“Thank you for saving my life!”

A retired businessman who was last year diagnosed with throat cancer has donated £400 to the Colchester hospital whose staff saved his life.

Colin May of Crown Lane South, Ardleigh, has requested that the money be used for the benefit of cancer patients at Essex County Hospital, where he received all of his treatment and still attends for regular check-ups.

Following a diagnosis of throat cancer in May 2008, he had chemotherapy and radiotherapy but is now in remission.

Mr May, 68, said: “My wife Ann and I were astounded by the attention I was given and the way they looked after me. They were magnificent and saved my life.

“Everyone from Mr Arcot Maheswar, my ENT consultant, to the dedicated cleaners on Rhys Lewis Ward, who kept the place immaculate, were wonderful.”

A boating enthusiast of more than 40 years, Mr May, who keeps a 27ft motor cruiser at Fox’s Marina, Ipswich, raised £250 by selling boating and yachting equipment, such as sails. The other £150 came from his wife in appreciation of the care given to her husband.

The couple are both active members of the Colchester Head & Neck Cancer Support Group which was set up earlier this year for people whose lives have been affected by head and neck cancer.

Mr May has given a talk about his experiences to health care professionals and also supports newly-diagnosed patients by chatting with them and giving them practical tips on how to cope with their illness.

Sally Philpott, Head & Neck Nurse Specialist, said: “We are pleased that Colin has made so much progress over the past 18 months. We appreciate his kind words and the tangible way that he has shown his gratitude.

“It has been agreed with him that the £400 will be donated to the Mary Barron Suite at Essex County Hospital which is where outpatients go for chemotherapy.”

Mrs Philpott said that Mr May has indicated that he plans to continue fundraising in support of other cancer services at Essex County Hospital.

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