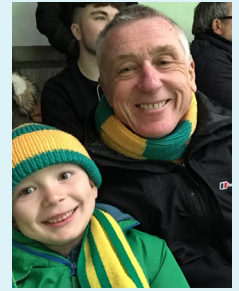
1. 'Managing advanced cancer and work' on 28 October
2. 'The challenges of managing work and cancer' on 16 November
3. 'Work and cancer masterclass' on 2 December.

Book your place for any of these workshops directly on Eventbrite [here](#).



### BRING ME SUNSHINE! LIVING WITH A MELANOMA CALLED MELVYN

Harmer Parr



Two years ago, I wrote an article for WWC's website about my adventures with Melvyn the Melanoma. In 2017, he'd come back for a third visit, seemingly on a ten-year orbit. This visit was my invitation to the departure lounge, as he'd sprinkled his stardust into a couple more locations. Life expectancy seemed to be about 18 months. Time for a coffee or two, at least, before heading for the exit. Perhaps even a Danish pastry. I'd had nearly two years of treatment when I wrote the article, in July 2019. The first treatment didn't please my liver at all... To read more [click here](#).

### THE END OF FURLOUGH, REDUNDANCY, AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CANCER SURVIVORS

Genevieve Isaacson



At the end of September 2021, the Furlough scheme came to an end at which point there were 1.8 million people still claiming furlough, equating to 1 in 20 people who were active in the workforce.....

The pertinent question then is: what now? Many businesses will find themselves in a financial predicament after the furlough scheme has ended, where the only viable option might seem to be reducing the number of employees.....



For those going through cancer treatment or living with the after effects of cancer and/or treatment, these are very stressful, emotional and uncertain times. Knowing your rights is paramount as

employers are considering their options.

To read more, [click here](#).

### COVID: WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN FURLOUGH ENDS?

To read this BBC article which signposts readers to various sources of information and support [follow this link](#).



### CANCER DURING COVID AND MY GAME OF SICK LEAVE ROULETTE

Sarah Casemore

In April 2020 at the start of Covid-19 lockdown, aged 48 with 2 teenage sons, I felt a lump in my left breast in

what can only be described as feeling like a hard lemon pip whilst putting my bra on. In the following days, my anxiety grew as did my insomnia knowing what the outcome of this newly discovered lump might be.

All GP appointments had ceased being face to face, and a request for a call back from a doctor to discuss the lump turned into a wait of several days. When I did get to speak to one, I was told it was “unlikely to be anything serious, probably just a cyst as most are” and was advised to put a warm compress on my breast which should ease things.

From 25 years of working both clinically as a physiotherapist and later in management, I was disappointed by this response but appreciated the pressure that healthcare services were facing. To read more, [click here](#).

### SPEAKING ABOUT WORK AND CANCER: UK AND EUROPE

#### UK

**Buckinghamshire Healthcare:** On 12th October Isabel van der Ven ran an online session for patients about managing work and cancer.

**Society of Occupational Medicine:** On 20th October Maggie Newton will be running a [Webinar for the Society of Occupational Medicine](#) about supporting cancer patients at work in a COVID-19 world. The webinar is free for SOM members.

**ENEI:** On 2nd November Maggie Newton is running a workshop for members of the ENEI on [Understanding the Challenges of](#)



#### Managing Work and Cancer.

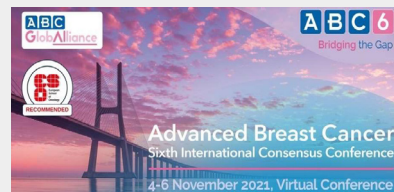
**This Can Happen:** I will be part of a panel at the annual [This Can Happen conference](#) on 16/17 November discussing the mental health impact of cancer. Also on the panel are Emma Holden, Global Head of HR at Schroders and Tara McGovern Head of Recruitment and Career Development for the Metropolitan Police.

#### EUROPE

**Working With Advanced Breast Cancer:** WWC is working with The Advanced Breast Cancer Global Alliance on an awareness campaign ‘Uncovered: The truth about working with advanced breast cancer’ focused on goal number 10 of the [ABC Global Charter](#): to help patients with advanced breast cancer (ABC) continue to work by implementing legislation that protects their right to work and ensures flexible and accommodating workplace



environments. The results of the campaign will be shared at the ABC6: International conference from 4 to 6th November 2021 (see below).



**EPP Podcast for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.** In September I took part in a podcast for the [European People’s Party](#) along with Irish MEP Deidre Clune and Isabel Rubio, President of Eusoma. You can listen to the podcast [here](#).

**1st International Conference on Living With Cancer After Cancer.** On Wednesday 20th October I will be speaking about how best to support those with cancer returning to work: ‘Is the Integration of Cancer Patients into the Workplace Sufficiently Addressed?’ More info [here](#).

**ABC6 International conference** from 4 to 6th November 2021. On 6th November I will be co-chairing with Professor Dame Lesley Fallowfield and Dr Olivia Pagani a session on ‘Who’s caring for the carers?’ The speakers are Professor Theresa Wiseman, Dr Michael Braun and Luzia Travado. More information can be found [here](#).

### AND FINALLY ....

WWC is always happy to arrange speakers for conferences and events - if you would like to book us for an event, do please [contact us](#). And if you would like further information about our services please contact: [admin@workingwithcancer.co.uk](mailto:admin@workingwithcancer.co.uk) or call 07910 835585.