

# Prospect Hospice

together making every day count



## THE HUG

Good news from Prospect Hospice

SUMMER 2024



# Welcome to The Hug

What a difference a couple of months makes. In May, I sat down with my team, who laid bare all the challenges they're facing right now. More people than ever before need end-of-life care, but the cost of everything has rocketed. The numbers told us we'd fall about a million pounds short of what we needed.

A fortnight later we asked you to save our hospice. And frankly, the response was overwhelming, raising £170,000. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. Your generosity makes a world of difference to our patients and their families, as you'll see throughout this newsletter.

Then at the end of June we held our annual Starlight Walk. A record-breaking 760 people turned out, and together raised a staggering £160,000. It was a joyful celebration of care in our community - though I apologise to anyone who saw my aerobic Dad Dancing on social media!

You can't underestimate the boost your support has given the whole hospice. It's true, your donation will help us care for people when they need it most. It will pay for treatment that we'd otherwise struggle to afford. But it's already provided something you can't put a price on - a buzz around the place, a spring in the step of our nurses who were reminded that you're right behind them. It's given us hope.

We're only a quarter of the way to covering our shortfall this year. But I feel like, for the first time in a while, Prospect Hospice can start looking to the future. And for that I have you to thank.

Jeremy Lune - Chief Executive

Our appeal to save Prospect Hospice has now raised a breathtaking £170,000. That's enough to keep our inpatient unit open for two months and look after 36 patients and their families. And for that, we want to say...

# Thank you!



## Here are just a few messages from you that made us feel proud, jump for joy, or shed a tear.

"My sister-in-law was at Prospect for six weeks and received the most amazing care. She passed peacefully with her loved ones around her. The aftercare we received as a family was incredible. My family live in the village and we would be devastated if the hospice was no longer here."

"The Prospect nurses were so kind, thoughtful and helpful with my dad and us as a family when he was very ill and when he passed away at home. We will be forever grateful. We realise how important you are to people who are struggling to cope."

"My brother was with you until he died in June last year. He was very well looked after there. It is a beautiful place and is invaluable to the community."

"I can never repay Prospect for the exceptional end-of-life treatment it provided to both of my parents. I hope the fundraising helps keep this amazing place open for our community."

# Stellar Starlight Walk breaks records!



**1,000**  
slices of free  
Dominos  
pizza eaten



**760**  
walkers - the  
biggest ever  
Starlight Walk



**9,295km**  
walked - enough  
to get to the  
Great Wall  
of China!



**£160,000**  
the biggest  
total ever  
raised



# Harry's legacy

"I didn't get to meet Harry, but I have so much to thank him for."

Ken Blanton



Ken with Sinéad, and Harry's mum Elaine

## How one man's family kept his caring spirit alive.

You may remember Harry and Sinéad. Sinéad was kind enough to let us tell their story as part of the Save our Hospice appeal. Now their story has a brilliant new chapter.

Harry was the kind of guy who lit up a room. He had a big presence; loved the gym, running, his wife and family. He was training to join the army. Then he was diagnosed with cancer. He was only 24.

When conventional treatment stopped working, Harry's family set up Harry's Healing Fund to pay for alternative treatment. Friends, family, and strangers touched by Harry's story across the country chipped in, knowing he would have done the same for them. They raised a huge amount and began to explore experimental therapies. But tragically, Harry died before much was spent.

His family decided Harry's Healing Fund should be used to help people find joy and peace in their final weeks.

So they decided to help Prospect Hospice hire a Psychotherapist and Psycho-spiritual Care Lead. Or Ken, for short.

Ken's role is complex but, in a nutshell, he helps patients reconcile themselves, helping them see the positive impact they've had on the people around them. It's a specialist job that Prospect Hospice wouldn't have been able to afford without Harry's Healing Fund. Ken will help provide care for hundreds of patients.

"If Harry lived, he would be doing what Ken is doing now," says Sinéad. "He wanted to help people find peace and acceptance in their darkest days as he did. To know Harry is doing exactly this through Ken brings me enormous comfort."

Thank you to everyone who helped raise Harry's Healing Fund. In death, as in life, your husband, son, and mate will keep changing lives for the better.

# "You are safe. You are loved. And it's okay."

This is the difference your support makes. People like Emma are the reason Prospect Hospice exists. We met her in March, eight years after she was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Her mum, Vic, shares her story.

**Emma was the most incredible, brave, positive person you could ever meet. She dealt with the tumour with grace, determination and dignity. Those words sum her up.**

On 1st September 2015, I woke up to 14 missed calls. Emma's partner told me she'd been admitted to hospital. She'd had a massive seizure. We had no warning. She told me 'Mum, they've said it's a tumour. It's a tumour in my head.' She was only 23.

They knew they wouldn't be able to cure it. They could treat it, but we were also told it was very likely it would end her life. Over 8 and a half years she had two surgeries, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. It was savage.

Just before Christmas 2023, Emma was working full time - she just loved her job. Then she started to get unsteady on her feet. She lost movement in her right arm. It was obvious things weren't good. She had an emergency appointment on the 11th of January, then rang me and said 'Mum, it's grown.' She came back home with us that day.

Tina (Prospect's Community Nurse) came out. She called the district nurses, who set up morphine. It was evident to her that Emma was approaching the end of her life. She was very matter of fact, which I appreciated. I didn't want all the fluffy language. She was dying. It was okay that she was dying. Tina was brilliant.

Then at three in the morning, we had to call the district nurses out because we couldn't move her. That was when we decided that if we couldn't keep her safe, she needed to be somewhere she could be.

Emma arrived at Prospect on Mothering Sunday. She was only here for two weeks, but she was given such amazing care. We filled out a chart about what was important to her - her best friends, her favourite music, even her skincare routine - so the nurses could care for her. They used her products so she could smell like her.

My abiding memory of our time at Prospect is that Emma was safe. When she was slipping in and out of consciousness, or agitated, or in pain, she would still search for my eyes. I would just reassure her and say, 'You are safe. You are loved. And it's okay.'

Without Prospect I wouldn't have had that precious time with my girl. Everything was done with such care, respect, and kindness. And not just for Emma, but for us as a family.

Emma was 32 when she died. She was loved so much.

We only had 16 days contact with Prospect. But I will carry those 16 days for the rest of my life. She was allowed to be her, until the very moment she died. And that is such a gift.



Emma with her mum Vic and her stepdad Don

# What's happening



## You're invited to our garden fete

Come along to the hospice gardens for the annual fete with traditional stalls, games, family entertainment and refreshments on **Saturday 7 September from 12pm to 4pm.**



## Don't forget to enter our summer raffle

There's still time to enter our summer raffle to be in with a chance of winning up to £3,000 in cash prizes and help us be there for local people and their families, ensuring they receive the vital care and support they need. Enter at [www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle)



## Visit our new furniture store

Our new Furniture & Home Store has a wide selection of pre-loved furniture and homeware, from elegant dining sets to cosy sofas and everything in between. With a focus on sustainability and affordability, you'll find high-quality items for your home while supporting the hospice. Find us at **Unit T8, Hobley Dr, Swindon, SN3 4NS.**

## Can you write to your MP for us?

As the new government gets to work, hospices are in crisis. Costs are rising, funding has stalled, demand for care is growing. Now services are being cut.

**Your voice matters, take action today:** Please write to your new MP to let them know about the crisis.



Scan to find out more  
[www.prospect-hospice.net/MPLetter](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/MPLetter)



**Prospect Hospice**  
Moormead Road, Wroughton,  
Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 9BY  
Telephone: **01793 813355**  
Email: [info@prospect-hospice.net](mailto:info@prospect-hospice.net)  
Visit: [www.prospect-hospice.net](http://www.prospect-hospice.net)

Follow us on social media:



**President:** Her Majesty The Queen  
Registered charity number: 280093  
Company registration: 1494909



# THE HUG

Good news from Prospect Hospice

SUMMER 2024