

Willow Wood Hospice  
**TOGETHER**



[willowwood.org.uk](http://willowwood.org.uk)

Issue **No. 3**

Registered Charity No 1029318

AUTUMN/  
WINTER  
**2024**

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**NEW SERVICES**  
ACUPUNCTURE  
HEALTH CARE PLAN



Autumn / Winter 2024

# Dear Community,



## I warmly welcome you to the autumn/winter edition of our 'Together' newsletter.

Reflecting on my first 100 days as Chief Executive Officer, I am filled with gratitude and optimism for our future. These initial months have been incredibly busy meeting our dedicated staff and volunteers, who are the heart and soul of the organisation.

Engaging with our workforce is essential for our collective success. The perspectives and contributions of all our stakeholders are crucial to define our shared priorities and develop our five-year strategic plan.

By fostering a culture of open communication and collaboration, we can ensure that every voice is heard and every idea is valued, helping us innovate, improve patient care, and strengthen our community presence.

I am also grateful to our statutory and strategic partners who have visited us recently. Their support and collaboration are pivotal as we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We face significant financial challenges, and addressing these will require creativity and determination. I am committed to working with our system partners locally and across Greater Manchester, but we need our community's support now more than ever. Your continued backing and support with fundraising are absolutely crucial.

To our Board of Trustees, thank you for your unwavering guidance and support. Your leadership is fundamental to our mission. We are currently inviting applications from skilled and experienced people to join our talented Board of Trustees, who together will lead with curiosity to shape our future.

Together, we will build on the strong foundation that makes Willow Wood Hospice a place of compassion and excellence in our community. I am excited about the journey ahead and the positive impact we will make together.

With warm regards,

*Tracy Minshull*  
CEO

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*Together we care*

Scan here to meet  
Tracy Minshull, CEO



This magazine has been printed on  
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# TEEN VOLUNTEER RAISES £3,800 FOR WILLOW WOOD HOSPICE

**Fifteen-year-old Neev Patel from Ashton-under-Lyne has raised an impressive £3,800 for Willow Wood Hospice through a charity event she organised at Ashton Rugby Club.**

With over 100 attendees, the Year 11 student from Hulme Grammar School managed the entire event, securing raffle prizes including a £200 Booking.com voucher, and hosting an auction where one prize fetched £300.

Neev has been volunteering at Willow Wood's Waterloo shop since she was 13 as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. What started as a three-month commitment turned into two years of service, as she continues to donate her time each weekend.

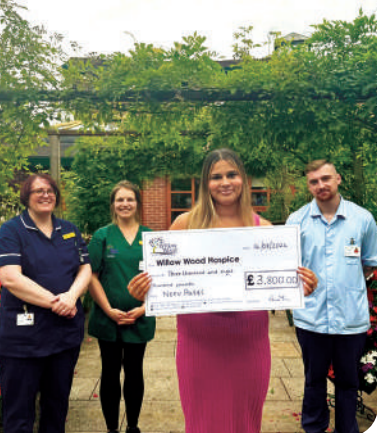
Her connection to the Hospice runs deep, having been introduced to its work through her mother, a local nurse.

*"I've always felt a bond with Willow Wood, especially after it helped my grandad," Neev shared. "Volunteering has taught me so much, from social skills to building friendships with fellow volunteers, some in their 70s."*

Neev encourages other young people to volunteer, highlighting the personal growth and skills she's gained.

With plans to pursue marine biology, she is committed to continuing her charity work alongside her studies.

*"Willow Wood is a lovely place, and everyone there is so kind," Neev concluded.*





# HIGH SHERIFF DELIVERS SPECIAL AWARD

**We were honoured to receive a Special Recognition Award from the High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Dr Eamonn O'Neal DL, during our 25th anniversary year.**

The award, presented to our CEO Tracy Minshull, celebrated Willow Wood's "outstanding contribution to the community" and acknowledged the "appreciation of the people of Greater Manchester for your altruistic acts of thoughtfulness and kindness."

Dr O'Neal DL was warmly welcomed by staff, volunteers, and trustees in the Hospice's garden room. He expressed his gratitude for their service

and highlighted the significance of their work. During his visit, he toured our beautiful gardens with Head Gardener Sophie Cordingley and her team, spoke with patients, and explored our Inpatient Unit, The Hive, counselling rooms, and complementary therapy suites.

Dr O'Neal praised the warmth and friendliness of everyone he met and encouraged others to visit Willow Wood to experience it for themselves.



## HAPPY RETIREMENT, JANET

**We recently bid a fond farewell to Janet Breslin, who retired after 25 years of dedicated service.**

Janet joined the Hospice in August 1999, a month before the Inpatient Unit opened, and has been part of the Willow Wood family ever since.

She has worked as a sister on the IPU, in triage and as Wellbeing Team Leader, helping to develop various services.

Reflecting on her time, Janet said: "Willow Wood has been a big part of my life, and I'm grateful for the incredible people I've worked with."

Everyone at Willow Wood extends heartfelt thanks to Janet for her long service and wishes her a happy and healthy retirement.



Scan here



To read these stories in full, visit our website  
[www.willowwood.org.uk/latest-news](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/latest-news)

Autumn / Winter 2024

# OUR COMMUNITY CARES!

With £8 in every £10 needed to run the Hospice coming from our community fundraisers, your support is vital! Here are just a few of those terrific supporters...



## COMMUNITY FOCUSED FANCY-DRESS FUNDRAISERS! FANTASTIC!

An energetic and enthusiastic group of 12 young people from Hyde Fire Station's Prince's Trust programme brought smiles to Willow Wood Hospice with a vibrant fancy-dress walk, raising over £1,000. After two days volunteering at the Hospice, they donned the quirky costumes they found at Willow Wood's Distribution Centre and embarked on a 3.5-mile trek under the July sun. Joined by Civic Mayor of Tameside, Cllr Betty Affleck, they received a warm welcome from Hospice staff and volunteers. Later, at Dukinfield Town Hall, the group presented a £1,443.81 cheque to Willow Wood and shared how the programme boosted their confidence and inspired community giving.



## GALLONS OF SUPPORT FROM GEE CROSS PUB!

Lots of summer fun at The Joshua Bradley to raise funds for Willow Wood Hospice – cheers!



## RETAIL THERAPY FOR WILLOW WOOD!

From a sci-fi day to pre-loved school uniform scheme, the Ladysmith Shopping Centre in Ashton-under-Lyne continue its support for the Hospice. Amazing!



## SAVE THE DATE BUNNY HOP EASTER 2025

Register your interest today!



## HADFIELD COUPLE TRIUMPHS IN PEAK DISTRICT ULTRA CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Hayley Kelsall and Louis Worthington from Hadfield, who completed the 50km Peak District Ultra Challenge in July this year. Their incredible effort raised over £2,000 for Willow Wood Hospice, smashing their original target of £750.

In memory of Hayley's mum Sharon, Hayley and Louis braved Derbyshire's tough weather and stunning scenery, raising vital support for Willow Wood's exceptional care. Their achievement honours Sharon's memory and helps others receive compassionate care at Willow Wood. Thank you.

# TOGETHER WE LEARN

Led by Clinical Educator Rachael Grimwood, the Education department at Willow Wood Hospice aims to ensure our workforce - both clinical and non-clinical - are equipped to provide the best care to patients with life-limiting illnesses and those closest to them.

Through training tailored to each department on essential topics such as symptom management, communication, bereavement support, dementia care, and spiritual guidance, our teams stay informed and up-to-date. This approach guarantees that everyone receives the knowledge and skills they need to excel in their roles, contributing to the overall quality of care we provide.

This education enables us to offer compassionate, patient-centred care that meets the unique needs of each individual, while also fostering growth and confidence, ensuring everyone is well prepared in their roles. Whether it's doctors, nurses, or non-clinical staff like administrators, housekeepers, or volunteers, everyone at Willow Wood plays a crucial role in delivering the highest quality of care.

## DYSPHAGIA POP-UP

Our staff and volunteers learned about dysphagia, a swallowing disorder that can affect our patients, through hands-on training with thickened drinks and pureed foods. Thanks to our Dysphagia Champions for this valuable session.



## DYING MATTERS WEEK

Supporting Hospice UK's Dying Matters campaign, focusing on **"Language around death and dying"** and showcasing our services across the borough.



If you would like more information about our training packages, contact Rachael Grimwood on

**0161 330 1100**

or email [education@willowwood.org.uk](mailto:education@willowwood.org.uk)



## A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO REMEMBER

A summer's day in July saw our tranquil gardens play host to our annual Butterfly Memory Release. An event dedicated to celebrating the lives of loved ones, friends and families gathered together to release hundreds of butterflies, each one symbolising the memory of someone special to them.

Our community came together, unified in reflection, to honour those they hold dear and to raise the essential funds needed to provide compassionate and dignified care for someone else's loved one.

Thank you to everyone who made this occasion memorable, releasing over 500 butterflies and helping to raise over £17,000.00.



## GOLFERS DRIVE HOME OVER £8K FUNDRAISER!

A sunny Friday in August saw 23 teams of golfers come together to support Willow Wood Hospice, raising a fantastic £8,825 on the day. From teeing off to sinking putts, each player-from the occasional double bogey to the eagle-eyed pros-played their part in driving home the message of support for our patients. With a range of skill levels, from the below-par to the ace-makers, everyone contributed to making the event a hole-in-one success.

Thanks to all who chipped in on this annual Martin Wild Golf Day at Ashton-under-Lyne Golf Club. You will play a part in helping us to make a real difference for those in our care. Here's to more days of great golf and even greater support!

## A SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF A GOLDEN ERA OF CARE

A grand night was had by all at Willow Wood's 25th Anniversary Ball, where over 200 guests raised more than £26,000 for the Hospice. Held at The Village Hotel in Ashton-under-Lyne, the evening was filled with friendship, food, music, and some fantastic fundraising. Our thanks go to everyone who made the evening such a special celebration of a quarter of a century of Willow Wood Hospice services, and raising funds for the next 25 years of compassionate care.

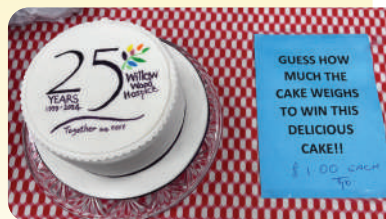


## RETAIL TREAT FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

**From face painting to lucky dips, tombolas to fairground games, our Hospice shops' Summer Celebration Day in August offered something for everyone!**

Combining children's fun, treats, and games with an opportunity for grown-ups to browse for a bargain, each of our seven shops showcased just how sunny summer can be.

*"Each shop manager enlisted the help of their volunteers to devise a fun day that would appeal to their customers," said Head of Retail Pauline Lunt. "Our shops are little communities in themselves, and our customers are like family. Each manager knew exactly what would bring a smile to the faces of their visitors."*



**Watch this space to find out when we open our eighth shop!**

For more information about our shops, including addresses and opening hours, visit our website: [www.willowwood.org.uk/shop-locations](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/shop-locations)

## BIGGER, BRIGHTER, BETTER AND BOUTIQUE!

**In May our charity shop on High Street West in Glossop found a fabulous new home, and it's bigger and better than ever! After waving goodbye to the old shop at 57 High Street West, the team didn't have to go far—just across the road to number 12, the former One Bay shop.**

The new shop threw open its doors with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by the High Peak Mayor, Councillor Stewart Gardner. Shoppers were treated to a special raffle, with one lucky customer taking home a delicious food hamper.

Pauline Lunt, Head of Retail at Willow Wood Hospice,

shared her excitement, saying: "We had outgrown our old space thanks to the incredible support from the Glossop community. Now, with more room and a prime spot on the high street, we're ready to shine even brighter!"

And with the store open 7 days a week, you can pop in anytime to find a bargain!



**Open  
7 days a week**

Take a look at our website for opening hours

# Willow Wood Hospice Team

## INSTANT INTROS

**Get to know our team with our new 'Instant Intros' feature!  
First up is our trustee, Timothy Jackson.**

### **What is your role at Willow Wood?**

I'm a trustee on the Board, providing specialist clinical expertise and chairing the clinical governance and strategy committees. I enjoy working with the clinical director and her team, offering advice, support, and contributing to the development of our services to ensure they meet the needs of patients and families in Tameside and Glossop.

### **What are the rewards of your role?**

The role is rewarding because I get to use my expertise to support decision-making and enhance service delivery. I appreciate the diverse skills of my fellow trustees and the collaborative environment. It's fulfilling to help guide Willow Wood's organisational development and see the positive impact on our patients and their families.

### **What attracted you to Willow Wood and what were your first impressions of the Hospice?**

After moving from London to Didsbury, I was invited to join Willow Wood by a friend of my sister. My first impressions were very positive; the Hospice is set in beautiful grounds with friendly, dedicated staff and volunteers. I was impressed by the commitment to providing high-quality palliative care.

### **Do you have any hobbies/ interests outside of work you are passionate about?**

I enjoy theatre, opera and musicals, and I have a passion for eclectic music. I love travelling to places like London, the coast, Europe and New York. Gardening has become a new hobby since my retirement, and I also enjoy charity shop finds and car boot sales. I remain passionate about the NHS and still work part-time teaching healthcare students at the Christie.



**If you could choose four  
dinner party guests (fictional  
or real), who would they be  
and why?**

#### **1. Adam Frost**

For gardening tips.

#### **2. Mary Berry**

To handle the cooking and bring joy to the evening.

#### **3. Barbara Streisand**

To enjoy her music and good food.

#### **4. Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

For her insights on equality and eloquence.

I believe they would have a memorable evening together, sharing mutual respect and enjoying each other's company.



**Scan here to find out  
more about  
becoming  
a trustee**

**Interested in  
become a trustee  
like Timothy?**

Visit [www.willowwood.org.uk/  
vacancies/trustees](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/vacancies/trustees)



## EBAY STORE

**Support patients in our care and bag a bargain not just in our charity shops, but online too!**

**Our eBay sales raised a record £49,550 in 2023/24.**

Since launching in 2007, our eBay store has sold over 42,000 items and built a following of more than 4,000 people.

Based at our Ashton-under-Lyne Distribution Centre, our online sales team, including staff and volunteers, ensures prompt service, posting items within a day and maintaining our top-rated seller status on eBay. *"We list 30 to 50 items daily and sell 100 to 150 items a week,"* said Nicola DePetrillo, Online Sales Assistant.

The team sets ambitious goals, with Dave Sadler noting: *"We've grown from 600 to nearly 2,000 active items. It's all about list, list, list for us."*

Items are sold worldwide, with some standout sales including a Psion Executive PDA Organiser for £299 to a U.S. buyer and a signed Manchester United shirt for £2,000. Donations from the local community fuel our eBay success, with clothing, books, electronics, and more being sold.

Our eco-conscious team reuses packaging and welcomes donations of boxes and bubble wrap. Additionally, sellers can support the Hospice by donating a percentage of their eBay profits to Willow Wood. Beyond eBay, we generate income through Vintage Cash Cow, Ziffit, and Discogs, maximising the value of every donation.

**Did you know you can donate a percentage of your profits as an eBay seller to Willow Wood Hospice – by selecting 'Tameside and Glossop Hospice Limited'?**



Over **42,000** items sold on eBay



Up to **50** items listed a day



Up to **150** items sold a week



**99.8%** positive feedback



Highest value item: Julie Goodyear jewellery, raised over **£16,000**

*Buy online today!*



Lindsay Patchett's story

# 'MY HEART IS FILLED WITH LOVE WHEN I THINK OF WILLOW WOOD'

The Patchett family had long supported Willow Wood Hospice before they needed our vital services. Lindsay Patchett's uncle Harry received end-of-life care last year, and soon after, her husband Andy did too.



*"We are lucky to have Willow Wood in Tameside. The services are free, and even a short session can make a huge difference. It's crucial it stays open."*

When Andy was diagnosed with an incurable disease, visiting the Hospice felt natural to see the facilities and meet the team who would care for him in his final days. It brought comfort amid uncertainty, allowing Andy to focus on living rather than worrying about the end.

Andy, a joiner, was injured at work when a ladder broke. While leaving the hospital, a nurse noticed one of his pupils was larger than the other, leading to scans that revealed a brain tumour in July 2022, just weeks before a planned family holiday to Florida.

*"Andy and I couldn't go, but by the time my son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter Alice returned, we'd learned Andy had an incurable glioblastoma with about 14 months to live,"* said Lindsay, 62, from Dukinfield.

After radiotherapy, they discussed Andy's end-of-life wishes. Andy and Lindsay visited Willow Wood and met Wellbeing Practitioner Mandy Jones, who went to school with Andy.

Mandy's tour dispelled Andy and Lindsay's misconceptions about hospices. *"We thought a hospice was for end-of-life care only, but it offers so much more. Andy joined the men's group, sometimes finding it overwhelming, but the chaplain was always there for support,"* Lindsay shared.

They both enjoyed complementary therapies like Reiki, which provided a peaceful escape, to add to their sense of wellbeing.

Lindsay was able to access counselling from our Family Support team. *"I started counselling with Beth from the Family Support team as I struggled*



*more because we were losing our future, we hadn't retired and had plans to tour America," she said. "Beth was such a great support."*

As Andy's illness progressed, the NHS specialist palliative care nurses based at Willow Wood stepped in to provide care for Andy at home. *"It felt like a weight was lifted from our shoulders," Lindsay said.*

Nicola and Beth from the occupational therapy team also provided invaluable help. *"Andy was 6ft 4in, so moving him was difficult, but they showed me techniques that made life easier."*

In November 2023, Andy was admitted to the Inpatient Unit at Willow Wood. Lindsay described it as *"like coming home"* and felt her family was *"surrounded by love."*

The nurses supported her in liaising with social workers, and Mandy even organised a wreath-making class for Lindsay and her sister, providing much-needed respite. *"The staff knew I was upset but pitched it just right to help me take a break," Lindsay explained.*

Eighteen months after his diagnosis, Andy died at the Hospice on 6th December 2023, aged 63. *"He wanted to be at Willow Wood, and I promised he would be there," said Lindsay. "He felt safe at the Hospice, and so did we. The staff looked after us amazingly during our five weeks there."*

The Willow Wood team also supported Lindsay's wider family, including her eight-year-old granddaughter Alice. *"I wanted her to remember the Hospice as a happy place. We walk around the gardens, and she loves the sundial and wind chime. Alice had children's counselling sessions with the Willow Wood Family Support team before and after Andy died, which helped her cope. She still loves visiting Willow Wood."*

Lindsay is *"forever grateful"* for Willow Wood's support and plans to volunteer there after retiring. She continues to support fundraising events and receives counselling from the Family Support team.

Andy has a Memory Stone in the Hospice gardens' fountain, where his family recently attended a Butterfly Memory Release, dedicating a butterfly to Andy. *"When the choir started to sing, the butterflies were released. Our butterfly flew towards the flowers around the fountain. Alice loved seeing it and later spotted it near home," Lindsay recalled.*

Lindsay remains passionate about Willow Wood and urges community support. *"We are lucky to have Willow Wood. The services are free, and even a short session can make a huge difference. It's crucial it stays open. "Despite the shock and feeling of a robbed future, our experience with Willow Wood throughout Andy's illness made everything easier," she concluded.*

Scan here



Read the full version of Lindsay's story on our website



Making a Splash for Willow Wood

# WHITE WATER RAFTING ADVENTURE!

**Get ready to ride the rapids! Our white water rafting event on the River Dee in Llangollen offers an adrenaline rush like no other! This heart-pounding adventure brings people together, whether you're a corporate group looking to strengthen your team spirit or individuals looking for a fun experience with friends and family.**

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a day filled with thrills, fun, and fantastic company, creating unforgettable memories. Together, we will conquer the rapids and raise funds for patients at the Hospice, so they can create their own special forever memories with their family and friends.

The River Dee, one of the UK's top rafting rivers, features rapids from class 2 to 4, ensuring excitement for everyone. After gearing up and a safety briefing, you'll head to

Horseshoe Falls before tackling the exhilarating journey over Serpents Tail, Tombstones, and Town Falls rapids.

Your Willow Wood white water rafting experience begins at the Hospice and includes a delicious breakfast sandwich, return coach travel to Whitewater Active in Denbighshire, Wales, a post-rapids meal, and all the help and support you need to make your day meaningful and momentous for you and Willow Wood Hospice.



*Sign up now for an  
adrenaline-charged day!*


[www.willowwood.org.uk/  
events/white-water](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/events/white-water)



*Ideal Christmas gift!*  
**Ride the rapids  
& raise funds**

**12th April  
2025**



A circular logo with a glowing orange border. Inside, the words "Light up a Life" are written in a white, elegant script font. The background of the entire page features a large, lit white candle on the right, with soft, out-of-focus lights and a green wavy line at the bottom.

Light  
up a  
Life

An orange circular badge with a white border. Inside, the text "Sponsor a light in memory of a loved one" is written in white. The background of the entire page features a large, lit white candle on the right, with soft, out-of-focus lights and a green wavy line at the bottom.

Sponsor  
a light in  
memory of a  
loved one

**We understand that the memory of your loved ones is precious, and you want to honour them in a special way. Our Light up a Life appeal is an opportunity to remember those you love by sponsoring a light in their memory.**

A light dedication is a beautiful tribute to those who are special to you, and also supports hospice care for people from Tameside and Glossop living with a life-limiting illness.

By dedicating a light, you honour your loved ones while helping to provide compassionate and dignified care for our patients, allowing them to live as well as possible, for as long as possible. Each light serves as a beautiful tribute to those you cherish, while also supporting the care of someone else's family or friend.

As well as dedicating a light we also invite you to join us for one or more of our Light up a Life dedication events. These gatherings, which are held at Willow Wood Hospice, Old Glossop Parish Church and Albion Church in

Ashton-under-Lyne, are a unique chance to come together, reflect, and celebrate the lives of those we hold dear.

Thank you for considering this special way to remember your loved ones and support the essential care services that our teams provide to your local community. We look forward to honouring their memories with you and creating new, forever memories together.

*To sponsor a light and dedicate it to someone you love, scan the QR code or visit our website :*

**[www.willowwood.org.uk/  
events/light-up-a-life](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/events/light-up-a-life)**

A circular inset photo showing an outdoor garden path at night, illuminated by numerous small blue and white lights. A person is visible in the distance.

Willow  
Wood Hospice  
at 4pm on  
Saturday 23rd  
November

A circular inset photo showing the interior of a church during a service. People are seated in pews, and a red carpet leads to the altar.

Old Glossop  
Parish Church  
at 2pm on  
Saturday 30th  
November

A circular inset photo showing the interior of a church during a service. People are seated in pews, and a red carpet leads to the altar.

Albion Church,  
Ashton under Lyne  
at 2pm on  
Sunday 8th  
December

# LINKING UP WITH INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES



***Our Medical Director, Dr Mary Ann Mahadevan, recently travelled to Sri Lanka where she learned more about the work of Jaffna Hospice.***

Accompanied by her husband Dush, who is also a doctor and his family hail from the south-east Indian Ocean island, Mary Ann delivered an engaging presentation to staff to share knowledge.

*amazing work for the most vulnerable people with very little.*

*"Hospices in the UK are really struggling right now, but it really pales in comparison to what they are working with over there."*



Upon visiting the 22-bed inpatient hospice, which first opened in January 2006, she discovered how they administer palliative care with very limited resources.

She hopes her visit can herald the start of a lasting relationship between Willow Wood and Jaffna hospices.

Mary Ann said: "It was a privilege to look around, meet some of the staff and patients, and my presentation seemed to go down well. They really are doing



## TAF'S ON BOARD!

**We are delighted to welcome Councillor Tafheen Sharif JP as our newest Hospice patron. Tafheen made history last year as the first Muslim and ethnic minority Civic Mayor of Tameside and has represented the Mossley ward on Tameside Council since 2016. A long-time supporter of Willow Wood, she brings extensive experience from her work in the courts service, as a school governor, and as a former Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner.**

*"Willow Wood is our special gem in Tameside and means so much to many families across the borough," Tafheen said. "I don't take any responsibility lightly and look forward to raising Willow Wood's profile and adding further value to this amazing place."*

Our CEO, Tracy Minshull, expressed enthusiasm for Tafheen's involvement, noting her dedication and passion for improving local lives. Tafheen enjoys spending time with her four children, walking, reading, and listening to motivational podcasts.

Visit our website to read the full story at [www.willowwood.org.uk/latest-news](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/latest-news)





# JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF STYLE, SPARKLE AND SPLENDID BARGAINS

Get ready for a fabulous evening at our Fashion Show on Friday 1st November!



We're thrilled to unveil our stylish new venue in the heart of Stalybridge—the former Phoenix City building on Castle Street. Dive into a dazzling display of brand new and pre-loved fashion, featuring designer gems and high street hits, perfect for revamping your autumn/winter wardrobe. Enjoy a glass of fizz and when the fashion has finished, shop the chicest collections at unbelievable bargain prices.



Doors open at 6pm, with the runway action starting at 6.30pm. Tickets are £5 in advance or £6 on the door, including your welcome bubbly.

For tickets visit [www.willowwood.org.uk/events/fashion-show](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/events/fashion-show) (tickets also available at our shops and Hospice reception)



## MEET THE TEAM!

Meet our Fundraising team: Sam, Sam, Joanne, Diane, Lucy and Vanessa. You'll see them out and about in Tameside and Glossop supporting you, our amazing community, with your fundraising endeavours!

When they're not supporting events organised by you, they're raising awareness for our services by giving talks to schools, businesses and groups. And the work of these busy bees doesn't stop there – together, they mastermind our very own fundraising events calendar, planning fairs, challenges,

in-memory appeals, and running the Willow Wood Hospice lottery!

This happy team is always ready to help, offering expert advice with a friendly Willow Wood smile. If you're planning to fundraise for the Hospice, please do get in touch – we're looking forward to helping!



**Sam Duncan**  
Director of Fundraising  
and Communications



**Sam Kitch**  
Fundraising Manager



**Diane Austin-Hughes**  
Lottery Manager



**Joanne Lees**  
Corporate Partnerships Lead



**Lucy Ta'ali**  
Community and Events Fundraiser



**Vanessa Murphy-Wood**  
Community and Events Fundraiser

You can contact our Fundraising team by emailing [fundraising@willowwood.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@willowwood.org.uk), calling **0161 330 7788** or visiting our website [www.willowwood.org.uk](http://www.willowwood.org.uk)

# BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOOD

We're delighted to welcome Joanne Lees as our new Partnership Development Lead at Willow Wood Hospice. With extensive experience in both corporate and charity sectors, including roles at JD Sports and Sofology, Joanne has been instrumental in supporting various charitable initiatives. She is now focused on building strong partnerships with businesses in Tameside and Glossop, creating tailored opportunities for them to support the Hospice and make a positive impact in the community. We're excited to see the connections she will develop.

Partnering with Willow Wood Hospice offers your company a meaningful way to make a difference in the local community. Through sponsorship, regular giving, employee fundraising, or workplace volunteering, you'll enhance team morale, increase brand awareness, and achieve your Corporate Social Responsibility targets. Whether you're a small business or a large company, together we can create a rewarding partnership that benefits both your business and the local people in our care here at Willow Wood.

Talk to Joanne today and find out the benefits of the bespoke partnership packages we can create for your organisation.



Joanne Lees

With your support we can empower patients to enhance their lives, to live as well as possible for as long as possible.

For more information contact **Joanne Lees** on **0161 330 7788**, email [Joanne.lees@willow-wood.org.uk](mailto:Joanne.lees@willow-wood.org.uk) or visit our website [www.willowwood.org.uk/corporate-support](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/corporate-support)



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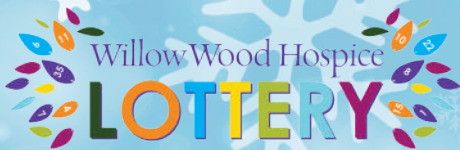


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# WIN OUR BIG JACKPOT FOR A CRACKER OF A CHRISTMAS!



Get ready for our cracking Christmas Lottery Draw on Friday 20th December, with a whopping £2,500 jackpot! Just think what you could splash your cash on with an extra £2,500 in your pocket this Christmas.

Why not grab a ticket for yourself or as an early Christmas gift for someone special? With big prizes to be won, it could be a win-win all round. Don't miss out on the chance to win big and make your Christmas a cracker!

1st Prize £2,500 2nd prize £250 3rd Prize £100  
4th Prize £75 5th Prize £50 6th Prize £25



To get your draw tickets and be in with a chance of winning big this Christmas, visit our website or scan this QR code  
[www.willowwood.org.uk/raffle](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/raffle)



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## WHAT DO WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS DESERVE? WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS' WEEK CELEBRATIONS!

With nearly 500 volunteers helping Willow Wood Hospice thrive, the nationwide annual Volunteers' Week celebrations in June were the perfect chance to show our team some extra TLC!

Volunteer Services Manager, Lisa Pye, organised fantastic free wellbeing activities, including cake decorating, jewellery making and ceramic painting workshops, and even a refreshing stroll through Stamford Park. Our Retail team also enjoyed special treats and

events organised by their individual shop managers, and the week ended on a high with a lively bingo and quiz!

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers – you're the heart and soul of Willow Wood Hospice!





# FESTIVE FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Join us on Saturday 9th November at Hyde Town Hall for our annual Christmas Fair! Meet Santa in his cosy grotto, shop at splendid stalls brimming with present ideas, treats and handcrafted gifts, and indulgent festive fayre! Bring the whole family for fun and games and to soak up the festive atmosphere. Don't miss this day of Christmas cheer!



Hyde Town Hall, Corporation Street, SK14 1AL

For more information visit our website or scan this QR code



**Saturday 9th November 11am to 3pm**



## Terrific Tree-cycling ... fir real!

Enjoy your real fir Christmas tree this holiday season, and let us take care of the clean-up! Simply donate to Willow Wood Hospice using our bespoke website page and, in the new year, we'll collect your tree right from your doorstep, saving you the hassle and mess of a trip to the tip!

It's a tree-mendous way to recycle your Christmas tree and a terrific way to support people from your local community in our care.

Simply visit [www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree](http://www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree), pop in your postcode and donate!

**Glossop Collections** in SK13  
Wednesday 8th – Monday 13th January 2025

**Tameside Collections** M34, M43, OL5, OL6,  
OL7, SK14, SK15, SK16  
Monday 6th – Friday 10th January 2025

Willow Wood Hospice partners with the registered charity Just Helping to recycle Christmas trees and raise funds. 85% of the funds raised go directly to Willow Wood Hospice, while the remaining 15% supports another local cause.





# Garden of Lights

## A magical evening for all

What started as a way of decorating our Hospice gardens for patients quickly became a fixture in the festive calendar, and now the Garden of Lights is a must-see Christmas event for the whole community! Since 2017, we've grown from a modest 1,000 lights to a dazzling display of over 11,000 lights that transform our gardens into a winter wonderland.

Join us for one of our eleven free celebration evenings and experience the magic for yourself! Each night features a different local choir bringing seasonal cheer, along with refreshments and festive stalls to explore. It's a joyful, festive event that brings together families and friends, creating cherished memories together at this special time of year.



So, wrap up warm, bring your loved ones, and soak in the beautiful lights that brighten up not just our gardens, but our hearts too. Come and be part of a community tradition that truly shines!

## Garden of Lights Open 5pm - 8pm

2024

26th November  
28th November  
30th November  
3rd December  
5th December  
7th December  
10th December  
12th December  
14th December  
17th December  
19th December



For more information visit our website  
[www.willowwood.org.uk/events/garden-of-lights](http://www.willowwood.org.uk/events/garden-of-lights)

# Looking forward to 2025

**At Willow Wood Hospice, we are best when we collaborate, innovate and educate.**

Our dedicated staff and volunteers are working together to help shape our strategic aims as an organisation for the next five years.

By actively involving our workforce in this process, we ensure that our future direction is both informed and inspired by those who are integral to our daily operations.

Led by our CEO Tracy Minshull, engagement sessions held in The Hive have seen groups of people from all areas of the Hospice take part, from Retail and Wellbeing Support to the Inpatient Unit and the Board of Trustees.

Split up into small teams, they consisted of members from different departments which contributed to a broad and diverse range of views being discussed.

A fun ice-breaker tested teams' knowledge of the Hospice before they individually identified what we need to become an outstanding Hospice and how these ideas could be grouped together into key themes to form our strategy for 2025 to 2030.

Guided by members of our Senior Management Team who acted as facilitators, each team reported to the wider group a summary of their discussions, which will help to determine our short-term, medium-term and long-term priorities moving forward.

This approach is testament to our commitment to collaboration, innovation and excellence, paving the way for a brighter future for the Hospice and the communities of Tameside and Glossop we serve.





# Collaboration is at the heart of hospice care

**At Willow Wood Hospice, collaboration isn't just a word – it's the foundation for how we work.**

Our mission is to deliver high-quality, multi-professional specialist palliative care, support and education to those in our local community living with a life-limiting illness.

We achieve this through close-knit teamwork that puts our patients and those closest to them at the centre of everything we do.

For years, our dedicated staff have worked closely with the Community Specialist Palliative Care (CSPC) team. This collaboration is more than a partnership – it's an integrated approach to care.

Every day, nurses, who are part of the CSPC team, from Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust join our daily triage meetings and engage with all of our clinical teams – from Wellbeing Support to Therapy Support.

They provide specialist support in a patient's home environment, as well as education and support to staff within the local community – such as GPs and district nurses.

Since 2019, the community palliative care and respite teams have made the Hospice their home, while the hospital palliative care team joins us weekly, representing the multidisciplinary team.

This regular interaction enables us to provide holistic care to patients and those closest to them from across our community, ensuring they receive the services and support they need when they need it most.

Zoe Price, on behalf of the Community Specialist Palliative Care team, said: *"We carry out joint visits if required and are always liaising with all teams, ensuring a patient receives the right service at the right time."*

*"We have a close working relationship with the Hospice teams. Daily conversations and communication help make our patients' experience the most positive it can be during a difficult time."*

*"We are continually sharing information, sometimes on an ad-hoc basis, which we may not have the opportunity to if we were not in the same environment."*

Rebecca Stimson, Community Services Therapy Lead at the Hospice, commented: *"Working collaboratively with the Specialist Palliative Care nurses ensures that the needs of all patients and those closest to them are assessed holistically."*

*"We work closely with the Specialist Palliative Care nurses and patients are supported by this, as they know their needs are being addressed."*



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**Sending our best wishes to  
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Our mission is to lead and deliver high-quality, multi-profession specialist palliative care, support and education across Tameside and Glossop. We want to ensure that everyone affected by a life-limiting illness receives timely specialist care and support and can achieve the best possible quality of life.

We understand that care extends beyond physical well-being. Our approach is to address each patient's physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs, and to provide the same care and support to their families and partners.

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## CONTACT US

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