

# Heart of the Hospice



You are at the heart of everything we do!

Issue 76

Strictly raises over  
£66,000

Free online guided  
relaxation

How Caring Hands  
helped Vicky's family



## Introducing the Roger Tanner Building

Nestled in our beautiful gardens, this state-of-the-art space is home to wellbeing services, training, community events and more!

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## Welcome

**This issue's welcome is from our Medical Director, Dr Matthias Hohmann. Responsible for leading our team of Doctors, Matthias works closely with health and care professionals across Oldham and Greater Manchester.**

What a year it has been so far! I am always proud of our Hospice and our amazing staff, volunteers and supporters, but 2026 has felt even more special.

We kicked off the year with our first-ever Hartley's Hero Walk at Boundary Park. Here, our beloved mascot welcomed 149 mini heroes to raise an incredible £15,000 for Dr Kershaw's Hospice and Oldham Athletic Community Trust.

Our work in the community continued via our partnership with the Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu temple. And we were thrilled to be nominated in the Heart of the High Street category at the Oldham Business Awards.

Excitingly, we have also launched our Green Plan, which will help us to reduce our carbon footprint and make our Hospice more sustainable for future generations.

Speaking of greenery, we have a spectacular new addition to our gardens. Our innovative modular build, titled the Roger Tanner Building, will house wellbeing activities, events and much more.

As always, thank you so much for your support. Even by reading this magazine, you are helping to raise awareness of the vital work we do. End-of-life care should be accessible to everyone, and with your help, we can reach more people when they need us the most.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Don't forget that you can also sign up to our email newsletter for more stories and updates.

**Dr Matthias Hohmann, Medical Director**

# When funding runs out, your support steps in

If we relied solely on the funding we received on 1st April 2026, it would have run out by the end of June. Everything that follows is made possible by our community

This financial year, it will cost almost **£5.8 million** to provide the specialist care and support that local patients and families rely on from Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

While NHS funding remains an important contribution towards our services, it covers only a fraction of what it costs to keep our Hospice running. This means the remaining months of care are funded through the generosity of you, our supporters.

Every donation, fundraising event, Lottery membership and gift in a Will helps us continue providing compassionate care to people facing

serious and life-limiting illnesses. Your support also enables us to be there for their families and loved ones during some of life's most difficult moments.

We are incredibly grateful to our local community for standing alongside us. Quite simply, we could not deliver our vital services without your support.

To help ensure the continuity of our care, please consider making a donation at [drkh.org.uk/donate](https://drkh.org.uk/donate)



**DONATE**

It will cost  
just under  
**£5.8 million**  
to keep our  
doors open

We couldn't  
do it  
without  
you!



In 2025 our Kershaw's  
Krafities team raised

**£25,294**



In 2025 book sales at our  
Hospice shops generated

**£14,598**



In the 2025/26 financial year  
volunteers saved Dr Kershaw's Hospice

**£548,696**  
in staffing costs



Gill Bussey's 2026 Ascot  
Ladies Day in aid of  
Dr Kershaw's Hospice raised  
**over £7,600**

# “We could just be a family again”

When David Parker was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, his family knew they wanted him at home, surrounded by love. With support from our Caring Hands and Hospice at Home teams, his wife and daughter, Vicky Dawson, were able to step back from caring to cherish their final moments together

**D**ad was the kindest man anyone could meet. He would never want anybody to go without, and you could always rely on him. He was our constant.

In his younger days, Dad joined the Merchant Navy and then worked as a chef on the dining cars for British Rail, where he met Mum. They had myself, and then became grandparents to my son, Ben.

Dad brought laughter wherever he went. He loved a bit of banter and making people smile. Later, he worked as a porter at Manchester Royal Infirmary, where he was loved by patients for his humour and kindness.

At home, he was always fixing things. Nothing was ever thrown away ‘just in case’. If something needed repairing, Dad would find a way. He took great pride in maintaining our home and loved tinkering around.

I remember once when I came home from school, I told Dad that my feet were freezing. The next morning, my shoes were waiting in front of the fire with carpet inside to keep them warm. I was given the most caring and loving childhood.

In January 2024, after battling COPD and long-term illness caused by COVID-19, he was admitted to hospital feeling increasingly unwell. Shortly after, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and things changed very quickly.

Dad didn't want to talk about his diagnosis and we respected this. Our focus became making sure he felt safe, comfortable and never alone, as he was always frightened of being by himself.

Mum and I had cared for Dad at home for the last four years, but as his condition worsened, we knew we needed more support. That's when Dr Kershaw's Hospice came into our lives.

From the very first visit, the Caring Hands team was incredible. They came four times a day, bringing not just care but reassurance and comfort. Dad loved

“  
He was treated with such compassion, as if he were their own dad or grandad.”

having them there and would often ask, “What time are the girls coming?”.

In Dad's final two weeks, the Caring Hands and Hospice at Home teams became part of our family. They were there day and night, always just a phone call away. No matter how many times we called – even in the middle of the night – they came without hesitation, and never once made us feel like a burden.

Dad was frightened and anxious, but the team reassured him. They also explained everything to me so that I could support Mum, as she was finding it difficult to accept. He was treated with such compassion, as if he were their own dad or grandad.

Because of them, we could step back from being carers and just be a family again. We spent quality time together.

I would lie next to Dad, while Mum sat nearby doing a crossword or watching TV. Those moments together mean everything to us now.

Having the support from Hospice at Home was incredible. Dad was able to stay at home, just as he wanted, surrounded by the people who loved him.

I even lay with Dad the morning he passed. This was a privilege, of course, but a part of me left with him too.

To say thank you doesn't feel enough. We will never truly be able to find the words or show enough gratitude for the difference Dr Kershaw's Hospice made for our family during the most heartbreaking time.

We will be forever grateful.

“  
Those moments together mean everything to us now.”



David after joining the Merchant Navy



Vicky with her mum, Sue, and beloved dad, David

▶ David liked to live life to the full



David on holiday



Read more inspiring stories at [drkh.org.uk/stories](https://drkh.org.uk/stories) or follow our Moments that Matter series on social media

Moments that Matter 

# Together we made a difference

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our events during the first half of the year. Every moment shared has helped make our care possible

## Dr Kershaw's Strictly

We took our very own version of Strictly Come Dancing to a fantastic new venue, Vermilion, for another unforgettable evening of fundraising.

Eight incredible dance couples took to the floor after weeks of training, performing to an audience of over 550 guests. Following the theme Dancing through the Decades, the audience were treated to a variety of routines, plus a three-course meal and live entertainment.

It was a fantastic night of glitz and glamour. Congratulations to our winners, Ashleigh and Luke, on lifting the Glitterball Trophy!

Over  
**£66,000**  
raised!



## Rose to Remember

With over 800 dedications made, our beautiful Rose to Remember event included a short service and exclusive viewing of the 2026 lilac roses.

Along with readings, there was a choral performance and a small selection of Hospice stalls for visitors to browse. For the very first time, we hosted an afternoon tea experience.

Over  
**£25,000**  
raised!



## Hartley's Hero Walk

Our mascot, Hartley, was proud to lead 149 fantastic young superheroes (and their grown-ups) at the inaugural Hartley's Hero Walk at Oldham Athletic's Boundary Park. With capes flowing and masks on, our heroes helped raise funds for Dr Kershaw's and Oldham Athletic Community Trust.

Over  
**£15,000**  
raised!



Over  
**£7,100**  
raised!

## Summer Fayre

Our July Summer Fayre brought over 700 people through our Hospice gates for an afternoon of family fun in the sunshine.

Visitors enjoyed stalls, activities, a bouncy castle, face painting, games and refreshments. Plus our raffle and tombola! Hartley and Peter Rabbit even made a special appearance.



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

# Join in the fun at our events

There is something for everyone over the coming months. We would love you to join us and help make a difference for local patients and families

## Born Survivor

Take on Born Survivor, a world-famous military obstacle experience set in the stunning Ribbles Valley, Gisburn. Sign up for an epic 12km course packed with slides, obstacles, nets, walls and tunnels.

**BORN  
SURVIVOR**



**SAT  
12  
SEP**

## Christmas Fayre

Get into the festive spirit with an afternoon full of fun, food, and Christmas cheer.



**SUN  
29  
NOV**

## Jolly Jumper Day

Join your friends, colleagues, schoolmates or family and host a Jolly Jumper Day on a day of your choice.



**NOV/  
DEC**

## Reindeer Run

Every year, local groups don reindeer antlers to raise funds for patient care.



**NOV/  
DEC**

## Light Up a Life

Our beautiful multi-faith service celebrates and remembers your loved ones, whether they received care from us or not.

**SUN  
6  
DEC**



## Christmas Carol Concert

Join us at Oldham Parish Church for an evening of Christmas readings, carols and performances.



**THU  
17  
DEC**

## Christmas Tree Collection

Book your Christmas tree collection with Dr Kershaw's Hospice to raise vital funds for patients across Oldham.

**DEC/  
JAN  
2027**



If you would like to find out more about our upcoming events, visit [drkh.org.uk/events](http://drkh.org.uk/events) or call 0161 624 9984

# Make a Will Make a Difference

**Due to popular demand, our partnered Will-writing service is now available throughout the year. For a reduced fee, you can create your Will with a local solicitor of your choice at a time that suits you**

Get peace of mind whilst supporting our vital work by making a Will with one of our trusted solicitor partners. In return for a donation to Dr Kershaw's Hospice, they will help you to write or update your Will.

## How it works

- 1** Visit [drkh.org.uk/make-a-will](http://drkh.org.uk/make-a-will) and choose your preferred solicitor
- 2** Contact the solicitor to make your appointment, quoting Dr Kershaw's
- 3** Make a donation to our Hospice directly with your solicitor  
The suggested donation is £150 for a Simple Individual Will and £200 for a Simple Mirror Will for a couple, offering a substantial saving.



## Why make a Will?

Making a Will is your way of telling everyone what should happen to your money, possessions and even who should care for your children or pets.

By taking part, you will also be raising much-needed funds to ensure people die with dignity.



## Leave a Legacy

While making a Will, you could do something amazing by leaving a legacy to Dr Kershaw's. This can also provide significant tax benefits. Speak to your chosen solicitor for more details.

“

**“Even 1% of your Will would make a real difference. It would help the Hospice to continue to provide special care and precious memories for future patients and families – just like we had.”**

Sue McEwan, whose father, Brian, was cared for on our Inpatient Unit

”



# Behind the badge



**We are proud to invest in our people, and that is thanks in no small part to our wonderful End-of-Life Nurse Educator, Sarah Longmore. Her expertise and passion help our clinical team deliver the best care**

As a former Sister on the Critical Care Unit at the Royal Oldham Hospital, Sarah was looking for a meaningful career that would fit around her two children. So when an exciting role came up over five years ago, she jumped at the chance!

## Can we have an overview of your role?

I am responsible for clinical training. I am based on the Inpatient Unit, so I am still able to get involved with clinical practice when my schedule allows.

Plus I deliver, arrange and manage the mandatory training for the whole workforce. And as part of the Senior Management Team, I am involved in service improvement and development.

## What do you enjoy about your job?

I am passionate about ensuring that patients and their loved ones have the best experience possible, and I believe promoting confidence, knowledge and skills within our clinical team contributes to this.

## What is your favourite thing about working here?

My colleagues. Each day is different and we will all help each other across all departments to ensure a patient's wishes are met. It is such a positive environment, despite the nature of our work.

## What would be your advice to anyone applying?

Do it! Don't be afraid, it is in no way doom and gloom. Everyone has a really positive attitude, which contributes to the lovely environment we work in and enables us to deliver the fantastic care we do.



**SUPPORTER**

**COMMITTED TO  
GOOD  
EMPLOYMENT  
IN GREATER MANCHESTER**



**We offer a wide range of external training in our Learning Hub. Discover how we can support your organisation at [drkh.org.uk/training](https://drkh.org.uk/training)**

# Wellbeing Matters

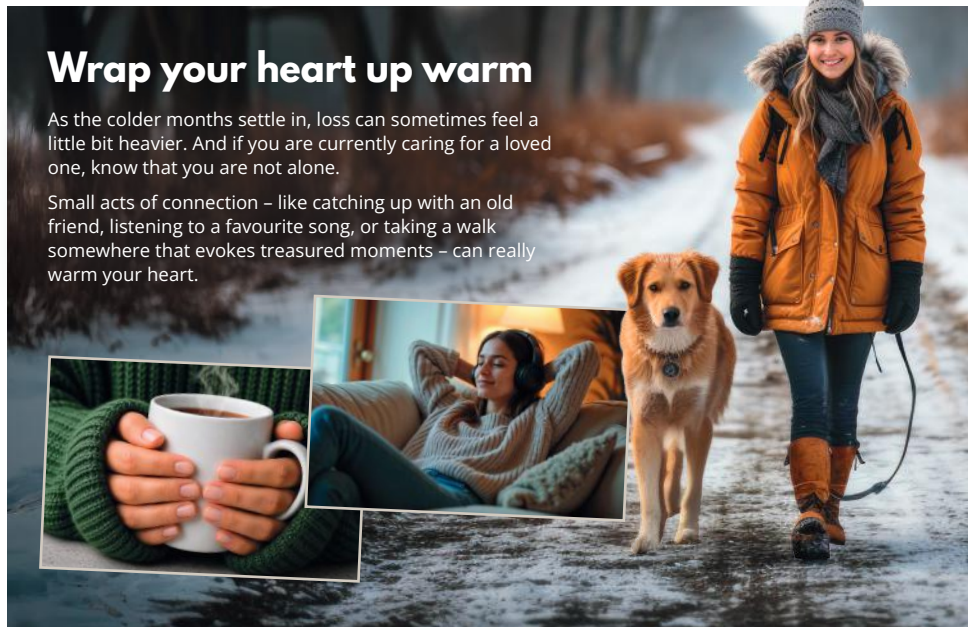
For those whose lives have been touched by hospice care, wellbeing can be especially important. Our Counsellor, Katie Stretton, is here to help you on your journey



## Wrap your heart up warm

As the colder months settle in, loss can sometimes feel a little bit heavier. And if you are currently caring for a loved one, know that you are not alone.

Small acts of connection – like catching up with an old friend, listening to a favourite song, or taking a walk somewhere that evokes treasured moments – can really warm your heart.



## Linking to our past

One of our sessions for this year's The Nightbird Project has got me thinking about heirlooms, traditions and connections.

Jewellery passed down from generations can highlight shared links and bring back memories. Why not revisit your collection or make your own with family?



## Free online guided relaxation

Listen to our guided relaxation recordings on YouTube, which offer a space for peace and tranquillity.

They will also help with reducing any stress or tension in the body, as well as worry or anxiety.

Please note that unaffiliated YouTube adverts may be shown.



To find out more about our wellbeing services, visit [drkh.org.uk/wellbeingcentre](http://drkh.org.uk/wellbeingcentre)

▼ The Roger Tanner Building was designed by Urban Green



## Eco-friendly modular building opens

A new chapter has begun with the opening of our new cutting-edge facility.

Since wowing crowds at Rose to Remember, the Roger Tanner Building has already become a vibrant hub for wellbeing services, activities and community events.

Designed to be sustainable and accessible, it includes counselling rooms and a large open space with beautiful views of the gardens.

Every little detail has been considered to make the building comfortable for people living with dementia.

This includes a calming colour scheme, LED lighting and temperature sensitive air conditioning.

In line with our Green Plan, these features also help to reduce energy costs and protect the environment.

Externally, we have used reclaimed bricks for the glasshouse, funded by Hartley Botanic and The Roger Tanner Trust, and salvaged railway sleepers for the planters. We have also been busy growing fruit and vegetables for our Café K!

Find out more on our blog

## Amazon Wishlist donations deliver joy

Donations via our Amazon Wishlist are helping to bring comfort to our patients.

Since its launch last year, kind-hearted donors have ordered everything from jigsaws to office supplies and seeds for the garden.

By reducing running costs, this enables our Hospice to create special moments and meaningful experiences for patients and service users.

Leanne Gurney, Quality Lead, said: "We have already received over £3,000 worth of items. Each donation helps us to provide the best care and comfort for our patients and their loved ones. Thank you."



For more news and updates, sign up to our email newsletter or visit [drkh.org.uk/news](http://drkh.org.uk/news)

# We couldn't do it without you!

See more of our community heroes on our #ThankyouThursday and #FridayFundraisers posts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X

## Bunny Hops

Over Easter, Fir Bank Primary School, Christ Church Friesland Playgroup (supported by our wonderful volunteer John Stevenson), and a group of local childminders donned their bunny ears and took part in our Bunny Hops.

Collectively, the groups have raised over **£2,000**, with more sponsorship money still hopping in!



## Gemma's 33 Run



In March, 85 amazing runners took part in the Wilmslow Running Festival in memory of Gemma on what would have been her 33rd birthday.

It was a truly special day, and we are so grateful to every single person who ran, supported and donated.

Together, they have raised just short of **£33,000!**



## Saddleworth OCL

Alison and the fantastic team at Saddleworth OCL raised over **£1,200!** Their fundraising included a tombola, raffle and cake sale - which proved very popular with both staff and OCL members!



## MJ's Premier Royton

MJ's Royton donated **£200** of goods to be used in our Patient & Family Lounge and our Dementia Hub. From tea and coffee to tissues and biscuits.



## Justine, Alex and Nikki

Over the weekend of 9th/10th May, these three incredibly dedicated fundraisers took on 'The Lap' - a gruelling 47-mile ultra marathon around the stunning Lake Windermere.

Battling tough terrain and the cold darkness of night, they completed the challenge in under 24 hours, an amazing achievement! They raised over **£1,900**.



## Jill Kirkham, Tom Hall, Tom Penketh & Adele Buckley

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



# Thank you to our Corporate Partners!

Our partnerships ensure active employee engagement, enhance your public image, build brand awareness, increase sales, and improve customer loyalty. All whilst showcasing your support for patient care within the community!

## Best Food Logistics

Our neighbours, Best Food Logistics, volunteered in our Hospice gardens in late April.

The team got stuck in preparing our new raised beds ready for planting, making a real difference to our outdoor spaces for patients, families and visitors to enjoy.

It was also a chance to celebrate an incredible achievement, as they presented us with a cheque marking over **£14,000** donated to the Hospice in the last year!

We are truly grateful for their continued support, generosity and hard work.



## B S Entwistle

Our friends at B S Entwistle Electrical Contractors Ltd presented us with a donation of **£4,000** following the BS Entwistle Golf Classic event in May at Manchester Golf Club. The event brought together 22 teams from the electrical and building industries in support of The Entwistle Foundation, Dr Kershaw's and Mahdlo Youth Zone.

## Diodes Incorporated

On a Saturday in June, employees, friends and family from Diodes took on the Saddleworth Three Peaks in some very wet conditions. A few even dressed up as Where's Wally!

Seven hours later, they celebrated completing the challenge and raising over **£2,000**.



Discover how a corporate partnership could benefit you at [drkh.org.uk/corporatepartnerships](http://drkh.org.uk/corporatepartnerships)

# Heart of the High Street

It was an honour to be recognised by the Oldham Business Awards in the 'Heart of the High Street' category.

This award highlights organisations that consistently serve their customers with dedication, resilience and genuine care.

Mike McArdle, Head of Retail, said: "This is a testament to the incredible dedication of our staff and volunteers."

"They go above and beyond every day to create a warm, welcoming experience for everyone who walks through our doors."

"At the heart of everything we do is a genuine commitment to our customers and supporters."

"We are proud to be on the high street and want every visit to our shops to be enjoyable, memorable and rewarding."

Signing up  
for Gift Aid means  
we can get an extra  
25p per £1 for your  
sold donations. Speak  
to our friendly staff to  
find out more

*giftaid*

Director of  
Finance and Income  
Development, Sabrina  
Dawson, with ITV's Caroline  
Whitmore and our Shaw  
Shop Manager, Laura  
Burgess, were thrilled to  
collect our Finalist  
certificate.



You can visit us at The Furniture Hub or at our shops in Lees, Shaw and Royton

## Resale revolution

Reselling platforms like Vinted and eBay are booming as more people turn unwanted clothes and accessories into extra cash.

Keen to join the trend, we launched our recent 'Fill a Bag for a Tenner' event, giving pre-loved fashion a second life, reducing clothing waste, and raising an impressive £1,000 to support patient care.



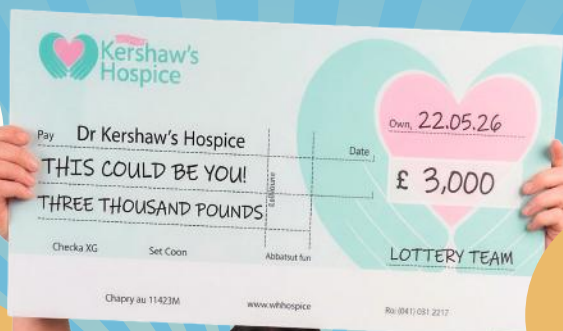
Follow us on Instagram @drkershawssshops

Be the first to know about sales and new products



A CHANCE TO WIN  
**Lottery**  
A WAY TO CARE

Lottery



"Thank you so much for the wonderful surprise win. The timing was perfect as we had just had a lot of unexpected family expenses, and this has cushioned some of the concerns."

Debbie, Hospice Lottery player and recent winner

"I had never expected to win so this was a lovely letter to come home from work to."

"I would say to others: give it a go. Your contribution helps to fund a wonderful charity, and you may come home to a lovely surprising win one day too!"

# 2026 Spring Draw

**Congratulations to our Lottery Spring Raffle Draw Winners and our Jackpot Winner from Chadderton, who won £3,000!**

The draw took place on Friday 22nd May, raising over £18,500 for patient care at Dr Kershaw's Hospice.

Karen Maloney, Hospice Lottery Executive, said: "A huge thank you to all our Hospice Lottery players for supporting our Spring Draw 2026. Every ticket purchased helps provide vital care and support to

local patients and their families when they need us the most. Your generosity truly makes a difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support. Together, you are helping us bring comfort, dignity, and compassion to our community.

"Thank you for playing, thank you for caring, and thank you for making a difference."

## Natalie and Nigel

You will likely be familiar with our Fundraising Promoters, Natalie and Nigel. They are out in our community in all weathers promoting our Weekly Lottery.

Thank you to the venues that Natalie has recently visited: Focus Pharmacy Failsworth, ICC Oldham, Shaw & Crompton Medical Centre, Aldi Chadderton & Failsworth, Royton Medical Centre, Dr Kershaw's Hospice Charity Shop Royton, Kamson Pharmacy and Co-op Shaw. Nigel goes door to door and has been covering the OL2 and M35 Failsworth areas. Please say hello if you see them!



**Take part in our Weekly Lottery by contacting us on 0161 624 9213 or [lottery@drkh.org.uk](mailto:lottery@drkh.org.uk), or visiting [drkh.org.uk/lottery](http://drkh.org.uk/lottery)**

# Stay connected and subscribe to our emails

Every day, families rely on care and support from our Hospice Team.

When you sign up to our updates including our monthly e-newsletter, you will see the real difference your support makes – through patient stories and the impact of our work.

From fundraising events to volunteering opportunities, you will be the first to know how you can get involved.

[drkh.org.uk/newsletter](http://drkh.org.uk/newsletter)



## Contact Details

For general enquiries, patient information and volunteering:

**Tel: 0161 624 2727**

**24-Hour Advice Line: 0161 785 5635**

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

**Charity No:** 1105924

Find out  
about our  
services

