

Bluebell Wood

CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



News

Autumn/Winter 2023

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Bluebell Wood
Children's Hospice

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www.bluebellwood.org
Registered Charity No. 1076958

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Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2023 edition

We've had a lovely summer with lots of wonderful memories being made both in the hospice and out in the community.

From families enjoying the garden during their short breaks to siblings learning to cook tasty treats at their workshops, there's certainly plenty of laughter and fun in all that we do.

During July and August our fantastic physiotherapists held fitness and fun activity days at the hospice as well as family splash sessions at Newman School in Rotherham.

Families had a great time playing games together and swimming knowing they had the support of our physiotherapists and the community care team. Lots of people got involved, including our CEO, Heidi, who joined in the fun with a game of Boccia!

In August, Bluebell Wood families enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon of entertainment and lots of summer craft activities and games.

Rain didn't stop play, it just meant the fun moved indoors and the smell of hot dogs, candy floss, popcorn and waffles drifting through the air added to the festival feeling.

Acoustic musicians Jim and Martin, also known as Cocklebread, provided entertainment along with hair braiding by Matilda and face painting from Stacey. A huge thanks to everyone who helped make it such a special day.



Here's some lovely feedback from a Bluebell Wood parent:

We had a lovely time and Isabel constantly said she was happy. A big thank you to all the staff for making it a great festival despite the weather.

In September, we were delighted to be able to increase our overnight care services in the hospice from four nights per week to five nights per week. Our recruitment drive continues, with one priority aim to recruit the nurses and support staff to get us back up to seven nights very soon.

Your support means so much to all the families supported by Bluebell Wood, including 14-year-old Breanna and her mum Sarah. You can read her inspiring story later in this edition. A great way to help families like Breanna's (as well as get organised for Christmas) is to buy your Christmas cards and gifts from us.

Our Christmas catalogue and details about how to order are on [page 12](#).



Meet our new Transition Team

In July we welcomed two new members of staff to the community team to work with young people supported by the hospice (ages 14-25 years) and their families. We caught up with them to find out more.

Rachel



Inspired by a tour of Bluebell Wood, it was the drive to make a difference to children and young people that prompted Rachel to apply for a role at the hospice.

Rachel has slotted right into Bluebell Wood's Community Care Team as Transition Coordinator. She'll be ensuring that young people over the age of fourteen have a smooth transition from children's services to adult services including managing their care, educational and social needs.

Rachel said: **"I knew in my heart that I needed to work at Bluebell Wood and that I could make such a positive difference to young people and their families."**

"Every young person is unique, and the role requires adaptability, flexibility and the ability to connect with a range of different external services, as well as parents and carers."

Rachel added that she can't wait to build an exciting new transition package for young people. It will support their social and emotional development and will feature activities such as youth groups and community events.

It's not all work and no play for Rachel, who is part of an amateur dramatics group, goes to the gym, races around the netball court and loves her real ale!

Julie



Being part of a person-centred team is what inspired Julie to apply for a role at Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice.

Julie has joined the Community Care Team as a Youth Engagement Worker, where she'll be finding activities and events that young people can participate in either at the hospice or in the community.

"I was attracted to the role because it's person-centred and puts young people and their families first." Julie said.

"Bluebell Wood is such a happy place; everyone is positive and passionate. Nothing is ever too much trouble and I've felt supported in my new role."

"I have seen so many wonderful things already, from families swimming, dream days coming true and a young person enrolling at college."

Julie enjoys dancing, sewing, crafting and reading. We're delighted to have someone so fun on our team!

Rachel and Julie run a monthly youth group with physiotherapist, Jane at the hospice to help young people meet others going through similar experiences whilst having lots of fun.

They have already made a positive impact and helped widen the variety of our services. We can't wait to see what else they have planned.



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Bluebell Wood Autumn/Winter 2023 Newsletter
Meet our new Transition Team



Breanna's story

Breanna is like a lot of other teenage girls. She's funny, sassy and has a penchant for the colour pink.

But behind it all is a 14-year-old who has battled more in her short life than the rest of us can imagine encountering in a lifetime.

In her first four years, Breanna endured hours of procedures and came close to losing her life at least twice.

But warrior Breanna pulled through.



Mum Sarah had no idea that her daughter would be born with such complex additional needs. At 20 weeks pregnant, she discovered Breanna had Bilateral Talipes; a condition which causes Breanna's feet to turn inwards.

After she was born it was clear Breanna had further disabilities and she was diagnosed with Arthrogryposis; a condition which causes her arms and legs to contract and bend, and severe Scoliosis of the spine and hips.

The condition also causes Breanna's hips to be dislocated, fingers to be crossed over, and means that she has fragile bones which previously caused two leg fractures.





“She was so poorly, but she came through it all and got better.” Sarah said.

“I’m so proud of her; she’s gone through so much in her little life.”

Despite everything, you’ll rarely see Breanna without a smile. Sarah explained how cheeky and clever her girl is, and just how much she loves shopping and going to school.

Visiting Bluebell Wood for the first time was an enormous step.

“When we got to Bluebell Wood, it was brilliant. I could hear Breanna laughing as the Care Team took her up and down the corridor. It was a relief to have someone take on her care. I chilled out and it gave me peace of mind knowing help was there.”

“When I first heard of Bluebell Wood, I thought it was a sad place for palliative care and saying goodbye, but it’s not.”



“Everyone is happy and cheerful and they do so many inclusive activities. If you can support Bluebell Wood, it helps families like ours tremendously.”



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Bluebell Wood Autumn/Winter 2023 Newsletter
Breanna’s story



Fundraising news

Our amazing supporters continue to inspire us with such incredible fundraising efforts.

Here's just some of the fundraisers who have supported us over the summer.

To find out how you can get involved with fundraising, give the team a call on **01909 517 365** or visit our website www.bluebellwood.org

Grenoside Crematorium

Crematorium operators, Dignity, donated an amazing £10,000 to Bluebell Wood thanks to Grenoside Crematorium in Sheffield taking part in a nationwide metal recycling scheme.

With the consent of bereaved families, titanium artificial joints are recycled into metal products and the profit is donated to charity.



Thank you so much to Grenoside Crematorium and all the bereaved families involved.

Epic Coast to Coast Walk

A group of friends from Maltby, Rotherham took on a grueling 192-mile coast to coast walk in aid of Bluebell Wood. Conner Wesley and his team - Rob Pryke, Craig Edwards, Corey Mangham, Chris Daley, Danny Bearman and Caleb Wedge finished the walk in just eight days and raised an incredible £27,000 and counting.



A big thank you and congratulations to them all!

46-Mile Canal Walk

Jamie Daynes and Richard Bacon set themselves the task of walking the Chesterfield Canal path in aid of Bluebell Wood. They raised just over £2,000 and did the 46-mile walk in just 17.5 hours.



What an amazing achievement!

Whiston Cricket Club's 12th Charity Day

Whiston Cricket Club has raised more than £4,000 in support of Bluebell Wood.

The club's annual fundraising day has increased in popularity year on year. This year the club raised the most they ever have through cricket matches and drills, family fun activities and a raffle.



The event is organised by Peter Maw who lost his daughter Natalie at Bluebell Wood in 2012 when she was 12.

Thank you so much to Peter and his wife Karen, as well as everyone from Whiston Cricket Club for their incredible support!

Superstar Shay

Superstar fundraiser Shay reached the final three of the Go Cardless Just Giving Awards. Through his JustGiving page, Shay has a raised almost £50,000 for Bluebell Wood.

Inspired by his cousin Evie-Mae, Shay has swam, cycled and walked miles upon miles to raise funds for the hospice - let alone the many other fundraising initiatives he arranges with support from his family.



He came to the hospice to be filmed by Postcard Productions for his nomination video. Here he is with our Sheffield Fundraiser, Pip.

We couldn't be prouder of all he has achieved!

The Care Team's Snowdon Challenge

In July, seven nurses and support workers from the Bluebell Wood Care Team conquered the highest mountain in Wales!

Support worker Jane did the challenge in memory of her dear daughter Emma who passed away at the hospice in 2008 at the age of 13.



Undeterred by the 1am start, howling wind and rain, the team made it to the top of Snowdon and smashed their fundraising target of £500 to raise more than £2,000!



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Bluebell Wood Autumn/Winter 2023 Newsletter
Fundraising news

Volunteering stories

We are so grateful to all our amazing volunteers who are more than happy to help us get the job done. Read more about our fantastic volunteers below.

Our award-winning volunteers, Peter and Theresa

Earlier this year we nominated Peter and Theresa for the Order of Mercy Award for their outstanding voluntary service to Bluebell Wood.

They have volunteered with us since before the hospice was built over 20 years ago.

We were so thrilled that they were awarded this well-deserved honour in August and members of the fundraising team accompanied them to London to receive their awards at the official ceremony.



Corporate Volunteers

An eager team from Royal Mail volunteered in our gardens over the summer and did a great job making sure our gardens were blooming beautiful for visitors and families.

Paul from the Royal Mail team said: **"Volunteering for Bluebell Wood was a great experience. It was wonderful helping to do something so worthwhile for a fantastic cause."**



A brilliant team of volunteers from HSBC also planned to help in the gardens but due to the British weather, they turned their hands to helping with our Light Up the Lake mailing and Chesterfield Pride event.



Could you be a Bluebell Wood Volunteer?

We're always on the lookout for new volunteers and we are particularly in need of housekeeping and kitchen volunteers. If you're a dab hand with a duster or an aspiring sous chef, then we would love to hear from you.

Contact our lovely volunteering team:

✉ volunteering@bluebellwood.org

☎ 01909 517 360

"The staff at Bluebell Wood are so friendly, positive and welcoming. As a young volunteer, I felt nervous about joining a team who were far more experienced than I was. But on my first day, I was made to feel like I belonged - my ideas and efforts are always valued. The staff inspire me a lot and I learn so much from them."

Isha – Events & Fundraising Volunteer



➤ For all the latest volunteering opportunities, please visit www.bluebellwood.org/volunteer.



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Bluebell Wood Autumn/Winter 2023 Newsletter
Volunteering stories

Who is your twinkling star?

Wintertime is just around the corner, and with it comes a time for celebration and reflection.

Dedicating a star through our Twinkle, twinkle appeal is a truly unforgettable way to remember loved ones throughout December and every star twinkles even more brightly, as each tribute means we can create magical memories with the children and families in our care.

Families like Destiny's, rely on us to be there for them at the very hardest times in their lives.

Destiny's mum, Roxanne said;

“Bluebell Wood is a home from home and like family to us... without Bluebell Wood, life would be miserable... I can't imagine what it would be like without it.”

Twinkle,
twinkle ★★



Bluebell Wood supports hundreds of families like Destiny's and without donations and dedications, like yours, none of this would be possible.

To make a donation and dedicate a star to your loved one scan the QR code or visit:
www.bluebellwood.org/twinkle23

You'll receive a beautifully packaged star decoration personalised with their name, to keep close to your heart and hang from your tree this Christmas.



Proudly sponsored by





Recycle your Christmas tree

Our 2023/24 Christmas tree recycling service is now open!

Owning a real Christmas tree adds a touch of magic to the festive season, but how will you dispose of your tree after Christmas?

When you register with our collection service you can be sure that every single tree will be recycled or re-purposed.

Our collection partners handle thousands of Christmas trees for us each year, which are chipped to help grow new saplings, donated to forest schools, or given to the animals at Yorkshire Wildlife Park to play with!

In 2022/23 you helped us raise over £33,000 (including Gift Aid) by taking part in the scheme, and we hope you'll get behind the campaign again.

We recommend registering your tree early to avoid disappointment.

Simply scan the QR code, fill in a few details and make a donation (we suggest £10 per tree) and we'll organise a hassle-free collection from your door in January 2024.

Once you're done, you can relax and enjoy the festive season!

Register your Christmas tree by scanning this QR code!



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Bluebell Wood Autumn/Winter 2023 Newsletter
Recycle your Christmas tree

Christmas Catalogue 2023

Give the gift of magical memories
this Christmas!



Season's greetings!

When you buy your cards or gifts from us, you are helping local children and families going through incredibly tough times.

How to order your Christmas cards and gifts:

You can place an order in three ways:



Online

Visit bluebellwood.org/christmasshop (where you will find our full festive range).



By Phone

Call us on 01909 517 360.



By Post

Write the codes of the items you want to buy on our order form (on the back of the letter you received with this catalogue) and return this in the FREEPOST envelope provided.

Please place any phone or postal orders as soon as possible as stock sells fast!



All our Christmas cards are recyclable.



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Bluebell Wood Autumn/Winter 2023 Newsletter
Season's greetings!



Christmas cards

Each pack of our cards costs **£3.50** and includes ten cards and envelopes.

The greeting inside our cards reads:

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year

Castleton at Christmas

Our new card designed by Margaret Ellis for 2023!
Size: 171mm(w) x 121mm(h)
Code: BW23/01



Snowy Night at Sheffield Botanical Gardens

Size: 171mm(w) x 121mm(h)
Code: BW23/02



Christmas in the Peace Gardens

Size: 171mm(w) x 121mm(h)
Code: BW23/03



Winter Friends Scene

Size: 171mm(w) x 121mm(h)
Code: BW23/06



In the Manger

Size: 171mm(w) x 121mm(h)
Code: BW23/07



Santa and the Snowman

Size: 171mm(w) x 121mm(h)
Code: BW23/08



Chatsworth Snowman

Size: 121mm(w) x 171mm(h)
Code: BW23/04



Christmas Walk in the Snow

Size: 150mm(w) x 150mm(h)
Code: BW23/05



Snowy Forest Friends

Size: 150mm(w) x 150mm(h)
Code: BW23/09



Catching the Last Post

Size: 150mm(w) x 150mm(h)
Code: BW23/10



Dove with Christmas Wreath

Size: 150mm(w) x 150mm(h)
Code: BW23/11



The Kings Gather

Size: 150mm(w) x 150mm(h)
Code: BW23/12




Mixed Card Pack - £5

Can't choose a favourite? Buy our mixed card pack and let us decide. Each pack includes 20 cards from our past collections.
Code: BW23/13



You can view our entire winter range at www.bluebellwood.org/christmasshop

Our Christmas cards cost £3.50 for 10 cards and envelopes, plus £3.95 postage per order.

 All our Christmas cards can be recycled along with plastic packaging they arrive in.



Christmas gifts

Our fabulous range of gifts are perfect to make your loved ones smile this winter.

Limited Edition Bottle of Henderson's Relish - £4

We've teamed up with Henderson's Relish and artist Luke Horton to produce this very special limited-edition bottle with all profits made from each bottle donated to Bluebell Wood. It's vegan friendly and gluten free too so suitable for just about everyone!

Code: BW23/14



Polar Bear - £10

This super soft cuddly teddy is made of recyclable materials and bound to make any youngster smile!

Size: 23cm

Code: BW23/15



Christmas Wishes Candle - £4.50

This soothing scented soy candle would make the perfect Secret Santa gift or stocking filler.

Code: BW23/16



Floral Tote Bag - £4

A great gift for the eco-conscious person in your life. Our tote bags are ethically produced and chlorine free.

Size: 365mmx415mm

Code: BW23/18



Happy Christmas Seedball Box - £3

Give the gift of a spring full of flowers with this seedball matchbox, containing six soil-ready seedballs. Perfect stocking fillers for those who love the bees and butterflies.

Code: BW23/17



Kindness Postcards Pack of 5 - £3.50

Show how much you care with a pack of our cheerful A6 kindness postcards.

Bee Pack - Code: BW23/19

Hugs Pack - Code: BW23/20

World Pack - Code: BW23/21

Love Pack - Code: BW23/22

Sun Pack - Code: BW23/23

Mixed Pack - Code: BW23/24



Kindness Advent Calendar - £10

Enjoy an advent calendar full of kindness rather than chocolate, with our unique advent calendars. Each one comes with 24 small cards and envelopes tied with ribbon, which explain how you're helping local families. Also comes with festive pegs to hang each card.

Code: BW23/25



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Bluebell Wood Autumn/Winter 2023 Newsletter
Christmas gifts

Give the gift of a win

Treat your loved ones to a lottery gift card this winter and give them the chance to win £1,000 each week plus seven additional prizes.

You can gift a three (£13), six (£26) or 12 month membership (£52). Choose between two beautiful designs, which will be sent with an envelope.

To buy a gift card, let us know if you're ordering a £13, £26 or £52 membership on our form.

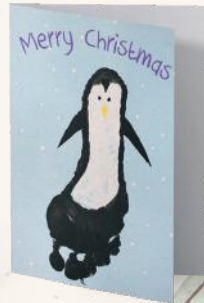
Robin

Code: BW23/26



Penguin

Code: BW23/27



Buying your festive cards and gifts by post? We charge £3.95 postage per order.

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Registered Charity No. 1076958. The Bluebell Wood Lottery is licensed and regulated by the Gambling Commission (www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk). Our license number is 30333. Our lottery promoter is Samantha Wood. The recipient of this gift must be 18 years or over in order to play our weekly lottery.

**Bluebell
Wood** 
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

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