

'Make saving Sarah's life your Christmas cause'

by Russell Butt

A MUM and dad have launched an appeal to raise money to help their daughter get treatment for a rare form of cancer.

Yvonne and Rod Henkun, of Brooksby Close, Blackwater, created the Saving Sarah appeal to help generate funds to cover the costs of urgent treatment for 34-year-old Sarah Yau.

Sarah, who married husband Ray just over a year ago at the Lismoyn Hotel in Fleet, was recently diagnosed with neuroendocrine cancer.

Now the family are racing to get enough money to send her to specialists in Germany.

Sarah, of Corfe Way, Farnborough, was told in April that she was pregnant.

However, the scan discovered she actually had a large cyst, which needed to be removed along with an ovary.

Having been told initially that the cyst was benign, a

subsequent visit to the hospital delivered the devastating news that Sarah had cancer.

She was diagnosed with cancer in her pelvis and signs of a tumour on her liver.

Chemotherapy treatment she had started receiving in the UK was halted because it was, Sarah was told, no longer having any effect and also, that the cancer was inoperable in case it spread.

The only solution, they were told, was to try to shrink the cancer.

Neuroendocrine Tumour (NETs), is the same form of cancer that was developed by professional snooker player Paul Hunter, who died last month.

Although this is a terminal form of the disease, there are treatments and medical procedures available outside the UK, which would help to prolong and increase the quality of Sarah's life.

A procedure, called Chemoembolization, involves injecting drugs directly into the arteries to cut off blood supply

to the tumour. In two-thirds of cases of liver cancer treated through Chemoembolization, the tumours have either stopped growing or diminished.

Sarah has visited the Leonardis Klinik in Bad Heilbrunn, Germany, a specialist oncology clinic near Munich, where the treatments she needs are available.

Her consultation alone at the clinic cost her more than £1,300, on top of the costs of travel involved in getting there.

Patients are required to remain at the clinic for two weeks and the treatment is likely to run into thousands of pounds.

Yvonne said: "It's heart-breaking that there is treatment available for Sarah, but we are unable to fund it."

"I wish we didn't have to ask for help. It's a nightmare, you just wouldn't expect this situation to happen."

Sarah's family launched a website to try to help generate funds through people who may be moved enough by Sarah's

story, to want to make a small online contribution towards giving her the best possible future.

All Sarah's family and friends are doing what they can to contribute.

Her 30-year-old brother Alex, along with eight friends, will be running the Fleet Half Marathon next year. Her nephew is going to do the Three Peaks Challenge and other people are holding car boot sales and raffles over the coming weeks.

Alan Gallop, a lifelong friend of Yvonne, who has helped Sarah's parents raise the profile of the appeal, said: "People are often charitable at this time of year. Maybe if there are people out there looking for a worthy cause to support this Christmas, they'll choose Sarah's."

Sarah flew to Munich for another consultation last week and her parents have placed a 10,000 euro (£6,780) deposit on forthcoming treatment.

Yvonne and Rod had hoped to hold a dinner and dance to raise funds, but had struggled



Sarah and Ray got married in Fleet a year ago. Now they and their friends and family are going back to the place they celebrated to raise money to fund urgent treatment for her cancer.

to find a suitable venue until they remembered the Lismoyn Hotel, where Sarah

and Ray had been married. The hotel was only too happy to help out, offering

their hall free of charge and the food at cost price. The function is now sche-

duled for January. To buy tickets, visit Sarah's website, www.sarahyau.co.uk.