



CAMPAIGN: Sturgeon

Sturgeon plea over screening

HEALTH secretary Nicola Sturgeon has told how a family cancer tragedy made her determined to spare others the ordeal.

Promoting a national bowel cancer screening drive, she said her gran was killed by the disease.

And her partner Peter Murrell's father received life-saving surgery after doctors detected the illness.

Sturgeon said: "It shows what a difference screening can make."

Health chiefs want 700,000 Scots aged 50-74 to take a home test using a kit every two years.

For more information, see www.bowelscreening.scot.nhs.uk

CHARITY HONOUR FOR BRAVE LITTLE BERNIE



THAT'S MY BOY:
Anne-Marie
with Bernard

Cancer tot, 3, fronts appeal

A THREE-YEAR-OLD cancer victim has become the face of a charity appeal to send sick kids to Lapland.

Brave Bernard Iliff has finally been allowed home after six months in hospital.

He made a remarkable recovery from a four-hour operation to remove a tumour from his stomach on March 13.

When diagnosed, he was given a 10 per cent chance of survival and then just 50 per cent chance of making it after surgery.

But within hours, Bernard was asking for a cup of tea and running around at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow.

Mum Anne-Marie, 29, of Sauchie, Clackmannanshire, said: "It's some sort of hidden strength inside Bernard. It's amazing."

Anne-Marie first discovered a lump on Bernard's neck in September and doctors soon found a mass in his

EXCLUSIVE

By Tristan Stewart-Robertson

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stomach – both were malignant. She said: "He started six months of chemo – we were not too sure how long he had."

"They tried to shrink the tumour with chemo but by Christmas it hadn't shrunk."

When the op finally went ahead, it was finished in less than half the expected time. The family, including dad Ray, 52, and siblings Daniella, 15, Brendan, eight, and Helen, 22 months, went up Ben Nevis to get their minds off the operation and panicked when they got an early phone call at 2pm.

Anne-Marie said: "I expected the worst. We all burst into tears."

Sandy Smith, who had started an appeal to help take youngsters to Lapland to meet Santa, was instantly charmed by Bernard.

He decided to rename the charity The Bernard Iliff Children's Dream Trip Of A Lifetime Campaign.

Sandy, 58, said: "You can't help fall in love with this wee boy."

TRISTAN STEWART-ROBERTSON

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