

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024



**PLANT ONE OF
OUR BEAUTIFUL
EVERLASTING
FLOWERS IN
MEMORY OF
A LOVED ONE**

(See back cover for more details)

DOVE COTTAGE DAY HOSPICE, Canal Lane, Stathern, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 4EX.

Tel: 01949 860303 Email: admin@dovecottage.org Web: www.dovecottage.org

Registered Charity No. 1057941

WELCOME



WELCOME TO OUR WINTER 2024 EDITION!

It's been a whirlwind six months since our last newsletter hit the shelves, with lots of exciting developments taking place at the hospice.

Our garden project is in full swing, lots of improvements have been made to our facilities and several new faces have joined the team. On a less positive note, we have sadly had to close our tearoom (see page 5 for details) and the funding we receive from the NHS is potentially at risk of ending very soon which will mean that we will be even more reliant on our wonderful supporters to help us raise the funds that we need to keep providing our services free of charge to the local families that really need it.

Our hospice is a vital source of support for over 100 families each week and we hope to be able to expand our offerings to enable us to help even more in the future. We are so grateful for the generosity of our loyal volunteers, donors, corporate supporters and community fundraisers – a selection of whom you'll read about in the pages that follow. Without your help we really wouldn't be able to do what we do. We understand that finances can be hard, particularly around this time of year, and any support you can give us - however small - would be gratefully received.

Thank you! We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

If you would like to receive a copy of our newsletter in the post, please email dataprotection@dovecottage.org or contact us by telephone on 01949 860303.

HOSPICE NEWS



NEW WINDOWS

We are gradually making updates and improvements to our hospice building and facilities, and thanks to some funding received from Helen Jean Cope Charity and Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons, we have been able to replace the old wooden lounge double doors and windows with brand new u-pvc versions. The replacements have been kindly supplied and fitted by local company Greasley Property Services and in addition to looking much more attractive and brighter will enable our lounge to become more energy-efficient and hopefully help us save money on our heating bills!



DINING CHAIRS

We are also very lucky to have been awarded a grant to replace all of our dining chairs with new, more ergonomically designed chairs.

A donation of £3000 was received from Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation which has been used to purchase 24 brand new chairs for our guests to use.



CUTLERY

We were thrilled to receive a donation of 47 brand-new 7-piece cutlery sets from 'The Worshipful Company of Cutlers' which have been put to good use by our guests when tucking into their delicious three-course lunches!

FROM CARE TO HAIR...

We had the pleasure of attending the annual Community Chest awards at Ragdale Hall in June, where we were delighted to receive a cheque for £700.

This amount has enabled us to start the ball rolling on the development of our brand-new dedicated hairdressing salon at the hospice! Working in conjunction with local salon Wildflower Hair, we hope to offer a bespoke hairdressing service from January 2025 to all of our guests and carers as part of our complementary therapy offering.



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HOSPICE NEWS

EVERY DAY AT DOVE IS DIFFERENT!

Our guests have a choice of a wide range of activities to enjoy during their days at Dove. This summer we enjoyed a varied mix, including music groups such as the Stormy Weather Boys, Melstrum Ukelele and The Silvertones, Lindyhop dancing (from Mike and Sarah) and even a virtual tour of Harlaxton Manor!

We also celebrated the Olympic games by taking part in our own mini sports day including 'Javelin' throwing, skittles and target practice...

In addition to our regular visits from our PAT dogs (Barley and Maggie), we

were treated to several special visits from Harrison – a handsome Clydesdale who stands at a massive 18 hands high! Thank you to Helen from Langar for bringing him along for cuddles with our guests!

Our guests absolutely love meeting new faces (animals and humans alike!) and we are so grateful to everyone who offers up their time to come and visit us. If you have an interesting hobby, talent or skill that you'd like to share with us, we'd love to hear from you.

Please email lucy@dovecottage.org or phone 01949 860303 to get in touch!





FUNDING CUTS

This year, more than ever, hospices such as ourselves are facing huge financial pressure. The modest amounts of funding received from governments are forcing some to cut their vital services.

All of the UK's hospices rely on fundraising to keep their doors open and keep caring for people at the end of life. Despite the incredible support of loyal local communities, hospices now find themselves in an impossible position. Across the country, services are being cut, inpatient

beds are closing and community services are being reduced.

It costs around £740,000 each year to keep the doors of Dove Cottage Day Hospice open.

Less than 4% of that is currently funded by the government, which means that a staggering 96% needs to be raised through our fundraising activities, retail sales and donations from our community supporters.

We are so grateful to each and every one of our supporters, whether you are a regular donor, shop customer or lottery player - every penny really does help.

TEA ROOM CLOSURE

We are very sorry to announce the sad news that our Tea room is now closed for business.

Whilst it has provided a valued service to our local community in the past, the cost of the operation has steadily increased and its ability to contribute to the income of our charity has declined. As we remain funded by voluntary donations, our trustees have taken this difficult decision to ensure that the primary mission of providing high-quality care for guests and their families remains the first priority.

The charity shop will remain open at our Stathern site and we hope that our loyal customers will continue to support this to ensure that we can maintain provision of our hospice services to local families.

We would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for their support over the years. We will miss you all dearly but our priority will always be the care and support we provide to those who rely on us the most. To read more about the closure visit www.dovecottage.org/tearoomclosure



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VOLUNTEERS

COULD YOU HELP US?

We rely heavily on our dedicated base of volunteers across all areas of the charity, and are always keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in getting involved whether it be working in our shops, supporting our guests, assisting at events or even helping out with a bit of gardening!

Currently we are particularly in need of volunteer drivers. Our drivers enable us to offer a transport service to ensure that those guests who are unable to get to us independently don't miss out on the opportunity to attend our hospice.

Volunteer drivers are usually required for a couple of hours in the morning or afternoon (or both) on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, and will be given full training and support for the requirements of the role.

If you think that you might be able to spare a couple of hours to assist, please contact our volunteer facilitator Rachel on **01949 860303** or email **admin@dovecottage.org**



VOLUNTEER'S WEEK

In recognition of national volunteer's week in June, we held a celebration event at the hospice which brought together our volunteers from all sectors of the charity to acknowledge and thank them for their support over the years.

We were joined by our honorary president and founder, Chris Gatfield, who presented long-service awards to those who had reached milestone anniversaries, with lengths of service up to 25 years! Volunteers were also invited to contribute to a piece of collaborative artwork which is proudly on display in the hospice.

We were blessed with sunshine too, which meant that everyone had the opportunity to admire our new garden project and enjoy some al-fresco drinks, nibbles and live music.



HIDDEN TREASURES...

As the darker evenings and colder weather draw in, many of us are spending more time indoors. Instead of bingeing on a box set, why not get motivated and have a well-overdue clear out of those neglected cupboards and drawers? You'll get a buzz from knowing that profits from every item that is sold through our shops goes towards funding our hospice services.

In addition to our four charity shops, did you know that Dove also has an online presence? Our ebay and Depop stores also generate funds towards our hospice services and have the benefit of reaching a wider market as we can sell items across the UK and also abroad. The



advantage of this is gaining much higher prices than we would selling locally, meaning more pennies towards supporting our hospice!

Our ebay shop sells anything quirky or unusual. Some of our items have been bought by West End theatre companies for use as props! One pair of vintage 1980's earrings was even purchased for use in an episode of the Netflix series 'The Crown' as a wardrobe item for the actress depicting Princess Diana!

Donations specifically for resale on ebay or Depop can now be dropped directly at the hospice on a Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday between 10am – 3pm. We love to hear about the history of your items, so please pop along and ask for Anita when donating. If you are unsure if your items are suitable to donate, please call the hospice on **01949 860303** to chat with one of our team.

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GIVING ISN'T JUST FOR CHRISTMAS...

Did you know, all items that are donated to our shops could be worth 25% more to the hospice if you are registered for Gift Aid?

That means that if you donate an item to us which subsequently sells for £20, the hospice can claim an extra £5 on that item- AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU!

It really is such an easy way to help your donation go that little bit further.

Registering for Gift Aid is so simple. It literally takes minutes, only needs to be done once and can be completed in store when you are donating your items.

Once you have registered you will be given a card with a unique number which you can show when donating subsequent items. The same card/number can be used in all of our shops.

At the end of the year we will write to you to let you know how much your items have generated!

To register for Gift Aid you need to be a taxpayer in the UK.

Gift Aid can also be claimed on monetary donations to the hospice, for example when paying in sponsorship money or making a regular donation. If you are unsure if you are already registered, please call our accounts department on **01949 860303**.



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RETAIL



So it's that time of year again when all of our shops start looking a little bit sparkly..!

From decorations to toys, one-off presents to stocking fillers, Christmas jumpers to Secret Santa ideas, we have a fantastic range of items suitable for spreading festive cheer.

The shelves are also brimming with our brand new range of 2024 Christmas cards, wrapping paper, money wallets and gift bags, as well as our diaries, notebooks and our exclusive Dove Cottage calendar –

filled with stunning images of local wildlife taken by you!

Why not pop in to see what bargains you can find? Embrace pre-loved this festive season by treating your nearest and dearest to unique, high quality and affordable gifts. And remember – every purchase made goes towards supporting the work of the hospice – so not only are you buying a gift, but you are giving one too!

Our range of Christmas cards are also available to purchase online at www.dovecottage.org/christmas



CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Please note that the last day of trading for the Christmas period for all of our charity shops is **Saturday 21st December**. We will re-open on **Thursday 2nd January**.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

PEDAL POWER

A huge shout out goes to Mark Govan who participated in an epic 60 mile cycling challenge around the Vale in order to raise money for Dove Cottage. Mark absolutely smashed his initial fundraising target and raised over £1700!

The Velo Belvoir is an annual challenge that is organised in aid of local charities and this year Dove Cottage also received £1500 from the entry fees!

All in all a great event, which grows from strength to strength each year. Thank you to everyone on the organising committee, the participants and those individuals like Mark, that choose to raise additional sponsorship for us on top!

Save the date for next year's Velo Belvoir: **Sunday 11th May 2025.**



REEL-Y GREAT CATCH!

A group of 29 keen anglers took to their rods in October to land the heaviest catch – all whilst raising a whopping £754.94 for Dove!

Such a great day was had by all that the team at Lakeview Fishery have agreed to make this an annual event! Watch this space for the date for next year's fishy fundraiser! A huge thank you goes out to Ross and Mark at Lakeview, all the fishermen that supported on the day and our longstanding supporter of the hospice **Martin Quilter** for coordinating it all!



LACE DAY

Hose Postmistress and longstanding supporter Penny Reed, swapped her letters for lace in September as she hosted her annual lace making event, raising £458 for the hospice.

This is the 17th lace day that Penny has organised for Dove, and has raised over £6000 over the years! Thank you so much to Penny and all those that were involved.



HARBY HARLEQUINS

Local drama group took to the stage in September to perform a night of comedy sketches and songs, with all profits going towards Dove Cottage. Thank you!



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COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING



ORSTON PRODUCE SHOW

Giant marrows, misshapen carrots and even Robert Jenrick (sculpted from a butternut squash!) featured in the annual Orston Produce Show this year, where the raffle raised £200 towards Dove Cottage. Thank you to the produce show committee and all the keen horticulturalists of Orston who supported this!



TOMATOES

A huge thank you to friend of the hospice **Will Lindsay** for harnessing his green-fingered talents and growing over 120 tomato plants to sell in aid of Dove. This year, Will and the residents of Harby have raised £189.96!

FOOTBALL FUNDRAISING

We were so pleased to receive a donation of £575 in June from Colston Bassett resident **John Jennings**.

He donated the winnings from his annual football sweepstake competition that he runs with a small group of friends named 'The Purple Alliance', who donate proceeds to a different charity each year. This year was our turn to receive the donation and we are very grateful! Thank you!



CHEERS!

A huge 'Cheers!' goes out to our friends at Bottesford-based drinks company **Belvoir Farm** who recently completed the Peak District Ultra Challenge! Walking and running 25 km and 50 km, the team of 13 colleagues raised a fantastic £1265.00 for Dove Cottage!



CHALLENGES



CHARITY CHALLENGES

Are you an avid runner, cyclist or swimmer? Or maybe you're neither of those, but would like to give it a try? We are looking for as many people as possible who would like to take on a physical challenge in order to raise much-needed funds to support our hospice services.

We can secure places in over 800 races across the UK and abroad, including the ever-popular London Landmarks 10k, Barcelona marathon or London to Paris cycle ride. We also have access to some of the most-popular obstacle course

events in the UK such as the Tough Mudder series.

So whether you're a regular runner and want to push yourself that bit further or a new athlete just starting out on their sports journey, we're sure to have an option that's suitable for everyone.

Why not encourage the kids to get involved too and choose an inflatable obstacle course challenge for a fun family day out?

We'll give you all the support you need to set up your online fundraising pages and help promote your cause far and wide via our social media.

To see the range of challenges that we have available, please visit www.dovecottage.org/challenges or email fundraising@dovecottage.org



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EVENTS

WHAT A 'PAWSOME' PERFORMANCE!

Our 'Pawsome' family fun and dog show event took place in July and - despite the torrential wind and rain - we welcomed hundreds of supporters who helped us to raise around £3500 towards hospice services!

Local music and community groups performed in our entertainment marquee, dozens of local businesses brought along their products for sale and many of our four-legged friends took part in our ever popular fun dog show.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the day, with a special mention to loyal supporter Judith and her team who do a fantastic job running the dog show! Thank you so much!



This September we welcomed professional touring theatre company **Illyria**, to perform their own take on the traditional tale of Dr Dolittle. Despite contradictory weather forecasts, the afternoon stayed dry and bright throughout for the whole performance which took place outdoors in the paddock area behind our Stathern charity shop.

The performance received rave reviews from families that attended, and we are pleased to announce that due to popular demand, we will be welcoming Illyria back to the hospice next summer to perform their version of 'Wind in the Willows'.

Save the date for **Sunday 8th June 2025** and keep an eye on our FB page for when tickets go on sale!



CORPORATE SUPPORT

As a small charity in the heart of the Vale, we value our relationship with local businesses and love the opportunity to work with them to promote the services that we provide. A few of the wonderful organisations that support us are mentioned below. If you know of a company that might be willing to discuss a corporate partnership, or an outlet that might be able to display one of our counter-top donation pots – please get in touch with one of our team via email fundraising@dovecottage.org or call 01949 860303.



ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL...

Many of you will know that our garden at the hospice is not only an area of tranquility for our guests to enjoy but also home to a plethora of wildlife!

Our resident pheasants, squirrels, hare, robin and various species of other birds provide some wonderful viewing from our lounge windows, often knocking on the door to be fed! We even have a family of moorhens nesting close by that visit us regularly.

All of our garden friends are fed by the generosity of local company **Brinvale**, who have been supporting the hospice by providing complimentary bird food for us for several years now. We are so grateful to them for the opportunity to encourage more wildlife to our garden at no extra cost! Thank you!



HOW YOUR HOUSE CAN HELP OUR HOSPICE

We are delighted to announce a partnership with Belvoir Sales & Lettings in Melton Mowbray & Bingham.

Belvoir have pledged to make a donation to the hospice for every house sold when Dove Cottage Day Hospice is mentioned during the sales instruction and we hope that the new partnership will provide much needed funds to support our vital hospice services.

So if you are looking to put your house on the market, why not give Belvoir a call and help them to help our hospice? Email: melton@belvoir.co.uk to speak to one of their team.



BELVOIR!
Property is personal



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CORPORATE SUPPORT



WELLBEING WALKS

We are very grateful to the team at Belvoir Castle for kindly hosting us over the summer for some lovely guided walks around the castle grounds, followed by complimentary coffee at the Belvoir Bistro!

A huge thank you to community engagement officer **Jacob Dunne** for his knowledgeable guiding, and also to the **Duchess of Rutland** for allowing us entry to the beautiful grounds and providing us with refreshments too!

Our August walk saw around 50 Dove supporters enjoying the beautiful weather, grounds and also took the opportunity to run wild on the impressive adventure playground at the castle.

TRUST FUNDING

We recently welcomed Peter Corah from the **JR Corah foundation** to have a tour of the hospice. The J R Corah Foundation are one of our long-term trust funders, that have generously supported Dove Cottage since 2011. Thank you for all your support over the years!

SPEND AND SUPPORT

With all that Christmas shopping on the horizon, we thought it would be a good time to remind everyone about the great fundraising scheme that we are signed up with via **easyfundraising**.

Over 8,000 retailers including eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos and M&S will donate to Dove Cottage Day Hospice when you buy online. This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything from decorations and festive food shopping to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more! These donations really help us and all you have to do is use easyfundraising when you're ordering the things you'll be buying anyway.

These donations really do mount up and can make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

For more information visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dovecottage/



WINTER WARMERS PRIZE DRAW

PRIZES INCLUDE A SELECTION OF
LOCALLY SOURCED, LUXURY HAMPERS



TICKETS £1 EACH (£5 PER BOOK)

(DRAW DATE: WEDS 11TH DEC)

**TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
FROM OUR CHARITY SHOPS AND ONLINE**

www.dovecottage.org/winterprizedraw

THANK YOU TO ALL THE LOCAL BUSINESSES WHO HAVE KINDLY DONATED PRIZES:

**CROPWELL
FARM SHOP**



BRINVALE
BIRD FOODS

**Belvoir
Farm**

GATES
EST. 1948

**Wrendale
DESIGNS**
by Hannah Dale

Sainsbury's

**JOHN SMITHS KITCHEN
& INTERIORS**

Memory Meadow

Dedicate one of our beautiful glass flowers to someone special, or simply help us to enhance the beauty of our garden by planting one in support of the work of the hospice.

For a suggested minimum donation of £40, we can 'plant' one of these beautiful flowers in our hospice garden, with a dedication to a loved one.

These flowers have been individually handcrafted from glass by local company Floral Dene Designs.

Choose from five stunning designs:



Every flower planted supports the work of the hospice and enhances our garden area for our guests.

Why not consider planting one at the hospice and taking another one home for your own garden?

Every personalised flower comes with a complimentary heart keepsake. Created in the same colour as your chosen flower, the glass heart is a perfect token to keep the memory of your loved one close.



To order one of our beautiful flowers scan the QR code or visit:



www.dovecottage.org/memory-meadow