

PRESS RELEASE

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Lyell Centre professor 'Braves the Shave' for Macmillan Cancer Support

The Lyell Centre's Prof Andrew Sweetman has raised a significant sum of money for the charity Macmillan Cancer Support by agreeing to have his head completely shaved.

The big day took place last week. Andrew, who received support from friends, family and colleagues at both the Lyell Centre and Heriot-Watt University, raised £1600 via his 'shave page'. Andrew's original target was £400 but, as this was exceeded in just over 48 hours, he decided to increase the target to £1000. This means, in total, he raised £1200 more than he had originally hoped to.

Andrew is professor of deep-sea ecology and leads the Deep-sea Ecology and Biogeochemistry Research Group at the Lyell Centre. He said: 'This year has been extremely challenging for everyone around the world due to the ongoing pandemic, but for many people in my life and others around the world who are suffering from cancer, things have been even tougher. By 'Braving the Shave' I tried to help and do what I could for cancer support to help those going through similar struggles.

'I'm very grateful to all who have donated and provided support for this challenge. I guess that there were more people out there than I thought who were interested seeing what I may look like at 60!'

Pauline Macmillan, senior fundraising manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, South and East Scotland, said: 'What a fantastic amount of money Andrew has raised. We can't thank Andrew enough for his support and to all those who donated, to help us improve the lives of countless people with cancer.

'Macmillan has experienced a sharp drop in income this year, just as people living with cancer worry about disruption to their care and treatment. Our aim is to be there for everyone – practically, emotionally and financially – when they're diagnosed, but that's impossible without supporters like Andrew.'

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Notes for Editors

The Lyell Centre

The Lyell Centre is a strategic partnership between Heriot-Watt University and the British Geological Survey, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Scottish Funding Council and Heriot-Watt University. The partnership enables them to work together combining their expertise in geoscience. Exploring themes ranging from geology and geophysics to marine ecosystems, the centre's combination of pure and applied expertise employs innovative methods and technologies to society's most important environmental science and energy challenges.

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