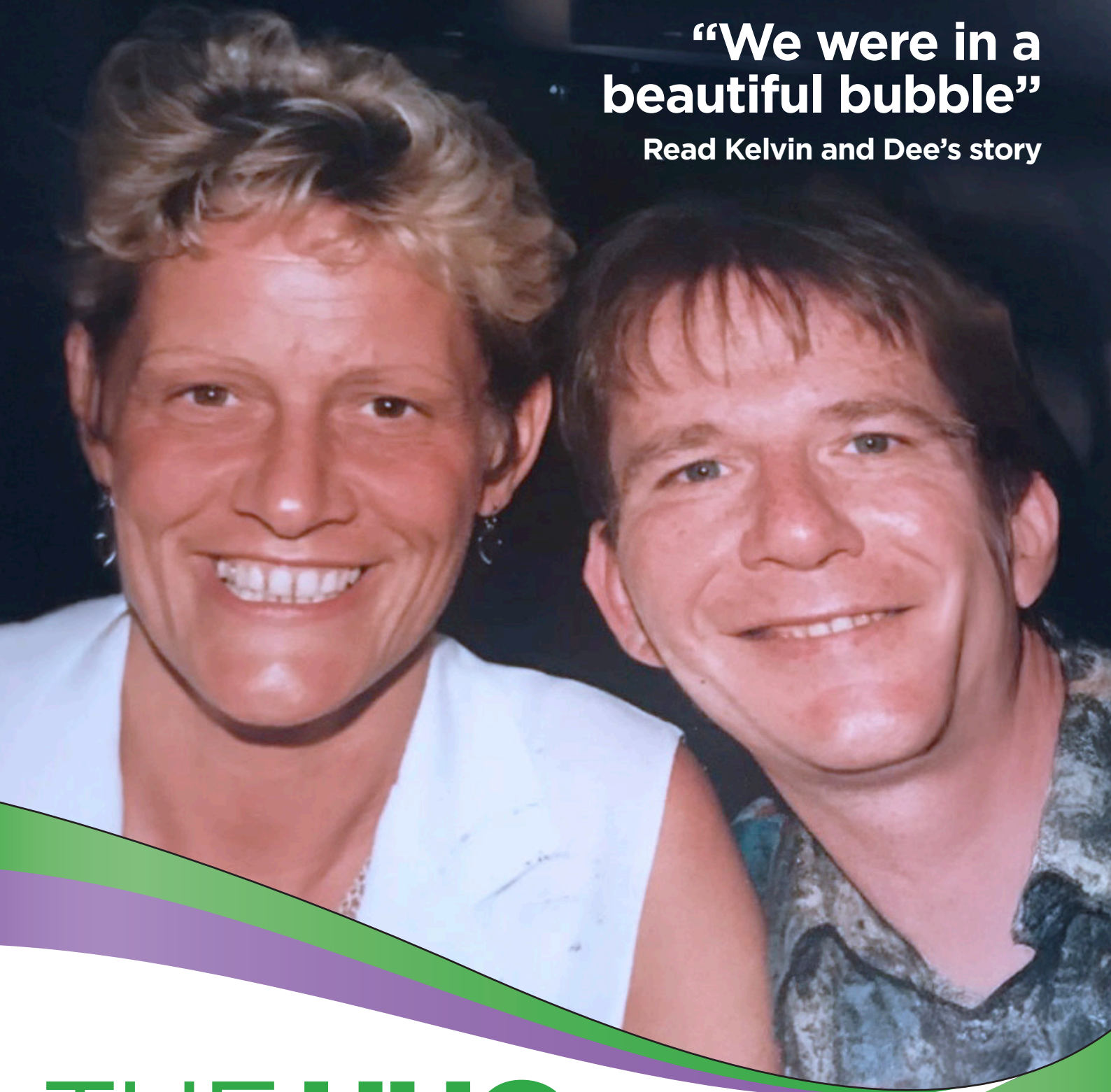


Prospect Hospice

together making every day count

**“We were in a
beautiful bubble”**

Read Kelvin and Dee’s story



THE HUG

Good news from Prospect Hospice

SUMMER 2025

This is Hospice Care



1 in 7

of our patients is cared for thanks to gifts in wills.

Leave a gift in your will and help protect hospice care in your local area – for all, for now, forever.

For 45 years, we've been committed to providing compassionate care and support for local patients and families. But we just couldn't do this without people like you choosing to leave us a gift in your will.

Our care at Prospect Hospice is completely free of charge – just 18% of our funding comes from the government. With rising costs and growing demand for our services, gifts in wills are more important than ever.

Today, 1 in 7 of our patients is cared for thanks to gifts in wills. And every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

With a gift in your will, you can help make sure we can be there for everyone who needs us, now and in the future. And you can ensure our compassionate and specialist hospice care lives on for future generations.

If you're interested in leaving your legacy for the future of Prospect Hospice, we would love to hear from you. Our partner Octopus Legacy can even help you write or update your will for free.

Just call us on 01793 816190 or email ameliachannon@prospect-hospice.net

prospect-hospice.net/yourgift

DOWNLOAD YOUR **Making a Will Guide**

For more on how to leave a gift to Prospect Hospice, get your free guide today.

Welcome to THE HUG



Summer is in the air, which is always a time for optimism.

Even in the face of enormous financial pressures, we've delivered outstanding care for over 2,000 patients and their families in the last year. And that's all thanks to your incredible support.

This year, I hope you'll continue to join in and help us to care for more people in your community.

Over the last 12 months, your generosity helped us to raise more money than at any time in our 45-year history. Thanks to you, we've not had to cut services like other hospices – it's that simple.

You also raised your voices to highlight how hospice funding has not risen in real terms for over a decade.

Last year we received one-off grants from the government to cover service and care delivery. Unfortunately, we won't get these same grants again this year.

This year, it will cost us **£10,000,000** to make sure our services are available for thousands of people at the end of life who will need our care. Just 18% of this will come from government funding.

There's no getting away from the fact that we need your continuing support. Please don't forget that,

whether you are playing our raffle, donating to our shops, volunteering your precious time or taking part in a fundraising event, you are genuinely making a difference to the lives of people in your community.

This year, we'd love for you to join us as we celebrate our 45th anniversary. In 1980, the Reverend Derryck Evans saw an urgent need to provide specialist end-of-life care for people in your community, and his vision remains at the heart of everything that we do. Find out how you can get involved on page 8.

In the meantime, and from all of us at Prospect Hospice, thank you so much for your continued support.

Jeremy Lune – Chief Executive

Thanks to you, you are making a difference!

A legacy of care at the end of life



Stef Evans and her sisters meeting Her Majesty Queen Camilla during her visit to Prospect Hospice

Our founder, the Reverend Derryck Evans, had a vision of compassionate care for people at the end of their life. Here, Derryck's daughter Stef remembers her father's legacy for people across Swindon and beyond.



Dignity and respect

"Dad would be thrilled to see how many patients Prospect Hospice helps today. He actually died at the hospice, too – as for so many families, the experience was managed so well, and we were all supported brilliantly. He just loved it at the hospice, and saw it as a great privilege to talk to other families about their treatment and care."

"He very much believed that every one of us should have the care, dignity and respect we need at the time of our death. As demand for Prospect's care grows, Dad would be passionate about continuing to support people when they need it most."

"My Dad was a Methodist minister who moved to Swindon in the 1970s. He saw his role as serving the local community, and particularly people in the most need. While working as Chaplain at Princess Margaret Hospital, he became very upset at seeing so many people suffering at the end of their life.

"And so he and Campbell Drysdale, a consultant at the hospital, decided to seek the advice of the founder of the modern hospice movement, Cicely Saunders. They then pulled together the doctors, nurses, administrators and social workers they needed to establish this idea of a hospice in Swindon, back in 1980.

"Kelvin died happy – and that gives me such relief."

Your kindness means we can do all we can for people like Kelvin at the end of their life. His partner, Dee, shares their story.

"35 years after we met, Kelvin was still making me laugh. He was the life and soul of the party, a joker, and everyone's friend."

"We were looking forward to retiring, travelling, and living life at a slower pace when Kelvin first began to feel ill. After lots of tests we discovered he had stage 4 Oesophageal cancer. We were all devastated – our future plans were shattered."

"We soon realised Kelvin was too ill to nurse at home. He was familiar with Prospect Hospice, and he'd always wanted to die at home or at the hospice. We called Prospect and Maria, the Clinical Nurse Specialist, called us straight back.

"Everyone was so kind"

"After explaining our situation, she came to visit Kelvin that afternoon and from that moment a weight was taken off us as a family. We were so lucky to be given a bed at the hospice.

"When we arrived at the hospice a doctor was waiting for us. It's been said a million times, but everyone at Prospect was so kind. It was like nothing we'd experienced so far. Not only did the team look after Kelvin, get him on the right pain meds and prepare him for what was to come, they also looked after me and our family.

"We were in a beautiful bubble"

"To begin with, I wouldn't move from Kelvin's side, and the nurses brought me food and drinks. On the first day I was hunched over his bed for 12 hours. When I eventually straightened up I couldn't move my shoulders.

"I mentioned this to a nurse in passing, and they arranged a massage for me! It was bliss. I was so exhausted mentally and physically, I actually fell asleep during the treatment!

"Kelvin's room overlooked the stunning hospice gardens and one morning we saw a deer, just outside our room. The gardens were so peaceful and tranquil. Like a stepping stone. We felt like we were in a beautiful bubble.

"We could say a proper goodbye"

"Kelvin was at the hospice for eight days, and during that time we were able to say a proper goodbye. Some days he was bright and lucid, others he was tired and dreamy. But we were with him, he was comfortable, and he was at peace.

"I miss him every minute of the day, but I am so grateful to Maria and all the team at Prospect Hospice. I don't know how we would have managed without their care, and it gives me such relief to know Kelvin died happy."



Dee and Kelvin

THE HUG: NEWS

How you made a difference last year

YOU HELPED
RAISE NEARLY
£6m
for the hospice!

Your support has helped us do so much in the last year. You helped us save the hospice and make sure vital services were there to care for people at the end of life.

Last year we cared for around **2000** patients and family members.

Prospect Hospice's community nurse specialists, palliative care assistants, therapists and doctors completed **3,962** individual patient home visits.

We cared for **750** adults and children through the bereavement and family specialist support teams helping them cope with the death of a loved one.

The care we provided was made possible by the money raised from the community.

In memory of their loved ones, many sent gifts which came to **£350,000** that helped us care for hundreds of patients throughout the year.

We saw many of you join in walks, fundraise and partner with us to help raise over **£1,226,000**.

You also gave to our appeals, played the lottery, and bought from the Prospect Hospice shops!

All together we raised nearly **£6,000,000**.

Thank you for all your incredible support!

Why your support is needed more than ever

Last year, your amazing generosity meant we didn't cut any services, despite huge challenges. You kept us going, including by using your voice to help us to secure one-off government grants that will cover some of our costs.

But the fight is not over. We won't get these grants again, and the funding we receive from government covers just 18% of what we need to run the hospice. We must rely on our wonderful local community for the remaining 82%.

At Prospect we've got capacity for 12 beds but can only afford to open six. We're helping to alleviate the pressure on the NHS - but we need proper funding to do it.

This is why your continued support is so important - and so appreciated. With you on our side, we can keep our doors open - and ensure we have the people and resources to provide outstanding care for patients and loved ones in our region.

Cliffhanging hero abseils for hospice care

Last December, a local man living with terminal lung cancer abseiled down a cliff to raise funds for Prospect Hospice. Despite having only one lung, the incredible Melvin Camden took on the challenge to support our charity because "I know they will be there for me and my family when we need them most".

"Prospect Hospice is a fantastic charity," he added, "I hope that my abseil will inspire others to join me in supporting their vital work." Jeremy Lune, Prospect CEO, said: "Melvin's adventure shows us all that life is there for living."

At the time of going to print, Melvin's courage had already raised **£780**, inspiring his children to continue the fundraising effort with a marathon and virtual walk.



We welcomed Her Majesty the Queen

We were honoured to welcome our President, Her Majesty the Queen, to the hospice in January. She met with patients, families, staff and volunteers, cut a cake to celebrate our **45th anniversary**, and unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the opening of our education centre in honour of our founder Derryck Evans. She also went on to praise the care we provide, and recognised that "there aren't nearly enough hospices in the country".

"If we were to sum up the Royal visit in one word, it would be wow!" said our CEO, Jeremy Lune. "We are incredibly grateful to Her Majesty for such a wonderful and memorable day. The hospice funding model isn't fit for purpose and for Queen Camilla to acknowledge that is incredibly motivational for us."



You helped to Light Up a Life

Our community helped to raise an amazing **£86,000** during our Light Up a Life appeal last Christmas. That's enough to fund 95 days of outstanding care and support for people at the end of life. Thank you so much to everyone who donated - everyone here at Prospect is so grateful.

Last year, we were all inspired by the moving story of Pippa, Tom and their young family. When Tom passed away in December 2023, Prospect was able to care for them all. "With their help, we could spend some golden time together," said Pippa. "It was such a huge thing for our family."

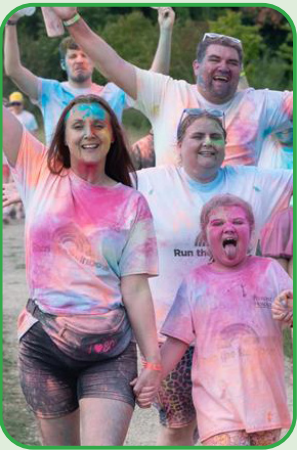
"I've been incredibly moved by all your kind messages and donations in response to Tom's story," she added. "Your kindness makes such a difference for families like mine."

What's happening



Step out into the Starlight

Join hundreds of walkers for our Starlight Walk on **Saturday 28 June**, and raise urgently needed funds to care for people at the end of life. You can walk a choice of 10km or 15km and it's a wonderful opportunity to get together with friends and family and make some fantastic memories. The walk takes place at dusk and there will be beautiful lighting and a point of reflection along the way. Sign up today at: prospect-hospice.net/starlight



Run the Rainbow

Bring the colour and joy to Lydiard Park on **Saturday 16 August**, and Run the Rainbow for Prospect Hospice. Runners, joggers and walkers of all ages and abilities will navigate through a 5km course filled with lively colour stations, each adding a splash of brightness to your journey, your face and your special Run the Rainbow t-shirt! It's a wonderful chance for families, friends and solo runners to celebrate and support a great cause. Sign up now: prospect-hospice.net/rainbow



Run for a Reason: Swindon Half Marathon

We're proud to be the chosen charity for this year's Swindon Half Marathon on **Sunday 28 September!** Take on a rewarding course through town and countryside, with every mile helping to provide essential hospice care in our community. Whether you're chasing a personal best or your first finish line, this is your chance to run with heart and purpose. prospect-hospice.net/swindonhalf

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Registered charity number: 280093
Company registration: 1494909

