

Willow Wood Hospice TOGETHER



Summer 2025

STRATEGY
LAUNCH
p.25

Issue **No. 4**

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NEW SERVICES

ACUPUNCTURE
HEALTH CARE PLAN



Summer 2025

Dear Community,



I warmly welcome you to the summer edition of our 'Together' newsletter.

As I reflect on my one-year anniversary at Willow Wood, I feel incredibly proud and humbled to lead this amazing organisation.

Early on, I spent time with a patient and their family, and one simple comment has stayed with me: "Even the smallest things, you do really well." That perfectly sums up the care and dedication at Willow Wood.

This year has been all about relationships. It has been a real privilege to meet the staff, volunteers, trustees and patrons, that make up our combined workforce, as well as the patients and families that are so central to our organisation. I've spent time in our hospice, out in the community, and across our shops, learning first-hand about the vital roles everyone plays.

Strategic partnerships have also been a priority. I was proud to be invited to become Deputy Chair for the PEOC (Palliative and End of Life Care) Improvement Group and to represent Willow Wood at key decision-making forums. These connections ensure continued access to our essential services across Tameside and Glossop.

We've welcomed new trustees, introduced quarterly workforce engagement sessions, and co-designed our Five-Year Strategy, which we launched in June. Huge thanks to everyone who shared their thoughts—your input has shaped our future plans.

Beyond Willow Wood, I've met with MPs, system leaders, and even visited Parliament to highlight the ongoing hospice funding crisis. I also stepped outside my comfort zone for a Tameside Radio podcast—reaching out to listeners from across Tameside.

Looking ahead, relationships remain at our core. Together, we'll keep supporting our community, delivering outstanding care, and ensuring Willow Wood thrives for years to come.

With warm regards,

Tracy Minshull

CEO



This magazine has been printed on carbon balanced paper. (CBP006693)
www.carbonbalancedpaper.com

Front cover photograph credit: David Hirst

TRISTESSA'S STORY

"Everything I've been through makes you realise it's those small pleasures in life that are the most important things."



After receiving heartbreaking news that her bone cancer is incurable, Tristessa Sedgwick underwent chemotherapy that made her so ill that she felt like she was on the brink of dying.

One phone call to Willow Wood Hospice, however, helped change her outlook.

"A friend of [my husband] Andrew's came to know Willow Wood when his mum came to the Hospice and suggested we had a look around and get to know the team," explained the 58-year-old.

"Soon after my chemotherapy, when I was not in a good place, I called the Hospice. Julie from the Wellbeing team asked if it would help if I came in to talk to her

whenever it suited me. I said it would – I came in that afternoon and Julie listened to me for two hours over a cup of tea.

"The difference I felt just talking through my emotions was phenomenal. I told Julie I could not thank her enough."

It wasn't just the conversation with Julie in late August 2024 that helped put Tristessa at ease, it was the environment of the Hospice – which she quickly learned was not just 'a place to come right at the end'.



"It's very calm and peaceful," Tristessa stated. "You come in and feel like you're taking a big, deep breath because you can let go and just relax a bit. It's like a bit of a release, a hug. It feels very reassuring when you come in."

"I've said categorically to Julie, my GP and everybody that the Hospice is where I want to come at the end. I want it to feel like an extension of home, not somewhere that feels scary."

As she came to terms with her diagnosis, Tristessa enjoyed attending the Be Active sessions on Wednesdays at the Hospice.

"Even though we haven't all got the same issues and problems, fundamentally we've got a similar diagnosis so you feel like you can relate with other people."

"What struck me from the first session was I expected everyone to be elderly but there were people of mixed ages, which made me realise I wasn't alone and I couldn't feel too hard done by."



"We concentrate on a patient's individual wellbeing."



Julie Moran, the Hospice's Wellbeing Team Leader, explains how Tristessa and others are supported by our Wellbeing service.

"At Willow Wood Hospice, we focus on a patient's individual wellbeing. Our role is to offer a holistic programme of care that supports the patient, their families and carers.

"It is paramount that we are there to help Tristessa and others to carry on their lives, knowing that if they need us, they can call us or drop in. We take pride in supporting our local people and are frequently humbled by their bravery and resilience.

"When I reflect on my work, I feel extremely privileged in my role as Wellbeing Team Leader to support Tristessa along her palliative journey – the true hero being Tristessa, who has faced her incurable illness with such courage and dignity."

As a keen gardener, Tristessa has also been comforted by the serenity of our beautiful gardens.

"When I first came in, Julie encouraged my husband and I to look in the gardens. For me, it was that tranquillity that struck me," she noted.

"I did a mindfulness walk in the gardens for my first Be Active session and met head gardener Sophie, who I had a nice talk with – she even offered to give me some tips for my garden!"

The array of vital services that the Hospice provides has been beneficial to those closest to Tristessa too.

"My diagnosis doesn't just affect me, it has a knock-on effect on my family," she told us.

"I'm very close to my three sisters. We started coming together to the Coffee Mornings at the Hospice – it's something nice to do and it was good so they became familiar with Willow Wood too.

"I've started counselling with Sarah Ellenbogen which has been great, and two of my sisters are going to use that as well. They want to get involved and see somebody."

Sarah Ellenbogen, Senior Family Support Counsellor, explained: "Tris gave me permission to share this small part of the work we've done together. In our sessions, we've explored how her cancer diagnosis started to define her, dominating conversations and routines.

"By offering Tris space to reflect, she was able to separate herself from her cancer — she was still the person she's always been. We spoke about losing her agency, and how making small plans, like meeting a friend or getting her hair done, helped her take back some control. Planning, something central to her work as a designer, felt significant.

"Together, we also explored what the future might look like — recognising it still existed, even if different than before. By planning the time she has left, she felt able to have important conversations with loved ones and helped her imagine what life might look like after she was gone. This felt like acceptance."

Tristessa's sisters Scarlett, Saffron and Tiffany grew up in Saddleworth but live in different parts of the region now, so they started getting together at our monthly Coffee Mornings in September 2024.

"The Coffee Mornings are very welcoming and the volunteers make it fun and light-hearted, yet there is still time for us to have a coffee and a talk," said Saffron. "It's hard for us to come together in one room so it's an opportunity for us to have a catch-up face to face."



Scarlett, who is looking to access our Counselling service, has already seen the impact hospices like Willow Wood have and was surprised to learn how they are funded.

"At Willow Wood, they support the patient and the patient's family," she explained. "I feel certainly that I could phone the Hospice at any time. Sometimes you want to speak to someone who understands but isn't a close family member or friend."

"The focus is very much on patient wellbeing as opposed to making something better because, in a lot of situations, you can't make it better. That's what has really opened my eyes about hospices. The community spirit of hospices is very supportive to individuals and also their families."

"I thought hospices were attached to hospitals, I didn't realise they are largely self-funded. I think if people did realise this, they would be horrified and would want to support more because most people will find themselves needing a hospice at some stage in their life."

Saffron added: *"Unless you become involved, you just think of a hospice as helping people in the very last few days of someone's life. You don't realise how vital hospices are until you're here and that has to change."*

Tiffany has certainly noticed a positive difference in Tristessa since the Hospice has supported her.

"Coming to Willow Wood has really helped lift her back up rather than pushing her down."

"You don't realise how vital hospices are until you're here."



"My workplace has been phenomenal."

Tristessa's illness has led to a period of absence from her job as a sales manager at a fabric manufacturer in West Yorkshire, however the unwavering support of her employer Mobus Fabrics has meant work has been one less thing to worry about.

"I've not been well enough to work but my workplace has been phenomenal. They know my situation at home and have been super supportive."

"I was talking about resigning and they wouldn't hear of it – they still see me as part of the team. I've worked with them for 10 years and knew them well before I joined. I imagine not every employer is like that, so I'm lucky."

Such is how much the company value her, 13 members of the Mobus team took on the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge in April to support Tristessa and to raise funds for Willow Wood Hospice.

They set themselves a target of £10,000 and raised 80 per cent of that total in less than a week, so they increased their target with the group's final fundraising total reaching over £20,000!

"Tris is more than just a colleague to us – she is family," said Managing Director Lee Paxman. "She has been part of our team for many years, and now, as this amazingly strong woman faces an incredibly difficult journey with incurable bone cancer, we want to do something to show our love and continued support."

"This walk wasn't just a challenge – it was a tribute to Tris and a way to give back to Willow Wood Hospice, the place that is bringing her peace, comfort and care when she needs it the most."

In honour of Tris, UK Fabric Shows has also pledged a £5,000 donation to Willow Wood and would like to support the Hospice as their adopted Charity of the Year.



FOCUSING ON QUALITY OF LIFE

Tristessa was first diagnosed with scleroderma in 2013 – a condition similar to arthritis but affecting connective tissue rather than joints.

A CT scan eventually revealed something far more serious – cancer in her lungs, which then spread to her bones.

“Once I heard it had spread to my bones, I thought this is terminal,” she said.

Tristessa was referred to the Christie for chemotherapy over the summer, but the treatment left her extremely ill.

“My husband and I decided I couldn't have any more

chemotherapy, it was giving me no quality of life.”

With the support of her consultant, Tristessa chose to focus on quality of life

Tristessa has been able to resume one of her favourite activities: walking her miniature Schnauzer, Bob, around Mossley, where she lives. Walking became her way of staying mobile after her diagnosis.

“Everything I've been through makes you realise it's those small pleasures in life that are the most important things,” she said.

“It's just one day at a time. The network I have around me has helped me psychologically as well as physically. I feel lucky that I've got this window of life, however long, and some people don't get that.”



For more information about the Hospice's services, visit www.willowwood.org.uk

DEMENTIA CARE AT WILLOW WOOD

Meet Caroline – Our New Dementia Team Lead at Willow Wood Hospice

Hello, I'm Caroline, and I'm proud to be the new Dementia Team Lead here at Willow Wood Hospice.

I've been warmly welcomed by the Community Services team and already feel very much at home in my new role. I've worked at Willow Wood for 13 years, most recently as a Sister on the Inpatient Unit. Before that, I was a District Nurse in Tameside, supporting people in their own homes. I've also worked in a nursing home caring for people with dementia before training as a nurse at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Over the years, I've learned how important it is to truly see the person behind the dementia diagnosis and to help maintain their dignity at every stage. During my time on the Inpatient Unit, I cared for many people with dementia and always recognised that it is also essential to support their families and carers too.

I've always had a special interest in palliative care



and felt ready for a new challenge where I could make a real difference to those living with dementia and their loved ones. At Willow Wood, our aim is to give people affected by dementia a voice, ensure they're heard, and treat them with the respect and dignity they deserve.

One of the highlights of my new role has been joining in with the Dementia Café. The first one I attended was a VE Day celebration - it was heart-warming to see how much joy it brought. The wonderful volunteers organise different activities at each café, providing stimulation for those with

dementia and a chance for carers to connect, share experiences, and build friendships. The sense of community and support is truly special.

A big part of our work involves visiting people in their own homes, building trust and supporting both the patient and their carer. We help with Advance Care Planning, so people can make important decisions about their future while they're still able to express their wishes. This can be as simple as choosing favourite music for moments of comfort or discussing where they'd like to receive care in later stages.



We also work closely with other services, liaising with GPs and helping families access the right support, whether that's pain management, physiotherapy, occupational therapy or home equipment.

Looking ahead, together with Wendy, our Assistant Practitioner, we're excited to build on the excellent dementia care services already in place at Willow Wood. With one in two people in the UK expected to be affected by dementia in their lifetime - either by developing it or caring for someone who does - the need for compassionate, specialist support is growing.

Dementia Support offers supportive sessions including:

Dementia Carers Support Group - Carers meet while their loved one takes part in a creative therapy session.

Dementia Café - A joyful café-style session for those with dementia and their carers to connect.

After Dementia - Carers bereaved by dementia are personally invited to share and connect at a one-off session.

For more information about our services, visit www.willowwood.org.uk/dementia-support



Scan the QR code for more information about our Dementia Support services



Willow Wood Hospice

Walk 2025

Making Memories Together - Fundraising for Care

Sunday 21st September, 12pm

www.willowwood.org.uk/events/walk

5km Family Fundraising Walk

Stamford Park, the
boating lake &
Chadwick Dam,
Ashton

**Sign up
today!**

**SCAN
ME!**



pink or green?



Dress Code: Come as your are or
embrace the WICKED theme!

**Adult & Child
Tickets
(Discounts for
family &
groups 10+)**

Suitable for all ages & four-legged friends too!

WE'RE WALKING FOR WILLOW WOOD HOSPICE BECAUSE....



Brand new for 2025 - join us on Sunday 21st September at Stamford Park, Ashton-under-Lyne for the Willow Wood Hospice Walk – a fun-filled 5K event supporting hospice care. This year's theme is **Wicked**, so dress as your favourite character or simply wear green for Team Elphaba or pink for Team Glinda. Prefer to keep it simple? Come along in comfy clothes and walk, skip, or dance your way around the route – every step helps raise vital funds for Willow Wood Hospice!



Hospice Doctor, Mary Ann Mahadevan and her family.

Willow Wood Hospice Doctor, Mary Ann Mahadevan was one of the first to sign up for the walk, along with her family who are all keen walkers.

"I'm proud to work at Willow Wood Hospice, where I see first-hand the amazing care we give to our patients. That's why me and my family are taking part in the Hospice Walk — to help raise funds so this vital work can keep going."



Sharon and pub regulars are lacing up their walking boots for Willow Wood.

When we asked Sharon Ralphs, Landlady at The Commercial in Dukinfield, why she and some of her customers were lacing up their trainers to join in with the walk, she said:

"It's a cause close to a lot of our hearts, as many of our customers have had family cared for there. My brother-in-law, Thomas Denton, was looked after by the amazing team too, and they gave him so much care and dignity. We're proud to support them however we can."



Just some of the Drama Department's wicked walkers!

Everyone at the Drama Department is super excited for the Hospice Walk – it's definitely going to be **WICKED!** Willow Wood Hospice cared for Gemma Chadwick, who was a friend and a huge part of amateur dramatics, not just in Tameside but across the North West. When we heard about this opportunity to fundraise for Willow Wood — and that the sponsored walk was going to be Wicked themed — we just had to join in. Willow Wood looked after Gemma with so much love, and because she was such a big part of our group, this felt like the perfect way to remember her. Dressing up, walking together, and raising money for the hospice — it's everything Gemma would have loved."



A Real Treasure Trove

£8,715 RAISED FROM A COIN HAUL!

In a discovery that could've come straight from a treasure hunt, our Waterloo shop recently stumbled upon over 100 old coins - including a stunning 1658 Oliver Cromwell medal! Talk about a find!

Kellie, our Waterloo shop manager, wasted no time in sending the coins to our brilliant eBay team, where Nicola threw herself into the project with full enthusiasm, spending six whole days researching and photographing each coin, to uncover their fascinating provenance.

From the moment the coins were donated to finding new homes with their buyers, this has been a story of generosity, teamwork, and ingenuity. Thanks to Kellie's eagle-eyed discovery and Nicola's hard work, our retail team pulled together brilliantly, turning this

hidden treasure into an incredible £8,715.00 for patient care.

Take a look at our other eBay treasures here <https://www.ebay.co.uk/str/willowwoodhospice>



Scan here to
visit our eBay shop

SAVE THE DATES

It's never too early to SAVE THE DATE!

November

- 7th – Fashion Show - Stalybridge
- 15th – Christmas Fair – Hyde
- 22nd – Light up a Life – Willow Wood
- 30th – Festival of Christmas Music – Albion Church

December

- 2nd -18th December (various dates) – Garden of Lights
- 13th – Hospice Choir Christmas Concert
- 6th – Light up a Life, Old Glossop Church
- 14th – Light up a Life, Albion Church

For details of these and other events during the run up to Christmas, visit our website www.willowwood.org.uk/events



Bigger and better for 2025

THE ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE!

In 2024, the Willow Wood Hospice Enterprise Challenge saw students from schools, colleges, and youth groups turn entrepreneurial ideas into vital funds for patient care.

With seed funding from local business sponsors, each team worked creatively to raise as much as possible – and by the end of the challenge, they had raised an incredible £12,000!



In September 2025, the Enterprise Challenge is back - building on last year's successes, it's going to be even bigger and bolder. Working with schools, colleges and youth groups across Tameside and Glossop, student teams will once again transform a basic budget into innovative fundraising projects – all in support of Willow Wood Hospice.

Local businesses – we need you!

For just £250, you can sponsor a team and gain meaningful community impact and brand visibility. Mentorship opportunities, exclusive event invites, and a chance to inspire the next generation all await. Join us and make an impact, locally!

Schools, colleges and youth groups – get involved!

This challenge helps young people develop confidence, creativity, and real-world skills through business mentoring and networking. And did you know, the Enterprise Challenge could even help to support curriculum learning across Business, ICT, Food Tech, and Art?! Making this happen will make a difference – on so many levels!

The 2025 challenge will culminate in a celebration awards night on 12th March 2026, recognising everyone's achievements.

Let's work together to support the next generation – and the vital care Willow Wood provides.

Register your interest by visiting our website www.willowwood.org.uk/events/enterprise-challenge



Scan here to join



Bunny Hop 2025

A HOPPIN' HUGE SUCCESS!



Hold on to your floppy ears, folks — the 2025 Bunny Hop leapt over every expectation and hopped straight into the record books!

Thanks to the boundless energy and egg-strordinary generosity of schools, nurseries, and community groups in Tameside and Glossop, we've smashed our fundraising target and raised a un-bunny-lievable £50,000+!

From tiny tots and junior jumpers to grandmas in glitter bunny ears, the whole community bounced into action — hopping, skipping, and jumping to raise funds to help us care for people for their own community.

To every child, teacher, nursery nurse, parent, helper, sponsor and little hopper - THANK YOU

Over
£50,000
raised

7,000 bunnies at...

24 schools

19 nurseries

2 community groups

Missed out on the fundraising fun this time?

Don't worry, there's no need for twitchy whiskers! If you're itching to hop in for 2026, we've got good news — we'll be bouncing back next year! It's never too early to jump on board, so register today and be part of something truly egg-stra special!

Register today by emailing
fundraising@willowwood.org.uk

Thanks to generous Crème Egg donations from our community, every bunny hopper got a sweet treat reward!

Crème Egg appeal went far and wide – BBC Radio Manchester



BBC Radio Manchester Visiting
Dowson Primary Academy



Place of
Welcome at St
Gabriels Church

MEET THE TRUSTEES

Our Board of Trustees serves as the guardian of Willow Wood Hospice's mission, finances, and long-term direction.

Drawn from a wide range of professional backgrounds, including finance, business development, health and safety, and nursing, our trustees bring valuable expertise to help ensure we deliver high-quality, sustainable care.

Each trustee volunteers their time and insight freely, playing a vital role in guiding the charity and ensuring we continue to serve our community with integrity and purpose.



Timothy Jackson
Chair & Trustee



Martin Willescroft
President & Trustee



Phill Brown MBE
Trustee



Steven Flanagan
Trustee



Chris Hinds
Trustee



John Maltby
Trustee



Philip Millson
Trustee



Elizabeth Needham
Trustee



Joanne Ormston
Trustee



Karen Richardson
Trustee



Paul Schofield
Trustee

Making a difference locally

WHAT IS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY?

Social responsibility means doing the right thing for people and the community – making a difference locally.

Focusing your company's Social Responsibility by getting involved with Willow Wood Hospice will show that your business cares about the local community.

Tell me about the impact:

Backing the Community: You're helping provide care for people with life-limiting illnesses.

Boosting Your Brand: Customers respect businesses that give back – it builds trust and loyalty.

Engaging Your Team: Fundraising or volunteering brings staff together and boosts morale.

Making an Impact: Your support funds vital services like pain relief, counselling, and family support.

Growing Connections: Partnering with the hospice helps you build links with other local groups and businesses.

Funding **Awareness** **Support**
Growth **Visibility** **Stability**
Outreach **Resources** **Care**

Together, we can make a real difference.

To connect with the
Business Club scan here



Willow Wood Hospice Connect BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR GOOD



Willow Wood Hospice Connect is a new way for businesses to support their community while showing real commitment for their Social Responsibility.

Designed with local businesses in mind, Connect brings together like-minded organisations to help fund the vital care Willow Wood provides. Whether your business is large or small, every contribution makes a real impact.

By joining, you'll boost your social impact, raise your profile, build strong local connections, and inspire pride within your team. Let's work together to create a more caring future!

Visit our website to find out more about the benefits Connect could offer your organisation:
www.willowwood.org.uk/business-club

Shining behind the scenes

MEET THE HOUSEKEEPING TEAM

Behind the scenes at Willow Wood Hospice is a dedicated housekeeping team who ensure every space is clean, safe, and welcoming. With over 80 years of combined service, they're the dependable, quiet force keeping daily life running smoothly – helping staff, patients, and families feel truly at home.

Working quietly and effectively, their effects don't go unnoticed and their impact is powerful – and deeply appreciated.



Lynn

Our longest-serving housekeeper, Lynn has been with us for 20 years.

"Our team is a quiet but constant presence – a familiar face for patients and families."



Sarah

With 19 years' service, Sarah takes pride in the small things that make a big impact.

"We get to know everyone – it's a privilege to be part of the team."



Donna

Inspired by the care her mum received in 2007, Donna joined the team nearly 17 years ago.

"It's an honour to be part of something so special."



Nicola

Nicola has no personal link to the Hospice but, after 16 years, feels like family.

"I love my role – no two days are the same."



Trish

Trish, with 7 years' service, has supported and benefited from hospice care.

"I'll never forget the care my dad received here."



Julie

The newest team member with 2 years' service, Julie's dad and more recently son-in-law were cared for by the Inpatient Unit team at Willow Wood.

"It means so much to now give back through my work."



Housekeeping Team
Learning Day at
Dr Kershaw's Hospice

KINZA FINDS PASSION AND PURPOSE AT WILLOW WOOD

Kinza Fayyaz, 26, a Masters student in Counselling and Psychotherapy at the University of Salford, joined Willow Wood Hospice in March 2025 as part of her 100 placement hours required to complete her studies.

With a strong background in care - supporting vulnerable children and volunteering with trauma-focused charities - Kinza brought empathy and experience to her role as a Volunteer Counsellor.

Though unsure of what to expect, she found the Hospice to be a warm, welcoming, and inspiring place.

"It's been a really great learning environment for me," she said,

Kinza balances her placement with a job as a support worker and has worked with children from diverse and often

traumatic backgrounds. This experience, she says, has helped her support patients at Willow Wood with confidence and care.

Her time here has also shaped her future:

"Being here has really changed my perspective on going forward into jobs and my career after I graduate. I feel looked after and valued, which is important. It also feels like I am genuinely helping people in my role."

Already recommending Willow Wood to fellow students, Kinza is open to joining the team long-term.



"It's such a great place... I feel looked after and valued – and like I'm genuinely helping people."

To learn more about student placement opportunities at Willow Wood Hospice, visit www.willowwood.org.uk/student-placements/



Scan here to read Kinza's story in full



Scan here to find out more about student placements



Kinza with Bethan Creighton, Family Support Lead and Senior Family Support Counsellor

Saying YES to HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE THRIVE AT WILLOW WOOD

In early 2024, Willow Wood Hospice partnered with Tameside Council to take part in the Youth Employment Support (YES) scheme, supporting 16 to 24-year-olds into paid work placements.



The scheme, which helps employers fund six-month roles, has seen great success within our Retail and Volunteering teams.

Our first participant, Declan Ranahan, quickly impressed and now works full-time as a Driver's Mate while studying for an apprenticeship at Clarendon Sixth Form College. His success has opened the door for five more young people to join us, working at the Clearance Outlet and Donation Centre in Ashton-under-Lyne and the Purchase and Donate Shop in Stalybridge.

The scheme has been a great fit, offering these young people a welcoming environment where they can grow, gain real work experience, and build confidence. They've supported our van drivers, sorted donations, and helped serve customers – all while learning valuable skills like teamwork, communication, and time management.

Paul King, Warehouse and Logistics Manager, has seen their progress first-hand: "It's worked really well for us. The young people are treated like staff, and we support them as much as we can. They've had a positive attitude, picked things up quickly and been a massive help."

For many participants, Willow Wood has offered a supportive setting where they feel valued and inspired.

To learn more about volunteering at Willow Wood, visit: willowwood.org.uk/vacancies/volunteer-vacancies

To join the YES scheme, contact Tameside Council's Employment and Skills team on 0161 342 3111 or email employmentandskills@tameside.gov.uk.

To read this story in full visit our website www.willowwood.org.uk/latest-news



CELEBRATING COLLABORATION

Uni-que support from Ciaran. We were delighted to welcome Ciaran Greenwood, an MA student from the University of Salford, to our Communications team on placement.

A local Tameside resident, Ciaran quickly got stuck in – interview students, writing stories, filming a lovely video of our gardens, and lending a hand at the Enterprise Challenge Awards. It was a pleasure having him with us, and we're so grateful for all his enthusiasm and hard work. It's a big THANK YOU from us to Ciaran for his dedication.



Ashton Students – on Form!

Seven A-Level Business students from Ashton Sixth Form College volunteered an impressive 350 hours in our charity shops, exceeding their required work experience. Supporting retail teams at The PAD in Stalybridge and shops in Waterloo and Ashton-under-Lyne, they developed skills in communication, time management, and customer

service. Adam Dixon, 18, found the experience so rewarding he chose to continue volunteering. Volunteer Services Manager Lisa Pye said how pleased she was with the group, thanking them for getting stuck in and making a real difference.

Thank you and keep up the good work!



College Collab!

Tameside College and Willow Wood Hospice are strengthening ties through a range of exciting initiatives. Recently, our Senior Management Team enjoyed a warm welcome at the college, including a guided tour and a delicious lunch prepared by talented Catering students.

The first big project has been a student-led fashion show and pop-up shop, held at Clarendon Sixth Form in early June. Featuring brand-new, on-trend clothing donated to

Willow Wood by high street brands, 1st year Fashion and Textiles students managed everything—from modelling to pricing.

Willow Wood's Head of Retail, Pauline Lunt, said:

"From the first meeting, I knew it would be a success. The show was slick, professional, and really impressed me. The pop-up shop was just as strong – well-priced, well-run, and a brilliant experience. And as for their final fundraising total of over £575 simple fantastic!"



Join today



Visit willowwood.org.uk or call on 0161 330 1133
Guaranteed £1,000 Winner Every Week
plus up to £25,000 in the Rollover



Scan here to join



18+

You must be a UK resident, over 18
years old to play and claim prizes.
For full terms and conditions, visit
www.willowwood.org.uk/lottery

BeGambleAware.org[®]

Our CEO's Vision

SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

When our CEO, Tracy Minshull, joined the Hospice in spring last year, she outlined her vision to create a new strategy that would guide us into the future.

From the beginning, Tracy emphasised that our volunteers and staff combined are one workforce. Willow Wood's plan for the next five years reflects the shared ideas and values of everyone who helps make Willow Wood what it is today. Here is how our whole workforce contributed...



TOGETHER WE CARE

Now after months of conversations and collaboration, we're proud to have launched our strategy – a roadmap built together because Together We Care.

You can read our Strategy, including our four key priorities of Communication, Quality of Care, People and Sustainability by visiting www.willowwood.org.uk/strategy



Scan here to read our 2025-2030 Strategy



New Look Vans

SMOOTH NEW SYSTEM!

Our Hospice furniture vans were starting to show their age—peeling paint and faded details—but not anymore!

They've had a much-needed makeover and now sport a fresh, modern look that really stands out. With bold new livery, they're delivering the right message along with your generous donations. Out with the flaky finishes, in with a smart new style that reflects the great service we provide. Spot them on the road—and if you've got furniture to donate, get in touch!

Smooth new system

Alongside our smart new vans, we've launched a quicker, easier furniture collection system! Instead of calling The Pad, you can now contact our Warehouse and Logistics Manager, Paul King, and his team directly. This helps us plan better, use our space more efficiently, and get your donations into our shops faster. It's simple, free, and more streamlined than ever. For furniture collections, just get in touch—Paul and the team are ready to help!



Faster, simpler and more efficient for everyone

Paul King, our Warehouse and Logistics Manager, said: "It's all about better stock flow, smoother sales, and quicker collections."

"With this new system, we're not only making donations easier—we're boosting furniture sales and improving stock across all three shops. The PAD and Waterloo can now focus fully on customer service, without the pressure of managing logistics."

"We've also added a WhatsApp option, making it even easier to donate. From first contact to collection, it can all be sorted in as little as three days!"

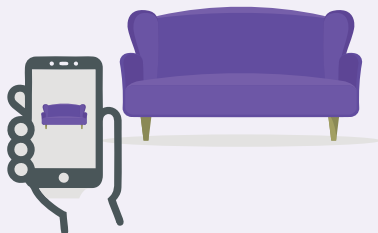


DONATING FURNITURE: FAST, FREE, SIMPLE

Donating your pre-loved furniture to Willow Wood Hospice has never been easier.

Follow the steps below for a free and fast way to donate your pre-loved furniture to Willow Wood Hospice and in turn, help to raise vital funds towards caring for patients from your local community.

1.



Picture this...

Take photographs of the furniture you'd like to donate.

2.

Tell us all about it...

Send the photographs to us, including a short description.

By WhatsApp - 07549 275 158

Via our website -

www.willowwood.org.uk/furniture-collection



Hi, I'd like to donate this sofa...

3.



If in doubt...

For anyone without access to WhatsApp or our website, simply give our team a call...

Mobile: 07549 257 158

Landline: 0161 669 4849

You can find more information about how to donate furniture, what we are able to accept and to request your free and fast furniture collection on our website!

www.willowwood.org.uk/furniture-collection

Scan here for more information



GRIEF GROUPS

Willow Wood Hospice offers a range of compassionate bereavement and grief support services for anyone who has been close to a patient who received care through the Hospice.

These include Growing Through Grief, a supportive group session to help navigate loss; our Bereavement Hub, a welcoming drop-in space for advice and emotional support; and Sunflowers, a specialist group designed to support children through their unique grief journey. Each service provides a safe environment to share, connect, and begin healing together.

Bereavement Hub

Connect with our Family Support team for reassurance, guidance, information and signposting at one of our quarterly drop-in sessions at Willow Wood Hospice.

For more information visit

www.willowwood.org.uk/bereavement-support-hub/



Growing Through Grief

An 8-week counsellor-led programme for small groups of people who are struggling with grief after the loss of a loved one who had received care from any of Willow Wood's care services.

For more information visit

www.willowwood.org.uk/growing-through-grief/



Sunflowers

Sunflowers is a counsellor-led bereavement support group for children aged 8–13, offering a safe space with age-appropriate activities to help them explore and express their feelings after the loss of a loved one cared for by Willow Wood Hospice.

For more information visit

www.willowwood.org.uk/sunflowers-support-group/



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**Sending our best wishes to
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Denise, Cassie or Jade
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0161 338 2520

H. Revell & Sons was established in 1888 by Edward Revell, Denise's great-great grandfather and has 137 years experience of serving the community with her daughter Cassie now taking us into our 6th generation.

We are the longest established firm of Funeral Directors in Tameside that is still family owned and run. We have a solid reputation for honesty, integrity, quality of service and reliability.

Generations of families have returned to use our services and we believe this is due to the sensitive and personalised handling of their wishes. Our compassionate team, Jade, Liv & George understand that it is often the smaller touches that make a funeral truly unique.

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Our company believes compassion, care, dignity and attention to detail are the cornerstones for the funeral profession.



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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 those closest to them.

OUR VALUES

-  **Compassionate**
to those we support
-  **Accountable**
for our actions
-  **Respectful**
of each other
-  **Excellent**
when we collaborate,
innovate and educate

CONTACT US

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