

# Newsletter

AUTUMN/WINTER 2018/2019

## A Royal Celebration



### Our Caring Community

Friends, Sian Rowley and Olivia Seipel, made loom band jewellery and raised £23 by selling it to friends and family.



Visiting Day Therapy patients



Mrs Joan Potter our longest serving volunteer of 30 years meets the Princess



### Did You Know?

### Last year...

thanks to your kind support we provided free care for 1,014 patients and their families. It cost us £2.93m to provide our vital care and we charged...

**£0!**

On 13th June, we were delighted to welcome Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra who visited to celebrate 25 years since we opened our Day Therapy Unit.

Princess Alexandra is the Queen's first cousin, and a working member of the Royal Family – she is a supporter of a number of charities. It is fitting that the Princess visited Katharine House after her brother, HRH the Duke of Kent, officially opened the hospice's In-Patient Unit in 2002.

On arrival, Her Royal Highness was greeted by a group of excited local schoolchildren from St. John's Primary School, Stafford, proudly waving flags. The Princess was then given a tour of the hospice by Chief Executive, Dr Richard Soulsby, accompanied by Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Ian Dudson.

The hospice opened its Day Unit in 1993 as the culmination of years of fundraising and tireless dedication from community groups and volunteers – today the hospice could not exist without their strong support and hard work.

Her Royal Highness spent time with patients who were delighted by her visit.

Ian Dregghorn, Day Therapies patient, summed up the experience, "An exceptional day with an exceptional lady."

Peter Dakin, Day Therapies patient, said, "She came and she was interested in us."

Princess Alexandra praised the hospice for having "a lovely atmosphere" and thanked staff and volunteers for their hard work in providing vital care services. The Princess then unveiled a plaque commemorating her visit and the anniversary of the Day Therapy Unit and was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers by Mrs Joan Potter, the longest serving Katharine House Hospice volunteer of 30 years.

# 230 miles to remember mum and support her hospice

Katharine House Hospice has a special place in the heart of Alice Daykin. Alice's mum, Wendy, sadly lost her battle with cancer and died at the Hospice 10 years ago when Alice was just 6 years old.

Alice, said "She spent the last few months of her life in Katharine House so I wanted to do something to give back to them for everything they did for us and for her to make the last few months of her life really special".

**"I just remember the staff being so, so friendly. Every time we came, they would always have a chat with us, they were really amazing".**

Memories of happy family holidays prompted Alice to do something very special to mark the anniversary of her mum's death and in July she took to the road with her partner, Josh Gates, and cycled the 230 miles to Tenby, Wales - her Mum's "special place".

Despite revising hard for her GCSEs Alice managed to fit in the training needed to undertake the challenge that tested her to the limit.

"As it went on it got more and more physically draining, I was tired, it was emotionally draining as well. It got to the point where I literally thought I couldn't do any more but I pushed through".

Finally, after days on the road, a familiar seaside sight came in to view..

"I said that's it! We did it! Now I'm in my favourite place, the view she loved so much. All done for my incredible Mum. I managed 223.7 miles (missing out of some of the massive hills which were literally impossible!). Josh managed 238.5 miles, completing one of the biggest mountains I've seen in my life! Thank you everyone for donations and support! It was a lovely surprise to see a lot of my family there at the finish line too!"

So far, they have already raised over £3,500 to split between the hospice and Cancer Research UK – amazing!

We were so touched by their courage and kindness, helping Katharine House to keep on caring for local people and funding research to stop the disease.

As Alice said "Just go for it because whatever you do or how much you raise, you're changing someone's life. It might be hard, but it's definitely worth it in the end. It was hard for us but the end point was definitely worth all the struggle of getting there. If you want to do it just go for it".



**Did  
You  
Know?**

**Last year our  
In Patient Unit  
provided 2,388  
patient days of  
care and cost us  
£1,727,402  
to run**

## Our Caring Community

Aspire, an organisation that supports people who learn differently to move on in life held a 'Care for a Cuppa' event, raising over £330.





# Our Amazing Volunteers



from 14 years old to over 80 – we couldn't continue to provide vital free care without our volunteers

Katharine House Hospice, as a local charity, is extremely fortunate to benefit from the support of the local community it serves. Amongst other things, this invaluable support comes from individuals donating, attending fundraising events, or volunteering and together, quite simply make Katharine House Hospice the special place it is.

Our workforce (paid and voluntary) is made up of some very special individuals who often go above and beyond to ensure our patients, visitors, customers and supporters benefit from their passion, knowledge, time and skills.

During 2018 Katharine House Hospice celebrated the 25th anniversary of our Day Therapies Unit being opened, testimony to the inspiration, enthusiasm and commitment of the local community and the initial steering group which formed to help raise the funds for the hospice to be built.

On an annual basis the charity formally acknowledges the long service of our volunteers. During 2018 we were fortunate enough to have more than 91 volunteers with long service of 5 years or longer. Even more inspirational is that for 4 years out of the last 5 we have proudly presented volunteers with awards for 25 years of voluntary service and during 2018 recognised the recipient of our first 30 years' award. We are hugely proud and appreciative of every one of our volunteers, for all they do, have done and hopefully will continue to do. Whilst it never seems to be enough, a sincere and genuine thank you to each and every volunteer past and present.

**“We couldn't function without our volunteers. Last year they provided almost 88,300 hours of support, which if the charity had to pay a minimum wage, would have cost in excess of £662,000.”**

## Our Caring Community – we're in it together!

Scarlett Taylor baked cakes and sold them to family, friends and neighbours, raising over £100 in memory of her Grandfather, Dennis Wilson.



Don Mitchell held a fabulous classic car event in memory of his late wife Kathleen, raising over £2,700.



Ladies Captain, Helen Jessop, and Mens Captain, Tony Jones from the Manor Golf Club chose us as their charity of the year and held a charity golf day raising over £2,500.



# In Great Company...

Thank you to our platinum Business Buddies members whose yearly membership support allows us to continue to care for local people. Your company can become a Business Buddy today.

Contact our fundraising department on **01785 270808** for more information.



**Did you know?**  
We are also looking for new ways to work with local companies?

This year we're delighted to have been involved in something completely new.



In collaboration with five local businesses we brought 'The Bears Lair, Stafford' to entrepreneurs in our local community. This gave people with a business idea the chance to win business support worth over £10,000 whilst raising vital funds.

**Did you know?**  
Some local corporates make it their mission to 'Pay for a day'?

Thank you to the team at Bostik who are working hard to raise enough funds to cover the cost of a full 24 hours of care services at the hospice – they have raised over £3,000 already!



**Did you know?**  
Some local corporates are as competitive as they are caring?

Thanks to the 255 (Bahrain) Signal Squadron we were thrilled to receive a donation of over £2,000. They went over and above when undertaking their seriously challenging challenge of cycling 4,132 miles in less than 48 hours; actually cycling 4,600 miles on static bikes. Clearly they relish a challenge but also an opportunity to make a difference for our patients.

We are proud to display the squadron's military plaque and that of the 16th Signal Regiment at the hospice – testament to the mutual respect we share.



## Shop Talk



### Uttoxeter Cares shop now open

Uttoxeter Cares, formerly known as the Holly Road Supportive Care Centre, was launched in September 2015 as a partnership between St Giles Hospice, Katharine House Hospice and the Hermitage Charitable Trust.

Now the project is celebrating three years in action with the launch of a shop under the Uttoxeter Cares brand at 11, The Maltings, which opened in September.

Shop Manager, Sheila Bennington is hoping the new brand will raise even more awareness of the services Uttoxeter Cares can provide, as well as attracting donations and volunteers.

**"It's been a really positive start to trading with lots of donations and plenty of people popping in to shop, which provides vital funds to help us keep Uttoxeter Cares running."**



### Drive Thru, Drop off and Make a Difference at Norton Canes

Katharine House Hospice's new shop at Norton Canes is the first of its kind in the area – if not the UK. The shop on Burntwood Road offers a convenient experience where local people can drive through and drop off household recyclable waste and unwanted items such as furniture in the knowledge that they will be recycled into care for local people at Katharine House Hospice.



Our Norton Canes shop, officially opened by MP Amanda Milling

Visitors can recycle cans, plastic and glass bottles, paper and card and donate unwanted clothing, furniture, electricals and bric a brac. Whilst dropping off their unwanted items, visitors can browse a massive selection of quality used furniture, fashion, electricals and a treasure trove of other unique items.



Find a Katharine House Hospice shop near you at [www.khhospice.org.uk](http://www.khhospice.org.uk)

Find out more about our care services and how you can help to fund them at...

**[www.khhospice.org.uk](http://www.khhospice.org.uk) | 01785 270808**

Registered Charity Number 1011712

