

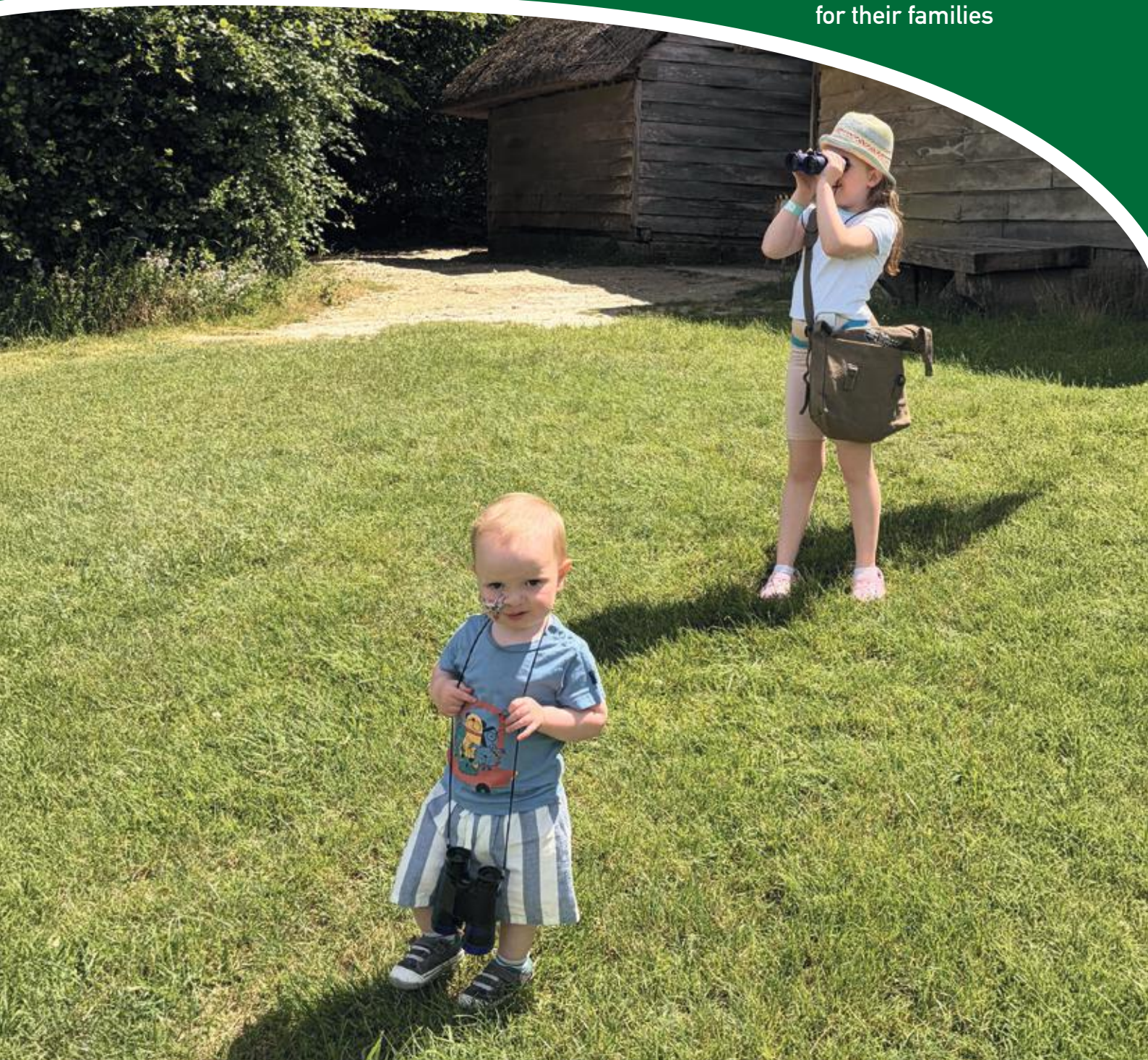
THE SUSSEX Snowdrop TRUST



Newsletter

Autumn/
Winter
2026

Nursing care at home
for local children with life
threatening or terminal
illnesses and support
for their families



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Celebrating Volunteers, Families and a Flourishing Partnership

This spring, The Sussex Snowdrop Trust was delighted to partner with the Weald & Downland Living Museum to create two memorable community days, celebrating the people at the heart of our charity and giving local families the chance to enjoy precious time together.

A Well-Deserved Thank You

Our first visit was dedicated to the incredible volunteers who give their time so generously throughout the year. Whether they're preparing tombola prizes, setting up fundraising events, manning stalls or championing the charity within their local communities, their commitment helps make our work possible.

As a small token of our appreciation, volunteers were invited to spend the day at the Museum, where they enjoyed a fascinating introduction to its historic collection from the interpretation team. The celebration continued with a lively display of traditional Morris dancing, making for a joyful afternoon of heritage, community and well-deserved recognition.



Creating Happy Memories

Later in the year, the Museum welcomed our Snowdrop families for a day of discovery, creativity and, most importantly, togetherness.

Families explored the beautiful nature trail, enjoyed hands-on activities in the historic Watermill, played traditional games and took part in craft sessions, creating keepsakes to remind them of their visit.

For many of the families we support, opportunities to simply spend time together away from hospital appointments and everyday pressures are invaluable. The Museum provided the perfect setting to slow the pace, enjoy the outdoors and make new memories. Parents had the opportunity to chat with one another while children and siblings explored freely, laughed together and embraced new experiences.



Growing Together

The partnership continued over the Easter holidays when the Museum's annual trail featured the Flower Code Quest, inspired by The Sussex Snowdrop Trust's snowdrop emblem. Visitors also contributed to 'A Tree of Hope', writing heartfelt messages of hope among the snowdrop flowers—a simple but moving reminder of the strength and kindness found within our community.

Adding to the impact, the Museum donated £3 from every new membership purchased during the campaign.



Beyond care.. Creating connections, memories and moments that matter

by Di Levantine, Chair and Co-Founder

Over the years, we have been privileged to get to know so many Snowdrop families, and so we have become friends with wonderful, inspirational Snowdrop children, their siblings and parents. Supporting families extends far beyond the nursing care we provide.

Throughout the year, Snowdrop organises special events that bring families together, giving them the opportunity to relax, have fun and spend time with others who truly understand the challenges of caring for a child with a life-threatening illness. Even when nursing care is no longer needed, many children remain on our *Historical List* and continue to be a much-loved part of the Snowdrop family.

Our annual **Butlin's Christmas Party** is the biggest family gathering of the year. Last year, more than 45 Snowdrop children and their families joined us in Bognor, and the atmosphere was simply incredible. Nurses, counsellors and our Short Break Carers all come along too, making it a wonderful opportunity for families to unwind, make new friendships and for parents to let their hair down!

At the beautiful **Arundel Castle Cricket Club**, families relax and enjoy the stunning surroundings while Cricket Foundation coaches give their time to play ball games with the children.



Mother's Day was another very special occasion. Our Patron, The Duchess of Norfolk, kindly opened the Castle Gardens especially for Snowdrop families, allowing everyone to enjoy the beautiful daffodils. She also generously provided 200 delicious Rocky Road bars! Parents loved the chance to catch up in such lovely surroundings, and we're delighted that even more people will be able to experience **The Duchess's Daffodil Day on 7th March 2027** in aid of the charity.



Another much-loved tradition is **Lambing Day** at a farm in Lurgashall. The farmer and his wife have welcomed our families with such warmth and kindness. The children are free to run, play and meet the animals, while parents enjoy relaxing in the company of others who understand the ups and downs of their lives.



Families also enjoyed a wonderful day at the Weald & Downland Living Museum, where volunteers provided refreshments and endless fascinating activities for everyone.

The **Goodwood Education Trust** has enabled our families to explore the woods, toast marshmallows, and swing in hammocks for the day, supported by our Short Break Carers, Helen and Pamela.



Every summer, each Snowdrop family is also offered a special day out to attractions such as LEGOLAND or Paultons Park. We receive so many wonderful messages and photographs afterwards, showing just how much these opportunities mean.

Many families also look forward to **Peter Saywell's Charity Supercar Track Day** at the Goodwood Motor Circuit. Open to everyone, it raises significant funds for Snowdrop and features an amazing collection of Ferraris, Lamborghinis and many other spectacular cars. Peter has supported Snowdrop for many years and always makes our families feel so welcome and very special. Save the Date – 10th October 2026.

The generosity of local people never ceases to amaze us. Their willingness to give their time, energy and support makes these special moments possible. They are about so much more than enjoyable days out—they create lasting memories, strengthen friendships and remind every family that, wherever they are on their Snowdrop journey, they will always have a place in the Snowdrop family.

Holding a family together through the toughest times

Elliot is pictured on our front page with his sister, Kathleen exploring the Weald & Downland Living Museum. This was a memorable day for this family and others who are supported by the Trust. Elliot's Mum, Emma bravely shares her story about life and how 'Snowdrop' has supported them so far.

"We had a wonderful baby bump, excited siblings and full hearts, then Elliot's diagnosis caught our breath and took over our bodies. Overnight we entered a world that very few people understand.

By the time Elliot arrived home from hospital he'd had emergency heart surgery, genetic assessments and cleft interventions. We had trauma beyond belief and a newborn baby who just wanted to be loved, but came with syringes, tubes, monitors, regimens, red flags, and his own phone book of emergency contacts for situations that weren't theoretical, but imminent. The wide, scared eyes of our 5 and 3 year old looked to us for 'age appropriate' reassurance, that we just weren't qualified to give, yet they still found love for the brother who pushed them into the background. Their medical vocabulary grew with ours and despite our postnatal fatigue, together we became proficient in tasks that kept Elliot safe. We became nurses, therapists and advocates. Buried under this we were still parents, but ones who had to hold their baby down screaming for medical procedures we had no qualifications to inflict.

Then came Snowdrop. It starts with practical help from the 'Care at home team'. A nurse by your side providing the expertise you lack. Not just to measure vitals and train you how to operate your baby with their network of medical needs, but to know exactly which mix of nervous laughter and dark humour is an unspoken call for help. They receive your panicked phone calls with a compassionate calmness and even "it's time to pop to hospital now", has a kind softness that almost negates the underlying terror.

You're on arguably one of the most important journeys of your life with no map, guidebook or sense of direction and the weight of your decisions lies heavy on your chest and on your relationships. You attempt to navigate both yourself and your family around the emotional and logistical maze of the medical world, whilst boundaries and goal posts constantly move.

"Snowdrop" becomes your way marker, the family you never knew you needed. You breathe out as you walk into a monthly parent coffee morning and realise you've been nervously holding your breath since last month. The 'Health Care Assistants' scoop the children into a world of fun and play, while you drink your only hot cuppa of the month. You instantly feel the love, care and kindness from other parents, but also from Diana who permeates it through everything she does. You leave armed with advice from people who've been there before, feeling understood without words and feeling less alone. Instant friendships, risen from camaraderie, but made for life.





When there's no guarantee your baby will get to grow old, you become gut wrenchingly familiar with the phrase: "Just enjoy your baby, savour every day". Easier said than done when you're buried under syringes, sterilisers, breast pumps, appointments, paperwork, phone calls and organising enough drugs to make the best dealers jealous. When you've chosen to spend every minute by their bedside and neglected or lost your career, the hospital trips, overpriced food, necessary hotel stays and petrol money drain your savings. The emotional, physical and financial burden make it feel impossible to leave the house and create special moments.

Yet thanks to Snowdrop, the first two years of Elliot's life were sprinkled with many happy memories. The Christmas party brought magic from the outside world into our medical bubble. Siblings greeted a Santa who didn't flinch at the medical equipment, nor recoiled when their only Christmas wish was their brother gets better. Parents danced together in knowing celebration of the hurdles they'd faced. Our children, who knew hospital corridors better than their local playground got to play together at Butlin's or theme parks after months apart while Elliot fought for his life.

That's why Snowdrop days out matter so much: ensuring Elliot's story wasn't just one of hospitals and suffering. Seeing Elliot's face light up when he was swarmed by hungry ducks at the Weald & Downland Living Museum. Hearing the giggles as he mutters his version of 'quack', one of the few words he has the mechanical ability to say. Hearing the excited squeals from his brother and sister who delight in the moment almost more than him. Or watching them all run off together at the Goodwood activity day. Enjoying the many planned activities with the other often unseen young carers. Weaving medical equipment, terminology and hospitals into their games naturally and without explanation. Perhaps they've been holding their breath too?

Perhaps they already feel the value of Snowdrop? Their determination to complete the annual Snowdrop walk, despite the rain, wind and ouchy legs was impressive. Their joy not only measured in the cake at the finish, but in celebrating children like their brother and heroes like themselves. Perhaps it's the resilience life has already taught them before their time, or the pleasure of their big eyes teasing money out of family and friends, but they subconsciously felt the value of every penny.



“ The epitome of The Sussex Snowdrop Trust is the lambing event. One of the most heartwarming hugs of the year. A place where every child counts, every parent is made to feel special, no medical need is too much. The owners of the farm, Andrew and Ellie and their helpers are so kind and radiate the feeling - We see you, We care, We've got you. ”



Gallery of Gratitude!

Your challenges have an impact!

Behind every challenge, event and fundraiser is a commitment to making a difference. The funds raised by our amazing community help our Care at Home Team deliver vital nursing care at home for children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses, bringing expert support.

Our London Marathon 2026 Runners



Charlotte Turner - £2501
Kayleigh Hurst - £2275



Ed Scott - £3007



Sam Morton - £3064



Ranald Lloyd-Williams
(Feel Good Films) - £1163 (ongoing)



Dan Powers
(Uckfield Motors) -
£340 (ongoing)
Maverick Brighton
Marathon Trail



Christine Nestor (GWCA) -
£3887 (ongoing)
Mount Everest



Regis School -
£4135
Pier to Pier Walk



Lewis Worsley
Football Charity Day -
£3106.26

Playing for a Purpose

Los Amigos band regularly play gigs in Wimbledon, London, Pagham and Selsey, raising vital funds for the charity. We're incredibly grateful to the band and to all the generous customers at these pubs who support their fundraising efforts.

Over the past eight years, they have raised a staggering £11,567!



Record breaking year – Bishop Luffa Sixth Form

An unforgettable Fashion Show and Charity Week saw students raising a record-breaking total, meaning they could present cheques of £6100 each to three incredible nominated charities including us. The Fashion Show is such a 'high energy' event showing great creativity and community spirit. Thank you to the staff, students and parents who contributed.



Add Your Sparkle

HELP US MAKE CHRISTMAS MAGIC

EVERY YEAR WE INVITE SNOWDROP CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO JOIN US AT **BUTLIN'S** FOR A FABULOUS CHRISTMAS PARTY.

LAST YEAR **46** FAMILIES ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION
A PRECIOUS DAY AWAY FROM HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS,
TREATMENTS AND CONSTANT WORRIES.
A DAY FILLED WITH **JOY, LAUGHTER** AND **MEMORIES** ♥

THIS YEAR WE NEED YOU
HELP TO MAKE THIS MAGIC HAPPEN AGAIN



£25 BUYS A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR A CHILD



£50 WILL PAY FOR THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE
A PRESENT, FESTIVE BUFFET LUNCH, ENTERTAINMENT AND A PHOTO TO TREASURE

♥ YOUR KINDNESS BRINGS **LIGHT**,
AND **SPARKLE** TO FAMILIES WHO NEED IT MOST ♥

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THESUSSEXSNOWDROPTRUST.COM



Who we are...

Diana Levantine
Chairman & Co-Founder

Dr Marco Cavaroli
Vice Chairman & Trustee

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Caroline Bechelet-Carter
James Tickell
Kathryn Flanagan
Nick Cockram
Tony Jago
Valerie Seddon

Patrons
Mary Bowerman
Tommy Boyd
The Rt Hon. Lord Herbert
of South Downs CBE
Duchess of Norfolk, Chica Norfolk
Hugh Dennis
Jess Breach

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Did you know we sell merchandise?

Find mugs, snowdrop pins, notelets,
dog bandanas and Christmas Cards
for sale online or at our Walberton
Office. Every purchase counts –
so please consider supporting us.



Make a Donation

You can make a donation by:

- Filling in the donation form below and returning to us by post to the Walberton Office.
- Visiting our website:
www.thesussexsnowdroptrust.com and click on the green heart to donate.
- Setting up a standing order with your bank:
Sort code – 30-91-97
Account number – 02271507
- Leave The Sussex Snowdrop Trust a legacy in your will – talk to your solicitor about how to do this.

THE SUSSEX
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TRUST



Please call the Snowdrop office
on 01243 572433 to make a
donation by debit or credit card.

Text the word SNOWDROP to 70085
followed by the amount you'd like to donate
for example: Snowdrop 10 to donate £10
Snowdrop 20 to donate £20 etc

N.B. Your usual standard rate message charge will apply



Donation Form

Date

I/We would like to make a donation and enclose £

Title

First Name

Surname

Address

Postcode

☐ **PLEASE TICK IF ELIGIBLE.** Please treat this and all future donations as Gift Aid. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my Gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Please make your cheque payable to The Sussex Snowdrop Trust and send your donations to:
The Sussex Snowdrop Trust, Unit 3 The William Booker Yard, Walberton, West Sussex BN18 0PF.

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