



# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



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**St Andrew's  
Hospice**  
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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Hello, and welcome to the Autumn edition of the St Andrew's Hospice newsletter. There are a lot of fun things for you to catch up on from last time, along with some exciting things we have coming up.

There has been a lot in the news recently regarding the future sustainability of the Hospice Sector and the need for a fairer and consistent funding framework from the Government. We have added our voice to the national narrative about insufficient NHS funding, and along with the announced increases in National Insurance contributions and National Minimum Wage, nationally we will see further financial burden to already struggling hospices.

St Andrew's Hospice costs around £6.5 million to run each year, of which just 18% is funded by the Government. We are honoured and humbled by the generosity of our local communities and recognise we could not provide the much needed care and support without your help. We know the number of people needing hospice care is significantly rising year on year and now is the time the Government and NHS can secure Hospice care for everyone who will need it in the future.

Here at St Andrew's Hospice, we're celebrating our 45th year. This is a fantastic achievement and a credit to everyone who has worked, supported and contributed to making the Hospice the special place it is. I would like to thank each and every staff member and volunteer, along with our local community, for their continued support and look forward, with Government support, to the next 45 years.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, seeing what we've been up to recently and how your support helps us to make our mission of 'making each day count' a reality.

Thank you.

*Michelle Rollinson*



Hello, my name is Liz Villis. I am a Registered Nurse on the Adult Unit at St Andrew's Hospice, and I would like to invite you to this year's Light Up a Life service.

Light Up a Life is a day for remembering. To remember the good times, to remember loved ones we have lost and keep them in our lives.

Every year at Light Up a Life I see the families of those we've cared for, and it's nice to be able to talk to them and see how they're getting on. I hope that it's helpful to see a familiar face and know

that we remember them as well.

Light Up a Life is quite personal to me, having used some of the services and knowing the support that the hospice provided. It's so important, especially to me and my family, that we take time to remember those we've lost.

I'd like to invite you to be part of Light Up a Life by donating to honour a special individual on our **Scroll of Remembrance**, and helping us to continue to provide hospice care for our community. You can do this by visiting [www.standrewshospice.com/Supporting-Us/Events/Events-Details/light-up-a-life](http://www.standrewshospice.com/Supporting-Us/Events/Events-Details/light-up-a-life) Please note, to be included on this year's scroll the form needs to be completed by **Friday 15th November**.

All of us at St Andrew's Hospice are always blown away by the generosity we receive. We wouldn't be able to provide the care we do for patients and their families otherwise. Families like my own.

Please join us for Light Up a Life 2024, to help support our local hospice and remember your loved ones in a truly fitting way.

Thank you.



**Saturday 30th November**  
**3pm - 5pm**  
**Grimsby Town Hall**





## THE RED ARROWS FLY IN TO ANDY'S WITH FANTASTIC £5,000 DONATION



Patients at Andy's Children's Hospice were sky high after the Red Arrows flew in to hand over an incredible donation of £5,000.

Air Vice-Marshal Gary Waterfall, Chair of the Red Arrows Trust, visited the hospice from the aerobatic display team's base in Waddington with Wing Commander Adam Collins and Squadron Leader Doug Smith.

The trio were also joined by Trustee Rachel Huxford as they presented Andy's with a cheque for £5,000, which has funded a specialist bed, suitable for our patients' broad range of complex needs.

AVM Waterfall said the money is raised through the sale of merchandise such as flight suits at events like Armed Forces Day.

"We're really keen to help and support local causes. I flew in the Red Arrows and do a lot of work for charity, I'm from Lincolnshire and firmly believe we're working together to make the lives of others much easier.

"We're delighted to be able to present this money to Andy's. It's an amazing place with amazing children and amazing staff, and it's wonderful to see people here so happy."

Wg Cdr Collins, who is Officer Commanding of the aerobatic team, said he found the visit to be "incredibly humbling".

"One of the main perks of the job, aside from the flying, is being able to visit people and make a difference in some small way, even if it's just putting a smile on someone's face."

Sqn Ldr Smith, Chief of Staff, also commented: "It's fabulous, even if we can just give an hour's worth of joy to somebody, it's absolutely brilliant. It makes us proud to be in the Red Arrows."

The Red Arrows were greeted by an incredible display of red, white and blue created by Andy's staff and patients – with cut out planes, bunting, plane-shaped biscuits, towel art and even a papier mâché airplane.

Kate Hunneysett, whose son Elliot is a patient at Andy's, said: "Today's been really good for them to actually see and meet the Red Arrows pilots! Having them here is something different and it's great to be a part of it.

"Elliot is non-verbal and tube fed but he's just so happy, and coming to the hospice gives him a really good quality of life. The respite is fab, just for me, my husband and daughter to have time together. I can't see how we'd cope without him come to the hospice."





# COMMUNITY THANK YOU!





# CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS GET A GREEN THUMBS UP

Over the summer months we've been thrilled to welcome so many corporate volunteers to the hospice to give our dedicated gardening volunteers a hand!

We've had teams from XceCo, British Garden Centres and McDonald's get their hands dirty by helping to make our garden areas shine.

St Andrew's Hospice was selected as XceCo's Charity of the Year for the second consecutive year, prompting the team to engage in various fundraising activities to raise funds. However, they were eager to explore additional ways to contribute.

Helen Watson, XceCo Business Reporting Analyst, explained, "We got in touch to see how we could help. We're quite a small team so we can try and do some monetary fundraising but also, we wanted to help in other ways. So, if we could help by giving our time, that's something we wanted to do whilst building it into a team event."

Siobhan Mooney, Xceco Reporting Manager, said, "I know very much what the hospice does and what it means for Grimsby and the wider North East Lincolnshire area. I know people who have been here and the service and care that's offered so it's a really special place for me, but it's a charity that means a lot to the team in various ways."



British Garden Centres, who are a platinum partner with Green Fingers charity got stuck in for a day tackling weeds and rose bushes.

Eve Kerrigan, Content Creator for British Garden Centres, said, "We're really passionate about the work they [Green Fingers charity] do with building gardens for children's hospices. We really wanted to get our hands dirty this time and get out to one of their gardens to help the volunteers to create a lovely space for the people who stay here."



Volunteers from some of the Hatcliffe Holdings branches of McDonald's spent a day each getting stuck in! We had volunteers visit from Birchin Way, Victoria Street and Grimsby Road branches of McDonald's.

The Franchisee from Hatcliffe Holdings said, "It's important to us to give back to the communities in which we work and this has been a very rewarding experience."

One volunteer also commented, "it's nice to do something worthwhile. I'll be going home with a skip in my step!"



If you would like to get involved in a corporate volunteer day, please contact our Fundraising Team on [sahos.fundraising@nhs.net](mailto:sahos.fundraising@nhs.net)





# ANDY'S PATIENT BECOMES A CERTIFIED INSPIRATIONAL CHILD

Andy's patient Noah Nicholson was a deserving winner of the Inspirational Child Award at this year's WellChild awards.

Six-year-old Noah, who has been with Andy's for five years, radiates joy and always has a smile on his face. Noah was born prematurely at just 27 weeks and weighing just two pounds and has been in theatre 28 times, including 14 life-saving procedures, spending much of his young life in hospital.

Noah has cerebral palsy, chronic lung disease, short bowel disease, and other serious health issues, leading to chronic pain and the need for constant medical care. Yet Noah remains cheerful and smiling!

Sally Szollosi, Children's Inpatient Lead Nurse at Andy's, which is part of St Andrew's Hospice, describes Noah as "an incredibly happy young man".

She added: "Noah has been through so much in his short little life, and yet his smile, laugh and excited energy is infectious."

Tracy, Noah's mum, explains that she found out about the WellChild awards whilst Noah was in hospital.

"Noah was recovering from a procedure in hospital, and I happened to see the awards in a Facebook post. He'd been through such a tough time so I thought that it would be lovely recognition, so I nominated him.

"I didn't expect it to actually go anywhere as they're national awards and there are so many deserving children."

Speaking of the day they found out Noah had won, Tracy said, "I got an email to say he was a finalist and immediately started to panic. Obviously with Noah's condition it's so difficult to travel and I just thought 'how are we going to get to London?!'

"We were at another hospital appointment when we found out he had won, and I just burst into tears. I was so proud of him."

Despite the worry about how they would attend the awards, Tracy said that WellChild "took care of everything", taking out all the worry and stress so that Noah could enjoy the recognition he deserves.

The star-studded event was a joyous whirlwind for the family. Tracy recalls sitting on a table with Kate Garraway, who Noah cheekily put stickers on, and Phantom from Gladiator! Noah also reunited with old friend Prince Harry, who he had met in 2019.

"It was amazing because Prince Harry recognised Noah. He was wonderful with him, even though Noah did throw his teddy at him and grab his face! It was just like the last time."

When asked what Noah's favourite part of the awards was, Tracy said: "He absolutely loved being on stage and receiving his award. He also got to meet Oti from Strictly Come Dancing and get an autograph. She does a dance show on CBeebies which he loves.

"But his favourite moment, and one he keeps talking about, is when they showed his winner video. His hero, Doctor Ranj, who he absolutely loves, did the voice over and appeared in it. It made Noah so happy; we've watched it several times since and he's so excited with it."

We want to say a big congratulations to Noah for this amazing and well-deserved award, and for being a true inspiration every day.



Image: WellChild Awards



Image: WellChild Awards



# WELCOME BACK TO OUR CROMWELL ROAD SHOP

We were delighted to reopen our much-loved Cromwell Road shop last month!

Our new manager, Amber, said: "Cromwell Road is where I started as a volunteer and I was really sad to see it close. I was getting customers and volunteers asking when it was reopening and I thought to myself, "oh I may as well just open it myself", and now I am! It's like a brand new shop, nothing is really staying the same."

We are so happy to be able to welcome you back, however we are still in need of volunteers for our Cromwell Road shop, as well as many others throughout Lincolnshire. Just 3 hours a day or even a week would be "gratefully received".

Kerry, Retail Area Support Manager, said: "You meet some really lovely people, make some new friends and get to know regular customers. We have many longstanding volunteers who absolutely love what they do and would encourage anyone to give it a go."

If you'd like to give volunteering a go, head to [www.standrewshospice.com/Join-Us/Volunteer](http://www.standrewshospice.com/Join-Us/Volunteer) for more information.

