

YOUR HOSPICE

Newsletter Spring 2023



News and
updates from
your local
hospice

How you've helped hundreds of families

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

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We can't thank the hospice enough, that's why I'm carving these hearts.

Jane with
her father,
Ivan

Ivan and Jane's Story

Retired woodwork teacher Ivan is carving hearts for our patients and families in thanks for the care given to his wife, Doreen last year.

Ivan's daughter Jane told us about the exceptional care Doreen received.

"Dad was struggling with looking after Mum, and I don't think the family were aware of just how bad it was getting. Then Mum went into the Royal Stoke Hospital for tests, and they discovered she had Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's. When she came out of hospital, Dad was determined to carry on looking after Mum, but it was quite exhausting.

"Mum needed 24/7 support. Dad was awake all night, and I was awake all day; then, we got referred to Katharine House Hospice through Mum's consultant.

"That was fabulous because, from that moment, we had the offer of night sits from the Hospice at Home team, and it meant we could actually stay awake in the day when we were needed."

"Hospice at Home helped a lot, but Mum started to go downhill and experience pain and anxiety and then started end of life treatment. A bed became available at the hospice, and we thought 'that's it.'



Jane's mum,
Doreen



Ivan's
wonderful
wooden
hearts

"But in fact, the care and support she received from the hospice's specialist teams meant she recovered enough to move into a local residential care home where we visit her regularly."

Ivan said: "We can't thank the hospice enough; that's why I'm carving these hearts – as a keepsake for others going through a hard time like we did."

Visit our website to find out more about the care we provide.
Our care is free and provided where and when it is needed most.
khhospice.org.uk

Thank You!

Your support helps us to continue to offer **free** care when it's needed most.



Write your will for **FREE** today

You can now write your will for free with our friends and expert will writers, Guardian Angel.

We know that when you think about making a will, your priority is providing for your loved ones, but many people find that even after they've done this, they can leave something to a cause they hold dear.

What your gift will fund

Leaving us a gift in your will is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can support local families in need of specialist hospice care and support. It costs nothing during your lifetime but will have a powerful impact for years to come.

A gift of any size makes a huge difference

Did you know?

- One in seven of our patients is funded by a gift left to us in a will.
- No matter the size of your legacy, it will make the greatest difference to local families living with incurable illness.

Many people who use this service choose to leave a gift in their will to Katharine House Hospice, but there is no obligation to do so. If you want to find out more, ring **Sarah** on **01785 270808**

Write your will online today in as little as 15 minutes...

Just scan with your smartphone.
or visit khhospice.org.uk/online-will

Write Your Will

It's simple too...



Online

- Easy step-by-step process just scan the **QR code** below
- Legal experts check over each will
- On-hand support



Over the phone

Call **0800 773 4014** to book an appointment with a solicitor / will writer.



In person

Call **0800 773 4014** to book an appointment with a solicitor / will writer.





Dr Bernadette
Sharp with sons
Dan and Tim

Tim's Story

Tim and Dan grew up in Stafford with their mum, Doctor Bernadette Sharp, a Professor of Artificial Intelligence at Staffordshire University.

Tim told us about the care his mum received and that his family continue to benefit from.

"Our incredible mum fell ill at the beginning of October. Then we received heart-breaking news, Mum had stage four cancer. We didn't know anything about it and had to learn what to do fast.

"Katharine House Hospice's reputation made introducing the charity to Mum reassuring, and she was keen to go. She wanted the peace, comfort and compassion offered and to be surrounded by her loved ones.

"Mum started receiving palliative care at Stafford's County Hospital. The consultants on the ward were from Katharine House Hospice and did an amazing job supporting us. They reassured Mum, explained the process and made the referral to the hospice. They made everything easier.

"The level of care was phenomenal from the start. We cannot fault it. Anything Mum needed, even if it was sorbet at 10 a.m., the team made it happen.

"The support from Neil and the team was priceless. They told us what to expect and gave us time to grieve as a family."

"Neil, a palliative care nurse practitioner, was fantastic. He treated Mum with compassion and respect. Mum's dignity was our biggest concern, but we didn't need to worry. Dignity is at the heart of all care offered by Katharine House Hospice.

"On Thursday evening, Mum passed.

"The support from Neil and the team was priceless. They told us what to expect and gave us time to grieve as a family.

"The time and quality of care were beyond our expectations, and it goes beyond the patient. The team understands that everyone is struggling and supports the whole family.

"The care hasn't stopped. I was quickly offered counselling support, which I continue to use.

"I was lucky to have people around me. Can you imagine getting that care when your world is falling apart, or you don't have others around you? The continued support services the charity provides for

families are so needed and valuable.

"Katharine House Hospice stepped in and went above and beyond to help us - thank you."



Continuing to Care

When someone is cared for by us, we care for their families and loved ones too. Our bereavement team is always here to offer them support when their loved one dies and for as long as they need it.

Margaret reaches out to family members after the loss of a loved one.

"I ring families to let them know we're here for them... often people are still suffering the effects of low mood or they could be finding life very hard to manage. We make contact at this time to offer a range of support to the family."

**Margaret
Patient Pathway Team**

Make a Difference

Shop with us

Have you popped into any of our 14 shops in Staffordshire? From high street boutiques to huge warehouses, our shops are stacked with quality preloved items at bargain prices.

Treasure hunt

For gorgeous, unique, high-end items, including designer goods, antiques and collectables, visit our eBay shop.

Want a clear out?

Eight of our shops sell a selection of furniture, and we urgently need more to fund care. Book your free furniture collection today via our website.

Gift Aid it

Thousands of people raised a whopping extra £235,000 for us to care last year by simply gift aiding their shop donations to us. For every £1 your donation raises, £1.25 is added for us to care.

Volunteer today

We always need volunteers to help in our shops. Spare a few hours a week and help your community, all while learning new skills, making new friends and making a difference.

Lottery

Play the Local Hospice Lottery and choose Katharine House Hospice. You could win £2,000 every single week – along with 200 other cash prizes. PLUS if there's a rollover, it can reach £25,000!

Fundraise

Organise your own event or take part in one of ours. Get your family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and community involved and make a difference to families who need our care. You could be flinging yourself from a plane, trekking Kilimanjaro, holding a coffee morning or selling crafts, your efforts are epic. Find fundraising inspirations on our website.

Remember us on your special occasion

At your birthday, wedding or other celebrations, you can make a difference and give the gift of care.

Dates for Your Diary...



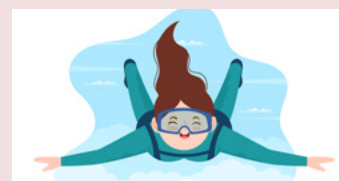
LADIES LUNCH Thursday 11 May

Join us for a delicious lunch at Staffordshire County Showground. Our speaker is Yorkshire Shepherdess – Amanda Owen who will delight us with tales of her remarkable life in North Yorkshire and her experiences as a shepherdess, mother and bestselling author.



SNOWDON SUNRISE CHALLENGE Sunday 18 June

Join us for our guided night walk to Snowdon's summit for a spectacular sunrise! Whether you're marking a special occasion, a memory, or just enjoying the challenge, you'll help raise vital funds for care.



SKYDIVE June and July

Free fall through the clouds on a tandem parachute jump. The easiest and most popular of skydives, you'll need just 30 minutes training before flying through the clouds from over 10,000 feet strapped to your instructor.



OPEN GARDENS Sunday 2 July

A number of beautiful gardens within Great and Little Haywood will open their gates, allowing us all to step in and enjoy these usually private spaces. Further details coming soon.



GOLF DAY Thursday 14 Sept

Our charity Golf Day is back for 2023. This year's event promises to be a challenging day of golf on the beautiful Brocton Hall Golf Course.



We are there for you and your family when you need us most.

It costs £3.2 million each year to deliver the care we provide locally, and we rely on your kindness to generate almost 2/3 of the funds we need to run our services.



Scan to give

Support us today



khhospice.org.uk/donate



01785 270808



Katharine House Hospice, Priestly Court,
Staffordshire Technology Park, Stafford
ST18 0LQ

(no cash in the post please).

Thank for your support!

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