Hello, and welcome to Issue #8 of Good News.

This year we had a record number of people signed up to complete the 40th Great North Run in aid of St Teresa’s Hospice. Sadly, the event could not take place due to the pandemic, but I was so pleased to hear that many of our supporters had chosen to run anyway, joining thousands across the world on 13th September for a Virtual Great North Run.

Our very own Ben Bourne went a step further, deciding to complete the half-marathon without leaving the Hospice grounds! It was a pleasure to be there on the day to cheer Ben on and to congratulate him on his super effort.

Well done Ben! In this issue we celebrate our runners, and say a big THANK YOU to all those who have committed to run Great North Run 2021.

Yours in hospice friendship, Jane Bradshaw, Chief Executive.

Bourne to Run!

Family Support and Bereavement Worker Ben Bourne completed a unique challenge for his Virtual Great North Run on Sunday 13th September. Ben celebrated after completing 48 laps of the Hospice grounds in the first ever St Teresa’s Hospice ‘Great North Woodlands Run’.

Ben was joined at various stages during his run by his six year old son Samuel and his wife Julie. Hospice housekeeper Dawn Smyth, who was also due to run the Great North Run this year, showed her support by keeping the pace with Ben during the penultimate lap.

“I was supposed to be taking part in the Great North Run this year,” said Ben, after completing the run in a time of 2 hours and 27 minutes. “I was so disappointed when it was cancelled, both for myself and the Hospice, as I know just how much St Teresa’s relies on sponsorship from events like this. “We thought that rather than do nothing we would stage our very own ‘Great North Woodlands Run’ by running nearly 50 laps of the Hospice grounds, the equivalent of a half-marathon, and it was great that I had Samuel along to keep me company on the first lap.”

Generous donations from friends, family and hospice supporters have helped Ben smash his original fundraising target of £300, with the impressive total currently standing at £1,169! Chief Executive of St Teresa’s Hospice Jane Bradshaw helped to start the race and cheered Ben on throughout: “It was such a resourceful idea for Ben to stage the first ‘Great North Woodlands Run’ in our very own Hospice grounds. It’s great to have such loyal supporters and who knows after today’s success the Great North Woodlands Run may become an annual event!” Ben was congratulated at the finish line by Hospice Chair of Trustees Dr Harry Byrne and the Deputy Mayor of Darlington, Councillor Cyndi Hughes, who presented Ben with a special trophy in recognition of his efforts.

You can still donate to Ben’s page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ben-bourne2020
Home run for Craig

Sports lecturer Craig Hayward’s Virtual Great North Run saw him run from Darlington College to his home in Newton Aycliffe.
Craig completed the half-marathon in 1 hour and 50 minutes, running in memory of his uncle, Geoff Bell, who spent his final days being cared for by St Teresa’s Hospice.
“When Uncle Geoff became seriously ill it was the first time I had experienced anyone with a life-limiting illness and when I visited him in St Teresa’s Hospice I remember them being absolutely fantastic at such a dark time – they were so good. Every time I went I left feeling I wanted to do more for the hospice.
“I read something about how much all charities were losing as a result of events being cancelled and charity shops being closed by COVID so wanted to do something to help. As a Darlington boy and former college student myself it’s great to see us supporting St Teresa’s.”
Craig has raised £800 so far and there’s still time to sponsor him at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/craig-hayward4

Honia’s run to say thanks

Honia and her family have so far raised £1,315 after completing the Great North Run Solo challenge and the Virtual Great North Run. Honia, Steve and 8-year-old Kornel have been running since May 2019 when Honia was diagnosed with breast cancer. Please take a moment to read Honia’s inspirational story and donate what you can at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Honorata-Devlin

Invincible Anna

Anna Burlinson, President of BNI Invincible, a local business networking chapter, completed her Virtual Great North Run in 1 hour and 56 minutes. Anna and her colleague Victoria ran a scenic coastal route from Roker to South Shields and back, with support on the way from other chapter members.
Anna has raised over £100 in sponsorship, contributing to a total of £880 raised by BNI Invincible in aid of St Teresa’s Hospice in just 2 months! You can support Anna at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bni-invincible-st-teresas-hospice

Visit www.ebaystores.co.uk/St-Teresas-Hospice-Shop to find hundreds of interesting items each month. You can also donate to St Teresa’s Hospice when you shop at Amazon. Head to smile.amazon.co.uk to find out more.