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"An amazing place with amazing people"

It's the place where Sylvia Hughes was very apprehensive to be referred to and yet within just a few short months, the Hospice of the Good Shepherd became her safe space, the place she feels loved, protected and cared for, and where she now feels part of a family.

Sylvia, from Ellesmere Port, was diagnosed with Stage 4 ovarian cancer in December 2021. Unable to take strong pain relief for the severe pain she experiences intermittently from her cancer, she was referred to the pain management experts at the hospice.

"I was really anxious when they told me I was being referred here," Sylvia recalls. "My first

thought was: 'Does this mean I haven't got long to live?'

"I was so scared that I actually didn't dare ask anyone whether that was the case! They were so lovely with me, though. They sorted out my pain relief and invited me to have a course of massage sessions with the hospice therapists. These sessions are offered as a course so that everyone gets a turn. They are absolutely fabulous."

In September 2021, just three months before her diagnosis, tragedy struck. "Our daughter passed away. It was such a stressful time for the family and as we were dealing with that, we had my diagnosis to cope with.

"Our son subsequently passed

away suddenly in June 2025. These tragedies devastated the family and despite my own diagnosis, I am the strong, positive one in all this: the support I continue to receive from everyone here at the hospice has made all the difference."

Both Sylvia and her husband have benefitted from the hospice's bereavement counselling services. "The counsellors are truly amazing and have been a Godsend during some really difficult times at home. Christine Ankers in particular has been amazing – a real lifeline for me and many others at the hospice.



Hospice service user, Sylvia Hughes.

Continued on page 6



Christmas Concert
Christmas favourites performed by Rhos Male Voice Choir, Chester Brass Band & The Hammond School.
Thursday 11th December
The Hammond School Theatre, Mannings Lane, Chester, CH2 4ES
Call 01244 305 350 or go to thehammond.co.uk

Please help us to continue supporting people like Sylvia by becoming a regular giver.

Learn more at hospicegs.com/donate



"Be proud of what you help us to achieve..."

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. You'll find pages of news and updates, and lots of information about forthcoming events.

There's no escaping the fact that Christmas is fast approaching so do look out for news of the ever-popular carol concert, which this year is being held in the theatre at the Hammond School, as well as details of the Santa Dash, Christmas Fair and the Christmas Card preview event. You'll find more information in the enclosed leaflets.

It's amazing and humbling just how much this hospice and the work we do means and matters to people and organisations across the local community we serve.

This edition showcases the lengths that people are prepared to go to just so that we can keep doing what we do so

well: providing the end-of-life experience that patients and their families want and deserve.

Read about Josh who is running 10 kilometres each and every day until he reaches his target distance of 5,000 kilometres – and that won't be till August next year! And there's Trish, a long-term supporter who faced the terror of a skydive at the age of 84 just to help the hospice.

So many people support us in so many different ways, always for their own reasons and never seeking recognition. We are immensely grateful: thank you all.

There are many examples in this newsletter of how we spend the money that you, our amazing supporters, raise and donate.

Every penny makes a massive difference. Don't take my word for it – just read what Sylvia has to say about the hospice team on page

one and how Alice feels about us on page seven. They tell you in their own words just what the hospice means to them. You can't fail to be moved.

That's what your support

enables us to do: isn't that something to be proud of?

Caroline Siddall

Caroline Siddall
Interim Chief Executive



Hospice Interim Chief Executive Caroline Siddall.

VIP's memorable visit

We welcomed a VIP visitor recently. Joëlle Warren MBE DL, the High Sheriff of Cheshire, met patients, staff and volunteers during her 'special' tour of the hospice.

Describing her visit as 'memorable' and 'inspiring', Joëlle met with patients and family members attending the weekly Coffee and Chat event at the hospice's Living Well centre. She heard first hand just how valued this weekly peer support service is by patients and loved ones.

Joëlle was then given a tour of the Inpatient Unit by Manager Debbie Evans, stopping to speak with several patients.

One of the highlights of the visit was a meeting with Living Well patient Sylvia Hughes who described at length the level of support she was receiving from

the hospice team including counselling, complementary therapies and attending the Coffee and Chat drop-in sessions.

Joëlle commented: "It was fabulous to see the breadth of support that is being provided not only to those at the end of life but also to those with life-limiting diagnoses and their carers.

"I was inspired by every one of the members of the team I met, from reception to the kitchen, volunteers to clinicians and others. Everyone was so warm and welcoming - a real testament to the culture that has been created within the hospice."

She added: "Speaking to those who are being supported by the hospice was moving and really brought to life the impact the team makes every day, which made my visit all the more memorable."



High Sheriff of Cheshire, Joëlle Warren, touring the hospice IPU.

Dance floor challenge

The hard work started in July for the team of nine who have volunteered to strut their stuff at the Hospice of the Good Shepherd's first ever 'Strictly' dance event.

The would-be dance floor divas were introduced to their professional dance partners and had just over eight weeks to perfect their moves and prepare to impress the professional judges with a series of showstopping

routines.

The participants showed off their fancy footwork, frilly frocks and smart suits at the dance extravaganza at Chester Racecourse earlier this month.

The judges' panel includes Chloe Hewitt who joined the cast of Strictly in 2016, and Lilia Kopylova who won the 2005 series when she partnered cricketer Darren Gough - the first male celebrity to win the title.



Front row, left to right: Rhian Anstey, Cat Williams, Bethan Turner, Tayla Whelan. Back row: Zoe Bock Walker, Andy Turner, Richard Pridding, Jane Montague, Alec Read.

Leaving a gift in your Will – why it matters

Legacies. It's a topic that we feature in every hospice newsletter, and for good reason!

Money from our supporters comes to us in many different ways: through regular giving, our lottery, raffles, events, collection boxes, sponsorships, Christmas cards, our charity shops, business supporters, charitable trusts, gifts in kind - and of course legacies – gifts that people leave in their Wills.

Legacies are when individuals decide during their lifetime to leave us property, goods or money as part of the provision in their Will.

We couldn't do without any of these funding sources, least of

all the income that comes to us from a gift in a Will.

Last year, 27 supporters who chose to remember us in their Wills left us gifts with a combined value of £1,032,121.

With that money we were able to keep open almost 3.5 of our inpatient beds - more than a third of our total capacity - for a whole year.

As a comparison, we only receive £925,276 from the Integrated Care Board, our Commissioners (our statutory funding source). This was only 17% of our total costs and only funds three In Patient Unit beds.

All our services are provided completely free of charge to our

patients and their families. That's why legacies matter so much.

We are asking you today to think about the possibility of leaving us a gift in your will.

We're not asking you to leave us everything! Obviously your first priority must be to look after those closest to you, to provide for your family. However, do please also think about leaving a gift to the Hospice as well.

Gifts in Wills can be a specific amount of money, a property, jewellery or a percentage of your Estate.

Every penny - literally every penny - helps us to keep doing what we do so well: providing care, support and reassurance to

individuals and families at what is probably the most difficult and distressing time of their lives. We're there when people need us most – your legacy will help us continue to be there.

Haven't made a Will yet? We can help!

The thought of making a Will may seem daunting, however it really isn't. Long term supporters Oliver & Co run a will-making clinic at the hospice every month.

Oliver & Co waive their usual fee and in return you can make your Will in return for a donation to the hospice. (Suggested donation £250 for a double Will or £180 for a single Will). See below for upcoming dates.

There are quite a few misconceptions around Wills...



Only wealthy people need a Will

Wills are for everyone, of any age, and are a really effective way of making sure that your money, property, belongings, funeral arrangements - all the things that are most important to you - are dealt with in the way that YOU want.



Only elderly people need a Will

It's a myth that wills are just for older people. In fact, if you're older than 18, it's a good idea to have one, especially if you own property, pets, or have children. After all, none of us can predict the future, and we don't know how long our lives will be.



You only need a Will if you have expensive assets

Wills are as much about passing on things of emotional and historical value as financial value. With a Will, you can control in detail what happens to the things that are really important to you



Everyone will eventually get round to writing their Will

Only 31% of adults actually make a Will, this means that 69% of people will die without making their final wishes clear to their loved ones.



Writing a Will is expensive and time-consuming

Wills can be drawn up fairly quickly and efficiently and for most people. They provide a real sense relief and reassurance knowing that their wishes are clearly set out.



Once your Will is written, it is final

Life events, such as getting married, having a baby, getting divorce or losing a loved one can change our wishes regarding a Will. It is important that we review our Wills regularly.



Leaving a small gift to a charity won't make a difference

Leaving just 1% of the value of someone's estate can make a massive difference to a charity.

Will Clinics

Have your Will professionally written or ammended

Monday 13th October

Thursday 20th November

Tuesday 9th December

£180
Single Will

£250
Joint Will

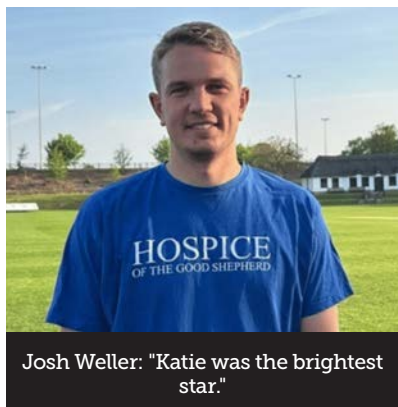
Your fee is
donated in full
to the hospice.

**Oliver
&Co**
SOLICITORS

Call **01244 851 811** or go to **hospicegs.com/events** to book

Runner Josh takes on 3,000 mile challenge!

It's one of the most ambitious challenges ever undertaken on behalf of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd – and it won't be completed until 2026!



Josh Weller: "Katie was the brightest star."

Every single day until August 2026, teacher Josh Weller will be running 10km in memory of his cousin Katie Anderson, a hospice patient who passed away earlier this year aged just 38 years.

Josh started his challenge of running 10K each day for 500 consecutive days on 10 April this year and will finally complete the 5,000 kilometre – 3,106 mile marathon on Sunday 23 August 2026!

By then, he hopes to have raised at least £10,000 to support the work of hospice team in

caring for patients and families from communities throughout West Cheshire and Ellesmere Port. He has yet to miss a day!

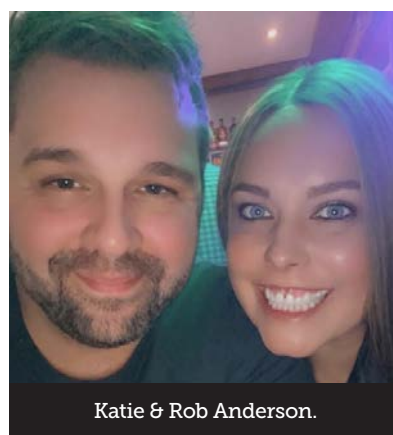
What's more, Josh has signed up to run the Chester Marathon in October to boost his fundraising efforts. The event takes place on 16 November which would have been Katie's 39th birthday.

"I texted Katie just over a week before she passed away to tell her what I was planning," Josh, 26 explained.

"I asked her whether there was a particular charity that she wanted the money to go and she unhesitatingly chose the hospice. Katie had been supported for some time by the team at the hospice's Living Well outpatient centre."

Josh continued: "There's no particular significance in running 500 days consecutively - I just felt it was a good number to aim for. I previously ran 5k every day for 496 days in memory of my grandmother. I thought that this time I would be a bit more ambitious."

Katie, a telesales manager for Vauxhall, married Rob in November 2019 and the newlyweds settled into their Northwich home, excited for the



Katie & Rob Anderson.

future.

Just two years later, at the age of 34, Katie was diagnosed with Stage 4 bowel cancer. The diagnosis came only after an unlikely twist of fate: a skydive organised by a friend to raise money for breast cancer.

The effort caused Katie's stomach pain to worsen and spread to her right shoulder. It was this new symptom that led to further tests, ultimately revealing the devastating diagnosis.

Josh continued: "If there were 50 people in a room, it would be Katie who stood out. She was the brightest star."

"Throughout this ordeal, Katie showed us all what true strength, courage, and determination

looks like. She was a beacon of optimism and hope. Every single day, she continued to live her life with amazing positivity, believing she would win.

"We are all incredibly proud of her, not just for how she lived and fought but how open and honest she was, and the way she wants to share her story in a bid to make others aware of the symptoms of bowel cancer and how it doesn't just affect older people."

He added: "I'm not particularly looking forward to running every day during the cold and rainy winter months but I'm really proud to be honouring Katie's memory by supporting the hospice in this way."

"The services provided by the hospice team are so important to so many patients and families. It's not just pain relief, reassurance and end-of-life care – the therapies, counselling, practical, emotional and spiritual support and advice are all so important to people when they face their ultimate challenge. It's a privilege to help."

You can follow his journey on Instagram @jdw_runs and you can still donate to the cause by visiting www.justgiving.com/page/runningforkatie

Racecourse runners weigh in for the hospice

There was no shortage of thrills and spills in the opening race at this year's Chester Racecourse's Family Fun Day.

Topping the day's race card was the third annual pantomime horse race held as a fundraiser on behalf of the hospice.



The hospice entry led by fundraising team member, Gemma Mawer.

First across the finish line was the team from Clay Connections. The Storrar Cowdry entry won the award for top fundraiser and the prize for Best Turned-Out Horse went to Champion Accountants. C&C Insurance Brokers won the Most Creative Social Media Award.

"We are so grateful to all the local businesses that supported this year's event either by sponsoring an entry or running the race in such hot conditions," said the hospice's Head of Fundraising, Justin Caroe.

"They all contributed to a marvellous spectacle that got the family fun day off to a magical start."

Justin added: "Their participation and the generosity of the racegoers on the day provided some much-needed income, every penny of which will be used by the hospice team to make sure that we can

continue to look after patients and their loved ones at a particularly difficult and challenging time.

"We're grateful to the team at Chester Racecourse for their amazing support."



Hospice Interim Chief Executive Caroline Siddall (left) presents the top prize to Clay Connections' Robert Ward-Dutton. Also on the winning team (left to right) were Rory Woodhouse from Woodhouse Plumbing, Heating and Electrical Ltd, Jim Higgins of PH Brickwork & Construction Ltd and Simon Sutton of Clay Connections.

Terror and triumph for skydiver Trish, 84!

Dedicated charity supporter Trish Thompson has reached new heights in her support for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd by making a skydive from nearly 13,000 feet – at the age of 84!

"We were so high up I could hardly see the ground," said Trish, from Tattenhall. "There was a brief moment of terror just before we jumped but I wasn't really nervous and I was laughing when we landed!"

It's not the first time that Trish, a charity supporter for over 40 years, has taken to the skies for the benefit of the hospice. In the early days of the hospice movement, her then husband was terminally ill and she naturally turned to the hospice team which provided help, support and advice. "They were brilliant," she commented.

Trish became determined to fundraise for the hospice. The opportunity arose in 1989 through Chester Business Club.

A wing walk was organised at British Aerospace, Boughton, with a Tiger Moth organised by the company.

After the success of that event, she organised and undertook a charity parachute jump from 13,000 feet for the hospice.

Trish is a former nurse and health visitor who also served four years as a Captain in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC). Her fundraising exploits have included an abseil down the inside of Chester's famous Shot Tower, followed by a challenge over the army assault course at Saighton Camp.

So far, Trish has raised £1,100 for the hospice from her latest exploit. "I'm really pleased to have done this, knowing how much hospices everywhere have to rely on donations and fundraising for their survival," she added.

"Trish is amazing for even daring to take on this challenge,"



Trish Thompson skydiving with Tilstock Freefall Club.

said Head of Fundraising Justin Caroe. "We're immensely grateful to her for setting such an

incredible example and for her continued commitment to our hospice."

Blackbelt Toni joins the team

Action girl Toni Waters was welcomed by the fundraising team here at the Hospice of the Good Shepherd earlier this year as our new Corporate and Relationship Manager.

Bradford-born Toni joined the hospice team from leading home-builders Watkin Jones where she was responsible for EDI and Wellbeing matters.

Toni is married with two daughters aged 10 and 15. A keen fitness enthusiast, she gained her first black belt accreditation in Shotokai at the age of just 17. Her second black belt in Shotokan came ten years later.

She is an active member of the PTA at Cherry Grove Primary school and lists walking, running with her dog Riley and spending time with friends amongst her hobbies.

She has two martial arts black belts, completed two gruelling Tough Mudder endurance events and fulfilled a lifetime ambition of swimming with dolphins in Florida.

"Swimming with dolphins was always at the very top of my bucket list," said Toni. "Getting



Toni Waters at the hospice.

to live that dream in Florida alongside my husband and children was just amazing."

Toni helped organise several fundraisers in her previous role. "I've always enjoyed my involvement with the charity sector and I'm so pleased now to be working for a charity that is so loved and respected," she said.

Toni added: "I've had such a wonderful welcome - it's such a warm, happy and supportive place to work, and such a privilege to be part of a team that shares such a strong commitment to caring for others at such a challenging time of their lives."

Bosses back in the dock

Justice finally caught up with some unsuspecting local bosses, all for a great cause.

Nominated in secret by their own employees and colleagues, they were surprised at their office desks with a court summons and instructed to appear at the former magistrates' court at Chester Town Hall to answer for their 'crimes'.

The annual event is a valuable fundraiser for the hospice.

One by one, the accused were hauled before fearsome 'judge' Darren Jamieson of local company Engage Web and formally prosecuted by Oliver&Co solicitors Alex Regan and Rhiannon White for a range of grave offences including keeping dirty Tupperware in the office fridge, cooking fish in the office microwave and claiming that playing golf during office hours was 'important work'!

The accused made their pleas before witnesses were called, grilled and cross-examined. The court was filled with the defendants' cheering colleagues!

Bail was set and the accused marched to the court cells to reflect on their wrongdoings



From left to right: David Owen, Sam Spridgeon, Denise Linnell and Tim Kenney.

while supporters raised the money needed to ensure their freedom.

Defendants included Tim Kenny of Kenny Moore (charged with leaving a business partner to run the company); Sam Spridgeon of Spectra Media (crimes against office Tupperware); David Owen of Oliver&Co (gross digital negligence), and business development expert Denise Linnell (Crimes Against Networking). Speaker and clinical hypnotherapist Cat Williams took the role of court clerk.

"It's quite remarkable to see the lengths to which our local business community is prepared to go and the efforts busy individuals are prepared to make to support their local hospice," said Head of Fundraising, Justin Caroe.

"An amazing place with amazing people"

Continued from front page

"The massages have made such a difference too. They gave me my own space, time for me, an hour when I didn't have to be strong for anyone else. It will be difficult for others to imagine how important that is."

Sylvia was subsequently invited to come along to the Coffee and Chat sessions at the hospice's Living Well outpatients' centre. "I was very nervous to be honest – I didn't know anyone but as soon as I walked in, various people invited me to sit next to them and so I didn't feel the odd one out for a second!"

"I've been able to create new bonds of friendship with so many people: lovely, like-minded people who understand each other and what we're going through. That means so much."

"Whenever she sees me, Staff Nurse Naomi Powell takes the time to ask how I am and really listens to me. She does the same

for every patient. Most people won't be able to understand what it means when someone is prepared to really listen to you."

"Earlier this year on one day I was fortunate to have counselling, attend the Coffee and Chat session, enjoy lunch at the café and have therapy afterwards. It was wonderful – just like having a spa day. I felt totally different at the end of it."

There was high praise from Sylvia for the hospice's volunteers. "The greeting from the reception volunteers is amazing: everyone always asks how you are and how you're getting on: they obviously really care. They are wonderful. It's like feeling a big hug every time you walk through the door."

"I cannot speak highly enough of the volunteers in the café: they are so friendly and always make time to talk to you – and they serve gluten-free food. It's lovely not to feel the odd one out when you're ordering gluten-free food."

"All the hospice services are free but I personally like to give a bit back to the hospice in my own way. Like many others, I do this anonymously."

"I have bought items from the hospice's Amazon wish list, taken items in for the tombolas at the Christmas and Summer fairs and provided art items for the counselling service."

Sylvia added: "I feel so much part of this amazing place and these amazing people. It has become my safe haven from all the really difficult family issues that are waiting for me every time I get home."

"The whole team at the hospice is just incredible. Without them I don't know where I'd be."



High Sheriff of Cheshire, Joëlle Warren, with hospice service-user Sylvia.

Creating a centre of excellence – the vision

"We have an opportunity to develop our hospice into a regional centre of excellence and innovation and make our future more sustainable by offering a wider range of support options to more people in the local community."

That is the vision of the hospice's Director of Clinical Services, Claire Royce.



Hospice Director of Clinical Services
Claire Royce.

Marking her first anniversary in the role, Claire explained: "We really are excellent at what we do but we are inevitably limited by our current capacity and budget restrictions."

"There are however clear opportunities for us to do more and achieve more on behalf of

the many in our community who could benefit from our expertise and support."

Wrexham-born Claire has over 23 years' experience working for the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board as a Staff Nurse and Ward Sister, specialising in General Medicine, Endocrinology and Haematology.

A CrossFit trainer in her spare time, Claire worked with the Specialist Palliative Care Team in North Wales for 14 years, initially working as a Macmillan Clinical Nurse Specialist and latterly as the Lead Nurse of Specialist Palliative Care and Quality in North East Wales.

"The hospice movement was created to provide care and comfort for the dying but what we are currently able to deal with is the tip of an iceberg of need," said Claire.

"Palliative care is complex, and we are continuing to face increasingly multifaceted cases involving cancers, heart conditions and many other diseases such as Motor Neurone Disease and Huntington's Disease."

"And of course we're not just

dealing with the medical and nursing aspects of inpatient and outpatient care: palliative care also involves social work, various forms of counselling, therapy provision and other disciplines."

Claire, a champion of end-of-life equality, continued: "People most often don't want to die in hospital: they want to be home in their own environment with their family by their side, with the support of a range of services. Here at the hospice, I am committed to further developing our services in the medium term to support patients at home."

"Unfortunately, as the situation stands right now, a high percentage of those patients who really need specialist palliative care will not get to see a specialist care team either in a hospital setting or elsewhere."

"There are a number of ways in which we can start to address that shortfall and that's by striving to offer a wider choice of support to more people in the community. That, in my view, is how we can build our value and become a truly sustainable service; that is what I am committed to achieving as I settle into my second year with

the hospice."

Building more effective and sustainable partnerships with GPs, hospitals and others are among Claire's priorities.

Other proposed initiatives, each designed to enhance the value we add to our local communities, include the reintroduction of a respite care facility at the hospice, developing the 'hospice at home' concept, and being more tailored in our response to those affected by any type of life limiting illness.

"It's all about being more flexible and responsive to the needs and expectations of the individuals and families we will serve in the future," said Claire. "That will hopefully also include the possibility for self-referral."

Claire acknowledges that additional funding will need to be found to help make these aspirations a reality.

"Funding will always be a factor, but these service developments will bring so much comfort, reassurance and practical benefits to so many people over the years and I am optimistic that that they offer a compelling case for funding from various sources."

The difference we make with your donations

Many of you reading this newsletter are among an amazing group of people who chose to support our work through regular giving.

That can be through your monthly lottery subscriptions or donations that are paid monthly or at other regular intervals through your bank.

Regular income such as this is as welcome as it is important. It helps us plan and control our spending and service provision.

But have you ever stopped to consider what we actually do with that income and whether your contributions actually make a difference?

This is what regular giving really means to us...

- It's the matchless care and compassion that is so freely given to our inpatients and their families under often difficult circumstances by our remarkable team of doctors and nurses, **paid for by regular donations such as yours.**

- It's the facilities and services and that we deliver to all our outpatients and loved ones from our highly-respected Living Well centre. That includes therapies, activities, peer support groups, practical advice and support, **all paid for from regular income.**

- It's also our remarkable

bereavement counselling service, delivered by a leading team of experts, which is continually changing the lives of so many children who have been badly affected by the loss of a loved one. No other organisation provides this vital support for local children, **and it's all paid for by regular givers like you.**

That's the real difference that your regular donation makes to us and why your continued support is so important.



Alice & Ben.

Regular income is a big reason why we can keep doing what we

do for so many local people. It means so much to them - just read what Alice Little has to say about what the hospice means to her...

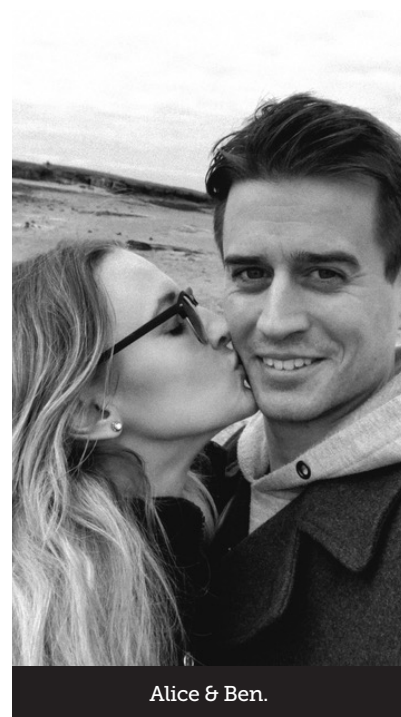
"We sadly lost our wonderful Ben in August last year at the age of 35, only three short months after he was diagnosed with bowel cancer.

"Ben was, without a doubt, the best person I have ever met. He was my person. Everyone who met Ben loved him. Loved his charm, his cheekiness, his kindness and his willingness to do anything for anyone.

"The Hospice of the Good Shepherd became a lifeline for us during the three weeks that Ben was an inpatient there. The level of care that Ben, and also I received was nothing short of incredible. Nothing was too much trouble. Even after Ben's death, the Hospice's support remains and I continue to receive counselling to help navigate through my grief.

"After Ben was admitted to the Hospice, we were shocked to hear how much they have to rely on fundraising and donations. The thought that this invaluable service has an uncertain future doesn't bear thinking about.

"These wonderful people do not get nearly enough credit or



Alice & Ben.

funding for the work that they do. Ben was in agreement, and even as his illness progressed, he was passionate about raising money for the Hospice and keen to make sure their work was recognised.

"I want to do my bit to make sure that families in the future, who may find themselves in the same awful position that we did, receive the care and support they deserve at the worst time of their lives."



The Tractor Run (photo credit: Tim Spruce)

Tractor run

In April, Malpas Young Farmers hosted a Tractor run in aid of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in which they welcomed over 65 tractors to join them in the sunshine for a run around the Cheshire Countryside. Pictured are some of their members who took part. The hospice are so grateful for their care and hard work, which really paid off as they raised £1,000 for our hospice!

Masons' fundbooster for hospice

Generosity and teamwork from a group of Chester freemasons generated a welcome cash bonus for the hospice recently.

Members of Belgrave Lodge 5711, one of Chester's longest-established masonic lodges, readily agreed to donate £500 to the hospice from its charity funds in memory of the wife of longstanding lodge member, Alan Wilkinson. Irene Wilkinson passed away in December last year after a brave fight with leukaemia.

Lodge members added their own individual contributions before Alan boosted the total with a generous personal donation.

A further £216 enhancement from the Cheshire Freemasons Charity (CFC) resulted in a cheque for £1,075 being presented to the hospice's interim Chief Executive, Caroline Siddall.

"We're so grateful to the members of Belgrave Lodge and the Cheshire Freemasons Charity for their support," said Caroline.

"It is one of those special donations that has been inspired by personal loss and made possible through lodge members' commitment, generosity and a real appreciation of the work we do to support patients in the

final chapter of their life, and their loved ones. What a fitting tribute."

Pictured left to right are Belgrave Lodge Worshipful Master and Area 2 Provincial Charity Steward Dave Perkins; interim hospice Chief Executive Caroline Siddall; lodge secretary Hems de Winter; Hospice Lottery and Donor Care Manager Eleanor Rowlands, and Alan Wilkinson.



Pictured left to right are Belgrave Lodge Worshipful Master and Area 2 Provincial Charity Steward Dave Perkins; interim hospice Chief Executive Caroline Siddall; lodge secretary Hems de Winter; Hospice Lottery and Donor Care Manager Eleanor Rowlands, and Alan Wilkinson.

On target

We're so grateful to be selected as the charity partner for Clay Connections' first Golf Day at Carden Park in May.

The hospice is a member of Clay Connections, the innovative clay shooting networking and events organisation and we were pleased to see them win the Pantomime horse race at Chester Racecourse earlier this year.

"A big thank you to the entire team at Clay Connections," said Toni Waters, the hospice's Corporate and Relationship Manager. "Their support, and that of every one of our amazing corporate supporters, helps us continue providing compassionate care across to patients and families across our community."



Clay Connections members and guests come together for their first golf day at Carden Park Hotel.



Tee time

A huge thank you to Ellis & Co for once again choosing us as their charity partner for their annual Golf Day at Pryors Heyes Golf Club for the third consecutive year, raising £1,000.

Ellis & Co have been fantastic champions of the Hospice, not only through their Golf Day but also as enthusiastic sponsors of the Farndon Soapbox Derby. Their continued commitment helps us provide essential care and support to local families when they need it most.

Santa's on his way...

We're thrilled once again to be the chosen charity for Gordale Garden Centre's magical Santa's Grotto!

Thank you to the incredible generosity of Gordale Garden Centre for supporting us. We welcomed over 4,337 children last year, and raised an amazing £38,897.86 to support the vital work of our hospice.

This success wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our volunteers and the support of local businesses. A huge thank you to those who helped last year or are joining us again this season, including:

- M&S Bank
- Haines Watts
- NatWest

- Sykes Cottages
- Innospec
- SP Energy
- Urenco
- Forward Building Supplies
- West Cheshire & North Wales Chamber of Commerce
- Genfit
- Williams & Bell Funeral Directors

If your business would like to get involved and spread some festive cheer, we'd love to hear from you!

Come and visit us at the Grotto from Saturday 29th November to Tuesday 23rd December—it's a magical experience for the whole family, and every visit helps us care for those who need it most.

Pre-booking only.



Santa and his helpers at the Gordale Garden Centre Grotto.

Book a tree

Our Christmas tree collection service proved to be a wonderful fund-booster for us earlier this year, raising over £50,000 towards the costs of caring for our patients. Will you help us do even better this Christmas?

In exchange for a modest donation our teams of volunteers will be out and about next January collecting your real trees from your doorstep. Details will be posted on the hospice website.

We're looking for local businesses with vans and volunteers to help us with the collections. If you can help, please contact Sam Eastwood samantha.eastwood@hospicegs.com



Christmas tree collection volunteer, John, from Royal Mail.

The bauble's back!

We're pleased to announce that our Christmas Bauble Appeal is returning this year — once again kindly sponsored by John Pughe at Promedica24 UK Ltd, a valued supporter of the hospice and proud member of our 100 Club.

The Bauble Appeal is a meaningful way for businesses to support the Hospice of the Good Shepherd during the festive season, helping us provide compassionate end-of-life care to patients and families even on Christmas Day.

This year's bauble will be a beautiful silver design, available to purchase in the lead-up to

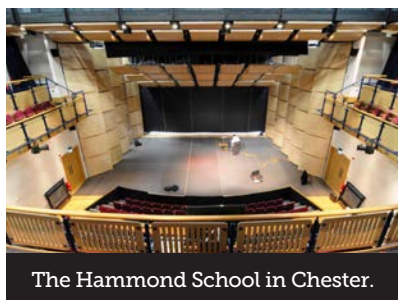
Christmas. Every one sold helps us continue our vital work and brings a little sparkle to the lives of those we care for.



A hospice Christmas bauble in silver, available for a £95 donation.

New venue for the Christmas concert

It's still one of our most popular and eagerly-awaited events - the perfect way to get into the festive spirit this coming Christmas.



The Hammond School in Chester.

This year, our traditional Christmas concert will once again feature the amazing voices of the Rhos Male Voice Choir accompanied by the accomplished Chester Brass Band and the talented students from The Hammond School.

The concert takes place on Thursday, 11 December, from 7.30 but please note: this year's concert will be held at **The Hammond School** and not Chester Town Hall.

Book at thehammond.co.uk or telephone 01244 305350



Rhos Male Voice Choir in concert.

NEW FOR 2026

SUPER HALFS

COMPLETE AN ICONIC HALF MARATHON

28/03/26	PRAGUE
29/03/26	BERLIN
20/09/26	COPENHAGEN
20/09/26	CARDIFF

FREE REGISTRATION MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP £750

Learn more at hospicegs.com/events



FEELING INSPIRED?

Browse the full range of charity challenges on our website

hospicegs.com/events

Upcoming events in the community



Cake for a Cause

Friday 19th September
9am-5pm
CeeCeEs, Paisley Grey, Neston
Free entry

Pop in for Cakes for a Cause! For one day CeeCeEs bakery in Neston will donate £1 from the sales of any nominated cake to our hospice, along with the proceeds of a raffle they will be holding. It is the best reason to stop for coffee and cake.

Contact 0151 3840540



Preloved Fashion Show & Afternoon Tea

Saturday 4th October
12:30pm-3:30pm
Blacon Enterprise Centre
£15 (must pre-book)

Our Blacon Support Group is holding their popular fashion show with afternoon tea. Enjoy sandwiches and cakes while volunteers model lovely outfits available. All outfits are available to purchase afterwards, amongst other clothes and accessories.

Call 01244 377 160 to book



Octoberfair

Saturday 18th October
11am-4pm
The Olde Red Lion, Little Sutton
Free entry

The Olde Red Lion in Little Sutton are holding an autumn fair to support the hospice, with lots of stalls presenting, it's a great opportunity to pick up some early Christmas gifts, or even a special something for yourself.

Contact 0151 3392496



Table Top Sale

Saturday 1st November
11am-3pm
Eccleston Village Hall
Free entry, £10 for a seller's table

Grab a bargain or book a table to make some cash selling your own items! With coffee and cake available, it's a lovely way to support the hospice and the community, while picking up a special something for yourself or a loved one.

Call 07718 854 355 to book



Michael Kors VIP Evening

Wednesday 12th November
7pm-9pm
Cheshire Oaks
Free

Join us for an exclusive evening at Michael Kors, Cheshire Oaks. Open to hospice supporters only, enjoy a glass of prosecco, shop early Black Friday deals and be in with a chance of winning a Michael Kors handbag.

Call 01244 851811 to book



Wreath Making

Thursday 20th November
6:30pm-9pm
At the hospice, CH2 4DG
£35

Join us for our very popular festive wreath making workshops, where all the fabulous materials you could need will be provided! Enjoy creating your very own wreath for the Christmas period, while enjoying a bit of prosecco and some mince pies too.

hospicegs.com/events



Christmas Coffee Morning

Wednesday 3rd December
11:30am-1:30pm
Blacon Enterprise Centre
£3.50

Our Blacon Support Group is once again hosting their very popular Christmas coffee morning with a quiz and entertainment!

This is sure to get you into the festive mood, Your £3.50 includes a hot drink and mince pie.

Call 01244 377 160 to book



Helsby Charity Tractor Run

Sunday 4th January
10am start
Helsby
£15

Setting off from Helsby Sports & Social Club, WA6 0FX, a 40 mile run with a mid-point stop, all money raised from raffle and booking in to go to the hospice.

Contact 01244 851811 for details

Planning your own fundraising event?

Contact our Community Fundraiser's Sam & Bethany, for help organising or promoting your own fundraising events in the West Cheshire & Deeside community.

fundraising@hospicegs.com

01244 851 811



Upcoming hospice events

CHESTER SANTA DASH

Sunday 7th December
Starts 10am

Join at chestersantadash.com



Christmas Fair

Free
Entry



Win prizes, buy gifts,
meet Santa, and get
into the spirit!

At the Hospice of the Good Shepherd,
Gordon Lane, Backford, CH2 4DG

Saturday 22nd November, 11am-2pm

Christmas Concert

Christmas favourites performed by Rhos Male Voice Choir,
Chester Brass Band & The Hammond School.

Thursday 11th December

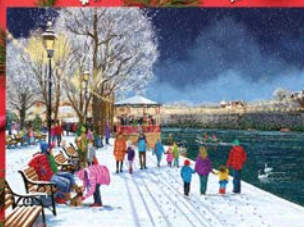
The Hammond School Theatre, Mannings Lane, Chester, CH2 4ES

Call 01244 305 350 or go to thehammond.co.uk

Christmas Card Preview & Coffee Morning

Friday 3rd October

Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Backford, CH2 4DG



Free
Entry

Light up a Life

Remember your loved ones this Christmas

Learn more at hospicegs.com/lual

Thank you!



Ableworld Chester donated raised toilet seats to our living well centre



Imogen & mum, Amy's Mersey Tunnel Bike Ride raised £2890



Juniors at Kings School, took on the Enterprise Challenge to raise £1836.24



Riley completed the Great Manchester Run and raised £580



Hospice Hero, Alexia, ran the Liverpool Half marathon raising £1450



Jim & Peggy opened their gardens to raise £1129 for our hospice!



Karen Fletcher's Velocity Zipline challenge raised £1010



Skydivers Tom, Patricia, Hannah, Clare, Alfie, Elise & Brandon raised £6000!



Thank you to all riders who attend Ride Out and raised £5131.71



House of Dance, Jules & Katy raffle at end of year show £3351.65



Josh, Dave & Ian completed the Liverpool-Chester-Liverpool bike ride, raising £780



Kingsway Allotment Association opened their gardens raising £300



Upton Bowling Club raised £305 at their tournament by selling refreshments



The Williams & Bell Funeral Directors Charity Car Wash team raised £148.43



Judith sold copies of her poetry book in memory of her daughter to raise £850!



Ramp It Up 5k At Cheshire Oaks, organised by McArthurghlen, raised £1350



Vicars Cross Golf Club Richard & Senior Captain Paul raised £775 with a Golf Day