

# Campaign for widespread use of therapy treatment

# Father's crusade for a unique cancer cure

■ By Lily Canter

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**AFTER discovering a unique treatment which cured his daughter's cancer and could have saved his father, a man has vowed to prevent the tragedy happening to anyone else.**

David Longman set up the charity Killing Cancer from his home in Woodford to campaign for the widespread use of Photodynamic Therapy (PDT).

Two years later he has the support of broadcaster Sir David Frost, presenter Chris Tarrant and former model Linda Lusardi and is trying to raise £50m to develop the cancer treatment.

The process works with the use of a laser, or other light sources, combined with a light-sensitive drug to destroy cancer cells.

Mr Longman, a former advertising and PR employee, said: "I was sitting at my dad's hospital bedside as the life ebbed out of him. I had all the questions that everyone else has about why, what, how?"

"A couple of months later I was sitting in the National Medical Laser Centre at London's University College Hospital. I was searching for a treatment for my eldest daughter, Louise, who has a vascular tumour in her left arm.

"She had tried everything else that the NHS appeared to have to offer, other than radiotherapy, that would have melted the nerves, muscles and tendons in her arm.

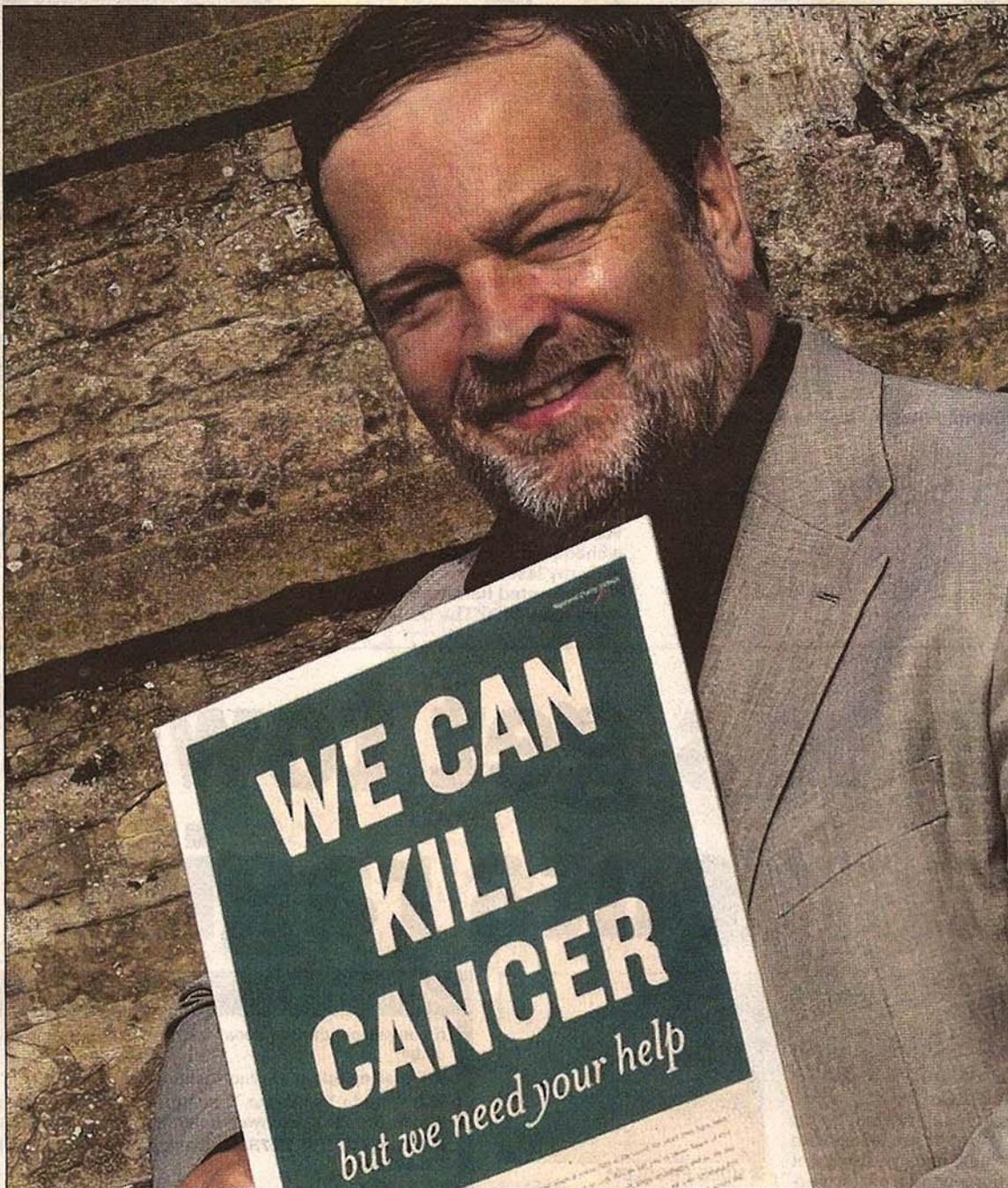
"Their recommendation in London for Louise was Photodynamic Therapy. It wouldn't involve heat and nor would it be a cocktail of drugs like chemo.

"I also told the medics the story of my dad. I asked them if PDT could have helped him. There was a silence in the room as both men looked at each other and then at me."

Using his father's inheritance Mr Longman set about launching a charity to raise funds to develop the treatment.

Mr Longman believes that it is a lack of financial backing which is preventing many health trusts from using the treatment.

He said: "PDT isn't a miracle cure, but it does have a role to play in the treatment of many people."



■ CAMPAIGN – David Longman is trying to raise £50m to develop the cancer treatment