



## Heart of the Hospice

Issue

73

**Light Up a Life Raises  
Over £33.5K**

**Celebrating our  
400th Volunteer**

**Hospice Hosts Special  
Bike Rally**



## What's In Store for 2025?



# Welcome

This issue's welcome is from our CEO, Adele Doherty. Since starting as a nurse at Oldham Royal Hospital over 35 years ago, Adele has dedicated her career to caring for people. Her clinical expertise, leadership skills, and passion to deliver outstanding palliative and end-of-life care has seen our Hospice thrive under her leadership over the past two years...

I would like to start by wishing all of our supporters a very happy 2025 and thank you for your valued support. Whether you've donated, fundraised or joined our Lottery, you have enabled us to raise vital funds to care for our patients, families and their loved ones when they need our help the most.

It was a real joy to see so many people from our local community at our events, as we welcomed families young and old to our Christmas and Summer Fayres. We were also honoured to receive support from the Oldham Interfaith Forum for our very special Light Up a Life service.

Having you all here as part of our Hospice family really does mean so much, and we look forward to seeing you again at one of our upcoming events. Our 2025 event calendar is now live on our website and page 13, so save the dates in your diary!

I am truly grateful for your ongoing dedication to Dr Kershaw's Hospice. It is such an incredible place, and each day I see firsthand the compassion and respect our team brings to patients and their loved ones. I couldn't be prouder to lead and be a part of such a meaningful, inspiring charity.

**Adele Doherty, CEO**

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-  **Instagram – @drkershawshospice**
-  **YouTube – @DrKershawsHospice**
-  **LinkedIn – @drkh**

# Our Impact in 2024

Whilst we're known for our wonderful Hospice, our dedicated team also work across Oldham to deliver much-needed services within the community. Here are just a few of our 2024 highlights...

Last year, we were privileged to care for many people with serious or life-limiting illnesses, whilst also providing vital support for their families, friends and carers.

Palliative care is not one-size-fits-all. As a diverse and inclusive hospice, we offer a wide range of tailored support to patients and their loved ones. We are always looking for new ways to reach those who need us, and we are excited to see our impact in 2025.

**262**

PATIENTS  
ON INPATIENT  
UNIT

**2,513**

HOSPICE AT  
HOME VISITS

**7,285**

CARING HANDS  
VISITS

**207**

WELLBEING  
CENTRE  
PATIENTS

**235**

BEREAVEMENT  
SERVICE CALLS



## Coming Soon! New Website



Our new website will be revealed soon, and we can't wait to share it with you.

You are at the heart of everything we do, which is why your feedback played such a huge role in the changes we have made. We want you to be able to get involved, so we've made it easier to sign up to our events, donate, and shop online.

Plus we'll have lots of news updates and online resources for you to use or share. Keep your eye on our social media for more updates.

# "Seeing the Bikers Did Seem to Give Dad a Second Wind"

**When Staff Nurse Kristina Quinn heard about her patient Paul's love of motorcycles, she was determined to give him a memory to treasure. After an overwhelming response on social media, we opened up our car park to hold a poignant final bike rally for him...**

Paul Martin wasn't just one of our patients; he was an accomplished motorcyclist and a proud father. Described as a "lead rider" by his friends, he had travelled all over the world. In 2023, whilst receiving chemotherapy treatment, he rode to France, Berlin and Krakow.

Our Staff Nurse, Kristina Quinn, got to know Paul whilst he was receiving care from our Hospice at Home Team. When she learned of his passion for motorcycles, she was determined to help. Kristina explained: "He told me he'd been too poorly to attend a bike rally, so I thought why not bring the rally to him?"

With the help of Glenn from our Fundraising Team, the Hospice was able to get Jodie Bevan - known as Auto Lass to her followers - onboard. Jodie sent out a request to attend a bike rally at the Hospice on social media, and over 230 motorcyclists replied.

The response was so overwhelming that we had to set up a booking system. On Saturday 12th October 2024, 50 motorcyclists from as far away as Wales gathered to pay their respects.

Amongst them was one of Paul's closest friends and fellow bikers, Wilf. Wilf told us: "Paul was the lead rider and the pathfinder, he'd plan the route. He even went to Morocco on his own - he drove down into Spain and into Africa by himself."

Paul was wheeled outside to a symphony of motorcycles beeping and engines revving. Upon seeing the crowd of bikers, he raised both hands in the air.

The experience was exhilarating for Paul, who sadly passed away just days later. His son, Steve, explained: "Seeing his bike and all the bikers did seem to give my dad a second wind."

Steve's wife, Karen, expressed her thanks to the motorcyclists who attended. She said: "He'd be pleased that people came to see him - he was always going to bike rallies and camping over for the weekend."

Praising the Hospice's care, she added: "The Hospice has been brilliant, everyone is really helpful. And it was also nice for him to be visited by friends that he'd not seen for years."

Kristina attended the bike rally with her granddaughter and was touched by the kindness of the community. She said: "So many of the bikers didn't know Paul, but they cared enough to spend time with him. I hope this gave Paul and his family a happy memory to keep."

**The Hospice has been brilliant, everyone is really helpful.**



▲ Bikers arriving at the rally





Paul's wife, Karen, and his son, Steve, in our Patient & Family Lounge



Jody Bevan, known on social media as Auto Lass, who organised the rally



Paul's biker friends, who he travelled around Europe with



Paul with his biker friends outside Brandenburg Gate in Berlin



“  
Seeing his bike and all the bikers did seem to give my dad a second wind.  
”



When Paul saw the bikers, he raised both hands

Help us to support more patients and their loved ones  
by donating at [www.drkh.org.uk/donate](http://www.drkh.org.uk/donate), emailing [fundraising@drkh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk)  
or calling 0161 624 9984

# Our 2024 Events Round Up

In the last Heart of the Hospice, we brought you news from our January to June 2024 events. Here is a round-up of our July to December 2024 events....

## Summer Fayre

Sunday 21st July

Our carnival-themed Summer Fayre was a huge success, with over 600 people visiting us for an afternoon of family-friendly fun that was jam-packed with activities!

Thank you so much once more to everyone who attended and supported the event!

Over  
**£9,000**  
raised!



SPONSORED BY:

**Booth's**  
Garden & Pet Centre

## Golf Day

Friday 13th September

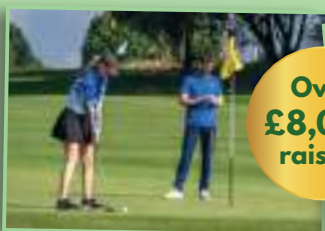
Thank you to everyone who swung into action and attended and supported our Golf Day, it was an incredible day.

SPONSORED BY:

**WIGGETT**  
HOMES



Over  
**£8,000**  
raised!



## Christmas Concert

Thursday 12th December

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our Christmas Concert, we hope you agree that it was a wonderful festive evening!

Over  
**£1,800**  
raised!





# Christmas Fayre

**Sunday 17th November**

We were thrilled to welcome the community to our Hospice for our Christmas Fayre. The event was a massive success, with over 600 people visiting us for a festive afternoon both inside the Hospice and outside in our Christmas marquee and gazebos.

Thank you so much once again to everyone who attended and supported the event!

Over  
**£7,600**  
raised!



# Light Up a Life

**Sunday 1st December**

Each year, Dr Kershaw's 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.

Thank you to everyone who supported our 2024 Light Up a Life Appeal.

Over  
**£33,500**  
raised!



**Check out our 2025 events on page 13**

# Celebrating 400 Volunteers Milestone!

**We recently welcomed our 400th volunteer, and we couldn't be more grateful to the Oldham community for making this possible.**

As we are only one-third funded by the NHS, we rely heavily on volunteers to continue our work within the community. Volunteers work across our charity, including in our shops, in Café K, at events and in the gardens.

In November, we introduced Paul Shea to our Furniture Hub and surprised him on his first day with a celebratory cake.

As a member of our Wellbeing Centre Men's Group, Paul is well aware of what we do at the Hospice.

He told us: "The care at Dr Kershaw's is second to none, so I'm really pleased to be joining the team."

Leanne Gurney, Volunteer Coordinator, said: "We are incredibly excited to share this milestone with you, and celebrate how wonderfully generous the people of Oldham are with their time."

"We could not run without volunteers and we are beyond grateful for the time each person gives to support us, our patients, and their families."



Find out more about becoming a volunteer at  
[www.drkh.org.uk/volunteering](http://www.drkh.org.uk/volunteering)



## 60 Seconds with... Our Hospice Counsellor, Katie Stretton



**Katie began her journey with Dr Kershaw's as a Health Care Assistant for our Caring Hands Team, before being appointed Counsellor in June 2024. Working alongside our Senior Counsellor, Lisa Hctor, Katie provides vital support for patients and their families when they need it the most...**

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

I originally applied to be a Health Care Assistant for the Caring Hands Team, in order to gain experience of supporting and caring for individuals at a time of vulnerability, whilst also pursuing my Counselling training. I later worked as a Health Care Assistant on the Inpatient Unit, which gave me an insight into a different care environment. Qualifying as a Counsellor, combined with my experience at the Hospice and witnessing the remarkable care provided, confirmed my desire to support palliative individuals and their families. When the opportunity to take on the Counsellor role arose, it felt like a natural and meaningful progression for me.

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

I had just finished my psychology degree in Liverpool, and had only ever worked part-time in a pub for four years. So initially, I was really learning on the job with no experience whatsoever!

### Give us an overview of your role?

I support individuals on a one-to-one basis who may be bereaved or are living with a life-limiting illness. I facilitate the Carer's Group, which focuses on those caring for a loved one with dementia, and the Wellbeing Bereavement Walks. I also assist in the Bereavement Group and provide support to staff within

team debrief sessions. Another key aspect of my role is supporting patients and relatives on the Inpatient Unit, offering one-off therapy sessions, regular check-ins, or providing a compassionate presence during challenging or emotional moments.

### What are the rewards of your role?

Witnessing the psychological growth of those I support, as they navigate difficult experiences and emotions, is endlessly fulfilling. It is deeply rewarding to be part of their journey and to build valuable connections with clients, group members, patients, and family members. It's a privilege to be a part of their journey and to contribute to their wellbeing in such a caring environment.

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

Engaging in deep, meaningful conversations with people nearing the end of their life is always incredibly moving. It's an honour to be trusted with their stories and emotions, and to provide support at such an important time. Also, I've had the chance to work closely with various teams within the Hospice and it's amazing to see how everyone collaborates to provide compassionate, person-centred care. The incredible people I work alongside make this a very special place.

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



SPONSORED BY:



LANDLORD FURNITURE CO

Meet our 2025 dancers! All of our contestants will be taking to the dancefloor in February at Oldham's Queen Elizabeth Hall for our very own version of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing. This year's theme is A Night in the Musicals, so expect to see your favourite songs (and lots of glitz and glamour)...

### COUPLE 1

### Frank Rothwell & Amanda Cunningham



Frank is Chairman of Oldham Athletic AFC and has played a huge part in Dr Kershaw's fundraising success over the years. He once rowed a boat across the Atlantic, and joined Strictly "to show my kids there is still something in the old dog."

Sales Assistant Amanda loves dancing, the gym, socialising and having fun. She was inspired to help after losing her brother to a brain tumour at the age of 19. She adds: "I love entertaining an audience!"



### COUPLE 2

### Ryan Williams & Shirley Elliott



Dad-of-two Ryan attended our 2024 Strictly event and really enjoyed it. Highlighting his "two left feet", he jokes that his only experience is drunk-dancing at weddings. He says he's thrilled to be raising money for an "incredible" charity.

Development Manager and Bay City Rollers fan Shirley is battling cancer, which claimed the life of her sister eight years ago. She's looking forward to learning how to dance, adding: "I wanted to do this for myself and for my sister."



### COUPLE 3

### Jack Warburton & Katie Gough



Self-confessed party animal Jack says: "You won't get me off that dancefloor at any party." The barber adds: "I wanted to raise money for a great cause that holds a place in my heart, and give back to my community."

Nursery worker Katie loves the theatre and musicals, and has danced since the age of three. She told us: "My grandma was a patient at Dr Kershaw's, so I've always had a close connection to the Hospice."



**COUPLE 4****Donna Winterbottom & Jacqueline Eyres**

Mum-of-one Donna works in a GP practice and says she is up for a challenge. She adds: "Dr Kershaw's is very close to my heart. I have lost a loved one at the Hospice, and I know what an amazing charity it is."

Former circus worker Jacqueline works within a district nursing team in Oldham. When her beloved grandma, Dorothy, passed away in 2024, donations were given to the Hospice in her name.

**COUPLE 5****Steve Smith & Amy Langmead**

Steve jokes that his reason for applying was because "my other half told me". As the owner of his own transport services company, he has helped with deliveries for The Furniture Hub. He's also appeared on TV in a PC World advert!

Primary school teacher Amy says she's ready to get out of her comfort zone. She says: "It would be good to show our children that we can all start something from scratch and give 100% to learning something brand-new."

**COUPLE 6****Michael Butterworth & Andrea Murphy**

Sports fan and assistant teacher Michael has performed in various musicals and pantomimes over the years. He's sure to have a fabulous wardrobe, as he owns over 70 neckties.

Andrea is a coach at Chadderton Park Netball Club and a regular visitor to The Furniture Hub. She's taking on the challenge to celebrate turning 50, adding: "Funding is difficult but vitally important."

**COUPLE 7****Stephen Smith & Alison Newman**

Church Minister Stephen is the dad of two girls, who helped persuade him to take part. He says: "As someone who struggles with mental health issues, dancing brings me a release and a freedom that few other things do."

Cheerleader and former troupe dancer Alison works for an urgent care service and attends the Hospice's Rose to Remember event each year. She says: "I love Dr Kershaw's. Oldham patients deserve the best care possible."

**COUPLE 8****Sandra Green & Julie Lowe**

Latin and ballroom dancing aficionado Sandra is excited to get "glammed up" for a good cause. A family member and friend were cared for at the Hospice, so she is keen to help other patients receive high-quality care.

Julie has worked for the NHS for 46 years and is ready to hit the dancefloor. She says: "As I am from the local community and have friends who work at Dr Kershaw's, I would like to give something back."



**We'll be revealing more from behind the scenes on our social media channels.  
You can also sponsor the dancers at [www.drkh.org.uk/strictly](http://www.drkh.org.uk/strictly)**



# Celebrate Your Loved Ones at our 2025 Rose to Remember

Dedicate a beautiful rose sculpture to your loved ones and you'll be helping to fund patient care and bring vibrancy to our Hospice gardens.

Roses are a symbol of love, which makes them perfect for remembering someone you hold close to your heart...



With Rose to Remember, you can buy a specially crafted metal rose to keep forever. Each year, the colour of the rose changes, enabling you to create your own memory garden for you and your family.

The bespoke roses will be planted in our Hospice gardens for our special commemorative event on Sunday 29th June before collection. If you'd prefer, you can have them posted to you after the event.

## A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP



Your **£10** could help towards freshly laundered bedlinen

## A TIME TO TALK



Your **£20** could help support a loved one left behind

## A HELPING HAND



Your **£30** could help towards the comfort of personal care in a patient's home

## ROSE TO REMEMBER EVENT

**Sunday 29th June, (11.30am-2pm)**

Join us for an exclusive viewing of the roses in our gardens, where a short celebrant service will honour the lives of your loved ones.

Along with enjoying a performance from Dr Kershaw's Hospice Choir, you can indulge in tea and cake from Café K and browse a small selection of Hospice stalls.

Following the event, you can collect your rose to take home for your own gardens.

If you are unable to attend the event or collect your rose, we can send it to you for a small additional charge to cover postage and packaging. All roses will be sent after the event.

**2025  
TEAL  
METAL  
ROSE**



**Rose Measurements:**  
30cm (height), 6cm (diameter).

Order your rose at [www.drkh.org.uk/rosetoremember](http://www.drkh.org.uk/rosetoremember) from  
Friday 28th March or call 0161 624 9984

# Save the Date – Our 2025 Events

## Summer Fayre

Sunday 13th July, 12pm-3pm

Visit us at the Hospice for a family-friendly day of fun that's jam-packed with exciting activities including food and craft stalls, music, face-painting, and so much more!

You'll also be able to see our loveable Hospice mascot, Hartley.

Stalls will be available to hire for the day for £35. Reserve your stall from 1st April 2025.

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

ENTRY  
£1  
Suggested  
Donation



## Christmas Fayre

Sunday 23rd November, 12pm-3pm

Get in the Christmas spirit and join us at the Hospice for a fun and festive afternoon.

Scoop up an array of gifts for your loved ones whilst supporting patient care at our Hospice. With our craft activities and amazing Santa's Grotto for the children, and festive refreshments for the grown-ups, it will be a date not to be missed!

Stalls will be available to hire for the day for £35. Reserve your stall from 1st August 2025.

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

ENTRY  
£1  
Suggested  
Donation



## Light Up a Life

Sunday 7th December, 5pm

Come together at our Hospice for 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.

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



## Christmas Concert

Thursday 11th December, 6pm

Get in the festive mood and join us at Oldham Parish Church for an evening of carols, readings and performances by our wonderful Dr Kershaw's Hospice Choir and local schools.

For more information visit:

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

TICKETS  
ON SALE  
IN  
AUTUMN



Watch this space!

We'll be announcing more events on our social media channels soon

# Queen's Nurse Award for Director of Clinical Services

Our Director of Clinical Services, Lindsey Harper, has received the prestigious title of Queen's Nurse.

This title, granted by the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI), is given to nurses who provide exceptional care to their patients.

It is awarded after a rigorous application process and is a recognition of a nurse's commitment to ongoing learning, leadership, and excellence in healthcare.

A huge congratulations to Lindsey for this well-deserved and prestigious award!



## Dr Kershaw's Stars in Netflix IVF Film

Exploring the moving story behind the world's first IVF baby, 'Joy' topped the Netflix charts in 2024.

The film stars Bill Nighy and James Norton, and follows the incredible work of the British scientists who changed fertility treatment forever.

Jean Purdy, Patrick Steptoe and Robert (Bob) Edwards established a research laboratory on the grounds of Dr Kershaw's – then known as Dr Kershaw's Cottage Hospital – in 1971.

It was here that the trio developed in vitro fertilisation (IVF). Louise Joy Brown became the world's first 'test-tube baby' when she was born at Oldham General Hospital at 11.47pm on 25th July 1978, weighing 5lb 12 oz.

We are extremely proud of our part in the history of IVF, and honour all three scientists with a plaque at our entrance gate on Turf Lane.

In December, the BBC came to film at the Hospice and find out more.

They had a chat with our very own Dr Hohmann, and brought along Professor Daniel Brison, Scientific Director of the Department of Reproductive Medicine at the University of Manchester.





## Black History Month



As a hospice, we strive to ensure that all individuals receive compassionate, equitable care. This Black History Month, we honoured the incredible contributions of the Black community with a shared staff lunch.

Paying homage to African and Caribbean culture, our teams cooked and sampled delicious foods using authentic recipes.

## Jolly Jumper Day

We donned our finest festive attire and enjoyed a spectacular buffet prepared by our wonderful Catering Team whilst raising funds for patient care.



## Hospice Care Week

For Hospice Care Week in October, we celebrated the vital contribution that our Retail Team makes to funding our services. From till operators and sorters to drivers and PAT testers, we couldn't do it without them!

Our Nurses popped over to our Shaw Shop to meet the team and pick up a few bargains. And back at the Hospice, we held a raffle and dressed in yellow to raise over £100 for patient care.



# We Couldn't Do It Without You!

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

In July, 29 fundraisers proved they were tough enough by taking on the world-famous endurance event series, Tough Mudder, at Heaton Park, Manchester!

The course is an incredible 6-mile challenge with mud, obstacles and fun, designed to test participants' all-round strength, stamina and mental grit. Our muddy participants raised an incredible **£7,815!**



Frankie Blackburn and her Zumba ladies arranged a Zumbathon and Fun Day at St Anne's Rugby Club in July. The event was a massive success and raised a whopping **£6,037.11!**

In September, Saddleworth Old Skool Tractors showcased their tractors across the community in aid of Dr Kershaw's Hospice, raising an amazing **£1,348.56!**



Thank you to our local Tesco stores, who generously supported our events in 2024 by providing donated goods.



In May, Jody Bevan at Auto Lass in Lees held a terrific bikers event, raising the amazing amount of **£2,245.56**! Jody also supported one of our patient's last wishes in October, see page 4 for the full story.

In June, Dawn Higham organised a Family Fun Day at Oldham RUFC, raising over **£1,300**!



Thank you to our local Asda stores, who were so supportive throughout 2024. They always accommodated our Fundraising Team's in-store charity promotion days.

Jill Kirkham, Rachel Riley  
& Glenn Drake-Owen



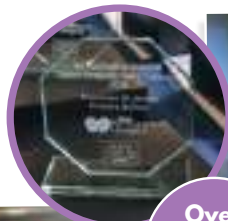
For more information on fundraising  
contact our Community &  
Partnerships Team on 0161 624 9984  
or [fundraising@drkh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk)



## Junior Dragons' Den

July 2024 saw the final of our very first Dr Kershaw's Junior Dragons' Den competition at Oldham Event Centre. In total, 24 teams from local schools took part with the winning team, which declared the most profit, named as Cromwell High School, Dukinfield...

Thank you to all the volunteers and businesses who supported the competition. The initiative really caught the imaginations of all the schools involved, and will be an annual activity for the Hospice going forward!



Over  
£3,500  
raised!



## Will Month



Thank you to everyone who made a Will during our Will Month initiative in November.

Thank you also to the four participating solicitors: Wrigley Claydon Solicitors, O'Donnell Solicitors, Northern Law Solicitors, and Pearson Solicitors. Without them, Will Month would have been impossible.



## Christmas Tree Collection



Thank you to everyone who supported our record-breaking Christmas Tree Collection in January.

Amazing support was provided from Life for a Life Memorial Forests, WillMow Reclamation & Salvage Ltd, Howard Domestics, A Poplar Tree Company, and Oldham Rugby Union Club. Our volunteers collected over 200 trees!

You'll be able to book in your 2026 Christmas Tree Collection from the end of November.



Over  
£2,000  
raised!

200+  
TREES  
RECYCLED



# Festive Fundraisers



**Thank you to all our fabulous festive fundraisers who supported our patients and their families at Christmas.**

## Reindeer Run

749 children from schools including: Whitegate End Primary School, Thorp Primary School, Waterhead School, Burnley Brow School, Brooklands Nursery and St Edwards Primary School took part in reindeer runs in 2024 raising over **£8,000!**



## Jolly Jumper

Staff at Drac Logistics and OMC Motor Group, plus players from Santos AFC girls team took part in Jolly Jumper Days raising over **£500** for the Hospice.

## Saddleworth Santa Dash

Lots of Santas supported the Hospice on Saturday 7th December 2024 at the Saddleworth Santa Dash, raising **£2,000!** Well done to everyone who took part!



For more information on fundraising contact our Community & Partnerships Team on 0161 624 9984 or [fundraising@drkh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk)

Jill Kirkham, Rachel Riley & Glenn Drake-Owen



## Bunny Hop

### The Dr Kershaw's Bunny Hop is back for Easter 2025!

Designed especially for schools, nurseries, and organised groups, our Bunny Hop is a wonderfully inclusive experience. Plus, everyone gets to wear special bunny ears! You choose the date that suits your group best, and decide where and how you want it to take place.

For more information, please visit:

[www.drkh.org.uk/bunnyhop](http://www.drkh.org.uk/bunnyhop) or contact our Fundraising Team

at: [fundraising@drkh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk) or 0161 624 9984.



## Sign Up for our 2025 Morecambe Bay Walk



This unique and scenic walk, led by the King's Guide, is an 8-mile trek across the Leven Estuary from Arnside to Grange-over-Sands, across Morecambe Bay. Michael Wilson, the King's Guide, is the 26th Guide to be appointed, with the first appointment taking place in 1548. The family and group friendly sponsored walk is ideal for walking groups, families, dog walkers, and previous participants of our Hospice to Hospice Walk. Each fundraiser will receive a T-shirt and a certificate on completion.

We had over 100 fantastic fundraisers raise over £10,000 in 2024 and are hoping even more people sign up this year!

The walk will take place on Sunday 8th June. To sign up or to find out more, visit:

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



## Born Survivor

### A new event for 2025!

Sign up for mud, guts and glory at Born Survivor, with 30 gruelling obstacles including ice baths, epic slides and beast walls on a 10k mud-fuelled assault course designed by Royal Marines Commandos!

Test yourself when the event comes to Ribbles Valley, Gisburn, Lancashire on Saturday 13th September.

To sign up or to find out more, visit:

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





# Corporate News

In 2024, we were delighted to welcome many new businesses on board whose support was invaluable in building lasting partnerships...

### GTD Healthcare



### QPS Royton



### Freedom Travel



### N Brown



### Comfortex Ltd



### Diodes



### Wiggett Homes



### Primark Oldham



## Thank You!

To find out more about how your business could support our Hospice, visit:  
[www.drkh.org.uk/corporatepartnerships](http://www.drkh.org.uk/corporatepartnerships)

# "We Cannot Praise the Hospice Team Enough"

**An Emmerdale fan and a wiz at word games, Teresa Smith was a fit and active businesswoman when she discovered lumps on her neck during a walking holiday in Scotland. Following a bowel cancer diagnosis, she was cared for by our Hospice at Home Team. Her husband, Allan, shares her story...**

"When Teresa passed away, it was just eight days after our 32nd wedding anniversary. We met in 1988 and married in 1990. We had three children, Wayne, Rachel and Christopher, and two grandchildren, Oliver and Leila, who she doted on.

Teresa was a very active person. She liked to keep fit, and during the COVID-19 lockdown she participated in Joe Wicks' daily TV fitness sessions. She also liked to go hiking with me and her close friends.

At home, Teresa was a good cook and liked watching the soaps. She also liked to do word games on her iPad and had an interest in horse racing. This was also a passion of her father's.

Prior to her illness, Teresa ran her own dry-cleaning business for over 25 years. She also cared for her father after her mother passed away. Unfortunately, Teresa had to close her shop in 2016 as her father was also diagnosed with bowel cancer.

In June 2021, Teresa was on a walking holiday in Scotland and had just climbed Ben Nevis when she found lumps on her neck. She visited a doctor, but just

one month later began experiencing some bleeding from her back passage.

A biopsy of the lumps was taken, and at the end of September, further tests revealed that Teresa had bowel cancer. On 25th October 2021, we got the devastating news that her condition was incurable.

She started palliative chemotherapy treatment in November at The Christie in Manchester. In February 2022, Teresa's condition worsened, and in March we were told that there was nothing else that could be done for her.

Dr Kershaw's Hospice at Home Team looked after Teresa in her final week. As a family we cannot praise the team enough. They always explained what they were doing and what to expect.

We became frustrated as Teresa was suffering, but we were able to talk to the team and this was a great comfort to us. They were extremely responsive to calls and were always able to find a resolution to any issues.

We were able to contact them out of hours, so when Teresa passed away they could verify and prepare her for transportation to the funeral home. When the team arrived, they cleaned and dressed Teresa with great dignity, even spraying her with perfume.

Each member of the family received a woollen heart, which we all really appreciated. And the Hospice at Home nurses took the pressure off us by sorting out all the paperwork.

If I could, I would like to thank each member of the team personally for their assistance!"



**Teresa and her beloved family during Christmas 2021**

**The whole team treated my wife in a caring and professional way.**



► Teresa on holiday in Scotland in May 2021

“ We cannot praise the team highly enough. They always explained what they were doing and what to expect. ”



Teresa with her grandson, Oliver



Teresa climbing Ben Nevis in June 2021, the walking trip where she discovered lumps

By sharing Teresa's story, Allan has helped us to raise awareness of the importance of hospice care. Share your own experience of Dr Kershaw's by contacting us on [fundraising@drkh.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@drkh.org.uk) or 0161 624 9984



# Gardens Rated 'Outstanding' by RHS Judges

Our gardens were recently given a rating of 'Level 5 – Outstanding' by judges from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)...



The UK's leading garden charity launched the 'It's Your Neighbourhood'scheme as part of its 'Britain in Bloom' initiative. It celebrates volunteer-led community gardening projects that improve the local environment.

Louise Whitehead and Roy Miller from our Facilities Team worked with a team of volunteers on the project. A generous donation from Booths Garden Centre included bedding plants, bulbs and compost.

When work began in October 2023, the first job was to clear all of the weeds. The team also worked hard to protect soil life like worms, grubs and caterpillars, plus insects like ladybirds, moths and bees.

Daffodils and tulips were planted to add colour and brighten the outlook from the Hospice's Inpatient Unit rooms. Leaves were reused for compost, whilst cuttings were styled in vases to add extra cheer to our Reception and Café K.

Lyndsey Donbavand, our Corporate Services Manager, said: "Everyone really enjoys the gardens, from patients and visitors to our staff. They really make a difference to everyone's day and are a safe, reflective space for our community."

RHS Judge Roy Down added: "It seems to me that Dr Kershaw's is in good hands, it looks brilliant now, but it is on the way to being amazing."



Artist's impressions of our new gardens.



## Accessible Gardens Will Enrich Patient Experience

Work is now underway on an exciting new project to rejuvenate our gardens and make them even more accessible for patients and their loved ones.

The dementia-friendly design incorporates sensory elements to create a safe and enriching space where people can relax or spend time with family.

Looped walkways will make journeys simple and enjoyable, helping patients to return to their starting point without becoming confused. The extra width also leaves room for walking aids, wheelchairs, or prams.

Even, hard surfaces will mean that people who are unsteady on their feet can take their time to enjoy the beautiful views.

Seated areas will offer places to rest and see the gardens from a different perspective. Offering protection from sunshine and wind, covered spaces will create additional opportunities to enjoy nature or take a quiet moment.

Sensory plants and tactile surfaces like wood and stone will enliven the senses without overwhelming visitors.

Colours and fragrances will boost moods, while bees, birds, worms and other creatures will help people to engage with nature.



Our Counsellor, Katie Stretton, said: "Touch, colour, and scent can have a powerful impact on memory recall, helping to create a calm and comfortable environment that fosters reflection and connection."

A plot for patients to grow their own vegetables will help to build confidence and a sense of belonging through gardening and social interactions. Many of

our patients are keen gardeners, and are likely to show us a thing or two!

Additional privacy for patients will be created through partitioned areas. And a children's play area will capture their imagination and let them create happy memories of visiting their loved one.

Due to the ongoing landscaping works, our rear garden is currently not accessible. Watch our social media channels for more exciting updates.

# Join the 2025 Nightbird Project

The Nightbird Project is a series of fortnightly Saturday creative wellbeing workshops that bring together people living with serious or life-limiting illnesses.

Led by our Wellbeing Centre Team and Community Artist Jenny Gaskell, the innovative sessions invite participants to create celebratory and meaningful art about their life. People can express themselves, create friendships, share stories and simply have fun.

Now at the end of its second year, The Nightbird Project has been a huge success so far, and we are looking forward to welcoming our new group on Saturday 8th March.

We welcome a diversity of life experiences, ages, diagnoses, and ethnicities.

Lisa Hctor, our Senior Counsellor, said: "Our final session of 2024 was a celebration of the journey our participants have been on, from starting as a group of strangers to forging a community of peers who talk honestly about being impacted by life-limiting illnesses.

"Everyone was given wildflower seeds and a colourful envelope filled with written notes of comfort, gratitude, and resilience to open and cherish at home."

"These seeds can then be planted in their gardens, from which wildflowers will bloom and serve as a reminder of strength and hope."



Find out more about our Wellbeing Centre and The Nightbird Project by emailing [drkh.wellbeing@nhs.net](mailto:drkh.wellbeing@nhs.net) or calling 0161 624 2727



# Hartley's Adventures

Our loveable mascot, Hartley, has 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...



## COMING SOON The Hartley Story

A new book telling the story of our Hospice mascot, Hartley, will be appearing on our website and in our shops and reception soon. Keep a lookout on our social media channels for more news!

Hartley plush toys and gift-wrapped Hartley activity books and pencils are available to purchase from our Hospice Reception. Hartley plush toys are also available to order from our website, visit:

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

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)

# Visit Krafties Kave for Craft Supplies

Our new Krafties Kave opened in October and is already proving popular with savvy craft enthusiasts keen to save money on supplies.

Ran by our dedicated Kershaw's Krafties volunteers, it is a one-stop-shop for all your crafting needs. You'll find fabric, yarn, patterns, card-making stock, and much more.

Angie Hamilton, who leads Kershaw's Krafties, said: "The Krafties have come a long way. It's all been made possible by the kindness of people donating their pre-loved craft supplies. We rely heavily on donations to make it possible."

Krafties Kave is open Monday to Saturday, 9am-5pm at The Furniture Hub (apart from Bank Holidays).



## New Retail Roles



We're always looking for new ways to make shopping with us an enjoyable experience, so we've recently made some changes within our Retail Team.

Mike McArdle (right of photo) has been

busy in his new role as Head of Retail. After joining the team back in 2022, he has helped to take The Furniture Hub from strength to strength.

He's been joined by our Sales & Distribution Manager, Dave Wright (left of photo), who has been promoted from his role of Assistant Retail Manager.

Mike told us: "In recent years, charity shops have experienced a boom. We are working hard to keep enticing customers by refitting our shops and diversifying what we offer, for example furniture, vinyl records, and retro clothing."

## Our 3-Step Furniture Cleaning Process

**Every item we receive at The Furniture Hub is thoroughly cleaned before going out on the shop floor.**

### 1 Vacuum

We remove dust and debris, paying special attention to the crevices in the arms, down the back, and underneath/between the cushions.



### 2 Steam clean

The high temperature helps to loosen any dirt and grime and kills bacteria.



### 3 Full upholstery or leather clean

This removes fabric stains, providing a fresh, clean finish and extending the lifespan. Our leather sofas are treated to clean and soften the leather, preventing the surface from becoming brittle.



## Spring Clean by Donating!

If you've got an itch to make space in your house, you can drop off your unwanted items at The Furniture Hub or our shops in Lees, Royton or Shaw.

All we ask is that they are in a sellable condition, with any relevant safety labels still attached. We also have a two-bag limit to keep our shops safe for staff and volunteers.

**Here are just some of the items you could donate:**

### HOSPICE SHOPS



Clothes



Shoes



Books



Collectables



Jewellery



Toys



Bags



Electricals



Ornaments



CDs and DVDs

### THE FURNITURE HUB



Furniture



Men's vintage or designer clothing



Vinyl records



Artwork

## Boost Your Donation by 25% for Free

Did you know that you can help us to raise an extra 25% for our Hospice at no extra cost to yourself? If you're a UK taxpayer, you can opt in to Gift Aid so we receive an extra 25p per £1 made from your items.

Find out more by asking one of our friendly shop team.

*giftaid it*

**We'd love for you to visit us soon! You can find our opening hours on the back cover**



# 21st Anniversary Draw

**Thank you to all those who participated in our 21st Anniversary Draw on Friday 4th October, with six lucky winners sharing £4,500!**

Congratulations to our jackpot winner from Grotton who won £3,000, and the 2nd prize winner from Royton who scooped £1,000!

Our 21st Anniversary Draw raised a fabulous £19,398.50 for patient care at Dr Kershaw's!

All funds raised from the Anniversary Draw went directly to the Hospice, and each ticket purchased contributed to providing vital care and support for our patients and their loved ones. A chance to win, a way to care!

Joanne Penketh, Head of Lottery & Donor Stewardship, added: "Congratulations to our winners, who were delighted! Thank you to everyone who entered the Draw, and on behalf of all our patients and their families, thank you for making a difference!"



## 2025 Spring Draw

**Dr Kershaw's Lottery Spring Draw will take place on Friday 2nd May. Why not purchase a ticket for just £1, and give yourself the chance of winning a fabulous cash prize.**



Karen Maloney, Hospice Lottery Executive, said: "For just £1, you could be the lucky winner of our Spring Draw jackpot prize of £3,000! How would you spend it? Maybe book a summer holiday, redecorate your house, put it towards a new car or treat your family and friends? You have to be in it to win it!"

Tickets are available from our Hospice Shops, the Hospice Reception or from our Hospice's Lottery Team on **0161 624 9213** or **lottery@drkh.org.uk**

# Why Play Our Weekly Lottery?



For only £1 per week you can help support our patients and their families. You'll also be in with a chance of winning our weekly jackpot prize of £1,000 or one of our 5 runner-up prizes of £50.



Your £1 a week could make all the difference to someone local living with a life-limiting illness.



Our services cost just under £5.3 million a year and less than a third of this is funded.



We provide specialist care, advice and support to patients and their families for as long as they need us, completely free of charge.



Dr Kershaw's is an essential local service that depends on your support.

## Meet the Lottery Team

Meet our dedicated Lottery Team, who work tirelessly to ensure our Weekly Lottery is legal, fair and well promoted, whilst raising much-needed funds for Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

Just give them a call should you change your address or have any queries regarding your Lottery Membership, our raffle draws or how to become a Lottery Member. They are more than happy to help!

**Joanne Penketh - Head of Lottery & Donor Stewardship**

**Karen Maloney - Lottery Executive**

**Mike Lucas - Lottery Assistant**

You can call our team on **0161 624 9213** between 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday. Out of hours, you can leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.



(Left to right)  
Karen Maloney,  
Mike Lucas &  
Joanne Penketh



## Meet the 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: Focus Pharmacy Failsworth, ICC Oldham, Shaw & Crompton Medical Centre, Aldi Chadderton & Failsworth, Royton Medical Centre and Co-op Shaw. Thank you to these venues for their support.

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



Take part in our Lottery by contacting us on **0161 624 9213** or **lottery@drkh.org.uk** or via our website at **www.drkh.org.uk/lottery**

# THIS IS HOSPICE CARE

It's easing pain and bringing comfort, care for those dying and for those around them.

Help hospice care live on for all, for now, forever.

Leave a Gift in your Will at  
[www.drkh.org.uk/giftinwill](http://www.drkh.org.uk/giftinwill)



## 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

### The Furniture Hub

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

## Contact Details

For general enquiries, patient information,  
volunteering, Friends of the Hospice:  
**Tel: 0161 624 2727**

**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

