



Heart of the Hospice

Issue

69

Spring 2023

**Purple Tattoos in
Tribute to Dad and
Caring Hands**

**Meet Our Strictly
Dancers**

**Farewell to Joanne,
Our Chief Executive**



**Hundreds
Support Our
Christmas Fayre**



Welcome

This issue's welcome is from Joanne Sloan, our Chief Executive. Joanne is retiring in March so we thought it only fitting that this issue's Welcome, her last Heart of the Hospice as Chief Executive, was from her...

I would like to start by saying how incredibly thankful I am to you, our community for all your support for our Hospice during my time as Chief Executive. It's been a challenging few years with Covid hitting and impacting our clinical services and reducing our income streams. However, 2022 was such a fantastic year, and a great one for me to sadly end my time at Dr Kershaw's on.

I am so proud of our new In-Patient Unit and our nursing and medical teams, the service provided to our patients is wonderful and the environment they are now cared in is everything I ever wished for, for our Hospice. Our Community Team has evolved as a result of Covid, as at one point our Hospice doors were closed and our full Nursing Team were relocated to the community, caring for people in their own homes. This has shown us even more how vital that service is, giving people the chance to be cared for and to die at home surrounded by their loved ones. After being closed for so long during the pandemic, our Well-Being Centre has recently relaunched and we have an exciting, varied offer to suit clients, carers, the bereaved and many more individuals.

2022 also brought the return of our events and I am so thankful to each and every one of you who has supported each of our events and our campaigns, which have enabled us to bring in vital funds for the Hospice, something that stopped for so long during the pandemic.

2023 will see us reducing our Heart of the Hospice newsletter from four to two issues a year. With the current cost of living crisis and our financial deficit this change will enable us to save vital costs on printing moving forward, as well as aligning with our revised Lottery Bumper Draws. We will still be keeping you informed on all the latest Hospice news in each issue. For more information please see page 19.

I am so very grateful to you all for your support, we simply could not provide the care we provide without you, and I am so proud of our Hospice Team, who each work in their own way to support people at the most difficult of times. I would like to end by wishing our new Chief Executive, Adele Doherty good luck for the future and thank you all once more for your unwavering support.

Joanne Sloan – Chief Executive

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Farewell to Joanne

Joanne Sloan began her nurse training in 1980, working her way up through the nursing ranks, she has served the people of Oldham for over 40 years. She joined the Hospice in December 2014 as Director of Clinical Services, before being promoted to Chief Executive in March 2018. During Joanne's time at Dr Kershaw's, she has been instrumental in the introduction of new services at the Hospice including the launch of our Community Services – Hospice at Home and Caring Hands, providing the people of Oldham with the choice of being cared for at the end of their lives in their own homes. Joanne has also seen the transformation of the Hospice from the old facility to our incredible new In-Patient Unit. Below are just some of the highlights from Joanne's career at our Hospice...

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 2015 | Introduced a Lymphoedema service in collaboration with Pennine Care |
| 2016 | Launched Hospice at Home community nursing service |
| 2016 | Opened the Education Hub and appointed Hospice Practice Development Facilitator |
| 2017 | Introduced Complementary Therapy service |
| 2018 | Launched Caring Hands domiciliary care service |
| 2020 | Covid Hit, Clinical Services transformed and income streams diversified |
| 2020 | Chemo Closer to Home service introduced in collaboration with The Christie |
| 2021 | New In-Patient Unit opens |
| 2021 | Creation of a Staff Well-being Toolkit |
| 2022 | Hospice Gardens open |
| 2022 | Well-Being Centre relaunch |
| 2022 | Hospice Event Calendar relaunched |

From all of the team here at Dr Kershaw's we would like to take this opportunity to thank Joanne for all her incredible work over the years, and for the developments and new initiatives that have been launched under her leadership! We will miss your support, leadership, and encouragement and wish you all the very best for your retirement!



We would also like to introduce you to our new Chief Executive, Adele Doherty, who many of you may recognise as she has worked at the Hospice for over six years, with her most recent role being Director of Clinical Services and Deputy Chief Executive and previous Hospice roles including Clinical Matron and Practice Development Facilitator. Welcome Adele to your new role! You'll be able to find out more about Adele and her new role as Chief Executive in our next issue!

Purple Tattoos for Family in Tribute of Their Dad and Our Caring Hands Team

After Frank Pullen, 81, was diagnosed with Cancer of the Oesophagus, daughter, Sue Collinge, and her mum, Judy, cared for him at home each day without any external help, as Frank had brought up the family to always support themselves. After Frank was informed that there was nothing else the hospital could do to treat his cancer, the family were told about the Hospice's Caring Hands Team, whom from their arrival changed everything for the family, enabling Sue and Judy to go back to being Frank's daughter and wife, instead of his carers. After Frank sadly died on 14th July 2021, Sue and her family got together and in tribute to the dad and husband they had lost, and the incredible care received by our Caring Hands Team (who leave a purple heart with each patient after they have passed away as well as one with their loved ones) they each made the decision to have poignant purple heart tattoos...

"Dad was married to my mum, Judy and had two children- myself and my brother David, along with four grandsons- Peter, Michael, Stephen and Ben and a great granddaughter, Thea Poppy.

Mum and dad had been together for an incredible 63 years, after meeting at Hughes & Bolton where dad worked as a Car Mechanic and mum worked in the office. Dad then went to work at the Shell Garage on Huddersfield Road before opening the Lees Village Service Station in 1992. Dad loved our garage and was still determined to pop in regularly even when he was poorly, the customers all loved him. Dad had three loves – the garage, playing golf at Saddleworth Golf Club, and his family... in that order 😊. He passed his love of golf onto his sons and grandsons and played regularly at the golf club. He loved us all going out as a family and we always went out each New Year's Eve.

Dad was a fun person who never fell out with anyone, he was in relatively good health until he was 78, when he received his cancer diagnosis, previously only being in hospital once before when he was very young to have his tonsils removed. In April 2021, we received the devastating news that there was nothing else that could be done for dad, and this was unfortunately followed by dad having a fall, which resulted in a broken hip. Dad was admitted to hospital initially but we all wanted him back home with us. On 23rd June 2021, we were introduced to the amazing Caring Hands Team, and when they arrived everything changed. Before then we had cared for dad ourselves, not wanting to put on anyone else. The difference they made to our family was immense, as soon as they arrived the mood in our home lifted. I was told to "go

back to being Frank's daughter" and mum "to go back to being Frank's wife." Words I will never forget and that meant so much.

The love and care dad received from Caring Hands was unbelievable, nothing was ever too much trouble for the team. They truly are angels. The Caring Hands Team upon realising dad's breathing had changed and that his passing was imminent arranged for the Hospice at Home team to come, who ensured that dad was comfortable and that we could all have some personal time with him. After dad passed away, the Hospice at Home team changed dad and his bedding, all the time talking to him, which really did touch us so very much.



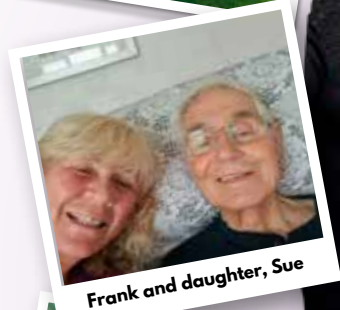
Caring Hands gave one purple knitted heart to dad which went in his coffin and one to mum, which mum now holds when she is missing him for comfort. After the amazing care from the Caring Hands Team and also the love and respect shown to dad from the Hospice at Home Team, after dad passed, as a family we decided we all wanted our own purple hearts, and each got a small purple tattoo. The irony being dad didn't like tattoos, we all have had our own interpretation but each is part of the tribute too.

Dad passed away shortly before his Diamond Wedding Anniversary but had already arranged that 60 white roses were to be sent to mum on that day, as he had done each year on their anniversary. Since dad died we have raised and donated a total of £7,335 for the Hospice who supported us so much, by asking for donations at his funeral, selling some of dad's possessions and raising funds in the garage. No amount of money could ever cover the appreciation we feel for the team at Dr Kershaw's who did so much for our family."

“After the amazing care from the Caring Hands Team, as a family we decided we all wanted our own purple hearts, and each got a small purple tattoo.”



“The love and care dad received from Caring Hands was unbelievable, nothing was ever too much trouble for the team. They truly are angels.”



Frank and daughter, Sue



Frank and daughter, Sue ➤



Help someone like Frank to have precious time at home with their loved ones, by making a donation to support hospice care, visit: www.drkh.org.uk/donate

Strictly Dance



Dr Kershaw's and Willow Wood Hospices have once again partnered up to bring you our very own version of Strictly Come Dancing, and this year to mark the Coronation of our new King, our event will be themed celebrating the Best of British! We are thrilled to announce that we now have six couples, who will be working with our three dance schools, Angela's Dance Club (Trafford), Jayne Barnes School of Dance (Chadderton), and Accent Dance - Latin & Ballroom (Ashton-under-Lyne) to learn how to each perform their very own dance at our Strictly Dance event. Meet our dancers below...

COUPLE
1

ADELE DOHERTY, *Dr Kershaw's Chief Executive*

"As the new Chief Executive I want to show my passion and commitment to an organisation I hold very close to my heart and want to raise money to contribute to the fantastic care our patients and their loved ones receive."



MIKE MCARDLE, *Retail Manager at Dr Kershaw's Furniture Hub*

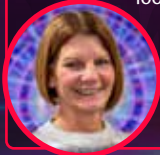
"I am a Strictly fan and it is also an amazingly fun way to raise vital funds for an amazing cause. My eldest daughter inspired me to take part and to tick off my bucket list entry of performing on a stage."

COUPLE
2

RAYMOND SAUNDERS,

Customer Assistant at Marks and Spencer, Manchester

"My friend, Kim, approached me to take part in Dr Kershaw's Strictly Dance. I am looking forward to dancing with Kim and raising money for the Hospice."



KIM WRIGLEY, *Retired / Bank Health Care Assistant at Dr Kershaw's*

"I am looking forward to having fun dancing and raising much needed funds for our amazing Hospice. Currently, I am a Trustee at Dr Kershaw's and also a member of the Health Care Assistant bank staff team."

COUPLE
3

JONATHAN PHILLIPS, *Head of Services at Oldham Council*

"As an Oldhamer I am aware of the support Dr Kershaw's offers to the community. I am very keen to learn how to dance and to raise money for a fantastic charity."



AMELIA BOGAN, *Director of Amelia Faye's Dance*

"Dr Kershaw's is an amazing place! I am looking forward to supporting the Hospice by fundraising and the added bonus is wearing a glittery outfit."

COUPLE
4**ANDREA GEORGINA PARLE**, *Managing Director at TUR Media LTD*

"My father passed away at Dr Kershaw's after being cared for at home by Caring Hands and Hospice at Home. The care he received was beyond our expectations and I would like to show my gratitude by raising much needed funds."

**GAIL SCANLON**, *Customer Service Manager at DWP Oldham Job Centre*

"My father was cared for by Dr Kershaw's and I wanted to support the Hospice by fundraising. I am looking forward to getting back into dancing and fundraising for the Hospice."

SISTER
TEAMCOUPLE
5**NIPARUN NESSA**, *Teacher at ACE with Nefa*

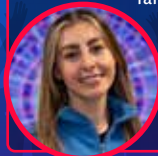
"I am continuously looking for new things to try and I have always wanted to give dancing a go. I am looking forward to raising awareness in the community of what the Hospice does to help and support people."

**SUZANNE HANLEY**, *Volunteer Retail Assistant at Dr Kershaw's Royton Shop*

"As a volunteer, of over 6 years, at Dr Kershaw's Royton shop I am very passionate about raising money for the Hospice. Dr Kershaw's is a charity very close to me. I also love dancing and taking part in Zumba classes."

COUPLE
6**JAMES OGBORN**, *Employer Engagement Officer at Oldham Council*

"I am looking forward to getting involved and learning a new dance whilst supporting Dr Kershaw's, as the Hospice has supported so many of my friends and family members over the years."

**NATASHA BARKER**, *Founding Director at Air Athletics Cheer and Dance CIC*

"Both of my parents were cared for by Dr Kershaw's so I am hoping to raise as much money as possible to give back to the Hospice who cared for them with such love, respect and dignity in their final days."

SOLD OUT

STRICTLY DANCE 2023

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH 2023, 7PM TILL LATE**Venue: Queen Elizabeth Hall, West St, Oldham OL1 1UT****Dress code: Formal attire**

To sponsor our dancers visit:
www.justgiving.com/campaign/DRKHStrictly23

Volunteering: 2022 at a Glance

2022 has been an incredible year for our Volunteering Team, with an amazing increase in our volunteer numbers from 236 in June 2021 to 324 by the end of 2022, as well as six new roles introduced to support our Hospice and our shops...

106

new
recruits in
2022

6

new specialist
Volunteer roles
introduced in
2022

31,357

hours
contributed by
Volunteers in
2022

In 2022,
Volunteers
saved our
Hospice over
£320,390 in
staffing costs



At Dr Kershaw's we know that our volunteers are an integral part of our workforce, bringing a vast amount of experience and a wide range of skills as well as adding value and diversity to the Hospice. 2022 was a fantastic year for our team, and I am so proud of our wonderful volunteers for all they do every single day for our Hospice.

Leanne Gurney, Hospice Volunteer Coordinator

To sign up as a Volunteer for Dr Kershaw's Hospice, contact our Volunteering Team on 0161 624 2727 or volunteerdept@drkh.org.uk or apply online: www.drkh.org.uk/volunteer

60 Seconds with... Hospice Counsellor, Lisa Hctor



Lisa began her journey with Dr Kershaw's as a Volunteer Counsellor acting as a support for staff across the Hospice, in August 2022 she was appointed in the position of Hospice Counsellor, a role which now enables her to provide vital support for patients and their families when they need it the most...

Why did you apply to work at Dr Kershaw's?

I applied for the role of Counsellor, as it's a really special role, one of a kind. It combines counselling with my background in the creative arts, enabling me to support patients, their families and the Hospice community.

Where did you work before Dr Kershaw's?

I worked as a Children's Therapist in primary schools across Oldham and as a Counsellor at an alcohol recovery organisation supporting adults in their recovery of alcohol addiction. I also volunteered at a bereavement counselling service in Oldham. Before becoming a Therapist I was a classically trained Actor touring in theatre, and I then went on to establish a theatre company that uses the creative and expressive arts in a positive way to enhance people's mental health and well-being. I find it very meaningful supporting people, showing them care, respect and dignity at a time when they need support to navigate the challenges of life.

Give us an overview of your role?

I work one-to-one counselling clients as well as making daily visits to patients in

our In-Patient Unit, supporting them in a holistic way and developing a relationship with their loved ones. I also facilitate the men's group and bereavement group as well as the Nightbird Project, a really exciting new creative project which supports patients living with life-limiting illnesses to tell their stories in creative ways.

What are the rewards of your role?

I find every single day in work to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience, it's extremely gratifying to support a client through a counselling process and to see their growth and positive changes. It is also a privilege to spend time with patients and their families on the In-Patient Unit, and hear about their lives, their memories and their stories.

What is your favourite thing about working at the Hospice?

The people and the quality of care! I find it so moving to observe the way the nurses care for patients and feel very proud to be working at such an innovative organisation within the health sector.

To work in a caring environment like Lisa, why not check out our latest Hospice vacancies. Visit www.drkh.org.uk/jobs

Light Up a Life

Each year, our Light Up a Life service gives people the opportunity to remember their loved ones during the festive season and to celebrate the lives of those who are no longer with us, but are always in our thoughts, whether they received care from the Hospice or not. This year, we were able to once again run our Light Up a Life in-person service at the Hospice, as well as live streaming the service for the third year running so people could watch in the comfort of their own homes...

We were overwhelmed by the support for our services which took place on Sunday 4th December with over 2,300 households tuning in to the virtual service. Over 1,150 dedications were made to loved ones, and hundreds of people attended our in-person service, with our Light Up a Life appeal raising just under £24,500 to support our patients and their loved ones. Those who made a dedication had a light lit in memory of their loved ones on our dedication tree and their loved ones names had a special place in our Light Up a Life Book of Remembrance as well as on-screen during our virtual service.



Over 1,150
dedications
were made
to loved
ones

Over 2,300
households
from across
the globe
tuned in

Just under
£24.5K
raised

“

Tonight's service was truly beautiful, thank you for the love and care you gave to my mum and to so many others.

Hospice Supporter

”

A special thanks to:

Paul Firth and Dr Kershaw's Hospice Choir, Peter Wakefield, St Joseph's RC Junior Infant and Nursery School, Crompton House Church of England School, Oldham Community Radio, The Oldham Times, Oldham Interfaith Forum, Oldham Council, Christmas Plus, New Image PR, Bamford Print and Dr Kershaw's Hospice staff and volunteers.



“ We were delighted to see the return of our Light Up a Life in person event, and despite the rain we had a fantastic turn out. Members of the community came together to remember their loved ones within the Hospice grounds, and many tuned in virtually from around the globe. Light Up a Life is a special event, close to people's hearts, thank you to the community for supporting Light Up a Life, by attending or tuning into our service and by making a dedication for your loved ones. The wonderful amount raised will go towards helping more families, enabling us to continue to provide exceptional care for our patients.

Rebecca Bentham, Hospice Director of Income Development & Marketing

Save the Date!

Light Up a Life 2023: Sunday 3rd December

To view the online dedication booklet or watch the Light Up a Life service, visit: www.drkh.org.uk/LightUpaLife

The photo album from the Light Up a Life service is also available to view on the Hospice's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/drkershawshospice

We Couldn't Do It Without You!

Thank you to all our fantastic supporters for their amazing fundraising...



Family members of Sanjay Bhudia raised **£8,813.75** from the Colour Obstacle Rush and Dr Kershaw's Sky Dive "to do something positive to thank Dr Kershaw's for the wonderful care they gave Sanjay and also for the support we too received."

Organised by "El Pres" Paul Parry, the Pistuns Bike Club annual charity gig raised **£720** with entertainment from their very own Pistuns Band.



The Tough Mudder is a lot of fun but a real challenge, taking on vertical climbs, watery trenches, muddy swamps and more, Adele Mills and Danielle Shaw conquered their fears to raise **£993.50**.



Retiring farmer, Darren Hough auctioned his last Whitebred Shorthorn cow, donating the **£1,417.50** raised.

'Burnedge Katie' went to a good home to play her part in keeping this rare breed of hill cattle alive.



Chosen by Royton based Co-op Food and Co-op Funeralcare, we received **£3,354.91** from the Co-op Local Community Fund to help boost the mental health and well-being of our patients and families.



October was 'Cold Water Challenge' month for Sarah Tate, bravely taking on a different icy water challenge every day, from cold showers to wild swimming to raise **£600.23**. Her final challenge was here at the Hospice with the help of our nursing team!



Harley family and friends celebrated the life of Ann Lloyd by holding a Silly Hat Party and with a big smile donated **£148.16**.



Nominated by one of their Manchester office members, law firm Keller Postman UK held a charity raffle at their national conference selling tickets online to raise **£2,781**.

Successfully completing the Manchester Half Marathon, Kevin Whalen presented **£956.25** to Keira's Wishes, a fund set up by Keira to provide Hospice patients with their last wishes.



The ladies from Oldham and District Ladies Bowling League donated **£1,000** at their Presentation Evening, money raised by raffles over the year.

Going great guns for Dr Kershaw's was Moorside gym, Heavenly Bodies and owner Matthew Scarff who hosted a 14 hour non-stop relay to raise **£3,500**. Teams of 4, completing 30 minute circuits from 6am to 8pm, were led by our Senior Sister, Kelly Foster and Lead Nurse for Clinical Services, Lindsey Harper with colleagues Laura Thorley, Katie Stretton and Paul Barnes, supported by the gym's personal trainers and members.



For more information on fundraising for Dr Kershaw's Hospice, contact our Community Fundraising Team on 0161 624 9984 or fundraising@drkh.org.uk

Thank you to our Fabulous Festive Fundraisers

Sharing comfort and joy at Christmas with our patients and families



Reindeer Run



Oldham Hulme Grammar School



Woodhouses Primary School

Students and staff at Oldham Hulme Grammar School sprung into action for the **Reindeer Run** to run circuits of the building and, donning their antlers, Woodhouses Primary School paraded around the neighbouring streets singing Christmas songs.



Jolly Jumper Day

Joining in **Jolly Jumper Day**, Appledore Nursery, Breakey & Nuttall Chartered Surveyors & Property Advisors, Broadway Day Nursery, Dr Kershaw's Hospice, Newbank House Nursery, Oasis Academy, Primark and Quayside Medical Practice.



Appledore Nursery



Primark



Quayside Medical Practice

Swapping Cards for Care

Swapping Cards for Care, Oasis Academy, Oldham Council Waste Management and Primark.



Oldham Council Waste Management

Donating all profits from their sale of Christmas Trees



Willmow Reclamation and Salvage

Bringing Christmas cards and cake for our In-Patient Unit



Santos Girls' Football Team

Our red and white runners at the Saddleworth Round Table Santa Dash



Santa Dashers

We Have all the Elements to Make Your 2023 Challenge One to Remember



EARTH 

THREE PEAKS EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS

Challenging full day guided walks

Our three peaks challenges could see you take on a 24 mile walk in the Yorkshire Dales or stay closer to home with a 15 mile walk in the Saddleworth Moors.

**SADDLEWORTH
THREE PEAKS**

Sunday 14 May 2023

**YORKSHIRE
THREE PEAKS**

Saturday 8 July 2023



AIR 

FEEL THE THRILL

The adrenaline rush like no other

Take in the stunning views of the Lake District, jumping from up to 15,000ft. A popular choice for first time skydivers.

TANDEM SKYDIVE

Sunday 11 June 2023
(Closing date 19/3/23)

Sunday 10 September 2023
(Closing date 18/7/23)



FIRE 

TRANSFORM THE FEAR

Overcome your self-limiting beliefs

Do you dare to walk the hot coals? Firewalking goes back thousands of years. Discover your inner strength and overcome your fears.

FIREWALK

Saturday 14 October 2023



WATER 

TAKE TO THE WAVES

Explore Anglesey's rocky cliffs and caves

Scramble along the rocky coastline exploring sea cliffs and caves, adventure swimming and cliff jumping. A fun challenge for all abilities.

COASTEERING

Saturday 19 August 2023

To find out more or to take up your challenge visit www.drkh.org.uk/challenges

Ladies Fashion Show AND Pop-up Shop!

PRESENTED BY **COLOURS FASHION SHOWS**

Friday 10th March 2023

St Herbert's Parish Centre, 148 Broadway, Chadderton, OL9 7BS

Doors open 6.30pm, show starts 7pm

SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS AT 50% OFF OR MORE!

For tickets and more information please contact:

www.drkh.org.uk/fashionshow or call the Fundraising Team on **0161 624 9984**

Tickets:
£6 or 3 for £15
includes free
raffle entry.

Tickets to be
purchased in
advance



Hundreds Support Our Christmas Fayre

On Sunday 20th November, we welcomed the community back to our Hospice for our Christmas Fayre, after the pandemic has prevented us from holding it since 2019.

With stalls situated in the Hospice and outside in a marquee, those who attended on the day had the opportunity to take part in a raffle, a tombola, name the bear, to peruse the array of festive stalls, as well as being able to visit our very specially made Grotto where children got to meet Santa and his elves and take home a special gift. Attendees were also treated to live music from two amazing acoustic artists, and enjoyed the hot food on offer with soup and rolls, hot dogs and veggie hot dogs, along with mince pies, cakes and beverages including gin cocktails...



“

The event was a huge success with almost 600 people in attendance, all keen to start their Christmas festivities and get in the festive mood. We are thrilled with the amount raised which will help to support patient care at the Hospice.

Louise Henderson, Hospice Head of Marketing & Communications

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Thank you to everyone who attended our event, to our Hospice volunteers, our Corporate supporters; Homebase (Bredbury), Park Cakes, Booths Garden Centre, and our external stall holders; Josjoyas, Made by Victoria Plum, DD Crafts & Gemleigh Crafts, Nat's Crafts, Pawful of Treats, 'By Design,' Floral Craft by Christine, Utility Warehouse, Brookdale Bees and Cribbs International.

Almost
**£6,000
raised!**

Our Christmas Fayre photo album is available to view at: facebook.com/drkershawshospice
SAVE THE DATE: Christmas Fayre 2023: Sunday 19th November

Stunning Vocals at our Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert made its return on Thursday 15th December at Oldham Parish Church, and for those who attended it was certainly a night to remember. With Christmas carols for the audience to join in with and performances from Dr Kershaw's Hospice Choir, Hope Singers and a Clarinet Quartet, it was a special evening, which got people in the festive spirit...



“

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Concert. It was such a lovely evening and I hope you'll agree the performances were simply stunning. Your support means so much to our patients and their families.

Joanne Penketh, Hospice Head of Lottery & Donor Stewardship

”



Our Christmas Concert photo album is available to view at: facebook.com/drkershawshospice
SAVE THE DATE: Christmas Concert 2023: Thursday 14th December

Hospice Celebrates Black History Month

With October marking Black History Month, our staff took the opportunity to celebrate black history and how it has had an impact on our healthcare system throughout the years. We hosted a shared staff lunch, took to our social media channels to raise awareness of black history, and then asked our team what they had learnt throughout the month.

Lindsey Harper, Hospice Lead Nurse for Clinical Services said "We realise how important Black History Month is when you begin to learn about black influential people throughout history, as this is not included in the education curriculum. We all need to be able to identify with others especially those who have made such a positive impact on all our lives. It has been a joy to celebrate the different cultures and foods of the African and Caribbean countries and our shared lunch generated a lot of conversation, smiles and full bellies!"



Mayor of Oldham Visits Dr Kershaw's Hospice



We were delighted to be joined by the Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Elaine Garry and her Consort, Councillor Graham Shuttleworth on 3rd November 2022 for the Mayor's first visit to our new In-Patient Unit.

Cllr Elaine Garry said: "It was so lovely to visit Dr Kershaw's Hospice's new facility. Upon arrival you immediately find yourself in a warm, welcoming place with lovely facilities, people have preconceptions of hospices and Dr Kershaw's certainly isn't what you'd expect! It was nice to have a tour around the fantastic new In-Patient Unit and to see and share my knowledge gained from visiting other hospices across the North West. Thank you to Dr Kershaw's Hospice for the good work you do and the support you offer to the community. Unfortunately, I've had to visit the Hospice in the past to see friends who were being cared for and I've seen first-hand what incredible care and support the team provide."

A Tribute to Gordon Maxwell

We were saddened to hear that Gordon Maxwell passed away, aged 93, at the beginning of January 2023. Gordon was Secretary on the Hospice Appeal Steering Group set up in 1983, supporting the Hospice on various groups until 2000, and had a career of 52 years with the Oldham Chronicle.

Dr Paul Cook, Vice Chair of the Hospice's Board of Trustees said: "Gordon Maxwell was one of the founding fathers of the Oldham Hospice Appeal in the 80s and was actively involved in helping Dr Kershaw's Hospice open on a sustainable footing in the 90s and beyond. His help and sage advice to the Appeal Committee was crucial to promoting the Hospice appeal and generating funds to establish it. The Hospice, its staff and our patients, families and friends will always be in his debt."

Sending our thoughts and love to his family, he will be sadly missed by us all.



Gordon (centre) visiting our new In-Patient Unit in Spring 2022

Well-Being Week for Our Team



We recently held a staff-funded Well-being Week to help our team focus on self-care and well-being. Volunteers gave their time to ensure members of staff had access to a variety of treatments, ranging from hot stone massages to paraffin wax treatments and a guided relaxation session.

Mandi Halton, Hospice HR Advisor said: "The well-being of our staff is hugely important to enable the provision of the best possible care for patients and their loved ones. The week focused on giving our hard-working staff support in a variety of ways, from relaxing and invigorating complementary therapy sessions, to

yummy treats to eat and activities to engage in across the Hospice including a fun facts challenge, which helped us all learn more about each other."

The Well-being Week coincided with the relaunch of our Well-Being Centre, which had been closed to day patients since the start of the pandemic, with virtual sessions previously offered as an alternative. Watch this space, as in our next issue we'll be featuring the new sessions on offer in our Well-Being Centre.

Jolly Jumper Day

On Wednesday 14th December 2022, our Hospice Team got involved with our own initiative that we had already invited schools and businesses to take part in and hosted a Jolly Jumper Day to raise vital funds for patient care. Teams from across the Hospice donned their festive frocks with Christmas jumpers on display, bright seasonal tights and reindeer ears.



Your Heart of the Hospice

2023 will see us reducing our Heart of the Hospice newsletter from four to two issues a year. With the current cost of living crisis and our financial deficit this change will enable us to save vital costs on printing moving forward, as well as aligning with our revised Lottery Bumper Draws detailed on page 23. Don't worry though, each issue will still be jam-packed and we will keep you informed on all our events and news from around the Hospice. In the meantime, if you'd like to sign up to receive communications throughout the year via email from us please get in touch with our Fundraising Team at fundraising@drkh.org.uk



We are So Very Grateful for the Love and Support Given to Linda

Linda Dixon was just 66 when she passed away, after being diagnosed with a rare sarcoma at the back of her liver. After her diagnosis, Linda's condition deteriorated and in June 2021, she started to receive care from our Caring Hands Team and later our Hospice at Home Team before being admitted to the In-Patient Unit where she sadly died on 7th August 2021. Upon her diagnosis, her partner, Richard Sweeney and her sons struggled to care for Linda themselves at home, and were so very grateful when Linda started to receive care from Dr Kershaw's Hospice, that after she died, Richard made a donation in her memory to enable the Hospice to care for and support more patients and families...

"Linda was a lovely lady, loved by absolutely everyone she met. Linda was married to Graham for 30 years before he died in 2008, and they had two sons together, Robert and Peter and a grandson, William.

Linda and I had been together for five years. Linda loved her holidays and eating out and as a couple we enjoyed a lot of both! One of my favourite memories is of Linda enjoying her pudding at Rick Stein's restaurant in Padstow. Linda also loved her garden, and spent many hours in it, she was always her happiest outside in the garden.

Linda was born in Chadderton and trained as a nurse at Royal Oldham Hospital before qualifying as a midwife. Later in her career, Linda became a practice nurse at surgeries in Oldham as well as Royton.

In 2017, we received the devastating diagnosis that Linda had a rare sarcoma at the back of her liver. She had an operation and was fine for over a year, but then later scans confirmed that there was nothing more that the doctors could do to treat her. Linda remained fit and well in herself until the beginning of 2020 and was still taking the dog for a walk a couple of times a day when the pandemic started.

I was looking after Linda along with her sons, but as her health started to deteriorate we needed professional help to support us. The community palliative care nurses told us about Dr Kershaw's Caring Hands Team and we arranged for them to start coming to care for Linda each day. They helped such a lot, I wouldn't have managed without their support. Initially they came twice a day, each morning and evening but as she got more poorly they came in four times a day, getting her up each day, putting her to bed and changing her when needed. Their support for the month they came to our home was unbelievable. Linda felt very supported and at the end as she got

weaker she felt comfortable and at ease with being admitted to the Hospice's In-Patient Unit.

The In-Patient Unit itself is a lovely facility, the nurses there couldn't do enough for Linda, they arranged for her to have reflexology on her feet and aromatherapy, anything she wanted they'd do. They really helped us too and were very supportive, keeping us up to date with Linda's medication, letting us know what was happening and keeping her as comfortable as possible. We could visit as and when we wanted. At that point, Linda was asleep a lot but we could sit with her and the staff would just come in and chat to us.

On the day Linda died, we got a phone call early in the morning, and she died within half hour of us getting to the Hospice. Dr Kershaw's Team were wonderful with everything and cared for us afterwards.

Linda was in the Hospice for 12 days before we sadly lost her on 7th August, she was just 66. We can't thank the staff at the Hospice and the Community Team enough, they were all very caring and did everything to make Linda comfortable, as well as supporting myself and her sons, showing us much love.

After Linda died I wanted to do something to show my appreciation to the Hospice, and so I made a donation in Linda's memory, to support future patients and families as we were supported so very much."



Linda felt very supported and at the end as she got weaker she felt comfortable and at ease with being admitted to the Hospice's In-Patient Unit.

“

After Linda died I wanted to do something to show my appreciation to the Hospice, and so I made a donation in her memory, to support future patients and families as we were supported so very much.

”

Linda on the beach with her beloved dog



Linda eating her pudding at Rick Steins restaurant in Padstow with Richard



Linda and her partner, Richard

To find out more about our clinical services and the support our team can provide to families in the community, visit: www.drkh.org.uk

THE FURNITURE HUB

Giving furniture a second chance – **RE-CYCLE, RE-STORE, RE-SELL!**

Donate Your Children's Outgrown School/ Sports Shoes to Our Furniture Hub

Our Furniture Hub has launched a new scheme – 'Shoes for Kids' to support families with the high cost of shoes for their children as well as raising vital funds for patient care at our Hospice.

Mike McArdle, Furniture Hub Store Manager explained: "We all know how quickly our kids' feet grow and how expensive new school or sports shoes can be. At The Furniture Hub we want to be able to offer all families access to affordable school or sports shoes for no more than £5, even the top brands. Can you help us achieve this by donating your child's outgrown shoes? We are on the lookout for school shoes, football/rugby boots, track trainers, tap and ballet shoes and other various dance shoes. Your donations could really help towards developing another child's future success!"

Please drop your children's shoes at The Furniture Hub. Follow The Furniture Hub's Facebook page **@FurnitureHubDrKH** for updates.

To visit the store or to make a donation contact the store at: The Furniture Hub, Neo House, Shaw Road, Oldham, OL1 4AW (opening hours: Monday – Saturday, 9am – 5pm), **furniture@drkh.org.uk**, **0161 510 0102**.



Our New Look Lees Shop Opens After Renovation



Our Lees Hospice charity shop has reopened with a fresh and fabulous new look following a renovation by shop volunteers and Hospice staff.

The team did everything in a cost saving way and were busy painting, wallpapering, creating a new sorting area and repurposing donated furniture to give the shop a more modern feel.

Stephen Brookes, Hospice Head of Retail said: "This is the next phase of making our shops fit for the future and it is really important to make it a great place to work for our volunteers. The refit has enabled us to create a sorting area which we previously didn't have, so now we no longer have to turn away donations. I'd like to say a huge thanks to the volunteers, Geraldine, Store Manager and Alison, Area Manager for making the shop look and feel fabulous! Renovations will start shortly on our Shaw Hospice shop, so watch this space!"

If you want to take a look around the shop or would like to donate items, visit: Dr Kershaw's Hospice Lees Shop, 99 High Street, Lees, Oldham, OL4 4LY. Opening times are Monday to Saturday: 9.30am - 4.30pm.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas Draw, especially with the cost of living crisis, we appreciate just how difficult things are, and how grateful we are to all those who took part helping to raise a fabulous £13,649. Congratulations to the 10 lucky prize winners!

To those of you who kindly returned your surveys, thank you, we have taken your feedback on board, and from this year onwards we will be looking to run two Draws a year instead of four. 86.8% of you who replied said you would be happy to double your tickets for the two Draws therefore making the same monetary contribution across the year as you would normally, for which we are extremely grateful.

This will enable us to reduce our printing and mailings costs whilst continuing to update you with what's happening at the Hospice, the services we offer, our events and the amazing support we receive from you, our community. Also highlighting how your contributions continue to help us provide care and support to our patients and their families when they need us the most.

2023 sees our Hospice Lottery celebrate its 20th Anniversary! With this in mind we are going to run an extra special Draw in October, sending paper tickets to all our supporters, giving you the opportunity to sell these on to friends, family and colleagues, with the chance to win some of the fabulous prizes on offer.

Please keep a look out on our social media and our website for further updates. If you don't currently receive raffles tickets and would like to participate in our 20th Anniversary Draw please get in touch and we will arrange this for you.

Our £1 Weekly Lottery is a great way to support your local Hospice as well as generating a regular and reliable income source enabling us to plan for the future. To give yourself a chance to win and a way to care by joining our Weekly Lottery, please contact our Lottery Team or visit our website.

Thank You for making a difference!

The Lottery Team

A CHANCE TO WIN
Lottery
A WAY TO CARE



Scratch Cards

It's your last chance to buy our Hospice scratch cards! The last day of sale is 31st March as they expire on that date. At only £1 each and with the jackpot of £1,000 still up for grabs, there's all to play for! Buy yours today from our Hospice Reception, shops or contact our Lottery Team.



Lottery Gift Vouchers



Looking to buy a gift for the person who has everything? Our Lottery Gift Vouchers start from as little as £10 and are available for all occasions, from birthdays to anniversaries and more. A gift that keeps on giving with the chance to win our jackpot prize of £1,000. Order yours online today or contact our Lottery Team.

Contact our Lottery Team Tel: 0161 624 9213
Email: lottery@drkh.org.uk Website: www.drkh.org.uk/lottery



*Celebrate your loved ones
with a Rose to Remember.*

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for our Summer Appeal – Rose to Remember where you can dedicate a beautiful long-stemmed metal rose to your loved ones. You will then be invited to our Rose to Remember Open Garden Day to see your memorial rose in situ in our picturesque gardens.

SUNDAY 2ND JULY 2023

You will be able to make a dedication from 1st April 2023 at: www.drkh.org.uk/rosetoremember or by contacting our Fundraising Team on fundraising@drkh.org.uk or **0161 624 9984**

Shops Directory

Lees Hospice Shop

99 High Street, Lees,
Oldham, OL4 4LY
Tel: 0161 628 7100
Mon – Sat, 9.30am – 4.30pm

Shaw Hospice Shop

50-52 Market Street, Shaw,
Oldham, OL2 8NH
Tel: 01706 290973
Mon – Sat, 9.30am – 4.30pm

Royton Hospice Shop

Unit 14 Market Square, Royton,
Oldham, OL2 5QD
Tel: 0161 652 8707
Mon – Sat, 9.30am – 4.30pm

To buy new and used furniture and for all furniture and small electrical item donations please visit our furniture store or contact the store on the details below:

The Furniture Hub

Neo House, Shaw Road
Oldham, OL1 4AW
Tel: 0161 510 0102
Facebook: @FurnitureHubDrKH
Email: furniture@drkh.org.uk
Mon – Sat, 9am – 5pm

Contact Details

For general enquiries, patient information, volunteering, Friends of the Hospice:

Tel: 0161 624 2727

Fax: 0161 628 0181

Well-Being Centre: 0161 785 5625

Macmillan Nurses: 0161 778 5918

24 Hour Advice Line: 0161 785 5635

Fundraising Office: 0161 624 9984

fundraising@drkh.org.uk

Lottery Office: 0161 624 9213

lottery@drkh.org.uk

Dr Kershaw's Hospice

Turf Lane, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6EU

Email: info@drkh.org.uk

Website: www.drkh.org.uk

Charity No: 1105924

