

# “Turning to the hospice was the best decision we ever made”

Read Stu and Lisa’s story



## What’s inside...

Community champions | Hospice heroes | Upcoming events

# Welcome to The Hug

## We're so glad you're here

Every story we share in these pages exists because of your support. You make a real difference to the lives of patients and families, and we want you to see the impact of your kindness.

Thank you for being part of our community. You truly are at the heart of everything we do.

## The difference you've made

In the past year, your support has made all the difference.



**1,962**

People cared for when it mattered most



**444**

People helped find comfort through therapy



**155**

People supported after the loss of a loved one



**638**

People looked after through specialist nurse visits

A big thank you!

## Thank you from our Chief Executive

### Because of you, our care continues

#### Did you know that only 18% of our funding comes from the government?

We're going into another year full of optimism. And that's because of you.

It's been a challenging year for hospices across the country. In fact, four in ten hospices are now considering devastating cuts. We've had to watch as others have announced service closures, and we've felt the pain this has caused families, carers and community members. Thanks to your support, we haven't had to make those difficult decisions.

We continue to provide personalised care to patients. We continue to offer bereavement support to families. And we continue to be there for our community every day.

Your support makes this possible. But it's not just about putting money in a collection box. It's about taking part in our events, donating goods to our shops, leaving gifts in your wills and so much more. It's about the community groups who raise funds and local businesses who provide skills. It's about every single person who gives their time, shares their energy and offers their resources. There's not a day that goes by where I'm not inspired by your kindness.

These are just a few examples of the support we receive. But there's one day that has stayed with me. And that's Giving Tuesday. We started with an ambitious goal of raising and matching £40,000. We ended with a total of £100,000. That's an astonishing amount to raise in one day! We are so grateful for our supporters.



Despite that, we are still under immense financial pressure. And we know we're not alone. There are so many individuals, households and businesses dealing with cost-of-living challenges. This makes us even more grateful for your ongoing support. You are making such a massive difference to the lives of others, including friends, families, neighbours and work colleagues.

On their behalf and from all of us at Prospect Hospice,

Thank you

Jeremy, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Together, we're making every day count.

# Who your support helps

## Stu's story

**You may remember my husband, Stu. He was always so determined. That's one of the things I loved the most about him.**

When he left school, he studied really hard at his apprenticeship, learning his trade and building his skills. He went on to work incredibly hard in his job, taking pride in what he did. That same sense of commitment followed him onto the rugby and cricket fields, where he trained hard, turned up for his team and always gave his best. He was never one to do things by halves.

When he was diagnosed with bowel cancer, that determination stayed with him. He wanted each day to feel as normal as possible. He still wanted to be there for our children, taking them on holiday, picking them up from school and cheering them on from the touchline at rugby matches. He loved them so much, and nothing was more important to him than making them happy.



While he coped with the treatments and surgeries, it pained him to think of us suffering due to his illness.

**That's why turning to the hospice was the best decision we ever made.**

Prospect Hospice tended to his every need. They helped to manage his symptoms and



Stu and Lisa

ease his suffering. One of the nurses even researched Star Trek, so that she could connect with him in his final days. I was overwhelmed by her compassion.

**But they didn't just care for Stu. They looked after me and our children as well.**

When one of our boys started struggling with school, they made sure we had the support we needed. Our family support worker, Dave, became like an extension of our family. I will always be so grateful for his kindness.

**When Stu was offered a bed at the hospice, I knew it was the best place for him.**

He became very unwell, very quickly. Before I knew it, we were at the hospice to say our final goodbyes. Dave was by my side, and helped me prepare the children for what was to come. I don't know how I would have coped without him.

**Knowing that we were looked after was such a comfort for Stu.**

It's been over a year since Stu died and Prospect Hospice continues to hold our hand. I receive bereavement counselling and I know they are always here if the children need support. That long-lasting care has been our safety blanket, giving us the strength we need to come to terms with our grief.

Prospect Hospice was there for us during our darkest times. They wrapped a loving arm around us then, and they've been by our side ever since.

# Who your support empowers

## Jane's story

**It's the people. They make all the difference.**

I've been a nurse for over 43 years. And almost 30 of those have been spent at Prospect Hospice.

When I first started here, hospice care was completely new to me. But what struck me was that it wasn't about the medicine, treatments or equipment. It was about the people. It was about talking to the patients, being there for their families and walking alongside them during some of the most difficult times in their lives. That focus on people stayed with me, and it still does today.

**I am so proud of what we have achieved.**

Over the years, I've been fortunate to work across different parts of the hospice, from working on our In-Patient Unit (IPU) to leading our Prospect@ Home team. Developing the at home service has been particularly meaningful to me. What started as a small idea has grown into a valuable service for patients and their families. For me, being able to support families is just as important, as the impressions we make will stay with them forever.

**I really love being an ambassador for the hospice.**

A few years ago, the matron role came up. In this role, I have oversight of all the community facing nurses across the hospice, as well as clinical admin. While I don't get to spend as much time with patients, I do get to teach the next generation of nurses to provide the best possible care. This way, I'm still making a



Jane Green,  
Matron

difference in people's lives. I don't think there's anything more rewarding than that.

**I always had a sense that I was in the right job.**

Throughout my career, I have always known that this was the right job for me. There's a real sense of purpose in this work. Knowing that you're helping people to live as fully as possible, even in their final days. There's nothing else quite like it. Being part of that journey with patients and their families is so fulfilling, and it's what has kept me here all these years.

**The people will stay with me forever.**

In the next couple of months, I'll be retiring. It's such a bittersweet feeling!

I've been lucky to work with some brilliant people, from those that mentored me at the beginning of my career to those that I have supported in my role as matron. I've also met some incredible patients and families, whose strength and warmth have stayed with me long after our time together. Caring for them has been one of the greatest privileges of my career.

I feel so grateful to our supporters for my time at Prospect Hospice. I know I'm going to miss it more than I can put into words. But I'll carry the people I've met here with me, always.

**At Prospect Hospice, there's this sense that we're all in it together. That's something I have found really special about working here.**

With your support, we can continue to care for families like Stu and Lisa's.

[prospect-hospice.net/donate](https://prospect-hospice.net/donate)



# Community champions

We're celebrating the champions in our community, whose effort makes a real difference to the patients and families in our care.

## April

April made it her mission to raise funds. Using social media, she shared her personal story and her fundraising efforts. From cold dips to elf antics, **she has raised an incredible £5,790.**

We think she is such an inspiration for others.



## Paula

Paula completed a wing walk for her 50th birthday! Not only did she take to the skies, but **she also raised an amazing £1,284.**

We thought this was a wonderful way to mark such a special milestone.



## Barry

Barry completed a marathon in his own garden, at the age of 71. **He walked 420 laps of his garden, raising £1,800.** And he did that while pushing a wheelbarrow covered in festive decorations.

We are so impressed by his determination!



## Kristy and Kala

Kristy and Kala set up The Becky Rowland Tribute Fund in memory of their mum, who was cared for at the hospice ten years ago.

**Through their efforts, they have raised an incredible £27,000.**

Last year, they even received the Highly Commended Award in the BBC Wiltshire Active Category at the Make a Difference Awards.

We thought this was such a lovely tribute to their mum.



## Eileen and Tony

Eileen and Tony have been transforming their home for Halloween for 19 years. And for the past five years, they have also been raising funds for Prospect Hospice, in memory of their heroic son, Harry. Over that time, they have raised more than £3,000 for the hospice! This year's theme was Gringotts Bank from Harry Potter, complete with Bellatrix guarding her vault of treasure. **With the help of family, friends and hospice volunteers, they raised over £800 in one night.**

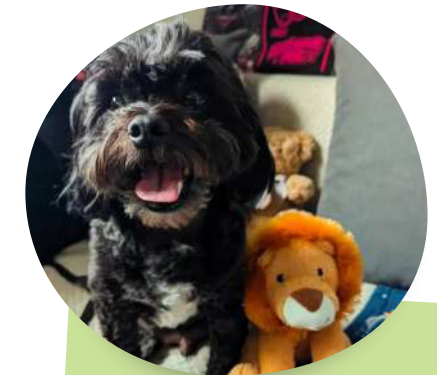
We can't wait to see what they come up with next!



## Gemma

Gemma adopted a dog from one of our patients. When Gene came into our care, her beloved dog Harley needed a new home. That's when **Gemma stepped in with an incredible act of kindness.**

We think Harley really landed on his paws!



Have you been **inspired by our Community Champions?**  
You could be one too.

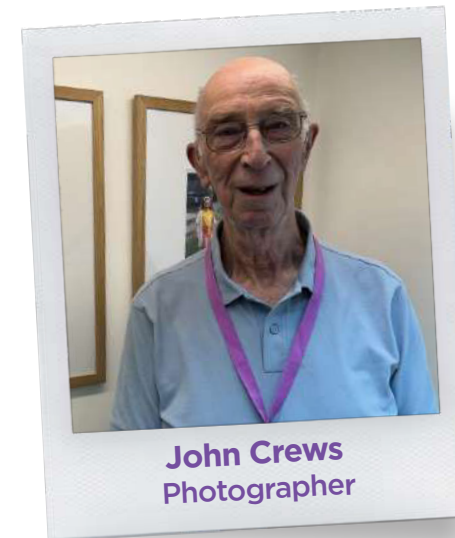
[prospect-hospice.net/fundraising](https://prospect-hospice.net/fundraising)



# Hospice heroes

We're shining a light on our hospice heroes, who volunteer their time to support patients, families and our teams.

"I began volunteering because I needed work experience. But even after I changed my career path, I kept coming to the hospice every week. **I didn't realise just how much of an impact volunteering has on you.**"

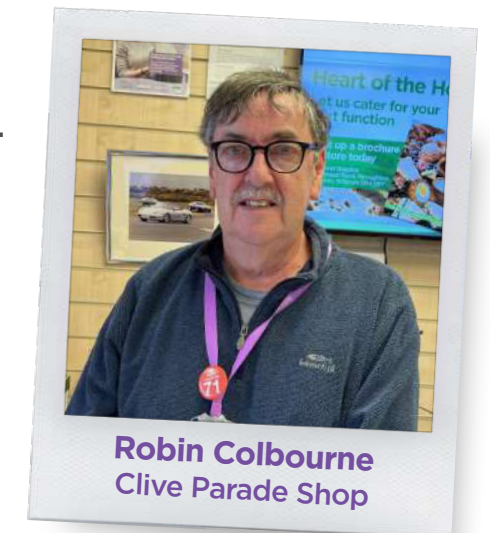


"My daughter, Emma, was cared for by Prospect Hospice. My family and I were supported so incredibly well during this time. So, I knew I wanted to give back when I retired. As a photographer at fundraising events, **I really enjoy the variety of people I meet** and the flexibility that volunteering offers."



"I thoroughly enjoy greeting patients and visitors. Prospect Hospice is a wonderful, warm and caring environment, not only for patients and their families, but also the volunteers who enjoy giving back to the community. **I look forward to coming in every week.**"

"I really enjoy volunteering at my local shop. There's a wide range of ages, backgrounds and skills across our team, and **it's great to see younger and older people working together.** The positive atmosphere and support that we give each other makes it feel like a second family."



"Since retiring, **I thoroughly enjoy the social contact with colleagues and customers.** Volunteering in my local shop also enables me to maintain past skills and learn new ones, all in a friendly and supportive environment."



"There is such a lovely atmosphere in the café. And it's good to know that we are not only providing great food but also helping support the hospice's amazing work. I would say to anyone considering joining us to come and **give it a try, you will really enjoy being part of the team** and supporting Prospect Hospice!"

Are you interested in volunteering?  
**You could become a Hospice Hero.**

[prospect-hospice.net/volunteering](https://prospect-hospice.net/volunteering)



# Memories we've made

## Looking back on past activities

We've shared some unforgettable moments over the past few months, raising funds and creating memories together.



### Light up a Life

Through our Light up a Life appeal, you helped ensure we can be there for families when they need us most. **Your generosity raised more than £81,000**, allowing us to continue supporting patients and their loved ones. We were all inspired by Katie and Steve's story, which showed the care, courage and compassion at the heart of this appeal.

### Remembrance service

At our annual remembrance service, we came together to celebrate those we have lost. It was a chance to remember how much light our loved ones brought into our lives. **With over 300 in attendance**, it was a wonderful reminder of how important this service is each year.



### Giving Tuesday

On Giving Tuesday, **our community helped raise over £100,000!** As part of our Light up a Life appeal, this was a huge amount to receive in one day. It completely blew us away! We are so grateful for everyone who played a part in this amazing achievement.

### Christmas Tree Collections

In January, we collected and recycled **1,500 Christmas trees, raising over £32,000** and saving around 18 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is equivalent to the average petrol vehicle driving 132,000km! This simply wouldn't have been possible without our team of volunteers. We feel so lucky to have such kind supporters!



# Moments we'll share

## Looking ahead to future events

We've got some exciting events coming up, giving you the opportunity to take part and have fun.

### NEW EVENT!

### Men's Walk, 18th April

Our Men's Walk offers a supportive space for men to walk, talk and check in with one another. It's been built around the simple idea that walking can make it easier to open up. The **eight-mile walk** will start at Prospect Hospice and finish at the County Ground, where you will be invited to watch Swindon Town vs Accrington Stanley.

# MEN'S WALK

TO SUPPORT

Whether you come on your own or bring along a friend, it's a chance to spend time with others and raise vital funds for hospice care. Every step you take helps us be there for patients and families when they need us most.



### Starlight Walk, 27th June

Our Starlight Walk is a magical evening. With lights and lanterns to illuminate your path, you can experience **a truly special walk** under the stars.



### London Landmarks, 12th April

The London Landmarks Half Marathon takes you past some of the most iconic sights in the capital. As part of Team Prospect, you could **achieve something incredible**.



### Swindon Half, 27th September

The Swindon Half Marathon winds through the city and surrounding countryside. As a member of Team Prospect, **we would be by your side** for every step of this scenic challenge.

Have you taken part in our events?  
Your support makes all the difference.

[prospect-hospice.net/events](https://prospect-hospice.net/events)



# Leave a gift for future generations

“After mum passed away, we felt that if anyone else had to go through this, then we would want them to receive the care that we did at Prospect Hospice.”

- Hannah, Gift in Will Supporter



Hannah, her mum and family

**1 in 7** of our patients is cared for thanks to gifts in wills

**Prospect Hospice**

together making every day count

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A gift in your will helps us provide care for patients and families for generations to come. Every legacy makes a lasting difference.

Find out more about leaving a gift in your will:  
[prospect-hospice.net/gifts-in-wills](https://prospect-hospice.net/gifts-in-wills)

**THE HUG**  
Good news from Prospect Hospice

SPRING/SUMMER  
NEWSLETTER 2026