



We're spreading some festive joy this year with our "12 Days of Christmas Raffle". From December 25th until January 5th, we will be giving away a prize every day.

You've got to be in it to win it, and taking part is easy - simply donate to purchase your desired amount of raffle numbers and be entered into a prize draw every day for 12 days!

Our prizes include a Grand Prize consisting of £100 Cash, a voucher for 2 for a stay, dinner and breakfast at Headlam Hall Hotel, and a hamper including 2 bottles of Belvedere Vodka, Champagne and chocolates! There's much more, from board games and toys to days at the races and wine tasting.

Each entry into the draw costs £5 per number, and your number(s) will be entered into the prize draw every day for a chance to win!

Win a prize every day for 12 days!

Enter online at www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/christmas-raffle/ and hurry, as online sales will close at 5.00pm on Tuesday 22nd December OR when all tickets are sold. Please read the Rules and Conditions of entry before playing.

Hello! How are you?

Our Family Support Team has launched a new series of online talks for anyone caring for a loved one with a serious illness, such as heart or respiratory disease, cancer, or a neurological condition.

Sessions will feature information and support from local specialists, including a consultant in palliative medicine, solicitors and Hospice social workers. They will cover a range of topics such as Wills and Lasting Power of Attorney and emotional and practical support. To request a place or for more information please contact Deborah Robinson at St Teresa's Hospice on 01325 254321 or enquiries@darlingtonhospice.org.uk

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.



Good News

Prepared for you by the team at **St Teresa's Hospice** | Issue #9 | **Positive news update**

Hello, and welcome to Issue #9 of Good News.

We began publishing Good News in early April, to remain in contact with all of our wonderful supporters during the lockdown and to share some positive stories to help everyone through what has been at times an awful year. I hope that, like me, you have enjoyed reading each edition and finding out about the tremendous community spirit, passion and dedication that has helped to keep us going this year. I am pleased that Good News is still going strong and as an early Christmas gift, this is a special double issue! My warmest thanks go to everyone who has supported us this year, in whatever way, and I send very best wishes from all at St Teresa's Hospice.

Yours in hospice friendship, Jane Bradshaw, Chief Executive



Shining Lights remembered in new winter appeal



Chief Executive Jane Bradshaw launches the Shining Lights Moonlight & Memories event

The annual Light up a Life appeal has also been part of the Shining Lights campaign. Over 700 individuals have had a light dedicated to them, and donations have been received totalling in excess of £15,000.

This year, Light up a Life is a bit different because of the pandemic. Sadly, we will not be able to hold our usual Dedication & Lighting Ceremony in public; instead, we will be broadcasting a live ceremony from the Hospice at 3pm on Sunday 20th December via [facebook.com/stteresashospice](https://www.facebook.com/stteresashospice).

Thanks to the support of three local firms, we will shine lights on the trees in our Hospice grounds during the festive season for everyone whose life is being remembered.

Hospice Chief Executive Jane Bradshaw said: "We are so grateful to Harvey Electrical Services, Howdens and Yesss for their support in helping us put a spotlight on the plight of charities like ours in these difficult times."

For more information, please visit www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/light-up-a-life/

Traditional fundraising events remain an impossibility for the immediate future, and instead we have been hosting many events "virtually" to keep the Hospice's essential services going.

The new Shining Lights winter fundraising appeal got underway with a virtual Moonlight & Memories event on Saturday 21st November. An adaptation of last year's Moonlight & Memories Walk, the event focussed on

remembering loved ones whether or not they were cared for by a Hospice. More than 80 people joined together virtually to remember family and friends, with some also completing a sponsored walk in their social bubble.

A special Shining Lights dedication page was created to commemorate all of those being remembered. This page can be viewed at www.darlingtonhospice.org.uk/Shining-Lights-2020/

For previous issues of Good News please visit darlingtonhospice.org.uk/good-news/



Please send a #hugtoStTeresas!
Donate at www.justgiving.com/campaign/HugToStTs

Bouquet of the Week for our Housekeepers

The Northern Echo's 'Bouquet of the Week' feature has been celebrating the unsung heroes of the pandemic, recognising the actions of those who have faced frightening and uncertain times.

Catering & Housekeeping Manager Paul Frankland nominated Maria Sowerby and Gaynor Regan, both Housekeepers at the Hospice, to receive the 'Bouquet of the Week' to acknowledge their efforts during the pandemic.

Paul said: "In the difficult months that followed the outbreak Gaynor and Maria worked tirelessly in a very physically and mentally draining environment to make sure that the virus was kept out of the workplace.

Week in and week out they came to work with a positive and professional mind-set and attitude which allowed staff at the Hospice to go about their daily duties, providing much-needed care to patients within the Hospice. By keeping staff safe and this allowed community teams to visit patients in their own homes."

Gaynor and Maria were surprised to hear that they would be receiving the accolade, with two lovely bouquets of flowers being presented on 3rd November. Paul commented: "I'm very proud of the way they have and are continuing to take on the challenges with no complaints and with a selfless attitude, and I feel they are fully deserving of the 'Bouquet of the Week'".



Housekeeping Supervisor Gaynor Regan poses for the Northern Echo with her Bouquet of the Week

Lyn's fantastic festive fundraiser



Virtual Christmas fair organiser Lyn Hatch shows off some of the lovingly hand-crafted items that have been on sale online

Hospice Lead Administrator Lyn Hatch came to the help of St Teresa's and local businesses by organising 'Christmas From Me To You', an online event that has taken shoppers on a virtual journey around a Yuletide fair.

Lyn, of Hurworth, was so impressed by the care her mother Dindy Hatfield received in her final days that she left her job in the chemical industry and now works for St Teresa's Hospice.

After witnessing the devastating effect COVID-19 has had on the charity's ability to fundraise Lyn volunteered to organise the virtual Christmas fair which has attracted more than 30 local businesses, ranging from furniture restorers, Pilates and photographers to candle makers, skin care and a firm providing afternoon tea in a box.

100% of the registration proceeds were donated to St Teresa's Hospice, with over £1,000 being raised so far.

"When I lost my mum in 2018 it inspired me to leave my career of two decades in sales and marketing to seek work in the palliative care sector," Lyn said. "I was fortunate enough to join St Teresa's Hospice and am passionate about its work. But, it all costs money and it is increasingly challenging to raise the level of funds required in this economic climate. The more people who know about this, the more successful it will be."

Shoppers can find the virtual fair on Facebook and Instagram at @christmasme2you until 22nd December

Hospice Heroes acknowledged at AGM

From lockdown challenges to mini-marathons, head shaves to zip wiring, volunteers, supporters and staff were all recognised for their dedication, commitment and crucial fundraising efforts at the first St Teresa's Hospice virtual Annual General Meeting on 26th November.

Addressing the audience via Zoom, St Teresa's Hospice Honorary Chair of Trustees Dr Harry Byrne said: "We launched an emergency appeal early on in the crisis and the response by local businesses, groups and individuals has been absolutely amazing and a real testament to the value placed on our services and our place in the hearts of the community - this support has never been so important or gratefully received."

A video showcasing fundraisers, honoured for their efforts, was played during the meeting and can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/fhi4dbWjYos>

It highlighted the achievements of young supporters including Eliza Skitt, who completed a mini marathon raising over £2,200; Liam Evans who collected £350 with a football dribbling challenge; seven-year-old Cian Crang, who raised



Staff and supporters Zoom in for our first ever virtual AGM

£5,371.50 by running seven miles; and Alex Brown who took up running raising £500. Excellent supporter awards were received by runners Ben Bourne, Craig Hayward, Lyn Vine, Honorata Devlin, Michelle Boshier, Craig Stephens and Darlington College staff who raised a combined total of £9,668.13.

Certificates were presented to Durham University BioSciences Society and Gillian Campling for staging a 'Bark Off' virtual dog walk, Muriel Joy for a sponsored head shave, Sheila Dawson

for completing a daredevil zip wire, Grant McTaggart for undertaking a Yakman challenge, Hurworth Covid-19 Support Group for donating uniform bags and hearts, Blackwell Grange Golf Club Ladies' Section for their fundraising during the pandemic, and Maureen Hogg for promoting the hospice through the local media. Hospice staff who received awards in recognition of their tremendous work and dedication throughout the pandemic were Lin Vaughan, Helen Wrigley and Deborah Robinson.



Community Support Fundraiser Emily Robson with toys donated by May Green Marketing



Clive Wright says thank you to Asda Foundation



Treats for carers donated by Mortons Law

Hospice Heroes

We're grateful for the continued donations of PPE and other practical items that have helped us to respond to COVID-19. Thank-you to the following for their recent donations: Asda Foundation, CAG Management Solutions Ltd., CeeCee Durham and May Green Marketing, Mortons Law.