



## Heart of the Hospice

Issue

72

- **Dr Kershaw's Strictly Raises Over £26K!**
- **New Hospice Shop Opens!**
- **Dr Kershaw's Has Been My Lifeline**



## Introducing CareForce1



# Welcome

This issue's Welcome is from Rebecca Bentham, the Hospice's Director of Income Development and Marketing. Rebecca has worked in fundraising for over 20 years for a number of different charities, starting at the Hospice five years ago. Her role ensures that the Hospice brings in vital funds to support patient care, and during her time at Dr Kershaw's, Rebecca and her team have brought in millions of pounds, which has made a difference to countless families...

Our 2024 events are off to a great start! We were thrilled that Dr Kershaw's Strictly raised over £26,000 for our Hospice. We were considering looking at another event format for 2025 but have had such great feedback from those who attended that we have already secured a date for Strictly 2025. We are looking for dancers now who would be up for the challenge of learning a new skill and raising vital funds for our Hospice.

We'd love for you to get in touch with our team to find out more, just contact us at: [fundraising@drkh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk) or give us a call on **0161 624 9984**.

I would also like to thank everyone who made a Rose dedication to celebrate the lives of their loved ones in our recent Rose to Remember Appeal. The day brought together our Hospice and our community and gave us the opportunity to reflect on the lives of those who we loved, but are no longer with us.

The new 2024/25 financial year brings with it new financial pressures for our Hospice and with no increased funding from the government we are once again looking at a financial deficit. This means we will need to work even harder to raise the additional funds needed to ensure we can continue to provide the level of care we do for so many families. With that in mind, there are so many ways you can support our Hospice in the coming months; you can attend one of our events, challenge yourself to raise funds for us, sign up to our Hospice Lottery, visit our Hospice shops or even give the gift of your time and sign up to be a volunteer. However, you support us, please know that it truly does mean so much to our Hospice, to our patients, and to their families.

We realise that times are tough and that every penny matters, and we appreciate your support now more than ever! Thank You!

**Rebecca Bentham**  
Director of Income Development & Marketing

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# This Year it Will Cost Us Even More to Keep Our Doors Open!

This financial year, April 2024-March 2025 our costs are projected at just under £5.3 million, a £600,000 increase from the £4.7 million we needed last year to keep our Hospice running...

Less than one third of our income is funded by the NHS, meaning we have to raise two-thirds of our income through fundraising to keep our vital services running. This year we will need to raise over £3.5 million to continue to deliver our services and support our community as we do.

If we just relied on the NHS funding we received on 1st

April 2024, it would run out by the end of July 2024, and the rest of the year's care, until 31st March 2025, would be completely on us!

To ensure the continuity of our services and to support the care of our patients this year, please help make a difference by making a donation today at:

[www.drkh.org.uk/donate](http://www.drkh.org.uk/donate)

IT WILL  
COST JUST UNDER  
**£5.3 MILLION**  
TO KEEP OUR  
DOORS OPEN

**OVER  
£3.5 MILLION**  
FUNDRAISING  
NEEDED  
THIS YEAR

## Enhancing Our Donor Experience



We are thrilled to announce that we are working on a new website and an enhanced user experience for those who visit our site to make a donation or to sign up to our events.

Our current site is outdated and transactions take many more laborious steps than they need to. Based on feedback from you, our local community we are now working hard to make your experience in supporting our Hospice via our website a more positive, easier one.

We are looking to launch our new site in Autumn and hope that it will support you better in your ongoing and dedicated support for our Hospice. Keep an eye on our social channels for more updates!

# No Matter What I Do I Will Never be Able to Repay the Hospice Enough

Lawrence O'Grady volunteers at the Hospice, he also supports our Weekly Lottery and he recently took himself completely out of his comfort zone by signing up to dance at our Strictly event, raising almost £1,500 to support patient care. Lawrence's support for Dr Kershaw's started after his wife, Hilary was cared for by our Hospice Team. Having been admitted on May 2nd 2023, Hilary passed away peacefully on May 9th, at just 64-years-old, surrounded by her family and friends. Since then, Lawrence has done all he can to show his support for the Hospice and to give back to the team who so lovingly cared for Hilary...

"Hilary was first diagnosed with a chronic heart failure condition in 2004, at the tender age of 45. Her diagnosis meant that for the next 18 years she would receive medical treatment, which included two bypass operations. Numerous periods of hospitalisation were involved, but Hilary always maintained a cheery and determined demeanour and didn't allow her condition to define her.

We managed to continue having an almost normal life throughout this period, parenting our children, Julie, Andrew, Marc, Ian and Samantha and offering our support as grandparents to our seven wonderful grandchildren. We continued to enjoy doing all the things that couples do – like socialising and holidaying. As the years passed Hilary deteriorated, but she fought hard not to give in to her illness nor allow it to dictate how we lived our lives. Indeed, as recently as September 2022, we had a lovely holiday to Turkey, enjoying life to the full.

Sadly, things began to change upon returning home from our holiday. Hilary's heart condition worsened and she began to struggle with a host of 'new' symptoms. She was admitted into hospital in mid-November 2022 and remained there until 19th December before returning home to spend Christmas with our family. However, Hilary's medication wasn't working and just before the New Year she was once again admitted to hospital for another month.

Once Hilary was discharged, we tried to continue with our usual routines and actually went away to Somerset for a short holiday during the last few days of February. Sadly, our stay was cut short as Hilary's condition became frighteningly worse. She was readmitted to hospital and after ten days of treatment, we were approached by the consultant who was treating Hilary, and the bombshell was dropped! They were very sorry, but there was nothing further that they could do. Hilary was to be discharged home, basically to die. Needless to say, we were devastated.

Hilary was then allocated a palliative care nurse and we took care of her other needs. As time went on, it became more and more difficult to care for Hilary. Her condition was worsening, her pain levels increasing and our confidence that we were doing 'the right thing' was reducing. At this point, we were first introduced to Dr Kershaw's Hospice and the Caring Hands Team.

Four times each day, two members of this marvellous team came to our home to tend to Hilary. They bathed her, they helped with her comfort and they not only cared for her, but they CARED. They were kind, they were patient and they were interested. It didn't seem to be just a job for them, it was as if they were our friends (as, indeed, they very quickly became).

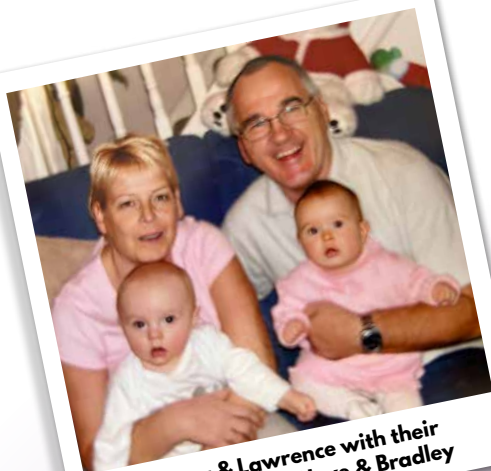
With their support, I managed to care for Hilary at home until early May. However, it was becoming apparent that Hilary's condition was rapidly deteriorating and her pain levels were increasing. Prior to the introduction of Caring Hands, Hilary had always been concerned about the prospect of being admitted into a Hospice, however, when it became clear that the Hospice she would be admitted to was the one where our Caring Hands 'friends' worked, Hilary gave her consent.

For the last week of Hilary's life, she was cared for at the Hospice and I spent her last days by her side. Nothing was ever too much trouble, and Hilary's care and the support for us both was delivered with such kindness and consideration.

I cannot thank Dr Kershaw's enough for how they cared for Hilary and for the care that was given to me in what was the worst period of my life so far. The Hospice Team take people who are at a terrible stage in their lives and gives them care, affection and kindness whilst maintaining incredibly high professional standards. I really don't know how they manage to give so much of themselves so readily and so frequently to everyone in their care and to the families of their patients.

No matter what I do - no matter how many times I volunteer or how much money I manage to raise - I don't think that I will ever be able to fully repay the staff at Dr Kershaw's Hospice for the kind and caring way they looked after my darling Hilary during those last days she was with me. In my opinion, the Hospice is staffed by angels who just don't happen to have wings."

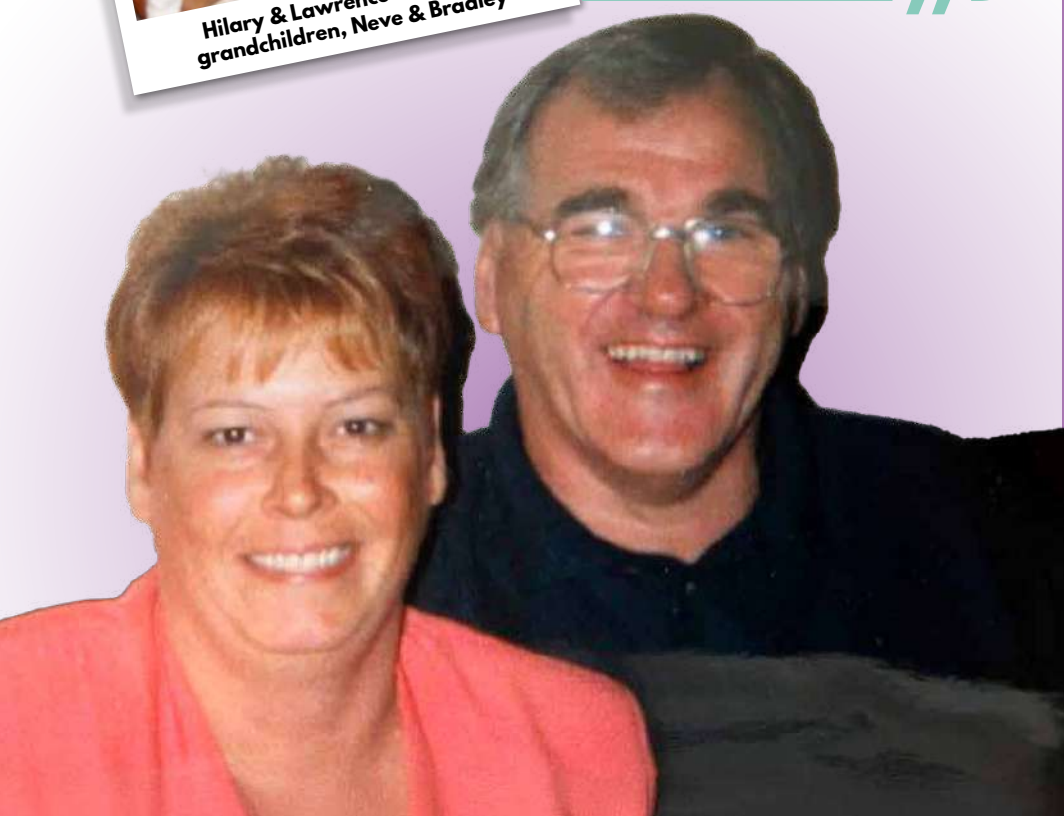




**Hilary & Lawrence with their grandchildren, Neve & Bradley**

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Lawrence's dancing at Dr Kershaw's Strictly has already supported the care of more patients like his wife, Hilary. To sign up as a dancer for Dr Kershaw's Strictly 2025 to enable us to continue to care, contact our Fundraising Team at: [fundraising@drkh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk) or 0161 624 9984

# Dr Kershaw's Strictly



## Dr Kershaw's Strictly Highlights

Friday 15th March saw Dr Kershaw's once again bring our very own version of Strictly Come Dancing to the Queen Elizabeth Hall, with this year's theme showcasing dances from 'A Night at the Movies.' Our dancers had been training hard for many weeks to perfect their dance moves in a bid to be crowned the Dr Kershaw's Strictly 2024 Winners and be presented with the coveted glitterball trophy. On the night, each dance couple took to the dance floor to showcase their moves, whilst also raising over £26,000 to support patient care at Dr Kershaw's Hospice. Thank you to everyone who supported our Dr Kershaw's Strictly 2024 event!

Congratulations to Max Freeman and Leanne Bailey, our Dr Kershaw's Strictly 2024 Winners who performed a Salsa and Musical Theatre Medley to Hungry Eyes and Time of my Life from Dirty Dancing for Dr Kershaw's Hospice!



"I loved every minute of Strictly and the fact that I exceeded my fundraising target made me feel like I had given something back and made a difference to the Hospice."

Dr Kershaw's Strictly Winner, Leanne



**SAVE THE DATE  
DR KERSHAW'S  
STRICTLY 2025**

Friday 28th February 2025  
Venue: Queen Elizabeth  
Hall, West St,  
Oldham OL1 1UT

**OVER  
£26,000  
RAISED!**

To sign up as a dancer for Dr Kershaw's Strictly 2025 contact our Fundraising Team on 0161 624 9984 or [fundraising@drkh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk)



# Rose to Remember 2024

WITH SUPPORT FROM



Sunday 23rd June saw us hold our third annual Rose to Remember event, kindly supported once again by Co-op, Royton. The event was a summer celebration to remember those who we have loved and sadly lost and included a short celebrant service along with musical and dance performances. With 750 roses dedicated and an incredible £13,262.70 raised, the 2024 Rose to Remember Appeal has enabled more patients and their families across the community to receive specialist care and support from the Hospice. Thank you to everyone who supported our Appeal and attended our event!

**OVER  
£13,000  
RAISED!**

**750  
ROSE  
DEDICATIONS**

To view more photos from the 2024 Rose to Remember event, visit our Facebook page: @drkershawshospice



## Over £6,000 Raised at An Evening with Frank

**On Thursday 25th April, we hosted 'An Evening with Frank Rothwell' at the Oldham Event Centre, Boundary Park.**

The event, hosted by BBC North West's Kevin Fitzpatrick celebrated the Latics Chairman's fantastic Guinness World Record Atlantic rowing achievement with the proceeds from the evening going to support patient care at the Hospice. The 125 attendees were treated to stories about his adventure and challenges, career achievements and ambitions, a live Q & A, and a raffle and auction.

Joanne Penketh, Head of Lottery & Donor Stewardship at Dr Kershaw's said: "A fantastic evening had by all! Frank was on top form with Kevin Fitzpatrick working hard to keep him on track! A massive thank you to Frank and Kevin and to all those who supported this event, helping to raise a fabulous **£6,012.50** for patient care, thank you for making a difference!"





# Investing in Our Volunteers

We have always known how fabulous our volunteers are and that we would be unable to provide the fabulous service we do without them. This year we have been lucky enough to receive a grant, which has meant we could launch a more varied social calendar, as a way to recognise the contribution of our volunteers...

We were incredibly fortunate to be selected by Action Together to receive a Micro Grant through the One Oldham Fund. We continue to enjoy regular coffee mornings and socials which allow volunteers to come

together and socialise. The funding has allowed us to further develop the offer for volunteers, to include mindfulness activity sessions, wellbeing walks, quizzes and even a brews and board games group.

**COFFEE & QUIZZES**

**BREWS & BOARD GAMES**

**WELLBEING WALKS**

**SUMMER SOCIAL**



To start your journey as a Volunteer for Dr Kershaw's Hospice, contact our Volunteering Team on **0161 624 2727** or [volunteerdept@drkh.org.uk](mailto:volunteerdept@drkh.org.uk) or apply online: [www.drkh.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.drkh.org.uk/volunteer)



## 60 Seconds with... Our Hospice Gardener, Louise Whitehead



**Louise started at the Hospice in September 2023. Her role in our Facilities Team sees her maintain and develop the Hospice gardens which provide beautiful surroundings for our patients and their families...**

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

I was looking for a career change, and I was really interested in developing my love of gardening. As soon as I saw the gardens I knew I could make a positive difference here. I saw the potential and opportunity to create a beautiful haven, and I've had an interest in developing the use of gardening as a therapy too, which ties in well with the Wellbeing Centre. My mum has supported Dr Kershaw's for many years after the husband of a good friend was looked after here, and more recently, a colleague was well cared for by Dr Kershaw's staff, so I knew the difference the Hospice can make to people at their time of need.

### **Where did you work before Dr Kershaw's?**

Before Dr Kershaw's I was the Business Manager at Diggle Primary School (and I continue to do a day a week there). Outside of my day job, I volunteered to run a gardening club, and over the years, I have planted up various parts of the school grounds, including a memorial garden.

### **Give us an overview of your role?**

Alongside my colleague Roy, it's my job to maintain and develop the gardens. Since joining the Hospice last September, we have done lots of weeding, mulching, tidying, feeding, and grass cutting. We planted 1500 tulip and daffodil bulbs, which looked fantastic in full flower, we have grown lots of new plants from bare-root, plugs and seeds which will bring some much-needed colour to the grounds as the season progresses. I am involved in the discussion for the next phase of grounds development, and

I am developing ideas alongside the Wellbeing Team as to how we can use the gardens in our service offering. I also look after our amazing volunteer gardeners, and I arrange some of the flowers you might see around the Hospice – both from flowers grown here in the garden and those donated to us.

### **What are the rewards of your role?**

The rewards of being the gardener here are plentiful. Seeing the transformation of the gardens from what they were when I started is extremely rewarding – the gardens are looking so much healthier and so much more colourful. I love the big greenhouse which is now full of seedlings just waiting for the weather to get a bit warmer; the satisfaction of growing from seed to full bloom is huge. However, one of the biggest rewards are the kind words on how nice the gardens are looking; from our staff and inpatients who look out onto the gardens, to visitors of the Café and Wellbeing Centre, the feedback has been really lovely. Ultimately, to be a gardener is to create a beautiful space to be enjoyed, I love to see people out in the garden and I look forward to much more of that now that the weather is improving.

### **What is your favourite thing about working at the Hospice?**

The Hospice is a very calm, kind place to work, with really amazing people. Colleagues take time for each other, take time to say thank you, and share the positives. The thing with a garden is it is never finished; there is always something that needs doing, but here, there is no 'rush.' Here, I can enjoy the journey.

**To work in a positive environment like Louise, why not check out our latest Hospice vacancies. Visit: [www.drkh.org.uk/jobs](http://www.drkh.org.uk/jobs)**

# Save the Date!

## Summer Fayre

Sunday 21st July, 12pm-3pm

### Dr Kershaw's Hospice

Join us for our Carnival themed Summer Fayre!

Come and join us at the Hospice for a family-friendly day of fun that's jam packed with exciting activities including food and craft stalls, carnival games, a helter skelter, craft activities, music, face-painting, a bouncy castle and you'll be able to meet our loveable Hospice mascot, Hartley.

For more information visit:  
[www.drkh.org.uk/summerfayre](http://www.drkh.org.uk/summerfayre)

ENTRY  
£1  
Minimum  
Donation



SPONSORED BY:

**Booth's**  
Garden & Pet Centre

## Golf Day

Friday 13th September, 8.30am-5pm

Crompton & Royton Golf Club

Join us for an action-packed day of golf!

We still have a few places left for our 2024 Golf Day! Those who sign up to our Golf Day can enjoy 18-holes of competitive golf at Crompton and Royton Golf Club, with each team competing to be crowned the 2024 Dr Kershaw's Cup Champions. The day includes breakfast and an evening buffet, golf challenges along with a raffle and awards presentation.

£200  
for 4-Ball  
Team



It was an absolute pleasure to lift the Dr Kershaw's Cup with Team Mulligan. The event was brilliantly organised and we had a great time supporting a wonderful charity and a worthy cause, we are looking forward to coming back this year to defend our trophy!

John Igoe, Captain of the 2023 Winning Team



SPONSORED BY:

**WIGGETT**  
• HOMES •

For more information visit: [www.drkh.org.uk/golfday](http://www.drkh.org.uk/golfday)

# Christmas Fayre

Sunday 17th November, 12pm-3pm

Dr Kershaw's Hospice

Enjoy a festive afternoon at our annual Christmas Fayre!

Join us for a festive afternoon where you'll be able to scoop up an array of Christmas gifts for your loved ones whilst supporting patient care at our Hospice. With our amazing Santa's Grotto for the children and festive gin cocktails for the grown-ups, it will be a date not to be missed.

Stalls will be available to hire on the day for £35. Reserve your stall from 1st August 2024.

For more information visit: [www.drkh.org.uk/christmasfayre](http://www.drkh.org.uk/christmasfayre)

ENTRY  
£1  
Minimum  
Donation



# Christmas Concert

Thursday 12th December, 6pm

Oldham Parish Church

Join us for a night of carols to get in the festive mood!

Our Christmas Concert takes place every December at Oldham Parish Church. Get in the festive mood with readings, carols, and performances from the wonderful Dr Kershaw's Hospice Choir, the amazing Hope Singers and the incredible Brian Clarke Academy.

For more information visit: [www.drkh.org.uk/christmasconcert](http://www.drkh.org.uk/christmasconcert)

TICKETS:  
£5  
Adults  
£2  
Children





# Light Up a Life

**In-Person and Virtual Service**  
**Sunday 1st December, 5pm**

## About the Service

Come together at our multi-faith Light Up a Life service, to remember your 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 our Hospice or not.

It is our pleasure to invite you to the Hospice for our in-person service, where we can stand side by side with each of you as our Light Up a Life dedication tree is poignantly lit, to remember each person we have lost, and hold dear to our hearts. Our 30-minute service will include readings and vocal performances, along with the switching on of our beautiful tree lights.

Refreshments will be available in Café K, and Hospice stalls will also be available for you to peruse on the evening. If you are unable to attend the in-person event at our Hospice, you will still be able to access the service virtually via:

- \* Facebook - [www.facebook.com/drkershawshospice](https://www.facebook.com/drkershawshospice)
- \* YouTube - [www.youtube.com/c/DrKershawsHospice](https://www.youtube.com/c/DrKershawsHospice)
- \* Oldham Community Radio 99.7FM



## Light Up a Life Dedication Card

All dedications will receive a personalised dedication card with your loved ones name(s) along with a dedication candle that will be hung on our tree in the Hospice. Those attending our in-person service will also receive an Order of Service at the event.

## Light Up a Life at Home Pack

If you decide to take part in our virtual service, we have once again designed a special Light Up a Life at Home Pack, which includes:

- \* A personalised dedication card
- \* An order of service
- \* A candle to hang on your tree or somewhere special to you

## How to Make Your Dedication

You can make your dedication from Tuesday 1st October.



To make your dedication by phone please call our Fundraising Team on 0161 624 9984



To make your dedication via our website please visit [www.drkh.org.uk/LightUpaLife](http://www.drkh.org.uk/LightUpaLife)



Pick up a Light Up a Life leaflet from our Reception or shops and return your completed form to the Hospice

All dedications must be made before **Sunday 24th November** to be included in our Book of Remembrance and on-screen during the virtual service.

“

**Beautiful service. Each and every staff member brings a whole different meaning to compassionate nursing. Thank you for all that you do.**

Hospice Supporter

”



2024 Light Up a Life circle and angel baubles will be available to purchase from October



2024 Light Up a Life Badge for donations of £30 or more

**Don't forget to make your dedication by Sunday 24th November, visit: [www.drkh.org.uk/LightUpaLife](http://www.drkh.org.uk/LightUpaLife) or call our Fundraising Team on 0161 624 9984**

# Be a Hospice Festive Fundraiser

## Reindeer Run



Organise your own sponsored Reindeer Run on a day and in the way that you want to. It's the perfect festive fun for children and adults to get involved in. Ideal for schools, clubs and groups or friends and families, you will receive a free reindeer antler headband for each child taking part with a supporting fundraising pack.

## Swap Cards for Care



Share festive greetings with colleagues and friends this year by giving a donation instead of sending each other Christmas Cards. You will receive a poster to pin up with a Dr Kershaw's collecting pot and stickers. Just write your Christmas message on the poster, make your donation and wear your Cards for Care sticker with pride.

## Jolly Jumper



Choose the date of your Jolly Jumper Day, tell us you are taking part, invite everyone you would like to join in, at home, work or school, and ask them to give you a donation to pass on to Dr Kershaw's. We will provide everything you need to deliver your Jolly Jumper Day.

**To take part in one or more of our festive fundraisers, visit:**  
[www.drkh.org.uk/festivefundraisers](http://www.drkh.org.uk/festivefundraisers)

## Christmas Tree Collection

### Leave your Christmas Tree Disposal to us!

Enjoy Christmas with your real tree, and leave the hard work and disposal to us, whilst at the same time supporting patient care at your local Hospice!

From the end of November, you can get your Christmas Tree Collection slot booked in with the Hospice, with a minimum donation of £10.

Our Christmas Tree collections will take place in the Oldham area, around 12 days after Christmas.

Once you have made a donation towards your tree collection, we will contact you when our route maps have been completed. You will then receive an email or telephone call informing you of when the collection will take place.

SUPPORTED BY:



**You'll be able to book your 2024/2025 Christmas Tree Collection from the end of November, please visit: [www.drkh.org.uk/christmastreecollection](http://www.drkh.org.uk/christmastreecollection)**



# Hartley's Adventures

We introduced our loveable mascot, Hartley in the last issue of Heart of the Hospice. Since then, he's continued on his paw-some adventures across the community!

He's been invited to lots of events across Oldham and met loads of fantastic fundraisers. Take a look at what he's been up to...



If you'd like Hartley to attend your event, please contact the Hospice's Fundraising Team on 0161 624 9984 or email [fundraising@drkh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk)

Hartley plush toys are available to order now from Dr Kershaw's website, visit: [www.drkh.org.uk/hartley](http://www.drkh.org.uk/hartley)

We also have Hartley activity books and pencils, gift wrapped, and available to purchase from our Hospice Reception.

# We Couldn't Do It Without You!

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



On Good Friday, Leigh Sarsfield set off on his challenge of running 100 miles around Dovestone Reservoir in memory of his best mate, Bobby. Leigh was supported by many friends, he had a physio on hand to help with any injuries, and a nutritionist who made healthy food to keep the team going. Leigh raised an incredible **£13,179.17**, effectively paying for a full day of running the Hospice!



The Angel Inn, Royton held a May Day Fun-draiser with singers, dancers, a DJ, stalls, raffles, a facepainter and an auction. The event raised a massive **£1,201.70** for Dr Kershaw's!

12 amazing Dr Kershaw's fundraisers completed the Great Manchester Run on Sunday 26th May! Congratulations to all of the runners who raised a whopping **£11,600!**





On 14th April, our marvellous Manchester Marathon runners raised just over **£7,000** between them. Congratulations and well done to you all!



Primark Oldham held a Dr Kershaw's Hospice day! Hartley and our Community Team were in-store to raise funds and share information on the vital role we play within our community. The day raised over **£100** and Primark are hoping to make the day a regular occurrence!





## Bunny Hop

During Easter, we hopped around Oldham visiting nurseries and schools who took part in our Bunny Hop. We raised over £8,700 and had over 500 children hopping all over the place, raising funds for Dr Kershaw's. Here are just a few Bunny Hop highlights...

Brooklands Day Nursery had a special visit from the Easter Bunny and raised **£245!**



Shine a Light Day Nursery hopped the whole morning of their Bunny Hop and even got to give Hartley some high fives and bum wiggles! They raised **£873.60**.

Thorp Primary School held a Bunny Hop which raised over **£2,218.35!**

Laura Hartley organised a Bunny Hop with family and friends, raising a massive **£1,515!**



Fir Bank Primary School's Nursery Group held a Bunny Hop in the yard and raised an amazing **£910!**

Jenna Lang arranged a Bunny Hop at Alexandra Park with local child-minding groups. Together, they raised an incredible **£2,051.60!** Home Comforts Childcare joined in too, raising **£275!**



## Morecambe Bay Walk

On Sunday 30th June, over 100 fantastic fundraisers (plus some furry friends) joined Dr Kershaw's for our first ever Morecambe Bay Walk!

The walkers were guided by Michael Wilson, the official King's Guide over Sands Trust, from Arnside to Grange-over-Sands, for an 8-mile trek across the beautiful sands of Morecambe Bay!

It was an incredible day with our amazing fundraisers raising over **£10,000** (and still rising) for patient care at the Hospice.



## Junior Dragons Den

**Our Junior Dragon Den Enterprise Competition Grand Final takes place on Thursday 11th July.**

Together with support from local businesses we have been searching for Oldham's next entrepreneurs!

Teams of six pupils from local schools have been set the challenge to design an innovative gift, work out how to manufacture it and write a business plan. Each team has been allocated a Business Mentor and a member of Dr Kershaw's Fundraising Team who together, is supporting, guiding and encouraging them via team meetings and emails.

The overall winner, will be the team that declared the most profit at the Grand Final, with runners-up named also for recognising skills in presentation and innovation. Good luck to everyone taking part!

**To find out about the event and the overall winners, take a look at our Facebook page @drkershawshospice**



## Good Luck Tough Mudders!

**23 Hospice fundraisers have proved they are tough enough by signing up for Tough Mudder 2024 at Heaton Park, Manchester.**



**TOUGH MUDDER** 

Tough Mudder is a world-famous endurance event series in which participants tackle obstacle courses designed to test your all-round strength, stamina, and mental grit.

The event takes place on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July. A team of Hospice Staff 'Team Dr Kershaw's' are also taking part and we can't wait to update you with how they get on.

**Jill Kirkham, Rachel Riley  
& Glenn Drake-Owen**



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

# Olympic Construction Ltd: Standing Together with Dr Kershaw's Hospice

**In 2023, we launched The 1989 Club, a club rewarding businesses that enrol into a Corporate Partnership with Dr Kershaw's...**

Each member of The 1989 Club receives a bespoke plaque to display in their business premises, with a corresponding plaque displayed in the Hospice, and will, most importantly, be supporting vital care for patients at Dr Kershaw's Hospice now and in years to come.

Olympic Construction are one of the founding members of The 1989 Club. Adrian Dawson, Managing Director said: "At Olympic Construction Ltd, community and compassion are cornerstones of our ethos. It is with immense pride that we announce our latest venture in philanthropy by becoming a member of The Dr Kershaw's 1989 Club, extending our support to the Hospice.

The journey of care that Dr Kershaw's embarks on every day is not a solitary one. It requires the unity and commitment of the community – a synergy of support that ensures the services provided today can continue to touch lives tomorrow.

Joining The 1989 Club is more than a membership; it's a pledge from Olympic Construction Ltd to stand

in solidarity with a cause that underpins our shared values of service and social responsibility. It's about being part of a legacy of kindness that reaches far into the future.

We encourage everyone to contribute to the sustainability of Dr Kershaw's. There are myriad ways to help: from fundraising initiatives to volunteering, from shop purchases to participating in their Lottery – every action counts.

For those eager to make a difference, please reach out to the compassionate team at Dr Kershaw's.

Together, we can ensure that the vital services provided by the Hospice remain a steadfast pillar in our community. At Olympic Construction Ltd, we are not just building structures; we are committed to building hope, one act of kindness at a time."



**To find out more about The 1989 Club, visit: [www.drkh.org.uk/1989club](http://www.drkh.org.uk/1989club)**



# Ascot Ladies Day Raises Over £4000!

On 20th June, the White Hart Inn at Lydgate was host once more to Ascot Ladies Day in aid of Dr Kershaw's Hospice, run by long-term supporter, Gill Bussey. The sun was out in all its glory, with Howard Nilsen Photography capturing the moment, and everyone enjoying a welcome drink, 3 course meal and raffle followed by afternoon tea!

The races were streamed live with an on-site bookie taking the odd bet or two! Organiser Gill said: "I started the event some 19 years ago, it's so lovely to see everyone having a fabulous time whilst raising much needed funds for Dr Kershaw's Hospice."

Thank you to those who kindly donated or attended the event, the team at The White Hart Inn, Brian Hurst, Delph Youth Band and all the florists who kindly provided the beautiful flowers. I'm thrilled that the event raised an amazing £4,378.55 to support patients and their families at Dr Kershaw's Hospice."

Ascot Ladies Day 2025 will take place on Thursday 19th June. If you would like to join us, please contact The White Hart Inn on 01457 872566 or email [bookings@thewhitehart.co.uk](mailto:bookings@thewhitehart.co.uk)



Take a look at more photographs from our Ascot Ladies Day.  
Visit: [www.facebook.com/drkershawshospice/photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/drkershawshospice/photos_albums)

# Dr Kershaw's Has Been My Lifeline

**Sarah Smith's husband, Brian was only 45 when he died on 3rd August 2021, just a day before his 46th birthday. Brian had been diagnosed just five months earlier with cancer of his liver, spleen and colon. Loving husband and dad to two sons, Brian was offered chemotherapy but chose to have quality time with his family instead. Sadly, Brian started to deteriorate shortly after and at that point Dr Kershaw's stepped in to support Brian and his family, enabling Brian to be cared for peacefully in his own home surrounded by his loved ones...**

"Brian was very family orientated and loved spending time with myself and our sons, Brandon and Charlie. He loved going to the gym, listening to YouTube on his earphones, enjoying his favourite tippie of Blue WKD and he also loved Marvel films. Me and Brian met through my brother who set us up on a blind date and the rest was history. When we first met, Brian was in the army, and after that he worked as a warehouse supervisor. He loved his job and was that dedicated that until a week before he passed away he still wanted to go to work.

In February 2021, a week before my birthday, Brian became very poorly, struggling with backache, he was lethargic and had lost quite a lot of weight. Brian had tests and was told that he had cancer of an unknown primary. By mid-march his diagnosis was confirmed and our world wasn't the same again. Brian had cancer in his liver, colon, spleen; in fact in his entire abdominal cavity. He was offered chemotherapy but Brian made the difficult decision not to have treatment. It was heart-breaking to explain to our boys but we were open and honest; Covid was still very much around and Brian didn't want to be isolated, he wanted to see his family and wanted quality of life for the time he had left.

After a difficult few months, with further weight loss and his symptoms intensifying, Brian started to deteriorate in July with more tumours and no desire to eat. At that point we knew the end was coming, and that prompted the 'elephant in the room' conversations about his final days and his funeral plans. Once we had made these important decisions it was like a weight had been lifted, he could enjoy his time with his boys and his family on his terms.

During the last two weeks of Brian's life we were introduced to Dr Kershaw's Hospice at Home Team, who came into our home as total strangers but left as family. The team were amazing, they were so friendly and approachable, we could ask them any questions and they would support us. We wanted his passing to be

**"The nurses were so professional, so gentle, so calm, so loving and caring to us, and we are totally grateful to them for sharing the saddest part of our lives."**

peaceful for Brian and the boys too, he was their dad but also their best friend. Nothing was ever too much trouble, even though it was so sad the nurses always had a smile and always had empathy, even when he passed and they washed him and cleaned him for the final time. The nurses were so professional, so gentle, so calm, so loving and caring to us, and we are totally grateful to them for sharing the saddest part of our lives. We are thankful to the team for Brian's peaceful passing, they put everything in place so he could fulfil his final wish to die at home.

Nobody expects this to happen at such a young age and it comes as a complete and devastating experience. After Brian died it was really lonely, and Dr Kershaw's Bereavement and Counselling Teams brought me through that. I wasn't judged or patronised, nobody told me what I needed to do. It was nice to know I wasn't on my own, but around other people who have lost people they cherish.

Brian was the love of my life, I was ready to give up and was really struggling. Coming to terms with my grief, trying to handle the kid's grief and Brian's parent's grief. I was struggling as I felt I'd let him down as I didn't spot his symptoms earlier and let the kids down too. The Hospice's Bereavement Support Group gave me a place to go at the loneliest of times, it helped me to realise that I did the best I could and I couldn't have done any better.

Last year, I signed up for a sky dive raising £1,500 for the Hospice, I am absolutely petrified of heights but one of my greatest fears was losing Brian or the kids, I got through losing Brian so why let a sky dive scare me? I am also a Hospice Lottery member and support Light Up a Life and Rose to Remember. Dr Kershaw's Hospice might only be a name to some people, it might just be a local hospice but to me it's been my lifeline and my support network other than my family and friends and I will continue to support them so that they can care for others like Brian."

**"The Hospice's Bereavement Support Group gave me a place to go at the loneliest of times."**



**Brian and Sarah**



◀ **Brian and his sons, Brandon and Charlie**



To find out more about our clinical services and the support our team can provide to families like Brian's, visit: [www.drkh.org.uk](http://www.drkh.org.uk)



## Music in Mind CEO Visits

We recently received a visit from Music in Mind CEO, Giles Wilmore who attended one of our Music in Mind sessions.

We launched the sessions in October 2023 as a complement to our existing Dementia Hub. They are run by Manchester Camerata Orchestra, who have been training our Wellbeing Centre Team to become 'Music Champions' so that in time, they can facilitate their own music sessions to improve the wellbeing, communication and connectedness of people living with dementia.

The music sessions encourage people living with dementia to sing, play instruments and even dance with their loved ones and fellow group members. Evidence shows that engaging with music can support memory, mood, self-expression and engagement for people living with dementia, helping to improve quality of life.

Giles said: "It was fantastic to experience such a vibrant Music in Mind session at Dr Kershaw's. We were joined on the day by colleagues visiting from Taiwan, where they have also trained to deliver Music in Mind sessions.

The people living with dementia who attended with family carers clearly engaged enthusiastically in the session and got a lot of enjoyment from their music making. It was also great to see the confidence and enthusiasm from the Dr Kershaw's staff and volunteer team, who have been trained as "Music Champions" by musicians from Manchester Camerata. They are now very well equipped to continue the weekly music therapy-based sessions to ensure that people living with dementia can benefit for a long time to come. Well done! And a big thank you to everyone at the Hospice for making us and our visitors from Taiwan so welcome."



## The Nightbird Project 2024

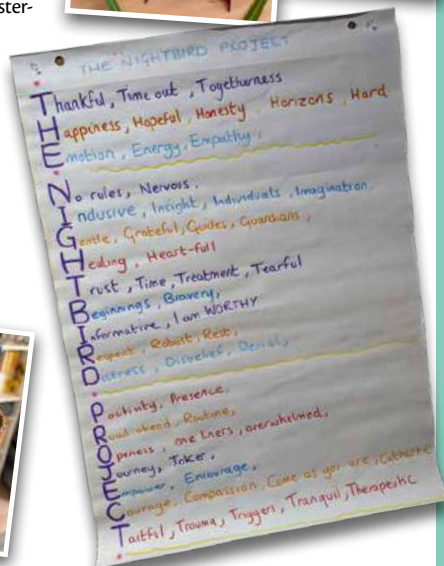
Last year was our successful pilot year of The Nightbird Project and it was joyful, supportive and brimming with meaningful connections.

So, we were thrilled to launch The Nightbird Project 2024 in March.

The project is a series of fortnightly Saturday creative wellbeing workshops bringing together people living with life-limiting and serious illness to create celebratory and meaningful art about your life. It is led by Dr Kershaw's Hospice Wellbeing Team, and supported by Jenny Gaskell, a Manchester-based community artist.

In our first few sessions of The Nightbird Project 2024 our group members have been getting to know each other, forging connections and building a community for honest and open sharing. They've explored themes of family, work career, life choices, children, holidays, adventure, nature, heartbreak and turmoil, all through the lens of a person navigating a life-limiting illness. The group created a beautiful poem together to capture their aims for the project, and a large scale, mixed media collaborative collage.

Take a look at our social media channels to see more updates and reels on The Nightbird Project 2024.



To find out more about our Wellbeing Centre and services, please email: [drkh.wellbeing@nhs.net](mailto:drkh.wellbeing@nhs.net) or call our Wellbeing Centre Team on 0161 624 2727

# Celebrating National Days

During the month of May, our team took part in a number of activities across the Hospice to celebrate a variety of national days. We also used our social media channels to share messages with our supporters about each of the initiatives we were supporting...

## 6th-12th May: Dying Matters Week

This year's theme was 'The way we talk about Dying Matters'. It focused on the language that we use, and conversations we have, around death and dying – specifically between healthcare professionals and patients, their carers and their families.

We addressed the 'elephant in the room' and encouraged staff to write on posters of elephants what they feel worried about when talking to families and patients. We also asked family members to write down subjects they feel uncomfortable talking to their loved ones about. At the end of the week, our Clinical Team answered the questions and concerns left on the posters.



## 12th May: International Nurses Day

With it falling on a Sunday this year, we celebrated our incredible team of nurses on Friday 10th May where our Nursing Team were treated to a buffet, cupcakes, goodie bags, a slideshow of pictures and a speech from Lindsey Harper, our Director of Clinical Services.

Lindsey said: "International Nurses Day celebrates the valuable and often highly skilled work that nurses do. It is celebrated, every year on the birthday of one of the most influential nurses in history, Florence Nightingale.

Dr Kershaw's recognises the contribution of our Nursing Team and we value the knowledge, skills and expertise of our dedicated nursing workforce. We pride ourselves on delivering high quality, person-centred care and this would not be possible without our fabulous team of nurses.

We extend our gratitude, respect and admiration to our nurses, for the love, care, kindness and compassion they share with our patients, their loved ones and each other, in often very difficult circumstances.

We could not do what we do without our nurses, thank you!"



## 13th-19th May: Dementia Action Week

This Dementia Action Week, we took to our social media channels to share a number of short videos explaining the services we offer and offering a little insight into our Wellbeing Centre. You can see the full video on our YouTube Channel: [@DrKershawsHospice](#)



## Sign Up to Give As You Live

Raise Free Funds for Dr Kershaw's Hospice with your Everyday Online Shopping!

Sign up to Give as You Live, through their website or their mobile app and shop at any of the 6,000 online retailers – such as John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Booking.com and Currys. Every purchase generates a donation to patient care at Dr Kershaw's Hospice, it's like cash-back but to your chosen charity.

Louise Henderson, Head of Marketing and Communications at the Hospice explained: "It's

completely free for you and the Hospice, simply sign up, search for the retailer and start shopping. It's that simple!



After your purchase, a donation to the Hospice will automatically be added to your account and paid to Dr Kershaw's. You'll be able to keep track of how much you have raised through your purchases too so you can see how you are directly making a difference!"

If you would like to raise vital funds for Dr Kershaw's Hospice while you shop, sign up now at: [www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/dr-kershaws](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/dr-kershaws)

## Knitted Hearts Appeal

In February, our social media channels appealed for knitted and sewn hearts to support the loved ones of our patients.

The hearts are given to families in pairs. One heart then stays with the patient and the other heart is

given to the patient's family to help bring them some comfort at such a difficult time.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to make and donate these beautiful hearts, they make such a difference to the loved ones of our patients.





# Will Month

Did you miss out on making a Will during our last Will Month? Don't worry, we will soon be launching our 2024 Will Month initiative.

This November you'll be able to make a Will with one of our trusted solicitors whilst helping to raise vital funds for Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

There are many reasons to make a Will, whether it's a change in your lifestyle or you would simply like to make it easier for your loved ones to know what should happen to your money, possessions, property or pets, after you pass away.



## Leave a Gift in Your Will

When you write your Will, you can also do something incredible by leaving a legacy to Dr Kershaw's, to help us continue to care. Leaving a gift in your Will of even 1% to Dr Kershaw's Hospice means your generosity will live on for generations to come, and ensures those closest to you receive the remaining 99%. Speak to your solicitor about leaving a gift in your Will to Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

**For more information, visit: [www.drkh.org.uk/willmonth](http://www.drkh.org.uk/willmonth)**

# THE FURNITURE HUB

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

## Meet CareForce 1

### Introducing CareForce 1, our Furniture Hub's new delivery and collection vehicle.

CareForce1 was chosen as the name of the van after a competition at the Hospice.

Mike McArdle, Sales and Distribution Manager at The Furniture Hub said: "This Ford Luton will allow us to deliver and collect more goods so we can keep up with the demand from the Oldham Community. It was kindly wrapped by SJ Signs & Graphics Ltd, what a great job they've done, we absolutely love it."

I'd also like to say a special thank you to our Marketing Department for their help, it was great to collaborate on the design of CareForce1."

Chief Executive, Adele Doherty commented: "On the side of the doors the van displays an 'In partnership with OMC Motor Group logo'. We are eternally thankful for the support of Robin Eglin and the team at OMC."

CareForce1 and The Furniture Hub Drivers have covered some miles already. Mike added: "Please follow our Facebook page for more posts on the new

van. Be sure to send us any pictures if you see us out and about. Feel free to get a selfie too!"

To check on the whereabouts of CareForce1 or view The Furniture Hub's latest stock, you can visit their Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/FurnitureHubDRKH](https://www.facebook.com/FurnitureHubDRKH)



## The Furniture Hub Opens Men's Designer & Retro Clothing Department

**On Saturday 1st June we opened 'The Vault' at our Furniture Hub**

The department, named The Vault, will offer customers visiting the Hub the opportunity to browse and purchase a variety of designer and retro clothes, footwear, hats, accessories, vinyl music, CDs and other vintage items.

Mike McArdle said: "We're thrilled to have opened The Vault and we've had some amazing donations already. Retro Adidas jackets, Ralph Lauren shirts, Henri Lloyd polos, Levi's, Calvin Klein and Hugo Boss jeans, Converse and Adidas trainers, all in near-new condition.

We have an amazing selection of vinyl on offer, including albums from artists such as The Beatles, Fleetwood Mac, Marvin Gaye, Pink Floyd, Queen and Morrissey.

The new department ties in perfectly with our philosophy at the Hub, which is to offer the highest quality pre-loved and vintage items we can find. We couldn't do this, however, without the amazing support we have from the Oldham Community, so please keep donating!"



## New Hill Stores Shop!

**In May, we opened a new Hospice shop at Hill Stores on Huddersfield Road, Oldham!**



The new shop is our fifth store, with our other shops based in Lees, Shaw and Royton. Along with our Furniture Hub on Shaw Road, Oldham.

Our staff and volunteers worked extremely hard to renovate the location before the big opening, doing everything in a cost saving way, painting, wallpapering, upcycling and giving it a unique boutique feel.

Andrea Booth, Hill Stores Shop Manager said: "We are really excited to have opened Hill Stores. We've got some fabulous donations already and it was lovely to welcome our first customers. If you're passing we'd love you to pop in to say hello to the team and support our Hospice."

**Come and take a look yourself!**

To visit the new store or to make a donation, contact: Hill Stores Hospice Shop,  
104 Huddersfield Road, Hill Stores, Oldham, OL4 2AH  
(Opening Hours: Monday – Saturday, 9.30am – 4.30pm), 0161 510 2819



# Spring Draw

**Our Spring Draw took place on Friday 10th May with our lucky winners scooping up some big cash prizes.**

Our First prize winner of £3,000 was Lawrence Croft from Shaw, Lawrence said: "I was completely amazed when I got the call, you know someone has to win but you don't expect it to be you!"

I have been supporting the Hospice for many years, playing the Weekly Lottery and donating to the shops. I'm looking forward to taking the whole family out for a slap-up meal in September, and I'll be footing the bill!"

All funds raised from our Spring Draw will go directly to patient care, enabling us to continue providing free, vital services to our patients and their loved ones.

Joanne Penketh, Head of Lottery & Donor Stewardship added: "Congratulations to our winners who were over the moon! Thank you to everyone who entered the Draw. You helped generate an incredible £21,600 for the Hospice, which has effectively paid for one and a half days of care across all Hospice services!"

On behalf of all our patients and their families, thank you for making a difference!"



## Meet our Hospice Lottery Promoters



Our Lottery Promoters, Natalie and Nigel are regularly out and about in the community promoting our Weekly Lottery and the work of the Hospice.

Nigel goes door to door and has recently been covering the OL2 area.

Natalie has recently been in the following:

Integrated Care Centre, B&Q, Royton Medical Centre, Aldi, Focus Pharmacy Failsworth, Co-op, Newbank Garden Centre & Royton Leisure Centre. Thank you to these venues for their support!

Please say hello should you see Natalie and Nigel out and about!

# Join our Weekly Lottery

Our £1 weekly Lottery is a great way to support your local Hospice. It generates a regular and reliable income source enabling us to care for our patients and their families at a time when they need us the most.

## How it Works

- Each £1 entry entitles you to a unique membership number in our weekly draw.
- A computer randomly selects the winning numbers every Friday.

- Winners will be notified and cheques will be posted automatically.
- You can find the winning numbers on our website and our social media channels.



If you would like to participate in our Weekly Lottery Draw, please call our team on **0161 624 9213**, email **lottery@drkh.org.uk** or browse our website **www.drkh.org.uk** and join now.



# Christmas Merchandise

**Our Christmas cards, 2025 diaries and calendars will be available to order from 1st October from our website.**

They will also be available in our five shops and from our Hospice Reception! Our Hartley Plush Toys and 1989 Hospice Gin are available now to purchase online or from our Hospice Reception (gin is collection only).



## 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

### Hill Stores Hospice Shop

104 Huddersfield Road, Hill Stores  
Oldham, OL4 2AH  
Tel: 0161 510 2819  
Mon – Sat, 9.30am – 4.30pm

### 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**

**Wellbeing 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](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk)

**Lottery Office:** 0161 624 9213

[lottery@drkh.org.uk](mailto:lottery@drkh.org.uk)

### Dr Kershaw's Hospice

Turf Lane, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6EU

**Email:** [info@drkh.org.uk](mailto:info@drkh.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.drkh.org.uk](http://www.drkh.org.uk)

**Charity No:** 1105924

