

Thames hospice Moments

News and stories from your local charity



Read Louise's story
Page 4

*It takes a whole
community to make
every moment matter!*

Autumn/Winter 2025

www.thameshospice.org.uk

It takes a whole community!

Hello!



A very warm welcome to the autumn/winter edition of Thames Hospice Moments.

This month marks five years since we moved into our beautiful Hospice by Bray Lake, a space that enables us to provide the very best care for patients and families. But while our building is still relatively new, our commitment to excellent, compassionate care goes right back to 1987, when Thames Hospice first opened its doors.

What has never changed is that we could not do what we do without you, our wonderful community.

As this illustration showcases, it truly takes a whole community to provide our expert care for local families. This edition of our magazine is dedicated to celebrating our incredible volunteers and supporters, our shops, staff, fundraisers and partners. Together, you make everything we do possible.

This theme is also at the heart of this year's Hospice Care Week: **'A community of care'**. We are so proud to be part of this network of kindness and generosity that surrounds the Hospice, ensuring that patients and their loved ones get the support they need, when they need it most.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who support us in so many ways – giving time, funds, energy and love.

We are thrilled to be welcoming new Trustees and new Chair, Katharine Horler, to our Board later this year, strengthening our governance and shaping our future vision. I would like to extend special thanks to our wonderful Chair, Chris Aitken, as he steps down for his outstanding contribution over the past 14 years. Find out more on page 22.

Enjoy reading just a few of our many special moments across the Hospice.

Rachael de Caux

Dr Rachael de Caux
Chief Executive

Thames Hospice, Windsor Road,
Maidenhead, SL6 2DN
01753 842121
www.thameshospice.org.uk
Charity number: 1108298

Our community of care



A snapshot of Thames Hospice serving the community:

- 25,525** visits and calls to people at home*
- 336** inpatients*
- 2,383** days of care to outpatients*
- 23** shops * 2024/2025

In this issue:

- Patient/care recipient
- Team TH
- Volunteer
- Supporter
- Ambassador
- Business Partnership
- Artist

Thank you

for being part of our story.
We look forward to continuing
this journey with you – as a
community of care, together.

Patients and families

At the heart of everything we do

The support of a community makes all the difference. At Thames Hospice, that community surrounds every patient and family, offering compassion, dignity and care at life's most difficult times.

Here, some of our patients and families share how they have found comfort, strength and support when they needed it most.



Louise's community of care

For Louise, living with stage four cancer has meant drawing strength from her community: her husband Graham, her employer Mitie, and the team at Thames Hospice. Over the past 18 months she has faced surgery, chemotherapy and the daily reality of her condition, but has found reasons to keep living fully.

From practical help with pain management and stoma care, to the confidence of bathing again after surgery, the Hospice has given Louise the chance to regain her independence. Just as important have been the joyful moments, including marrying Graham in the Hospice's Sanctuary space surrounded by family, friends and Hospice colleagues. Staff arranged flowers,

balloons and a wedding cake, ensuring the couple's day was filled with love and laughter.

"It was such an incredible, special day," Louise says. "Without the Hospice I don't think I'd be here now – but it's not just them, it's Graham, my colleagues and everyone who has given me strength. Together they've helped me keep my sense of purpose, confidence and hope."

Meeting other patients, accessing therapies such as reiki and physiotherapy, and simply spending time in the Café have also helped Louise rediscover joy and connection. *"Coming here for a couple of hours each week gives me the boost and sense of purpose in life I need,"* she explains.

It takes a whole community!



Ali with our physiotherapist Iulian

Ali's story - faith, strength and gentle care

Ali, 36, lives in Slough and is facing Motor Neurone Disease largely on his own, without family nearby. Despite his declining health, he continues to work as a security guard and finds comfort in his strong Muslim faith.

Coming to Thames Hospice gives him a lifeline – from lunch in the Café to physio, acupuncture and simply being around kind, caring people. Volunteers often collect him when travel feels too hard.

"I didn't know anything about the Hospice before, but whenever I come here, I forget I am sick," he says. *"The staff are gentle and kind, and they call me at home to check in. Alongside my faith, they help me stay positive. I would definitely be sicker without them."*

Did you know...

We serve a population of approximately **500,000 people**, employ over **360 staff** supported by **1,100 volunteers**, provided outstanding care to **3,000 local people** last year.

Zoe's family's story - treasured moments together

When 37-year-old Zoe was admitted to Thames Hospice just before Christmas a couple of years ago, her family felt an immediate sense of relief. Within hours, she was free from pain and able to relax with her loved ones – her father Les, mother Sonya, twin sisters Gemma and Natasha, and her teenage son Alfie.

"As soon as we arrived, Zoe was so relaxed. We were able to be the son, the daughter, the sister and parents – a family, just as it should be," recalls Gemma.

For Alfie, the Hospice was a place where he could be by his mum's side and still feel listened to: *"It really wasn't like a hospital at all. Mum could be normal with her family, and that meant so much."*

Since Zoe's death, Alfie has continued to receive support from the Children and Family Support team, and the whole family say they are determined to give back in gratitude for the care and honesty they received.



Zoe and Alfie with Thames Hospice Patron, Ross Kemp

Read their full stories here

www.thameshospice.org.uk/hospice-stories



It takes a whole community!

Be part of our community

Volunteer at Thames Hospice

When you volunteer with Thames Hospice, you become part of a compassionate community dedicated to making a real difference to the lives of people facing a life-limiting condition. Our volunteers are the heart of everything we do. Quite simply, we couldn't do what we do without them.

Sue's 33-year journey as a Hospice volunteer

When Sue first walked through the doors of the Hospice, she didn't intend to stay, let alone become one of its longest-serving volunteers.

"I belonged to a flower arranging group," she explained. "We were asked if we'd be happy to do an arrangement, and I said yes. I walked in to do the flowers, and when I came out, I was a volunteer and I still don't quite know how that happened!"

That spontaneous beginning marked the start of what would become a remarkable 33-year commitment to care, compassion, and community.

At the time, Sue was working full-time, so Sunday shifts suited her lifestyle. The Hospice was small then – just nine beds, two shared wards, and one en-suite room. The garden was little more than a table outside, and weekend volunteers were scarce.

"I was often the only non-medical person on-site," she recalled. "The volunteer was responsible for opening and locking up, switching off lights, hiding the keys in a secret spot, and making sure reception was tidy for the next day."

Over the years, the Hospice evolved. In 2002, a major extension was added, bringing nine more en-suite rooms and a beautifully landscaped garden.

"It was such a big change," Sue said. "Suddenly, it felt more suited to the level of care people needed."

Sue had the unique privilege of being present during two royal visits: when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited in 2002, and again in 2022, when the Queen opened the new Hospice building.

What has remained unchanged, she said, is the impact the Hospice has on people.

"A lot of visitors appear very nervous when they first arrive. They hear the word 'hospice' and think the worst. But when they leave, they often say, 'What a wonderful place.' And it is. It really is."

"I never meant to do it as long as I did," she said with a smile. "But it just felt right – and it still does."



Balancing work and volunteering

Gillian started volunteering two years ago, at a time when she was going through redundancy. For Gillian, volunteering was a way to find a sense of purpose, engage with others on a daily basis, and give back to the local community.

Even now, having a full-time job, Gillian still carves out time to volunteer on Saturdays, as she says, *"You always make time for things you enjoy."*

Gillian works as part of our eBay team, researching and listing items on our eBay site. She adds, *"It's a busy morning, and then the rest of the day is mine. When I get home, I always feel a sense of accomplishment."*

"It's a great way to start the weekend feeling productive and like I've made a difference."

Gillian adds, *"Every time I volunteer with the eBay team, I learn something new and have great fun. They look after you too, with a great cup of tea and yummy biscuits. It's not just about what you list but also the buzz of excitement when it sells. There are always items that surprise you. The team is so supportive; we all help each other out and share in the excitement when an item sells."*



Finding purpose through volunteering

When Gina retired, she'd planned to volunteer – but instead became a full-time carer for her mum and husband. Only after they passed away, just weeks apart, did she have time to consider what was next.

Her mum had spent her final days at the Hospice, where Gina was offered counselling. *"I didn't think I needed counselling, but I accepted it. I realised then this was where I wanted to volunteer."*

Four years ago, Gina became a volunteer driver, taking patients to Outpatient Services. *"That was all that was available at the time. I thought I'd end up behind a desk, but actually, driving suited me."* She now also helps at the Paul Bevan Wellbeing Centre.

Driving can be emotionally demanding. *"You get to know some of the patients over time. People open up in ways they might not with their families."*

Volunteering is now a regular and meaningful part of her life. *"People say it's 'just volunteering', but I do feel committed. I don't want to let people down."*

Would she recommend it? *"Yes. Definitely. I think it's helped me as much as I've helped others."*



Scan to find out more about volunteering with us

www.thameshospice.org.uk/volunteering

Email volunteers@thameshospice.org.uk Call 01753 842121

Pop into your local Thames Hospice store and speak to the team



It takes a whole community!

Liz's story

Our care is never delivered by one person alone. It takes a whole community of colleagues, clinical and non-clinical, working together to support patients and families when they need us most. From doctors, nurses and therapists to counsellors, housekeepers, fundraisers and volunteers, every role plays a vital part.



Liz, one of our Hospice at Home nurses, is part of this team, taking our care out into the community and into people's homes.

Our clinical team at Thames Hospice are highly skilled, with years of experience and professional expertise. But in palliative care, it's not just about the technical side of what we do. Communication – how we speak, how we listen, and how we create space for others – is just as important. It's a vital part of our work.

That's why our team are trained in advanced communication skills. Because often, it's not what you say... it's how you say it.



Some of Liz's Hospice at Home colleagues

Liz worked in district nursing before joining Thames Hospice four years ago as one of our Hospice at Home nurses. Her role takes her out into the community, where she provides the same high standard of care we offer in the Hospice: expert nursing, complex symptom control, emotional support, and advanced care planning – all in the comfort of a patient's own home.

"I've always enjoyed palliative care," Liz says. "But I used to think it was this magical extra that palliative care nurses could give. Now I understand it's not magic – it's awareness. It's understanding the value of silence, of really listening, and how important and precious that time is."

"What we say isn't always the most important thing – it's how we say it. Patients and their families might not remember every word, but they will remember how you made them feel."

Respect is at the core of everything we do. Respect for people's choices, for the pace they need, and for the space they may need to think, to speak, or just to sit in silence.

"When we have difficult conversations – around care plans, or a patient's options – respect and listening are so important," Liz says. "Silence is powerful. Knowing how to give someone the space to think their thoughts through, to go at their own pace... that's a real skill."

"I remember one man who really showed me how important that silence can be. I was ready to move the conversation forward, but by staying quiet, he took the lead. He moved the conversation on – at his pace, not mine. That was a moment that's stayed with me."

"People also need space to tell their story. On my first visit, I might be there an hour and not say very much. People just want to talk, to tell me what's been happening. We might be the first person who's had the time to listen properly. Hospital appointments are five minutes here, five minutes there – but we can offer something else. We offer time. Presence. A chance for someone to be heard."

"Sometimes all people need is someone who understands. It's so isolating – caring for someone, or going through illness yourself. To have someone there who gets it, who isn't family, who can just listen and offer some reassurance... that's huge."

And after 22 years in nursing, Liz still loves what she does.

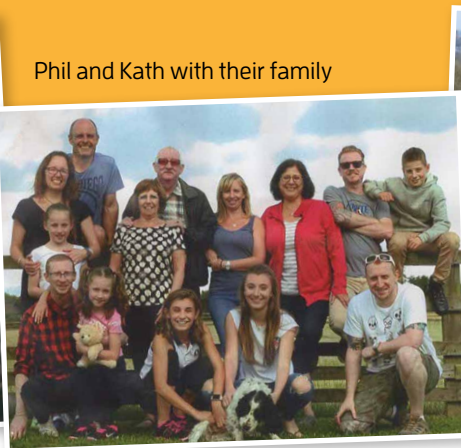
"I wouldn't do anything else. It's such a privilege, such a blessing to be with people at such an important time in their lives. It's rewarding in so many ways."

A guiding light through grief

Our patients are at the heart of everything we do. But our care doesn't stop there – it extends to their loved ones. It's about creating a supportive community where families can find comfort, connection, and a sense of belonging. Kath Davies, a dedicated supporter of ours, shares how this community has been a vital part of her journey through grief.



Phil



Phil and Kath with their family



Phil and Kath's son-in-law on a tractor run in memory of Phil

Kath's story

When my husband, Phil, was cared for at Thames Hospice in 2019, I was so grateful for the love and care he received. Alongside relieving his pain, he was also given so much warmth and attention from all the staff. I really could not have wished for anything better for him. When Phil passed away, I didn't stop coming to the Hospice. The atmosphere is so tranquil, and I've found a wonderful community here, with many of us in the same position. I often visit Café by the Lake at the Hospice with my neighbour, who lost her husband last year. We'll have a coffee and a chat, and it's a huge comfort to be together.

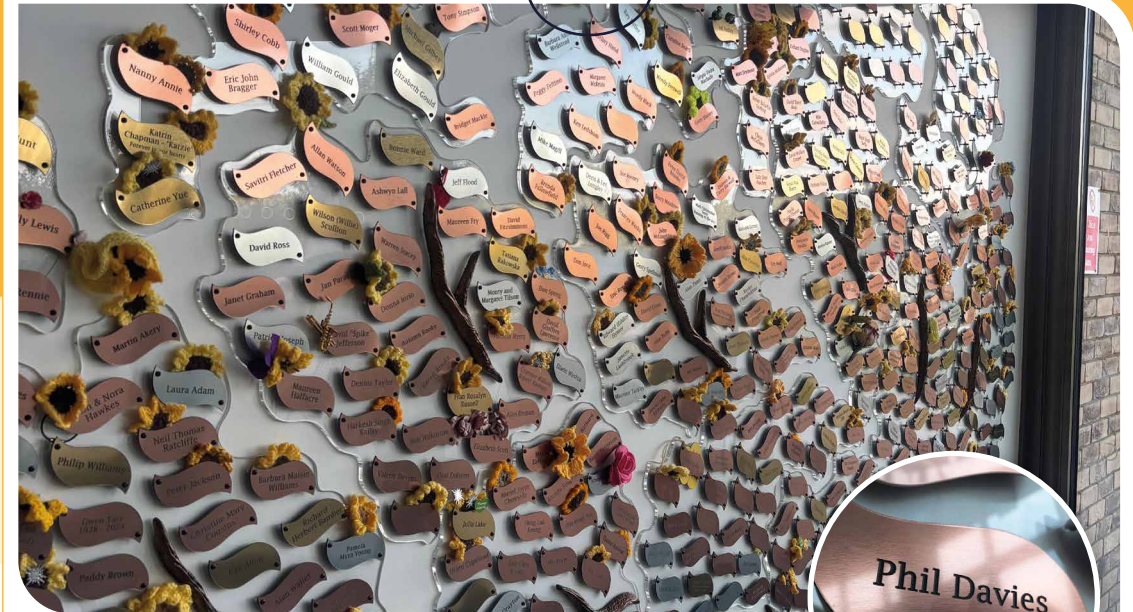
The Memory Tree also means so much to me. It's in a beautiful, open space, not hidden away, and you often see people standing there, reflecting on their loved ones. My neighbour's

husband's leaf is right next to Phil's, and I find so much comfort in that. Seeing their names side-by-side, knowing they're remembered, brings me a lot of peace.

Last year it was my first time attending the Hospice's annual Light up a Life service, and it was so emotional and moving. It's good to be able to remember our loved ones in this way, sharing the experience with others who understand what you're going through. It's such a powerful reminder that we're not alone.

"The Hospice hasn't just been about caring for Phil; it's been a lifeline for me too. I truly believe I would be lost without this community."

It takes a whole community!



Other ways to remember your loved ones...

Phil's leaf on the Memory Tree

Remembering a loved one can be a source of comfort and a meaningful way to celebrate their life. You can do this by engraving their name on our Memory Tree, and by creating an online tribute fund to share precious memories.

www.thameshospice.org.uk/in-memory

Thank you!



"Incredibly, with the help of our community, our tribute funds have raised over £1.1 million since 2019. Thank you for making a lasting difference and supporting our vital care."

Emma Spanswick, Legacy and In Memory Manager



Join us at this year's Light up a Life event on 30 November. Visit www.thameshospice.org.uk/lual or call **01753 848924**.

A community of partners

Our community is woven together by many different threads, and a key one is the unwavering support of our corporate partners. Their commitment goes beyond financial support. They help us plan for the future, raise vital awareness, and secure the services we provide to our patients and their families. That's why we work hard to ensure our collaborations align with our partners' values and goals. By working together, we make sure everyone benefits.

We're delighted to introduce you to some of the faces behind these amazing organisations...

F. Hinds - Meet Sarah

For Sarah Hinds, her personal connection to the Hospice began through a friendship, but it was a visit to the Hospice itself that solidified her commitment. F. Hinds is a long-term supporter and have most recently signed up to sponsor our Trunks across the Thames art trail.

"The first time I was invited to the Hospice with some of my colleagues, I was just completely blown away by the work that goes on there. Our partnership is very much from the heart; we have recently supplied beautiful friendship bracelets with an elephant motif on them with all the profits from the sales going directly to the Hospice, and we are really excited to be sponsoring an elephant at the art trail next year! We saw the bracelets as a lovely, easy way for anyone to support the charity. I feel so lucky to have a place like Thames Hospice in our community, and I'm happy to be on board spreading the word about the outstanding care provided."

Did you know...

The generous support of trusts and foundations, local businesses, and individual philanthropists contributes an amazing £1.6 million each year, giving us the confidence to plan for the future.



It takes a whole community!

Bridges Estate Agents - Meet Kevin

Bridges Group joined us as a new corporate sponsor this year when they 'moved in' to Bracknell. They have committed to raising a phenomenal £50,000 to support our Hospice at Home team. For Kevin, his understanding of hospice care has been completely transformed since the partnership began.



"Before my involvement, my vision of a hospice was very dark and dingy, a place where people go to die. But when I first walked around the Hospice, my eyes were completely opened. It's such a vibrant and happy place with beautiful spaces. I soon realised it wasn't nothing like I imagined and is somewhere people go to have a better quality of life. My colleagues and I proudly wear our Thames Hospice pin badges, and it's amazing how often they open up a conversation about the important work the charity does. I can see this long-term partnership just getting stronger and stronger."

Verus Group - Meet Dominique and Jordan

Verus Group is helping us build a safer, stronger community by committing a percentage of their turnover to our Hospice over the next two years, providing vital and consistent support.

"When we learned more in-depth about Thames Hospice, we were surprised by the real breadth of support they provide. It's so much more than just medical care. The services they offer – the counselling, bereavement support, complementary therapies, and so on – really ensure that wider support is available, not just for patients, but also for their families. The most rewarding part so far has



been learning that, in real terms, our initial donation could fund 28 counselling sessions for bereaved families. We're looking forward to seeing that figure grow in the future. Knowing that we're able to provide consistent support to people through such a difficult time truly means a lot."

Want your organisation to get involved?

Contact Layla Pipe by emailing l.pipe@thameshospice.org.uk or calling 01753 848924

Bringing two communities together

Trunks across the Thames



Jess with Hope, the elephant

Next summer, we'll be launching Trunks across the Thames, a spectacular art trail that brings a vibrant herd of 30 majestic elephant sculptures to the streets and parks of Slough and Windsor for nine weeks – creating a free, fun, and family-friendly discovery trail. Each elephant will be adorned with bespoke artwork by professional artists and sponsored by a local business, transforming the towns into a glorious open-air gallery while raising vital funds for the Hospice. This trail also aims to address the 'elephant in the room,' demystifying conversations around end-of-life care and creating a place of hope where these essential discussions can happen openly.

The star of the show is our hero elephant, Hope, brought to life by the incredibly talented tattoo artist, Jess Garrett. Jess, who grew up in Burnham and works in Windsor, is a cherished member of our community and one with a deeply personal connection to the Hospice.

"The elephant was chosen for this trail for its powerful symbolism of compassion and stability, qualities that reflect the unwavering care we provide."

It takes a whole community!



A spotlight on Jess Garrett and the making of Hope

Here Jess shares her inspiration, revealing the story behind the art that beautifully illustrates the communities of Slough and Windsor.

Q: What made you choose specific landmarks and historical elements from Slough and Windsor to feature on Hope?

A: The whole idea was to create a design that incorporated both Slough and Windsor into one piece, so I looked into the history of both towns. I wanted to use specific landmarks and buildings that our community would be proud to celebrate. I already knew so much about Windsor, but it was incredible to research Slough; I found an unbelievable amount of history.

Q: What was your favourite fact or illustration you included, and why?

A: My favourite illustration was the crooked house in Windsor, which is on the inside back leg. It was super challenging, but I loved how it came out. My favourite fact is that the modern-day wheelie bin was created in Slough.

Q: How did you approach combining the histories of two different towns into a single, flowing design?

A: I was staring at the blank canvas of this massive elephant and looking at a map of the local area. I noticed that the River Thames and the Jubilee River run straight through the middle of Windsor and Slough, and the curve of the elephant's trunk looks very similar to the curve of the river. I thought, "That's it!" I ran the River Thames down the trunk and through the middle of Hope.

Q: There are lots of vibrant leaves and flowers on Hope – what do they mean?

A: The vibrant leaves and flowers on Hope represent a vision of life and the uncertainty we all experience. While the monuments I featured were very neat, life isn't always like that, and I wanted to reflect this on Hope. I included sunflowers, often synonymous with the hospice sector, along with leaves and foliage that I regularly use in my tattoo designs. I added creative splashes and splatters to represent the beautiful messiness of life, layering everything together.



Find out more about Trunks across the Thames:

www.trunksacrossthethames.org.uk

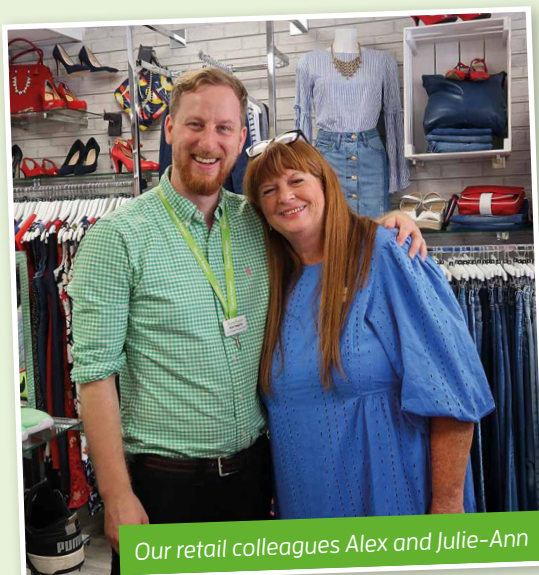
[f](#) [@](#)trunksacrossthethames

It takes a whole community!



Our stores

At the heart of local communities



Our retail colleagues Alex and Julie-Ann

Our charity stores across the Thames Valley are so much more than just places to buy or donate. They're important hubs where people come together, support each other, and help raise money for vital care right here in our local area.

Each store is different, but all of them share the same spirit. With loyal customers, friendly teams, and wonderful opportunities for locals to volunteer, they play an important role in their communities. From taking part in sustainable fashion shows, hosting tea parties to joining in children's Halloween trails, our stores get involved in all sorts of local events.



Members of the Whitley Community Centre enjoying afternoon tea at the Superstore

We're open to everyone – whether you want to pop in for a chat, find out about volunteering, or simply browse. Our stores really are part of the community, and there's a real sense of friendship between customers, staff, and volunteers.

Our Reading Superstore Manager, Chris, says **"We're part of local business groups, we join in town events, and love being involved in anything that brings people together."**

Julia, a regular customer at our Reading Superstore adds, **"I love shopping here and I bring all my friends. And we love having lunch at the Café too. It's an amazing place to find preloved bargains and all the staff are friendly and really helpful."**

Thames hospice
Smart. Stylish. Sustainable



Our wonderful customer, Julia

Our stores need to raise over £6 million every year to help fund our vital services supporting patients and families when they need it most.

So, when you shop or donate at one of our stores, you're making a real difference to people in your own community.

Our stores are where communities grow stronger, friendships form, and important work gets done. Supporting your local store means supporting your local community.

The hub of our Hospice

Our Café by the Lake is at the heart of our Hospice. It's more than just a place to grab a coffee or a bite to eat – it's where the community comes together. The Café provides a welcoming space for local groups to meet and socialise, as well as a quiet spot for visitors to enjoy some time alone with coffee and cake.



Celebrating our connection with WAMCF

At Thames Hospice we are proud to be rooted in the heart of our community, welcoming people of every background, belief and tradition.

One of our most meaningful partnerships is with the **Windsor & Maidenhead Community Forum (WAMCF)**, a local interfaith group made up of members from nine different faiths.

Over the past year, we've shared some really special moments together. In the spring, we hosted one of WAMCF's Public Dialogues here at the Hospice – an evening of honest conversation about compassion, end-of-life care, and how different beliefs can help us through tough times. The atmosphere was warm, open and full of respect.

We've also welcomed WAMCF's Women's Group to the Hospice for chats, support, and friendship. These visits have brought people together, breaking down barriers and helping us all learn from each other.

On a more practical level, WAMCF leaders have been fantastic in helping our team understand the spiritual needs and traditions of different communities. Thanks to their advice, we're better equipped to offer truly personalised care to every patient and family we support.

This year, members of WAMCF will also be part of our annual Light up a Life service, sharing prayers and readings that reflect the many different backgrounds of the people we care for.

We're so thankful for this growing friendship. Together, we're making sure Thames Hospice is a welcoming space for everyone.

It takes a whole community!

Café by the Lake - A community favourite for the Holyport Badminton Group

For over 30 years, the Holyport Badminton Group has been more than just a sports club, they're a circle of friends who've supported each other through life's ups and downs. These days, their favourite place to catch up is Café by the Lake.

Set in a beautiful, peaceful spot, the Café offers more than just great coffee and cake. **"It's fresh, airy, and always welcoming,"** says one member. **"Terrific service, great value and the view is stunning."**

But what makes it truly special is the cause it supports. Many members have personal connections to the Hospice, and they love that every visit helps make a difference. **"There's a real warmth here. You feel right at home."**

Whether you're with friends or on your own, you're always welcome. **"It's a place where you can be yourself,"** one member adds. **"And seeing it full of life is uplifting for us, and for the patients too."**

To the Holyport Badminton Group, Café by the Lake isn't just a Café, it's a community treasure, and they're proud to be part of it.



Windsor card group keeps Mondays social

Every Monday, a group of Windsor locals meets at our Café by the Lake for lunch and a few hands of cards. Most have known each other for years through bowls, table tennis, and other community activities. The card group started as a way to stay connected during the quieter winter months – and now, it's become a weekly tradition.

"We wanted something to do indoors when the weather turned," one member said. **"Cards just made sense – and it's a good excuse to catch up."**

All members have a personal link to the Hospice and are keen to support our work. **"It's a cause close to all of us,"** another added.

The Café has become their regular spot – not just for the food, but for the quiet, relaxed setting. On sunny days, they've tried playing outside on the terrace overlooking the lake, but the wind had other plans. **"The cards kept flying off the table – we gave up pretty quickly!"**

Something to eat, a few hands of cards, a lot of laughs and good conversation – it's a simple way that keeps people connected.



Looking for a great spot for your next event?

Our Café is available for private hire, with a beautiful space and delicious catering. Just drop us a line at intouch@thameshospice.org.uk

Events in our community

It takes a whole community!

Craig's five-year quest: From Maidenhead to the Sahara

For Maidenhead resident Craig McLaughlin, his 50th birthday was more than just a milestone – it was the triumphant finish line of an incredible five-year fundraising journey. Craig celebrated by conquering the legendary Marathon Des Sables, a gruelling 250km ultra-marathon across the Sahara Desert, often called the "toughest foot race on earth." This latest feat marks the culmination of his dedication, which has seen him raise over £50,000 for the Hospice in honour of his late father.



Craig's fundraising journey began in 2019 and has included a series of demanding treks across the globe, from the Sahara Challenge to a Grand Canyon trek.

"My involvement with Thames Hospice is deeply personal because they cared for my dad in the last weeks of his life. That experience showed me the unbelievable work they do and the services they provide. There were moments during the race when I genuinely thought I couldn't continue, like when I twisted my knee. But after an incredible 67 hours, crossing that finish line brought a mix of elation, exhaustion, and an overwhelming sense of pride. To know first-hand how this money will help other families gives me the greatest sense of pride."



6-12 October
Hospice Care Week

17 October

Reading Superstore 1 year anniversary celebrations



4 November
Firewalk 2025

30 November
Light up a Life 2025



Throughout December
Reindeer Run

6 December

Maidenhead Homestore
1 year anniversary celebrations



7 December
Santa Dash 2025

15 December
Wellington Christmas Concert



20 December

Andrew Bourn's Christmas
Swing Spectacular



Interested?

If you're interested in any of our events or perhaps thinking of organising your own event visit www.thameshospice.org.uk or email events@thameshospice.org.uk



Scan to find
out more

A community football match for Stacy

In July, our community came together at Arbour Park Stadium to honour the memory of Stacy Olliffe through a charity football match, a heartfelt event organised from scratch by her brother, Harvey Mamode. In just four weeks, Harvey planned every detail of the match, from venue hire to tailored football shirts and ticket sales, all to raise money for the Hospice in memory of his sister, who passed away, age 37, in February 2025.



The event was a huge success, raising over £2,000. The incredible total is a testament to the love and support of everyone who participated. Harvey shared his pride, saying:

"We are incredibly proud to have raised over £2,000 for Thames Hospice with the Stacy Olliffe Charity Match. The Hospice staff were gentle and amazing, and they made Stacy and our family feel at home during a very difficult time. By raising this amount, it was our way of giving back and celebrating Stacy's life and the incredible care she received. It was a beautiful tribute to Stacy, and we're so grateful to everyone who played a part in it."

Strengthening our network of support for the future

At Thames Hospice, we are supported by an incredible web of people – from our staff and volunteers to our fundraisers, supporters and partners. At the core of this network sit our Board of Trustees – a group of unsung heroes who give their time and expertise voluntarily to help guide and govern our charity.

Our Trustees share a common commitment: to safeguard our values and ensure that everyone in our community can access compassionate, high-quality end-of-life care.

The role of our Trustees



Direct the affairs of the charity, ensuring we meet our strategic objectives while complying with Charity Law and the Charity Commission.



Bring an incredible breadth of skills and experience from the medical, commercial and charity sectors.



Act as custodians of our constitution and rules, safeguarding our future.



Champion quality and excellence, building the reputation of Thames Hospice through their leadership.



Steer the direction of Thames Hospice, always looking ahead to the needs of our community.

Thank you Chris, welcome Katharine



This year we say a heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Chair, Chris Aitken, who has served Thames Hospice with dedication since 2012, including three years as Chair. Chris has made an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the Hospice.

"It has been a privilege to serve Thames Hospice over the past 14 years and to witness first-hand the extraordinary difference it makes to so many local families. Our Trustees may work quietly behind the scenes, but we are united by a passion to ensure the Hospice continues to thrive for generations to come. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together."



In December 2025, Katharine Horler OBE will become our new Chair. Katharine brings a wealth of leadership and governance experience, as well as a deeply personal connection to hospice care. Having volunteered with us for the past 18 months, she knows our Hospice well and shares our vision for the future.

"I'm delighted and honoured to be appointed Chair. It's a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the leadership of this amazing organisation."

Welcoming our new Trustees

We are also delighted to welcome four new Trustees, who will formally join the Board this November



Andy Burgess A career spanning global commercial leadership and digital innovation, and a long-standing personal commitment to fundraising for the Hospice.



James Breckenridge Retail Director at John Lewis, bringing extensive experience in leadership, customer service and operational excellence, as well as personal experience of hospice care.



Dr Lalitha Iyer Chief Medical Officer at NHS Frimley Integrated Care Board and practising GP. Passionate about tackling inequalities and delivering integrated, person-centred care.



Dr Adrian Hayter GP Partner and Medical Director at the Royal College of General Practitioners. Over 30 years' experience and a strong focus on integrated palliative care and population health.

We are grateful too to **Bruce Montgomery** who stepped down in August and **Dr Judith Kinder**, who will step down from the Board at the end of this year after many years of dedicated service.

To find out more about our Board of Trustees, please visit www.thameshospice.org.uk/ourtrustees

Our Patrons and Ambassadors

We are proud to be championed by our Hospice Patrons and incredible group of Ambassadors. Their voices and presence help us raise awareness, inspire our community and ensure every family feels supported.



Ross Kemp (since 2018), **Anita Dobson** (since 2016) and **Sue Holderness** (since the very beginning in 1987) have dedicated countless hours meeting patients and families, attending events and shining a light on our work. Their commitment over the years has been truly invaluable.

This year we welcomed new Hospice Ambassadors



Lieutenant General Philip Jones CB CBE DL, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, who brings decades of public service and strong local ties. He is already helping raise awareness and support through his leadership and community connections.



The Rt Hon. Baroness Theresa May of Maidenhead, a passionate supporter of Thames Hospice for more than a decade. From leading our 2020 capital appeal to advocating for hospice care nationally, she plays a vital role in helping us grow and thrive.

Together, our Patrons and Ambassadors remind us that it truly does take a whole community to ensure every local family can access the compassion and care they deserve.

Meet all our Hospice Ambassadors here www.thameshospice.org.uk/ourambassadors

Our new Christmas cards have arrived!

Our beautiful new Christmas card collection has landed! From snowy scenes of Windsor Castle to charming festive robins, we hope we've captured the magic of Christmas in each card.

Whether you're shopping online, in one of our stores or visiting the Hospice, every card you buy helps fund our care for tomorrow.



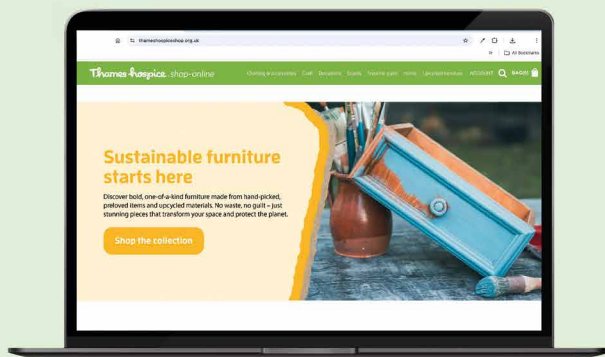
Have you discovered our Online Shop?

Our Online Shop has had a fabulous makeover from hand-selected fashion, stylishly upcycled furniture, elegant homeware, and gift ideas that stand out. Beautiful finds are now just a click away.

Time for a little browse?
Start exploring today!

Thames hospice

Smart. Stylish. Sustainable



Shop online at

www.thameshospiceshop.org.uk
or scan the QR code