

An incredible year!

Sir Bobby Robson celebrates his charity's first anniversary.

Sir Bobby and Lady Elsie saw the New Year in at the Crystal Ball fundraising event in Durham with local girl band Bad Lashes



Phenomenal Fundraising

The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation celebrated its first anniversary in March 2009 and the football legend took the opportunity to reflect on a hugely successful year for his cancer charity.

Launched by Sir Bobby in response to a request for help from his oncologist, Professor Ruth Plummer, the charity has already raised more than £1.2 million to fight cancer in the region and fundraising is still going strong.

On a daily basis donations for small amounts are received on the justgiving website – often accompanied by touching messages of support – and there have also been major fundraising events which have substantially boosted the appeal total.

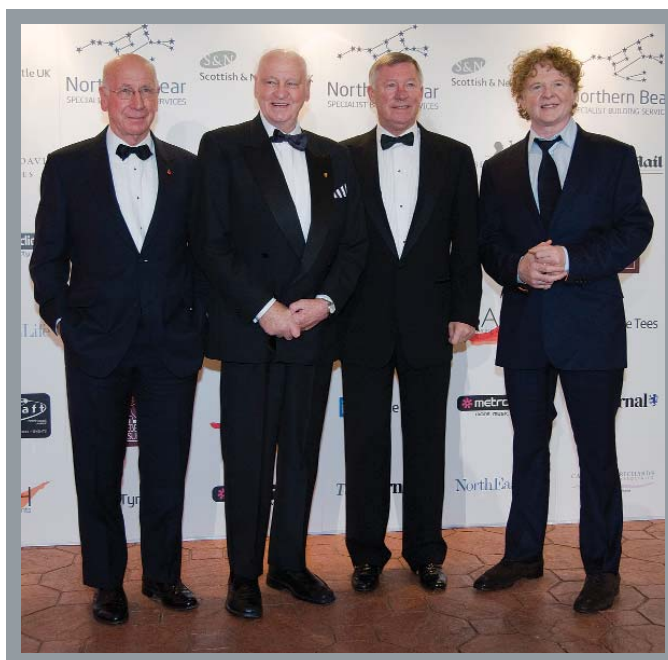
In October 2008, Sir Bobby was joined by fellow football icons Sir Alex Ferguson and Sir Bobby Charlton as well as Simply Red singer Mick Hucknall at a sell out fundraiser in County Durham.

The Night of All Knights was held at Rainton Meadows Arena in Houghton-le-Spring and, as well as being an unforgettable night for the 1,050 people who attended, the evening raised an incredible £173,500.

Sir Bobby and his wife Lady Elsie then went on to round off 2008 in style by joining guests and North East girl band Bad Lashes at the Crystal Ball, the New Years Eve fundraiser at the new Radisson SAS Hotel in Durham.

Aside from the glitz and celebrities, it has also been a year of bucket collections, golf competitions, brass band concerts, garden open days, numerous sponsored challenges and many other fundraising efforts.

The majority of money raised has come from within Sir Bobby's native North East but donations have also come in from football fans all over the country and abroad - and from as far afield as Singapore.



▲ In October 2008 Sir Bobby was joined by football legends Sir Bobby Charlton, Sir Alex Ferguson and singer Mick Hucknall at the Night of All Knights in Houghton-le-Spring.

Launch of the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre

The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation's initial target of £500,000 was required to equip a cancer trials research centre at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital.



▲ The Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre opened in February 2009 and Sir Bobby and Lady Elsie were joined at the launch by guests including Fabio Capello, Alan Shearer and Peter Beardsley.

Incredibly this figure was reached just seven weeks after the charity launch and the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre opened in February 2009 to treat patients from across the North East, North Yorkshire and Cumbria.

Guests at the Centre launch included Newcastle United legends Alan Shearer and Peter Beardsley and England football manager Fabio Capello who presented a cheque on behalf of the Football Association for £75,000.

Speaking at the opening, Sir Bobby says: "I'm very grateful to the FA for their extremely generous support and to Fabio for delivering the donation in person. I know from experience that he has a very demanding job and for him to take the time to visit us personally speaks volumes about his character.

"This is a particularly proud day for everyone involved in The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. And by that I don't just mean myself, my wife Lady Elsie and the charity committee and Centre staff.

"Every single person who has made a donation to the Foundation, sponsored a friend or workmate or organised a fundraising event should be very proud too. This new Centre is our first major achievement together and it will make a huge difference to the experts who are working hard to find new treatments for cancer."

Sir Bobby added: "When we set out this time last year we had a one very clear first aim and that was to raise the money Ruth needed for this new state-of-the-art cancer trials research centre.

"To achieve that goal so quickly was simply beyond our wildest dreams. It was incredible to see the money flood in like it did. The support for my charity has been phenomenal and I have to say I've been very touched by it.

"But we didn't want to stop there or limit what we could achieve and thanks to the generosity of every single person who has contributed we've now gone on to raise more than £1.2 million pounds.

"That means we've been able to fund two very important research posts, a doctor and a nurse, as well as equipping what must be the best cancer trials research centre in Europe - and we can still do more.

"I said I'd give it a year but I'm still going, still fighting. It's not always easy but through this charity I've met some wonderful people, some very faithful people, and as long as the commitment and belief is there I'll continue to help for as long as I can.

"I understand one in three of us will be diagnosed with cancer in our lives, which is a horrific statistic. By giving our support to the experts who are working hard to find new treatments for this disease we will help improve those odds.

"With us all pulling together we can do something very special here - fighting cancer in the North East of England for the benefit of everyone who will be affected by this terrible disease wherever they live."

Constructed by the Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust in partnership with the Northern Institute for Cancer Research and Newcastle University, the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre is at the forefront of research into cancer.

The clinical research team offers patients access to early trials and potential new treatments and works closely with the Imaging Research Centre to improve diagnosis and study the effects of new drugs, which are often 'first in human' trials.

They also coordinate trials of new drugs at later stages of development, working with the National Cancer Networks to ensure patients get offered the best options for treatment.

Professor Ruth Plummer, oncologist, says: "The positive impact that Sir Bobby has created in setting up this charity has been incredible.

"His generosity and commitment, and that of the people of the North East and beyond, means that this new centre can lead in training a new generation of clinical researchers as well as helping the search for better treatments."



To make a donation, view messages of support, or for more information on The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, please visit www.sirbobbyrobsonfoundation.co.uk or donate by sending a cheque to Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, PO Box 307, Heaton, NE7 7QG.

All donors will receive a personalised certificate and a letter of thanks from Sir Bobby.