



# SPRING NEWSLETTER



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# CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF CARE

## A message from our Chief Executive

Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of the St Andrew's Hospice newsletter. It's been a while since our last one and I'm excited to introduce the first edition of our refreshed periodical newsletter.

This year is very special in the history of St Andrew's Hospice as we celebrate 45 years as a charity, delivering care and support to our local community. As the national hospice movement is approaching 60 years old, the legacy of founder, Dame Cicely Saunders, is still evident; "You matter because you are you and you matter to the end of your life. We will do all we can not only to help you die peacefully, but also to live until you die."

My first experience of St Andrew's Hospice was in the early 1980s when, as an 8-year-old, I accompanied my family to the Molson Centre for daycare. My parents both volunteered for the service while my brother and I spent time with the patients, listening to their stories, playing bingo and card games and enjoying the visiting groups.

My connection with St Andrew's resumed in 2000 when, as a children's nurse, I attended a successful interview for the new children's hospice that was due to open early 2001. After working for the charity for over 20 years, I am still in awe and proud of the support and care provided by the teams at the hospice, as well as the significant contributions made by dedicated, passionate staff and volunteers, enabling the hospice to keep running.

Celebrating 45 years of care is a huge honour and achievement, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every staff member and volunteer, along with our local community, for their continued support. As a charity, we could not provide this much-needed care to people with life-limiting illnesses, or their families, without your valuable support.

I hope you enjoy catching up with what we've been up to over the last few months. Once again, thank you for supporting St Andrew's Hospice,

*Michelle Rollinson*



## LOVE BLOOMS WITH HOSPICE BLESSING

**Love was in the air on the Adult Inpatient Unit as Alison Barrs and Paul Burgess 'tied the knot' – with friends, family and staff rallying round to put together a beautiful ceremony in just two hours!**

The couple, who have been engaged since 2019, pledged their love and commitment to each other in an intimate blessing ceremony at St Andrew's Hospice on February 13th.

Paul, who has been by Ali's side as she battles a brain tumour, said the "amazing" reappearance of her lost engagement ring prompted them to take the plunge. "At the end of November, I noticed Ali lost her engagement ring," he explained. "I told her not to worry about it, the most important thing is we're still engaged. The ring is just symbolic.

"However, on February 12th, her neighbour had found it! It was amazing that it had laid in the gutter outside her house for three months and nobody had spotted it, run over it, or picked it up and pinched it. So, we both took that as a sign that we ought to get married."

The couple spoke to staff at the hospice, who contacted a registrar. However, due to Ali's condition, they decided a civil blessing would be more suitable.

"At that point, Ali had had a terrible weekend and we thought we were losing her, so I just asked them to see what they could do."

And when they learned a priest would be at the hospice to conduct the blessing in just two hours' time, they weren't expecting the whirlwind that followed!

"There were floral decorations around her bed and congratulations signs up; the room looked superb. The staff here were unbelievable, as always.

"The blessing was amazing, and the words were so perfect, considering he didn't know us. He'd chosen words about love being more important than money and it just seemed to work so well.

"Everyone just pulled together in a two-hour window. With the cost of the rings and the bottle of prosecco and the flowers, it was a wedding that was pulled together with close friends for £150.

"The support network is unbelievable. Anyone who thinks the hospice is a sad place can forget that.

"It's uplifting; you come and you have a cry and there's always someone who will throw an arm around you with genuine love. They've seen it before.

"I find it unbelievable that people can actually work in this environment and be so positive, and that positivity comes through to us."





COMMUNITY THANK YOU

# DREAM VINTAGE WEDDING DRESS FOUND IN CHARITY SHOP

Last year, Joanna Gee, a Shop Manager at St Andrew's Hospice, found her dream vintage wedding dress at one of our charity shops. Joanna was looking for a unique wedding dress after getting engaged to her now-husband, Harry Gee, who also volunteers at the retail shops.

Joanna spread the word among her colleagues that she was looking for a vintage-style wedding dress. Our shop manager in Louth contacted Joanna and sent a few photos of the dress they had in the shop.

"At first glance, it wasn't what I was looking for at all, but it seemed very pretty," Joanna explained. "There was no size on it as it was handmade - there was even a little note sewn inside from the mother of the previous bride."

As Joanna lived far from Louth, she asked for the dress' measurements, and it turned out to be her exact size!

"It felt meant to be. I went with my mum and sister to try it on and it fit like a glove. The moment I put it on, I just knew. I felt like a princess!"

"Everyone who knows me knows that I love a bit of quirky and a bit of vintage. I don't think I could have ended up with a more perfect dress."

The mother of the bride also found her outfit at our Bradley Crossroads store, and Joanna found her shoes at one of the stores too. Joanna painted "Mrs Gee" onto them for a fun touch.



## ANDY'S MONTHLY MAKEOVER

**Andy's Children's Unit is undergoing a monthly makeover! Each month will see a new theme and new decorations and activities around the unit.**

In January, our theme was Superheroes and Princesses! Parkway Cinema in Cleethorpes were kind enough to donate some movie magic to the unit with a range of posters and cut outs.

For February, the unit celebrated Chinese New Year. Our patients enjoyed arts and crafts such as lantern making and colouring, as well as sensory play with noodles and prawn crackers, as they learned about the holiday.

In March, we celebrated World Book Day with staff and patients dressing as their favourite characters. Andy's also hopped into Spring when the lovely folks at Hobbycraft Hull popped by to decorate the unit in time for Easter.



**DONATE**

**VOLUNTEER**

**SUPPORT**

We rely on the generosity of our local community to keep providing the excellent, specialised care we offer. Whether you are looking for your next challenge, have items you could donate or time you could offer us as a volunteer, your support makes an impact on local lives.

**GET INVOLVED AND GET IN TOUCH**

Email: [hello@standreshospice.com](mailto:hello@standreshospice.com)  
 Visit: [www.standreshospice.com](http://www.standreshospice.com)  
 Call: 01472 350908





# RANKIN PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

**St Andrew's Hospice is opening its doors to a ground-breaking exhibition of real-life portraits by world-renowned photographer Rankin.**

The series of eight photographs, which will go on display to the public in April, is the result of a collaboration between Rankin and Hospice UK, offering the opportunity to explore and discuss loss, grief and memory. Each one depicts individuals experiencing grief, woven into past pictures of their loved ones and are accompanied by the powerful stories behind the images.

The exhibition, titled #IRemember, will be open to the public on Saturday, April 20th and Sunday, April 21st between 11am and 3pm, and Monday, April 22nd and Tuesday, April 23rd between 2 and 5pm. Entry is free, with refreshments available from the on-site Coffee Retreat.

Marking the start of the local charity's 45th anniversary celebrations, there will be the chance to chat to staff, find out more about the services offered and engage with the hospice's brand-new strategy for the next five years.

Rankin's collaboration with Hospice UK is in support of the Dying Matters campaign, which aims to open the conversation on our universal and unique experiences of death, dying, and grief.

Rankin said: "Photographs are like time capsules, which means photography can be very powerful in dealing with death and loss.

"The family portrait or holiday snap, allows you to emotionally connect through time and space with the person you have loved and lost. It keeps them alive in your memory, whilst also giving you something to memorialise them with. That's why I love this project, it connects us to our emotions' history and everyone can be part of it."

To view the exhibition, simply drop in to St Andrew's Hospice on Peaks Lane, Grimsby, DN32 9RP on April 20th or 21st (11am-3pm) or 22nd or 23rd (2-5pm). For more information, please call 01472 350908.



**APRIL  
20TH & 21ST  
11AM-3PM**

**APRIL  
22ND & 23RD  
2-5PM**

**ST ANDREW'S HOSPICE  
PROUDLY PRESENTS**

**#IREMEMBER**

**An exhibition exploring  
grief by renowned  
photographer Rankin**

**Peaks Lane  
Grimsby  
DN32 9RP**

**FREE ENTRY**