

Your Impact

Spring 2022

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How we're going the extra mile for patients



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www.ashgatehospice.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 700636

Welcome

A message from our Chief Executive



Can you believe we are approaching the halfway point of 2022 already? It has been a busy start to the year here at Ashgate, with our teams continuing to care for patients right across North Derbyshire and at our Inpatient Unit in Old Brampton.

While much of the outside world is returning to normal, COVID is still a real challenge for us here at the hospice and we continue to work hard on our infection control measures and keeping our patients safe. The pressures we are seeing in the wider healthcare sector are impacting us too – and recruiting nurses is proving difficult, as it is for all providers. That’s why I’m delighted that on 30th June we will be hosting a hospice recruitment event for nurses along with other roles at the hospice, so we will get the chance to tell people in person what makes working at Ashgate so special.

Along with the challenges, we’ve had some huge successes – including our Hasland retail operations having the most successful year to date. Thank you to everyone who visits and donates to our shops – it really does make a huge difference. We’ve also had some great culinary successes thanks to Mark Taylor our talented chef and team.

We’re also delighted to bring you news of our second Forget-Me-Not Appeal, sponsored by Graysons Solicitors, as well as the latest updates ahead of the return of our Sparkle Night Walk, sponsored by Vertu Toyota Chesterfield, in July.

I hope you will consider supporting our Forget-Me-Not campaign and dedicating one of our beautiful keepsake flowers in memory of your loved ones, or by registering for our Sparkle Night Walk – you’ll find out much more about both and other ways you can support us inside!

On behalf of everyone at Ashgate, I would like to thank you for your goodwill and generosity.

Barbara-Anne Walker
Chief Executive

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Join us in remembering our loved ones with a forget-me-not flower



For a suggested donation of £25, you will receive a pink forget-me-not flower. Each lovingly crafted stainless steel flower measures 45cm in length and is perfect for displaying at home or in your garden.

Our Forget-Me-Not Appeal, sponsored by Graysons Solicitors, will see the flowers form a wonderful display within the picturesque grounds of Renishaw Hall. Visitors will be able to view the display and their flowers this summer from Wednesday 15th June to Sunday 19th June and Wednesday 22nd June to Sunday 26th June.



You will be invited to collect your flower from Ashgate Hospice (S42 7JD), or have it delivered, once the display ends after 26th June.

Together, we shall remember our loved ones, care for each other, and raise vital funds for Ashgate Hospice so that we can continue to support the families who need us.

This year, Amanda Griffiths will be remembering her beloved dad, Victor Tye.



Amanda said: "I will forever treasure the memory of the two of us sitting together in Dad’s room, peacefully watching the birds on the feeders outside. Sometimes when I visited, I’d catch him singing along to his records or sharing stories with staff about his younger days.

"I miss Dad so much, and I think about him every day. My Nana is forever in my heart too. So I’m remembering them both through Ashgate Hospice’s Forget-Me-Not Appeal."

To donate and receive a **forget-me-not flower** in memory of your loved one, go to:

www.ashgatehospice.org.uk/forget-me-not.

Alternatively, you can call the Fundraising Team on: **01246 567250**

Why we love living and working in North Derbyshire!

There are many great reasons why our staff and volunteers are proud to work at Ashgate Hospice, including our commitment to high-quality palliative and end of life care, our compassion in supporting families through the hardest of times and our ability to be there for each other in our 'One Ashgate' approach.

But there is one more great reason our staff and volunteers love Ashgate Hospice: our idyllic location.

From friendly village communities to the stunning Peak District right in our back garden to an array of landmarks like Chatsworth House and Haddon Hall – North Derbyshire is a wonderful place to live and work.

With rolling hills and beautiful views, our Inpatient Unit is in the leafy suburb of Old Brampton in Chesterfield, offering patients, their families and our staff and volunteers a tranquil and comfortable environment to spend time in.

We want to celebrate what it's like to live and work in North Derbyshire, so we've asked our staff what they love about living here!



Photo credit to:
Tom Hodgson: tomhodgson.co.uk

What our staff think about living and working in North Derbyshire



Pam Garvey has been with Ashgate Hospice for more than 30 years.

"There is a real community spirit here where everyone looks out for each other, if we are not holding fundraising events, we are planning our next street party!

"I have always felt very privileged to work at the hospice and care for the patients of North Derbyshire. I wouldn't want to work anywhere else but then why would I!"



Watch our video:
See why our staff think working at Ashgate is so special.



Kelly Bartram, Registered Nurse on our Inpatient Unit.

"I really enjoy living in Derbyshire. You get such a contrast of busy town life and then the more rural and beautiful countryside areas – they are only ever a stone's throw away and ideal for walking my doggies! I'm lucky that most of my family and friends are in and around Derbyshire and we love going on days out together."



Julie Broomhead, Specialist Palliative Care Social Worker at Ashgate Hospice.

"My number one joy is walking in Curbar, Beeley, Linacre and Baslow. Recently on my travels I met a family who had driven 50 miles to experience what I now pretty much take for granted!"

We're hiring Registered General Nurses!

Would you like to help make a difference at the end of people's lives? Join our award-winning team on our newly refurbished 21-bed Inpatient Unit and take advantage of a range of benefits and development opportunities.

Find out more and apply online at:
ashgatehospice.org.uk/vacancies

For qualifying positions, we will offer up to £5,000 to support you to relocate to the local area upon successful appointment.

Why not join us at our recruitment open day on 30th June? Here you'll be able to meet our staff, tour our facilities and have an on-the-spot interview.

Head over to our website to register your interest.



Series three and our podcast is going global!

It's been two years since we launched 'The Life and Death Podcast', which sees us have honest conversations about life, death, bereavement and so much more.

From critically acclaimed author Clover Stroud to University of Arizona Psychology professor, Mary-Frances O'Connor – in this series we talk with six people to get a deeper understanding of what life and death means to them.

You can listen to all episodes here www.podfollow.com/the-life-and-death-podcast or through all podcast platforms by searching for 'Ashgate Hospice'. Don't forget to subscribe to get notifications for the latest episodes!



"As Andrew's breathing became more laboured I called for the nurse to come in. She had the most beautiful bedside manner and talked me through Andrew's final moments. I had never seen a person die before, in fact Andrew was my first and only big loss."

Kimberley Greaves

Talking about death and dying: Terri's story



Terri was diagnosed with metastasised cervical cancer in 2014. After years in remission, the cancer sadly returned, and in 2021 Terri died at just 31 years old.

Here her partner, Thomas Williams, shares the incredible support she received from Ashgate Hospice.

"A mum, a sister, a daughter, a friend... though everyone says this about their loved ones, she really was always the life of the party. She truly illuminated every room she entered and unequivocally made everyone and everything around her better.

"Ashgate remained steadfast and consistent, anchoring me to reality and acting as an authority which I could trust completely, one which only had Terri's best interests in mind, but respected fully her own wishes.

"They were a constant source of medical authority, advice, comfort, and information. We trusted them completely, and they were not only absolutely invested in Terri and her wellbeing, but also ensured that myself and her family were coping."



Ashgate's Sparkle Night Walk is back!

Have you signed up to take part in our Sparkle Night Walk yet?

Come together with friends and family on Saturday 9th July 2022 and be part of North Derbyshire's biggest fundraising event of the year!

The 10km walk, sponsored by Vertu Toyota Chesterfield, will see thousands of our supporters walk from Chesterfield FC's ground across the town – donning bright pink outfits, tutus and flashing bunny ears!

By taking part in this fantastic event, you'll not only have a fantastic time, but you'll help us continue to be there for families when it matters most.

Sign up today and receive a brilliant fundraising pack, with lots of tips to help you beat your fundraising target. You'll also receive a pink Sparkle Night Walk T-shirt and flashing bunny ears to wear on the night!

To find out more go to:

www.ashgatehospice.org.uk/sparkle-night-walk or call 01246 567250.

Loving daughters taking on first Sparkle Night Walk in memory of dad



Among those signed up for the first time this year are the daughters of Keith Melland, who died in our care last year.

In his loving memory, his daughter Rachel Melland, from Buxton, will be joined by sisters Helen, Hannah and Becky as they take on Ashgate Hospice's Sparkle Night Walk for the first time to raise funds for the vital care that Keith received at the end of his life.

Rachel said: "Ashgate's care relies so much on fundraising and we want to do as much as we can to support Ashgate as it made our family feel as though we were at home from the moment we arrived."

The only thing missing is U

Could you spare a few hours of your time?

Why not join our friendly team of volunteers? We're on the lookout for more lovely people to volunteer in our 18 shops across North Derbyshire.

From helping sort donations in the stockrooms to serving customers behind the till – we offer a range of roles to suit everyone and are happy to accommodate each person's needs and availability, where possible!



Audrey has been volunteering in our Dronfield shop for three years

"Volunteering in Ashgate's shop was perfect for me. I love everything about it, I really do – I look forward to the days I go in and the customers who I get to meet.

"At the shop, I get involved in everything from tidying the displays, pricing up items and welcoming our wonderful supporters who generously make donations to us."

Anyone who is interested in volunteering can go to: www.ashgatehospice.org.uk/volunteering and fill in the Volunteer Enquiry Form.

Alternatively, pop into your local shop and ask to speak to the shop manager about volunteering.

Bag bargains at our Matlock clearance shop!

Have you been to our newest shop?

Our new Matlock clearance shop, located next door to our existing shop on Firs Parade, is packed to the rafters with bargains ranging from just £1 to £3!

This opening is bringing numerous benefits – not only to Ashgate, through 100% of every sale going towards our care – but also to the local community as the cost-of-living skyrockets and items that would have ordinarily been recycled or sent to landfill, are given a second chance of finding a home.



To find out more about our shops go to: www.ashgatehospice.org.uk/about-our-shops

Our supporter Sally's challenge in husband Bernie's memory

When supporting Ashgate, whether it's a donation to our shops, taking part in our events or supporting one of our fundraising appeals – your generosity and kindness helps provide vital care to families across North Derbyshire.

Families like Sally Cother's know first-hand how much of a difference our compassionate care makes at the end of someone's life.

Her husband, Bernie, was diagnosed with lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease two years ago and received care on Ashgate's Inpatient Unit until his death in May last year, aged 77.

Sally herself has also received counselling support from the hospice's Supportive Care team, both before and after Bernie died.

Now, she's planning to do her bit by taking on our Three Peaks Challenge when she'll join other supporters by hiking up and down Black Hill, Bleaklow

and Kinder Scout – the three distinct highest peaks of the Derbyshire countryside on Sunday 12th June.

She said, "I cannot praise Ashgate enough for the way Bernie was cared for – he was treated with such dignity and respect. All the staff and volunteers were outstanding. They'd always answer my questions with complete honesty, without holding back, which helped me understand what was happening and, in a way, made it less frightening."

Fancy doing something amazing for Ashgate Hospice?

You can check out our upcoming challenge events on our website, or for more information, you can contact the Events team by emailing: events@ashgatehospice.org.uk or calling 01246 567250.



Sally and her beloved husband Bernie

Siblings skydive in “heroic” dad’s memory

Two siblings raised £3,504 for us after jumping out of an aeroplane at 15,000ft in memory of their “heroic” firefighter dad who we cared for at the end of his life.



Ryan and his big sister Fran Harrison embarked on the UK’s highest tandem skydive at Hibaldstow Airfield in Lincolnshire when they made the jump on Sunday, 6th March.

The brother and sister duo completed the breath-taking charity challenge in memory of their father, David Harrison, from Bradwell, who died in June 2020 after being diagnosed with lung cancer 18 months before.

David, originally from Sheffield, who worked as a firefighter at South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue for 28 years, received “caring and compassionate” support in his own home from our Palliative Care Specialist Nurse team.

On top of helping to manage his pain and visits from nurses to support the family in his final days, we organised vital equipment – like a specialist hospital bed – to be installed in David’s home to ensure he was as comfortable as possible.

“Heights have always been my number one fear and ever since I was a kid I’ve been fascinated with the idea of skydiving,” said Ryan, aged 38, from Sheffield, who also volunteers on our reception in Old Brampton, Chesterfield.

“When I mentioned it to my sister, she had felt the same about the idea of doing a skydive for the hospice – so it was a no brainer to do it together!

“The care dad received at Ashgate was very compassionate and caring, so to be able to do our bit to help support the hospice so it can be there for families in the future is really important to us as a family.”

Fran, 45, from Bradwell, added: “We’re so grateful to Ashgate for everything they did for him and have done for us as a family. They always went above and beyond to make sure Dad was receiving the very best care possible.”



To find out more about how you can skydive for Ashgate Hospice, go to: www.ashgatehospice.org.uk/events.

Making memories to last a lifetime

We’re not just about providing the best possible medical care for our patients, but we’re proud to go above and beyond to create special memories for the families who need us.

Over the recent weeks and months, our staff and volunteers have been doing just that – and we’re delighted to be able to share some of the lovely moments with you!

Over Easter, we had some very special visitors to our Inpatient Unit as local farmer Rob Pearson very kindly brought his lambs on a visit to meet our patients and nurses.

Rob, who also mows our meadows free of charge every year, helped create extra special memories for all of our patients and their families that they will cherish forever. We are so grateful for his continued support!



Meanwhile, when one of our patients told us he wanted to take his daughter out for an afternoon tea for her birthday, but unfortunately wasn’t able to, we brought the afternoon tea to them!

Our amazing Inpatient Unit and catering teams got to work to develop some tasty treats, including scrumptious sandwiches, scones, cakes and more!



Don’t they look delicious? Here’s the mouth-watering goodies prepared by our Head Chef, Mark.



Ruth’s story

From dancing with the Royal Ballet to supporting staff and volunteer wellbeing at Ashgate.

Meet Ruth – who travelled the world with the Royal Ballet Company and danced alongside some of the most acclaimed dancers, including Darcey Bussell.

The professional dancer retired at the age of 24 to focus on her wellbeing and is now 10 years into recovery from anorexia nervosa.

Now, as our Health and Wellbeing Advisor, Ruth hopes to use her own experiences of poor mental and physical health to implement a robust support scheme to help make wellbeing a priority for everyone at Ashgate.

Since her appointment in August 2021, Ruth has developed a wellbeing offer to help support staff and volunteers whenever they might need it. This includes 1:1 wellbeing calls, group meetings on nutrition and exercise and 30-minute mindfulness sessions.

She says: “I hope to build and promote a really strong message that wellbeing should be paramount to healthy staff and volunteers. Human beings have basic needs and I hope to give time, energy, and a safe space for people to acknowledge these in the workplace.”

Council chairman raises more than £75,000 for Ashgate in 12 months



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Chairman of North East Derbyshire District Council, Councillor Martin Thacker MBE, has been fundraising for the local hospice over the past 12 months after choosing Ashgate as his charity of the year.

Councillor Thacker, who is also Vice-Chairman of Chesterfield Football Club and Director of Chesterfield Football Community Trust, and his consort, Jean Spencer, have raised a total of £77,000 since fundraising started.

From a Peaky Blinders-themed party to a festively fun Christmas market – Councillor Thacker and his team, with the support of Ashgate’s fundraisers, organised 30 different events.

Councillor Thacker said: “We are delighted to present Ashgate Hospice with this record-breaking amount of money. Everyone is aware of the tremendous difference the hospice makes in the community.

“We know the funds will be used to help continue their fantastic work. I am very grateful to all those who have supported our appeal and helped us to support the hospice.”

If you'd like to support Ashgate Hospice's vital work through fundraising in the community, go to:

www.ashgatehospice.org.uk/fundraising
call 01246 567250 or email:
communityfr@ashgatehospice.org.uk

Essential contacts

Main reception: 01246 568801

Fundraising team: 01246 567250

Patient enquiries: clinicalenquiries@ashgatehospice.org.uk

Other enquiries: info@ashgatehospice.org.uk

Magazine editorial: marcomms@ashgatehospice.org.uk

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