21 April 2015

PRESS CALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME &amp; DATE:</th>
<th>From 11am to 3pm, Saturday 25 April 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOCATION:</td>
<td>Truro Cathedral and walking around city centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUBJECT:</td>
<td>Awareness raising, fundraising and pug hugs</td>
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<td>PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:</td>
<td>Members of Cornwall Pug Club will be handing out awareness information and raising funds to fight back against meningitis with their four-legged friends. Pugs will be dressed in orange – the charity’s brand colour, in memory of Cornwall student Teygan Sugrue.</td>
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COME AND HUG A PUG FOR CHARITY IN THE CITY CENTRE

Cornwall Pug Club will be taking the meningitis cause to the streets on Saturday 25 April.

Based near the cathedral, they will be giving out signs and symptoms cards to passers-by and encouraging the public to spare their loose change in return for a hug with a Pug.

Kate Turner was inspired to support Meningitis Now after 19-year-old university student Teygan Sugrue, from Cornwall, died from meningitis in November, whilst studying at the University of Manchester.

Kate said: “My son, Ben, contracted meningococcal septicaemia in January 2013 aged 16, which brought home to us that it is not just young children that are at risk of this awful disease. When I learned about Teygan, it really made me appreciate how lucky we are that Ben is still with us. My heart absolutely goes out to Teygan’s family and we now hope to help raise awareness and funds in his memory. As both families are members of Cornwall Pug Club, it seemed like a good idea to involve the dogs in our cause.”

Meningitis Now exists to save lives and rebuild futures by funding research, raising awareness and providing support to those fighting back from meningitis.

Its vision is a future where no one in the UK loses their life to the disease and everyone affected gets the support they need to rebuild their lives.

For more information, a free symptoms app or wallet-sized card, or to donate, visit www.MeningitisNow.org.
**Editors Notes:**

For further information please contact: Kelly Archer, Communications Officer at Meningitis Now, on 01453 769030, out of hours 07960 706661, or email kelly@meningitisnow.org

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**Meningitis and Septicaemia Facts**

- Meningitis is usually caused by bacteria or viruses
- Meningitis is inflammation of the membranes that surround and protect the brain and spinal cord
- Septicaemia is blood poisoning
- Some bacteria that cause meningitis also cause septicaemia
- Meningitis and septicaemia often happen together – it is vital to know all the signs and symptoms
- The early signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia can be similar to ‘flu and include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting and muscle pain.
- The more specific signs and symptoms include fever with cold hands and feet, drowsiness, confusion, pale blotchy skin, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights and a rash which doesn’t fade under pressure.
- In babies, symptoms can also include being floppy and unresponsive, dislike of being handled, rapid breathing, an unusual, moaning cry and a bulging fontanelle (soft spot on the top of the head).
- There are an estimated 3,200 cases of bacterial meningitis and septicaemia each year in the UK.
- Following bacterial meningitis or septicaemia, one in ten people will die and at least a third of survivors will be left with lifelong after-effects such as hearing loss, epilepsy, limb loss or learning difficulties
- Meningitis and septicaemia can affect anyone, of any age, at any time. However, babies and young children are most at risk, and young people between 15 – 24 years are also a higher risk group.
- In the past 20 years, effective vaccines have been developed to give protection against **SOME** types of meningitis. These are offered to all babies and young children as part of the UK childhood immunisation programme. **BUT** there are not vaccines to protect against **ALL** types.
- A vaccine to protect against meningococcal group B (Men B) disease, the most common cause of bacterial meningitis and septicaemia, will be introduced into the UK childhood immunisation programme in September 2015.
- If you suspect someone may be ill with meningitis or septicaemia, trust your instincts and get immediate medical help.

For more information visit [www.MeningitisNow.org](http://www.MeningitisNow.org) or call 01453 768006. Freephone helpline 0808 80 10 388.
About Meningitis Now

Meningitis Now, the UK’s largest charity fighting the disease, formed after Meningitis UK and Meningitis Trust merged in April 2013.

The newly united charity, with around 30 years’ experience exists to save lives and rebuild futures – through research, awareness and support.

Meningitis Now fights the disease on all fronts by providing a powerful, united voice for people fighting meningitis.

- Saving lives by funding vaccine and preventative research.
- Reducing the disease’s impact through awareness.
- Rebuilding futures with dedicated support.
- Fundraising to deliver our plans.