

Spring 2025



stnic's

news from **St Nicholas** Hospice Care

*Because of you,
hospice care
continues.*

*because
you matter*

St Nicholas
Hospice Care

A Registered Charity No. 287773

Inside:

'This is Hospice Care' a campaign to take public awareness to new levels.

Welcome

Hospices across the UK continue to face immense challenges, and ours is no exception. The cost of delivering expert end-of-life care is rising, and securing sustainable funding remains an ongoing challenge.

Through it all, one thing remains constant—you, our supporters. It is because of your dedication and generosity that we continue to provide the very best care to those who need us most.

This issue of St Nic's brings you stories of the difference your support makes—stories of care, compassion, and community. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Your kindness ensures we can continue to be here for families when it matters most.



Linda McEnhill, CEO

Keep in touch

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/stnicholashospicecare



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/stnichospice

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Short-term boosts welcome, but your support remains vital.

The national conversation around hospice funding has never been louder. Last year, the financial strain on the sector was laid bare, and locally, we too felt the pressure when part of our commissioned funding was cut by the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board.

In response to the national crisis, the government pledged £100m to hospices—an important step, but one that only funds capital projects, not the core costs of delivering care. The government has released the first £25m, and we're pleased to receive an

allocation of £97,852. While we've had some success in securing statutory funding locally, the reality is that the cost of running our Hospice continues to increase.

That's why your support continues to be more important than ever. Every donation, every fundraiser, and every act of kindness helps.



72% of our funding comes from you - our supporters-raising an incredible £5.4m.

Campaign & important updates

In our October issue, we launched our 'Without' campaign which aimed to highlight both the local and national hospice funding crisis and the urgent need for sustainable income. Since then, we've faced challenges —just like the entire sector— but thanks to your support, we've also seen hope and progress.

Here's what happened:

Win Our Without campaign and Hospice Care Week

Raising awareness of the national funding crisis was critical, and your voices helped make a difference. Your advocacy and donations ensured we could continue providing vital services in Thetford, despite funding cuts. We were visited by all four of our local Members of Parliament (MPs), and they helped us protest our local funding cut.

Win Stepped up: more beds, more care

In October, we increased our capacity to care, and your generosity has helped us maintain our specialist inpatient ward, which went from eight to 12 beds—ensuring more patients receive the expert, compassionate care they deserve.

Win Christmas Appeal: £80,000 raised!

Your kindness shone through once again! Our Christmas appeal raised an incredible £80,000, ensuring that more families received the care and comfort they needed during the festive season. Thank you.



Win Improved statutory funding position

Positive discussions with the Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board have resulted in an increase to our statutory funding, around 30%, which is now closer to, but still lower than, the average an England based adult hospice receives.



Challenge National Insurance increase

The increase announced by the Chancellor recently means we project a rise in our costs next year of around £160,000 just to cover this alone.

Opportunity £100m Government funding announced

The government's one-off pledge to support 170 adult hospices is welcome, but it cannot be used to fund our essential workforce, only infrastructure and IT projects. The government has released the first £25m of this funding, and we are pleased that we are set to benefit from an allocation of £97,852.



Major shift Assisted Dying Bill

While not directly linked to funding, the ongoing debate around legalising assisted dying is significant for hospices. We are following updates on the Bill's development, and continue to listen, engage with our partners and those we support to increase our understanding and prepare for its impact.

Telling the real, emotional stories of hospice care

Each year, hospice care supports over 300,000 people across the UK, but we rely on community support to continue our work.

That's why we're proud to be part of Hospice UK's national campaign 'This is Hospice Care', which encourages people to leave a gift in their Will to help secure the future of hospice care.

The campaign raises public awareness of the meaningful difference hospices make to people at the most difficult time of their lives.



Here's one of the stories that was featured in the national campaign.

When Trizia decided to become a nurse, her family agreed it was the perfect profession. "She was incredibly caring," says Anna-Maria, one of her sisters. "She was always looking for opportunities to make a difference."

Trizia became a qualified hospice nurse in 1992. Known for her humour, respect and compassion. She became a well-loved...

**Your gift will
mean hospice
care lives on in
West Suffolk
and Thetford**



**Leave a gift in your Will to
St Nicholas Hospice Care**

**THIS IS
HOSPICE
CARE** ❤️



More info

stnicholashospice.org.uk/giftinwill



...member of the hospice where she worked and stayed there for a number of years, rising in seniority to lead nurse.

"She found her calling," says Anna-Maria. "She was deeply proud of her work at the hospice."

Sadly, Trizia died in 2023, and while organising Trizia's affairs, the family discovered she had left a gift to the hospice where she worked in her Will.

"We're so happy her gift will continue to help people – it's a fitting legacy for someone who always cared so much.

"Remembering our sister with so much love and knowing her legacy will help others, was a healing experience for us," says Anna-Maria.



Play, win, and support us, join the Local Hospice Lottery today

We have some fantastic news for our wonderful supporters—we've joined the Local Hospice Lottery.

This exciting partnership offers you a fun and easy way to support local hospice care while having the chance to win cash prizes every week.

By playing the Local Hospice Lottery, you'll be helping to generate a sustainable income for St Nic's. In fact, this partnership is set to raise over £1,000,000 for our Hospice over the next five years.

Why join the Local Hospice Lottery?

Bigger impact

More of your £1 entry goes directly to St Nic's, supporting patients and families in your community.

Bigger prizes

201 weekly cash prizes, including a £2,000 top prize and a rollover prize up to £25,000.

Super draws

Three times a year, you could win a £10,000 jackpot in a special draw.



How to get involved

Playing is simple! If you're 18 or over and live in Great Britain, you can sign up for just £5 a month and start making a difference today.

Join now at:

www.localhospicelottery.org



All players must be aged 18 or over

GambleAware
Play the Local Hospice Lottery responsibly



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

A wedding blessing to remember

At the Hospice, we cherish every moment with loved ones. In February, we facilitated a wedding blessing, allowing a father to share a special memory with his daughter on her wedding day.

The family celebrated in the Hospice's Garden Room with refreshments and a wedding cake provided by the catering team. The facilities team decorated the space with fairy lights and a red carpet, creating a welcoming atmosphere.

Flowers from our Memorable Moments Fund enhanced the beauty, while a volunteer photographer captured cherished memories.

"It was a day of love and togetherness, reflecting the Hospice's mission to help families make the most of their time together."



Thank you to our supporters

Here is just a snapshot of some of the wonderful ways our supporters have made a difference to the Hospice.

We want to say thank you to the family and friends of Gary and Mollie Sharpe for all of their fundraising in aid of St Nic's. Events like Sharpie's Cup Charity Football Match, Mollies Legacy of Hope's Disco plus a quiz night have raised a combined total of £1,901.81 for St Nic's.

Mollie was cared for on our Sylvan Ward, and during that time, her family chose to stay by her side. Inspired by this experience, Mollie's daughter Heather and her supporters (family, friends, Asda colleagues, and the Westbury Centre)



have been creating toiletry bags filled with essentials to support families who wish to stay overnight.

Affectionately named Mollie's Minis, these bags provide toiletries so that loved ones don't need to leave to gather supplies. Last December, Heather visited the Hospice to deliver more than 20 bags, along with six cosy fleece blankets.

To mark our 40th year, Lavenham-based sculptor Kate Denton created for us a bespoke sculpture entitled Because You Matter. Kate and her husband, Anthony Faulkner, kindly gifted the sculpture to us, and it was auctioned off at a special gala held to celebrate the end of our 40 years of caring. The sale of the piece contributed to the £40,598.60 raised at our hospice gala dinner.



Kate Denton (left) with the sculpture at the gala



Bedford Lodge Hotel & Spa chose us as their 2024 Charity of the Year, raising an incredible £2,590.27 through a zip wire challenge, fitness challenges, raffles, and support for our 40th-year gala.

Another fantastic St Nic's Does Elvis and Neil Diamond event has raised a phenomenal £8,400. We are so grateful to John and Denise Maxim for hosting this occasion and in the words of the great man himself, "Thank you very much" to Fisher Stevens, Claire Ross, Ashlar House, our team of volunteers and all the sponsors for their support in making the evening a great success.





Cycle ride raises over £200,000 in tribute to loved ones



In an inspiring show of determination and remembrance, 60 dedicated cyclists have raised an extraordinary £203,143.59 in honour of loved ones who died in a tragic event 50 years ago.



The Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club's 50th Anniversary Memorial Cycle Ride saw participants undertake a challenging 350-mile journey. The event commemorated those connected to the rugby club who were among the 346 people who died following the Turkish Airlines DC-10 disaster on March 3, 1974. The funds raised have been shared between the rugby club (£121,800) and the Hospice (£81,200).

Photo credit: Beanstalk Media



Make space, make a difference: donate to your local hospice shop

As spring approaches, it's the perfect time for a fresh start—clearing out cupboards, making space, and giving pre-loved items a second chance to be loved.

If you're looking to declutter, why not donate your unwanted treasures to our charity shops?

Our shops are always grateful for good-quality ladies' and men's clothing, shoes, home accessories, and electrical items.

Every item you give not only raises essential funds, but also promotes

sustainable shopping and recycling.

Philip Kojcinovic, our Interim Head of Retail, shares: "Our shops rely on the kindness of our community, and each donation plays a part in the care we provide across West Suffolk and Thetford. By passing on your good-quality items, you're making a real difference to local people and families who need our support. We're truly grateful for everything you give."

So, as you tidy up and make room for the new season, why not drop off a bag (or two!) at your nearest Hospice shop?



To find your nearest shop and check donation guidelines, visit:
stnicholashospice.org.uk/our-shops

Join in our events this summer...

St Nicholas Hospice Care

sun set walk

Sponsored by



GREENE KING
BURY ST EDMUNDS

21 June



**Walk together,
remember together**



**Step forward
and fundraise for hospice care**

St Nicholas Hospice Care's Sunset Walk returns on June 21, 2025, in Bury St Edmunds' Abbey Gardens.

Sponsored by Greene King, this festival-themed event offers 10km and 15km routes for all ages and abilities. The walk starts at 6pm, but before this, participants can enjoy live music, a warm-up, refreshments, and a selfie zone. Along the routes, music stations create a festive atmosphere.



Hidden Gardens

of Bury St Edmunds

29 June

THEFTORD OPEN GARDENS -



22 June

Passionate about gardens? For many years, these events have welcomed visitors to explore hidden botanical gems, offering a rare glimpse into private gardens not usually open to the public. Join us in June for events in Bury St Edmunds and Thetford.

St Nicholas Hospice Care

10K RUN

Sponsored by  SKECHERS
PERFORMANCE

28 Sept

The St Nicholas Hospice Care 10k Run returns. Come and take on the challenge, whether you've taken part before or want to beat your PB.

Sponsored by Skechers Performance, the race begins at Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds.



The Charity Pakenham Beer and Musical Festival

24 May

Supporting St Nicholas Hospice Care, the event features over 30 casks of real ale, food vendors, and performances by six bands. Gates open at 1pm, tickets sold at the gate.



More events:

- 5 May - 11 May** Dying Matters Awareness Week
- 11 May** St Nic's Cycle Ride
- 18 May** Bury to Clare Challenge
- 25 May - 8 June** Suffolk Art Society Exhibition
- 31 May** Black Tie Charity Ball
- 8 June** Lions Cycle Ride
- 26 June** 'Step back in time' lecture -Moving with the times
- 18 July - 3 August** Suffolk Art Society Exhibition
- 3 October** Clay Shooting Corporate Day

More details on
these events and
others on our
website



stnicholashospice.org.uk/events

Tractor runs: keep an eye on our website and social media channels for details of upcoming tractor runs.



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If undelivered please return to
St Nicholas Hospice Care, IP33 2QY



**Link connects companies
and individuals to build
meaningful networks while
supporting the Hospice's
mission of providing
compassionate care.**

**Find out more at:
www.stnh.org.uk/link**



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www.stnicholashospice.org.uk
St Nicholas Hospice (Suffolk) Ltd.
A Registered Charity No 287773

Our shops

Bury St Edmunds – Barton Road

The Bartons Retail Park,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7BE
Tel: 01284 747613

Bury St Edmunds – St John's Street

87 St John's Street,
Bury St Edmunds IP33 1SQ
Tel: 01284 756197

Sudbury

8 Gainsborough Street, Sudbury
CO10 2ET Tel: 01787 373330

Long Melford

10 Hall Street, Long Melford
CO10 0JF Tel: 01787 468626

Mildenhall

8-14 Mill Street, Mildenhall IP28 7DP
Tel: 01638 717965

Newmarket

79 High Street, Newmarket CB8 8LB
Tel: 01638 669750

Haverhill

St Nicholas Hospice Care Haverhill
Hub, Camps Road, Haverhill
CB9 8HB Tel: 01440 712992