

Heart of the Hospice

You are at the heart of everything we do!

Issue 75

Brian's touching last Father's Day

Hindu temple partnership tackling stigma

Revealing our 2026 Events Calendar



New
eco-friendly
design

Celebrating 10 years of Hospice at Home

Our specialist team of Nurses and Healthcare Assistants has been giving a choice to patients, carers and relatives since 2016

In this issue...

- 3** News
- 4** Brian's Story
- 6** Events
- 8** Volunteering
- 9** Meet the Team
- 10** News
- 12** Community
- 13** Corporate
- 14** Hospice Shops
- 15** Lottery

Follow us on social media for our latest updates

 Facebook – @drkershawshospice

 X – @KershawsHospice

 Instagram – @drkershawshospice

 YouTube – @DrKershawsHospice

 LinkedIn – @drkh



Welcome

This issue's welcome is from our Director of Clinical Services, Lindsey Harper. Holding the prestigious title of Queen's Nurse, Lindsey oversees our Inpatient Unit and Wellbeing Centre, along with our Hospice at Home, Caring Hands and Bereavement Support services.

As hospices across the UK fight to keep essential services open, we are immensely proud to be celebrating the 10th anniversary of Hospice at Home.

This milestone would simply not be possible without the support of readers like you. Each donation you make, event you attend, or item you buy from our charity shops helps to ensure that people can choose where they spend their final days.

Many of you will have seen the work of Dr Kershaw's Hospice firsthand. You will know that our specialist nurses, doctors and healthcare assistants provide palliative and end-of-life care with compassion and respect.

What you may not know is that as a charity, we are only one-quarter funded by the NHS. To keep our services free and accessible to all, we rely on donations from the Oldham community and beyond.

This is why we have joined Hospice UK's 'This is Hospice Care' campaign for a second year. Standing alongside 126 other hospices, we are highlighting the importance of hospice care, and the enormous impact that leaving a gift in your Will can have.

Our Hospice was made possible by a legacy left by the local GP Dr John Kershaw. And today, our supporters are creating their own legacies. Their generous donations are protecting services like Hospice at Home for future generations.

As we plan for the future of Dr Kershaw's Hospice, we would like to thank you once again for your support. We hope you enjoy this issue!

Lindsey Harper, Director of Clinical Services

Our impact in 2025

While many recognise us for the care delivered within our Hospice, our reach extends far beyond our walls and into homes and neighbourhoods across Oldham

In 2025, we continued to stand alongside individuals facing serious or life-limiting illnesses, providing compassionate, specialist care tailored to each person.

Families, friends and carers also received vital support, guidance and reassurance. Our services reflect the diverse communities we

serve, and we remain committed to ensuring everyone who needs us can access the right support at the right time.

Thank you to our amazing staff, incredible volunteers, wonderful supporters and our community...you are at the heart of everything we do!

Here are just some of our 2025 highlights in numbers

273

patients on
Inpatient
Unit

2,581

Hospice at
Home visits

6,360

Caring
Hands visits

306

Bereavement
Counselling
sessions

246

Wellbeing
Centre
patients



Kershaw's
Hospice

at the heart of everything

“ I will forever be grateful for our special last Father’s Day ”

Surrounded by our beautiful gardens, Brian Swann’s final Father’s Day with his family was bursting with joy and love. The doting granddad made precious memories on our Inpatient Unit that his daughter, Sue McEwan, says she will always treasure

Dad was such a positive, happy and content man. A ticket holder for Oldham Athletic, he had an eclectic range of hobbies, including metal detecting, ballroom dancing, making mosaics and even playing the ukulele!

Above all else, he loved his family. He was married for 30 years to his wife, Monica, and I was his only child. He also had four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

He ran a launderette, where he often collected and returned washing to help elderly people. At the end of a long day, he loved nothing more than sitting in his garden. I surprised by him by having it done up whilst he was on his last holiday – he was absolutely thrilled when he came home.

In 2011, Dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Then ten years later, a scan showed the cancer had spread to his spine. We were heartbroken when we were told that he had between three and twelve months to live.

He was placed on end-of-life care on 10th June 2022, which was actually my birthday. When Dad was admitted to Dr Kershaw’s Hospice, I was so upset. I had never been in a hospice before and thought it would be doom and gloom, like a ‘final curtain’.

Instead, when I walked into the family lounge on the Inpatient Unit, I couldn’t get over how peaceful the atmosphere was. The gardens were beautiful, and the staff were amazing. It was worlds apart from the previous care settings Dad had experienced.

We could contact Dad whenever we wanted, which gave us peace of mind. When someone you love is dying, the last thing you need is to worry about the care they are receiving. I knew that Dad was being looked after.

The staff couldn’t do enough for us. They never rushed their care or conversations, and that made all the

“ If there is a perfect place for someone to pass away, it would be Dr Kershaw’s Hospice. ”

difference. Dad was worried at first, but he soon told me it was “brilliant”.

His face would light up when staff came into his room. Dad felt loved and cared for, and it is hard to imagine him being anywhere else at the end of his life. Having the family lounge meant that we could spend meaningful time together outside of his room – I loved being able to stay and have my tea with him.

On Dad’s last Father’s Day, just before he died, he had the most perfect day. He was wheeled into the beautiful gardens and enjoyed a three-course meal with myself and two of his grandchildren.

His room was decorated with Father’s Day banners and the atmosphere was relaxed. It became one of the most precious memories we have of our final times with Dad. He died just a few days later.

Since then, I have supported the Hospice any way I can at Dad’s funeral. I signed up as a Lottery member, have made Light Up a Life dedications, and we asked people to donate at his funeral in lieu of flowers.

I hope that by supporting Dr Kershaw’s Hospice, it will continue to be there for other families. That is why leaving a gift in your Will is so important – even 1% of your Will would make a real difference.

It would help the Hospice to provide special care and precious memories for future patients and families. This is something I will be forever grateful for.



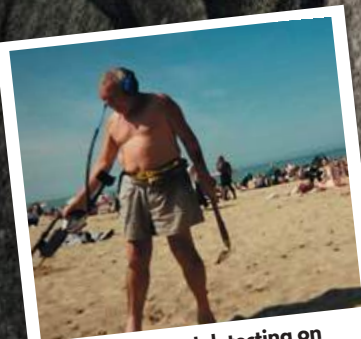
Sue and Brian holding hands

“
It's hard to
imagine Dad
anywhere else
at the end of
his life.
”

▶ Brian as
a young man



Brian with daughter Sue and
granddaughter Abbie on his final
Father's Day



Brian metal detecting on
the beach



Brian with his only daughter, Sue

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will,
visit www.drkh.org.uk/giftinwill

2025 Events Round Up

July to December

Thank you so much for your support in 2025

Christmas Fayre

Over 700 people visited us on Sunday 23rd November for a festive afternoon, both inside the Hospice and outside in our Christmas marquee and gazebos.

Over
£2,600
raised!



Summer Fayre

On Sunday 13th July, we were delighted to welcome almost 700 supporters to our Hospice for a sunny afternoon of music, stalls, game, inflatables and refreshments.

Over
£6,900
raised!



Light Up a Life

Our multi-faith Light Up a Life service took place on Sunday 7th December at our Hospice. To view our Order of Service and Book of Remembrance or watch our video, visit: www.drkh.org.uk/LightUpaLife

Over
£23,000
raised!



Christmas Concert

Oldham Parish Church was alive with the sound of music on Thursday 11th December as our annual Christmas Concert got people in the festive spirit.

Over
£2,600
raised!



Christmas Tree Collection

Our Christmas Tree Collection campaign was tree-mendous! Amazing support was provided from WillMow Reclamation, Life for a Life Memorial Forests, Northern Pest Management and Landlord Furniture Co.

Over
£2,700
raised!



To view the photographs and videos from our events, check out our social media channels

2026 Event Calendar

We have lots of exciting events you can take part in. Have fun whilst raising vital funds for patient care!

- ✓ **Hartley's Hero Walk**
Friday 27th February
- ✓ **Dr Kershaw's Strictly**
Friday 13th March
- ✓ **Bunny Hop** March / April
- ✓ **Junior Dragon's Den**
May / June / July
- ✓ **Eid Run** TBC June
- ✓ **Corporate Golf Day**
Thursday 11th June
- ✓ **Ascot Ladies Day**
Thursday 18th June
- ✓ **Rose to Remember**
Sunday 28th June
- ✓ **Summer Fayre**
Sunday 12th July
- ✓ **Born Survivor**
Saturday 12th September
- ✓ **Reindeer Run**
November / December
- ✓ **Jolly Jumper Day**
November / December
- ✓ **Christmas Fayre**
Sunday 29th November
- ✓ **Light Up a Life**
Sunday 6th December
- ✓ **Christmas Carol Concert**
Thursday 17th December
- ✓ **Christmas Tree Collection**
December / January 2027

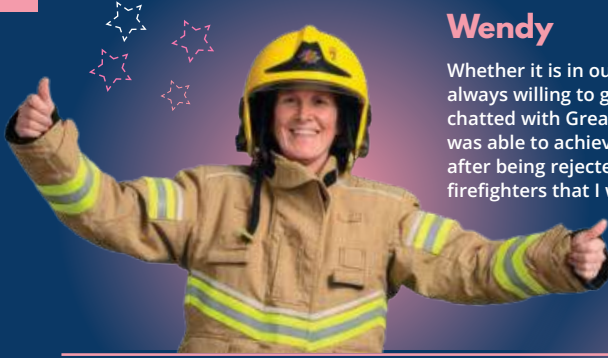


If you would like to find out more about our upcoming events, visit www.drkh.org.uk/events or call us on 0161 624 9984

Volunteering at Dr Kershaw's

Our selfless volunteers are vital to our Hospice. In 2025, they contributed an amazing 39,997 hours, saving us £540,467.

Here are some of their stories!



Wendy

Whether it is in our gardens or as a Christmas elf, Wendy is always willing to go the extra mile. At our Summer Fayre, she chatted with Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service and was able to achieve her dream of wearing a firefighter uniform, after being rejected as a teenager. She said: "I joked to the firefighters that I was the one who got away."



Vicky and Maggie

This mum-and-daughter duo help at our Shaw shop, sorting through donations and styling window displays. They were inspired to volunteer after Vicky's father was cared for by our Hospice at Home team.

Vic

Our 2025 Christmas Fayre marked the triumphant retirement of Vic as Dr Kershaw's' Santa.

Incredibly, Vic's surname is actually Sleight! He has been a Santa lookalike for 47 years, travelling all over the world and even meeting celebrities.

Vic wanted to get involved after his brother-in-law was cared for on our Inpatient Unit. He said: "It feels good to know that I have helped the Hospice."



Thinking about applying?

Do it! We offer a wide of range of roles across retail, the Wellbeing Centre, Reception, Café K and catering, fundraising support, admin and events.

There are also opportunities for corporate volunteers to get involved. Anyone aged 16+ can apply, and there is no upper age limit.

As an inclusive organisation, we welcome applications from people from all cultures and walks of life.

Find out more about becoming a volunteer at
www.drkh.org.uk/volunteering

60 seconds with...

our Volunteer Coordinator, Glenn Drake-Owen



After being blown away by our spectacular volunteers, Glenn transferred from our Fundraising team to work with them more closely. He reveals what makes working at our Hospice so special

Where did you work before Dr Kershaw's?

I had a 25+ year career as a property auctioneer and surveyor for various local and national firms. I wanted a change!

What made you want to work at Dr Kershaw's?

In my previous role as Associate Partner at a commercial property business, we often took part in corporate challenges for the Hospice.

I was also part of a local networking group that raised money for Dr Kershaw's.

I got to know people here and saw the great work the Hospice does.

Can we have an overview of your role?

Our team is responsible for the recruitment, training and retention of our wonderful volunteers.

We work closely with all departments to make sure that we recruit the right volunteers for the right role, and that all volunteers have a positive experience.

What do you enjoy about your role?

I love to see new volunteers settling into their roles and enjoying them. There is a wonderful sense of camaraderie and friendship, and the difference volunteers make throughout the Hospice and shops is incredible.

I also really like data, statistics and looking at things critically.

We need to balance the operational needs of each department and the availability of volunteers, which is interesting.

What is your favourite thing about working here?

Without a doubt, the people. This is both our volunteers and my colleagues. It is such a varied team of people, and irrespective of our roles we have one goal in mind: patient care.



Discover our latest job vacancies at www.drkh.org.uk/jobs

Award-winning gardens set to bloom this spring

When is the last time you took a moment to step outside and appreciate nature? Our Hospice Gardener, Louise Whitehead, has done just that to bring you the latest news from our gorgeous outdoor space

“

Signs of spring are revealing themselves, giving a glimmer of hope. The tulips and daffodils are starting to show through, the primroses and hellebores are in flower, and the fiery orange of the witch hazel is in full bloom.

The magnolias will soon be brightening the garden with their gorgeous flowers, and it won't be long now before the colour is back.

Louise ”



Our gardens were recently awarded an 'Outstanding – Level 5' certificate by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and North West in Bloom for the second year running.



Dr Kershaw's new state-of-the-art Wellbeing Centre will open this spring, thanks to a significant grant from the Roger Tanner Trust. This marks the final phase of our outdoor redevelopment project.

The new building will provide a peaceful space for therapy, bereavement support, dementia care and creative wellbeing services.

To support our vision of holistic, patient-focused care, it will be linked to our outdoor space, enabling more nature-based and mindfulness activities.



Eco-friendly magazine

We hope you are enjoying our new bite-size format! As part of our sustainability goals, we are helping to protect the environment by reducing our paper use



Watch the video
on our blog

Hindu temple partnership tackling stigma

As part of our mission to highlight accessible palliative care within diverse communities, Dr Kershaw's Hospice has joined forces with a local Hindu temple.

Shree Swaminarayan Mandir is central to Oldham's Hindu population, providing a wide range of worship, learning and wellbeing support.

By partnering with the temple, we hope to tackle stigma around end-of-life care in the South Asian community and empower families to decide what is right for their loved ones.

Adele Doherty, CEO of Dr Kershaw's Hospice, said: "People from diverse ethnic groups may find it more difficult to access specialist palliative care services.

"We work alongside families to deliver care that aligns with beliefs and ways of living."

The temple has been an incredible support, including donating over 1,000 selection boxes for our Christmas campaign and hosting community events.

Talented Bella sings for Wellbeing Centre

Our Bereavement Group was honoured to welcome 11-year-old Bella Cunnington, who performed a very special Christmas concert in December.

Bella sang a selection of hits, including 'Over the Rainbow', 'Walking in the Air' and 'A Holly Jolly Christmas'.

She then drew rapturous applause from staff and visitors after performing in Dr Kershaw's in-house Café K.

The talented youngster is the granddaughter of one of our volunteers, Eddie Barton.

Each morning, Bella goes to Eddie's house to practise singing before school. And her hard work has definitely paid off, as she has already performed in shows like The Snowman and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Thank you so much, Bella, and we can't wait to see you in the West End soon!



For more news and updates, sign up to our email
newsletter or visit www.drkh.org.uk/news



We couldn't do it without you!

Check out our #ThankyouThursday and #FridayFundraisers on our social media channels for more wonderful fundraisers

Santa's Grotto

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Grotto at Spindles Town Square over Christmas. It was amazing to see so many families coming to meet Santa and enjoying the festive fun!



Taylor Shure 5 Studios

In November, Taylor Shure 5 Studios hosted the sold-out 'That's Entertainment' Tribute event in memory of their good friend Rob Brogan. The event raised a fantastic **£1,099.66**.



Reindeer Runs raise a record-breaking total

Our 2025 Reindeer Runs were truly incredible! More than 13 schools and community groups took part - including several first time supporters who went on to raise some of our highest totals.

Across Oldham, around 3,000 children proudly wore their antlers as they dashed around playgrounds and local parks. With the encouragement of teachers, families and friends, their collective efforts helped us raise an astonishing **£14,668!**

This is more than double 2024's income, and we couldn't be more grateful to every school, group, child, and supporter who made this happen.



Jill Kirkham, Tom Hall & Tom Penketh

For more information on fundraising, contact our Community & Partnerships Team on 0161 624 9984 or fundraising@drkh.org.uk

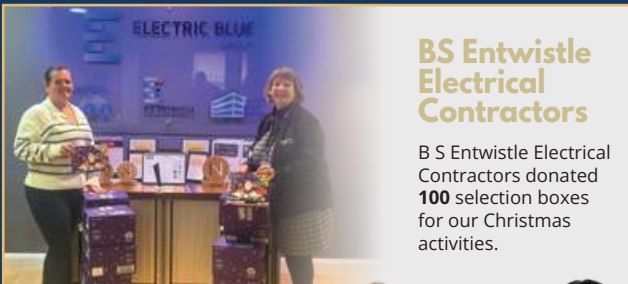


Thank you to our Corporate Partners!

A partnership with Dr Kershaw's Hospice is bespoke and about so much more than fundraising. It means working together with a charity that truly values its business supporters and the difference they make to local hospice care

Diodes Incorporated

Our wonderful partners, Diodes Incorporated in Chadderton celebrated an incredible **£12,252.62** raised in 2025 for Dr Kershaw's Hospice. From taking on the Yorkshire Three Peaks and the Saddleworth Three Peaks challenges to hosting raffles, their fundraising efforts have been outstanding.



BS Entwistle Electrical Contractors

B S Entwistle Electrical Contractors donated **100** selection boxes for our Christmas activities.



Visiting Angels

Roxie and Kim from Visiting Angels visited Dr Kershaw's after holding a staff raffle and donating an amazing **£550** to the Hospice. We are so grateful for the continued kindness and support from the Visiting Angels team.



Crane Payment Innovations

Thank you to Crane Payment Innovations for your continued support from corporate volunteers in the Hospice and in our shops.

If you would like to find out how your business could support us, we would love to hear from you. Visit www.drkh.org.uk/corporatepartnerships



In 2024, your shopping helped us raise an incredible **£589,325** across all our charity shops

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
 Mon – Sat, 9am – 5pm

Inside our charity shops

If you can spot a bargain from ten paces away, you have probably already visited our charity shops in Lees, Shaw and Royton.

Alongside The Furniture Hub, our shops are full of high-quality new and preloved items. You can find everything from clothes, shoes and handbags to books, toys and home décor.

And if you are having a spring clean, you can drop off your unwanted sellable items. Declutter your home whilst supporting patient care!



Follow us on Instagram @drkershawsshops

Be the first to know about sales and new products



2026 Spring Draw

Our Lottery Spring Draw will take place on Friday 22nd May. Buy a ticket for just £1 to give yourself the chance of winning a fantastic cash prize

Karen Maloney, Hospice Lottery Executive, said: "You could win an amazing £3,000 by purchasing a ticket for only £1! If you are our top prize winner, you could use the money to book a sunny getaway, finally tackle those home improvements you've been putting off, or treat your family and friends.

"This is your chance to win big while supporting Dr Kershaw's Hospice. Every ticket sold helps us provide essential, compassionate care to local patients and their loved ones. Don't miss out: grab your tickets today!"

Tickets are available from all our Hospice Shops, the Hospice Reception, or via our website at www.drkh.org.uk Alternatively, you can contact the Lottery Team on 0161 624 9213 or email Lottery@drkh.org.uk



22nd Anniversary Draw

Our 2025 Anniversary Raffle Draw raised an incredible £17,963 towards patient care.

- 1 full day's care across all Hospice services
- 30 Music in Mind Dementia sessions, bringing moments of joy, connection and true expressions to people and their carers living with dementia
- Fuel for our Caring Hands car for 6 months, helping us to care for patients in the comfort of their own homes
- 65 hours of Bereavement phone support to loved ones navigating grief

Thank you for your support!



Congratulations to our lucky jackpot winner from Shaw, who took home an amazing £3,000

Our Hospice Fundraising Promoters

Say hello to our Fundraising Promoters, Natalie and Nigel, who are out and about in our community promoting our Weekly Lottery.

Nigel goes door to door and has 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.



A CHANCE TO WIN
Lottery
A WAY TO CARE

Take part in our Weekly 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** ♥



WE'RE PROUD

to be part of a **coalition of hospices across England, Scotland and Wales**, formed to protect the future of hospice care.

Find out more about leaving a gift in your Will at www.drkh.org.uk/giftinwill

Contact Details

For general enquiries, patient information and volunteering:

Tel: 0161 624 2727

24-Hour Advice Line: 0161 785 5635

Dr Kershaw's Hospice

Turf Lane, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6EU

Email: info@drkh.org.uk

Website: www.drkh.org.uk

Charity No: 1105924

Subscribe
to our
emails

