

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024



EXPERIENCE A SUMMER OF FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!



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

ONE YEAR ON

Dove Cottage and LOROS officially merged on the 1st April last year. Now one year on, the charity has gone from strength to strength under new management, with the newly forged connections with fellow Leicester hospice really proving itself to be the right succession plan for our small day hospice.

No major changes have been made to the core service that the hospice provides, but the facilities, infrastructure, compliance and governance have benefitted from the shared resources of a larger organisation, with specialist teams that have been able to make some processes more streamlined and therefore become more efficient.

Day-to-day life at the hospice looks very similar for its guests. Following the retirement of 80% of the previous clinical team and the CEO, a new team of nursing staff and health care assistants have settled in well and helped to make the transition as seamless as possible.

Bringing the two charities together has also offered both organisations opportunities to learn from each other. Regular knowledge-sharing and training sessions take place, enabling colleagues from both organisations to share experiences and learning outcomes that are mutually beneficial.

Money raised on behalf of Dove will be spent at Dove and vice versa. But exciting developments to the Stathern facility itself are underway, largely down to the foresight and inspiration of the new team behind the wheel.

To find out more about Dove Cottage, the services it provides and how you can get involved in shaping its future, visit www.dovecottage.org



STAFFING UPDATE

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Colette who joined the Dove team as part of the merger in April last year, managing the income generation side of the charity alongside Dan who has been responsible for managing the clinical side and facilities. Colette's secondment from LOROS has now come to an end and she is moving on to new challenges. We want to say a huge thank you to her for her support over the past 12 months and wish her well for the future!

Colette's departure has led to a restructure in the management of Dove and we are pleased to announce that Dan will take on the role of Chief Executive, and Emily will expand on her previous role as nursing manager to become Clinical Lead.

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

TRANSPORT NEWS

We have recently introduced an additional vehicle to our fleet of Dove transport – a shiny VW Caddy Maxi!

Replacing one of our older vehicles, the Maxi has had brand new signage applied to help us spread the word far and wide whilst our lovely volunteers are collecting our guests for their day at Dove. Special thanks go to Melton company Digital

Deadline for helping us make them look so eye-catching! Give us a wave if you see us out and about!

Our fleet of vehicles will be looked after by our new volunteer Transport Coordinator. Harby resident Chris - who used to help keep the hospice spick and span - has traded his mop for a chamois leather and is now responsible for "all things transport" including weekly vehicle checks, arranging servicing, maintenance, valeting and the occasional driving duty!



GARDEN PROJECT

"Never underestimate the healing power of a quiet moment in the garden" (unknown)

Some of you may have been witnessing the amazing transformation that has been happening in our garden space here at the hospice. Hard working local tradesmen and friends of the hospice Will and John, have spent around 6 weeks landscaping the large grass area in the hospice garden to create a 100 metre long all-weather path (the centre of a multi-sensory wellbeing walk) and a kitchen garden area.

The idea - which was initiated by Hospice Chief Executive Dan - has been funded by a grant from Melton Borough Council, and will continually evolve as a lovely project to engage the wider community and create a wonderful calm space for guests, carers, staff and volunteers to enjoy.

Other aspects of the project are being supported by Gates Garden Centre and the Hardy Plant Society in Nottingham, and we have lots more exciting developments to come! This is still work in progress but more information about this project can be found online at www.dovecottage.org/garden

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER WELLBEING

We are always striving to make Dove a happy place to be – not only for our guests, but for our staff and volunteers too. We have recently introduced our new 'wellbeing' initiative, which aims to offer staff and volunteers support and resources on a range of subjects including mental health, managing financial worries, achieving a work-life balance and much more.

We have also created a cosy room in the hospice specifically as a space for quiet reflection, a private phone call or just for a few minutes away from it all.



FOLLOW US ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.DOVECOTTAGE.ORG

RUTLAND PROVISION

Following over 12 months of seeking a viable safe, appropriate and permanent alternative venue for our Rutland support group (set up after the closure of the Ridlington hospice in 2021), our plight has been unsuccessful and led to our trustees regretfully taking the decision to close the group with effect from the end of May.

This is not a decision that has been taken lightly. We are very grateful to Empingham Cricket club for allowing us to use the space for the past two years however as a venue, the cricket pavilion is not set up to deal with guests with more complicated healthcare needs. Whilst we have been willing to adapt and make do for a short while, we knew this could never be a permanent alternative for a hospice service. Also due to staff changes, the group is now primarily run by a very loyal base of volunteers and although they are well-intentioned and dedicated, without qualified nursing staff we are no longer able to offer the service in the way that it was originally intended.

All of the individuals that have been directly affected by the closure of this group have been signposted and referred to alternative support, where needed and possible.

We will continue to investigate possible alternatives for future provision in Rutland - this premise would need to be fully accessible, infection prevention compliant, have a private area for counselling and treatments and appropriate seating for people with life limiting conditions. If any businesses in the Rutland vicinity think that they may be able to offer a suitable space, please do get in touch to discuss on **01949 860303**.

ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?

We were recently awarded a whopping £8,980 from Morrisons Community Foundation to replace all of our lounge chairs at the hospice.

The brand new specialist reclining chairs are a hit with our guests, enabling increased comfort and support to all.

The grant was successfully secured by Claire, the newest addition to our Fundraising team at the hospice, who has been hard at work applying for a whole host of other funding which is so desperately relied upon to keep our hospice services open.



MUSICAL MEMORIES

Another of the grants secured by Claire is from the BNA which has kindly covered the costs of a year's worth of 'memory music box' sessions in the hospice. These interactive sessions

enable each of our guests to reminisce with their younger selves through the medium of music and will ultimately create a 'playlist for life' to take home and share with their families.



PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

We often talk about the service provision here at Dove, but we thought that it might be nice for our supporters to hear from the viewpoint of someone who directly benefits from the work that we do. Our lovely guest Hazel has written about her time at Dove from her perspective...

"Have you thought about going to Dove Cottage Day Hospice?" I was asked. Me go there?? So I did some investigating and decided maybe I should. My husband & I popped in for a look round then I was offered a day visit as a guest. It was like the first day at school – I didn't know anyone, didn't really know what happened but I was given a lovely assistant to show me the ropes and I have never looked back.

Every visit is different although similar. A nice cup of coffee on arrival and a chat to everyone, guests, staff & volunteers catching up with the week's events. Now everything is so familiar I feel really comfortable when I attend and will do my very best to be there.

We have a variety of things happening, some of which I enjoy and some I don't – but you can't keep everyone happy! If you want to be quiet there is plenty of room to 'hide'. My favourite activity is the crafts

– I have always enjoyed this but to have someone showing you what to do and to assist when something is difficult (I struggle to hold a needle) means we can join in without worrying, and of course, whilst sat around the table we put the world to rights.

Highlight of the day is lunch – always three course and freshly cooked – and if you don't fancy the main course there is always a Jacket Potato. The dessert is often a sponge with sauce – always so light and tasty. We cannot thank our chef Ingrid & her kitchen assistants enough, but always be nice to Alex as he dishes up the meal or he may forget to serve you!

We have a lovely group of chaplains who visit most weeks – always happy to talk to you either in a group or if you wish privately. Of course we have occasional services – not long, but enough to help us remember our faith. I must admit that after I have attended a service I always feel a presence of calm upon me.

The grounds are beautiful and although it is a work in progress I cannot wait to see the Sensory Garden when it is finished.

I cannot thank the Dove Cottage staff and volunteers enough – always about to help but discreet enough to just "be there". To most of us just to have someone there is a great help. It gives my husband a well needed break and me to have a lovely day.



**"NOW EVERYTHING IS SO FAMILIAR
I FEEL REALLY COMFORTABLE WHEN
I ATTEND AND WILL DO MY VERY
BEST TO BE THERE."**



LET'S CELEBRATE!

ROYAL HONOURS

Many of you will be familiar with the name Chris Gatfield. Chris is integral to the history of Dove Cottage, having founded the hospice in 1996 and spent over 26 years managing it.

We are so proud that all of her hard work and dedication has been acknowledged by the King, being awarded a British Empire Medal in the new Years Honours list 2024!

Congratulations to Chris – without her perseverance and dedication, Dove Cottage would not exist!



ASFORDBY TURNS 5!

In March we celebrated the 5th Anniversary of the opening of our Asfordby shop! Situated on Bradgate Lane, Asfordby, the shop opened on March 23rd 2019 and since then has grown from strength to strength.

Managers Emma and Susan run the shop with a team of fantastic volunteers and are always looking for new ways to get the community involved. Whether it be holding regular colouring competitions to enhance their window displays, arranging bingo evenings or running raffles – the Asfordby team go above and beyond to generate funds in support of the hospice.

To celebrate the anniversary the shop organised a 'Dove trail' for families around the village, baked delicious cupcakes and held an in-store raffle.



STEPH CYCLES INTO THE DISTANCE

We bade a fond farewell to Steph in March as she worked her final shift at the Stathern shop before heading off on her new adventures.

After 5 years managing the Stathern shop alongside Justine and coordinating our ebay sales up at the hospice, Steph leaves her Dove family behind to travel across the world with her partner Sam... on their bikes! She will be sadly missed but we wish them both the very best on their exciting travels.



TEA ROOM & SHOPS



BARISTA COFFEE

Have you seen our lovely new coffee machine?

The shiny new addition to our tea room is an upgrade from our previous automatic machine, which means we can now offer a larger range of delicious barista hot drinks alongside our delicious home-baked cakes. With a variety of dairy-free milk options, we can now cater for a wider range of allergies too!

What's more – all of the waste coffee grounds are composted for use in our gardens!



LOVE LOCAL

We are excited to announce that we will be stocking a range of local foodie delights for sale in our Stathern shop this summer.

Supporting local producers, we are proud to be offering Ferneleys ice cream (Melton Mowbray), Barlows of Belvoir Jams & Chutneys (Harby), Selbee Honey (Langar) and Peacock Farm Oils & Vinegars (Muston).

Also featuring on our tea room menu are Sausages and Ham from Gary Jowetts Butchers (Cropwell Bishop), Eggs from 'The Egg Shed' (Eaton) and a range of Belvoir Farm cold drinks (Bottesford).



COMPOST

A huge thanks goes to our friends at Frosts Garden Centre in East Bridgford who have generously donated a lorry load of compost and plants to help spruce up the garden area at our tea room!

Received by a team of willing volunteers, the donation will help enhance the large outside area for customers to sit in and enjoy a cup of tea and a slice of cake!



FOLLOW US ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.DOVECOTTAGE.ORG

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

PIE WEEK!

In celebration of National Pie Week, our guests were treated to a yummy 'Northerner' from our friends at Brockleby's Pies. The local company kindly donated the delicious meat and potato pies and have also been in to demonstrate how they make their traditional pork pies!

If you'd like to learn how to make one of their pies, why not enter our prize draw as we have an 'Ultimate pie-making experience' up for grabs! (see back cover for details). A huge thanks goes to Brockleby's for their continued support!



BROCKLEBY'S
Handmade in Melton Mowbray

COZY CREATIONS

We were delighted to receive a wonderful donation of hand-knitted blankets at the hospice recently. Radcliffe-on-Trent resident Carol delivered a huge pile of beautifully crafted colourful blankets for use by our guests.

Expertly knitted by Frances and Avis (Carol's mum and mum-in-law) the two mums have been busy churning out the blankets at a rate of knots, all in aid of keeping our guests nice and cozy! The rainbow coloured blankets are perfect for snuggling under and add a glorious pop of colour to our lounge area! Thank you!



'HANDEL-ED' WITH CARE

When Stathern resident Nicky generously offered to donate her piano to us, we were overjoyed... but unable to collect it, we turned to our wonderful community of supporters on Facebook.

Within minutes we had received a phonecall from local company Russells who offered to collect and deliver this to us, and that same afternoon it had been transported to



its new home in our sun room!!

We were overwhelmed with the responses that we received following our plea for help. Thanks to all who

offered to help, Nicky for donating our wonderful piano and Russells UK for getting it safely to us! A true example of community support!

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

AND YOUR SPECIALIST SUBJECT IS?...

Dedicated supporter of the hospice Judith has been quietly raising money for Dove for several years via various events, activities and more recently – her quizzes. This summer, we are working with Judith to promote a new fundraising initiative in aid of the hospice.

She has kindly allowed us to use a selection of her quiz-tastic conundrums for us to sell to the public in order to raise funds for Dove. Quiz sheets can be purchased for £1 and all correctly completed sheets will be entered into a draw to win a delicious cream tea for two people at our canalside tea room. (T's & C's apply, see website for details)

Keep an eye out for the quiz sheets in our tea room, shops and on our website www.dovecottage.org/quiz

● *Do you have a fundraising idea that you'd like us to help you get off the ground? We love to hear from people who are choosing to raise money for us so we can help spread the word – please email us on fundraising@dovecottage.org to start the ball rolling!*



WELLBEING WOOLLIES!

We were delighted to welcome these two woolly cuties into the hospice for cuddles with our guests in April.

Kindly loaned out by local farmers Sara and Steve at Cropwell Bishop, these two-week old lambs made the day for our guests, volunteers and staff when they came in to visit us. We take pride in making sure that our guests' wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do at Dove, and these little cuties certainly ticked that box! Smiles from ear-to-ear were witnessed on every one who was in the building that day. A huge thanks goes out to Steve and Sara for facilitating this!



TOP OF THE CLASS!

Students at **Priory Belvoir Academy in Bottesford** have been busy completing their 'bottletop challenge'. The Year 7 and 8 students have spent the past few months encouraging their friends and family to recycle their plastic bottle-tops and collect them in aid of our hospice. The mammoth collection filled a minibus and weighed in just shy of a tonne! All profits from selling the plastic helps to fund our services. Thank you to the staff and students who were involved, and a big shout out to our wonderful volunteers David and Kath who facilitate the bottletop project on our behalf!



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EVENTS

HOT-FOOTED HOSPICE HEROES

On a freezing cold evening in November last year, 38 wonderful supporters gathered at Langer Airfield to find their 'inner spark' and challenge their perceptions at our Firewalk event.

Around 100 spectators enjoyed toasting marshmallows, eating stone-baked pizzas, playing glow-in-the-dark games and watching a fantastic fire performance, before observing the brave firewalkers as they took to the coals barefoot – not once, but twice!

The evening was led by a professional firewalking instructor and raised over £4500 towards Dove's services.

Do you think you could handle the heat? We have FREE spaces available in Firewalk events at the Firewalking UK headquarters (in Peterborough) on Friday 31st May and Friday 30th August.

If you would like to brave the coals whilst raising money for our hospice, please email fundraising@dovecottage.org to find out more.



FESTIVE FAMILY FUN

We were treated to a lovely musical start to December as we enjoyed performances from Stathern Primary School choir and a Carol service and sing-a-long from the Nottingham Salvation Army Junior band.

Our festive family fun event offered a range of music, crafts and games for all ages to enjoy, hot pigs in blankets, mulled wine and hot chocolate, plus a visit from a very special visitor!

Thank you to everyone who braved the snow to support this event, and a special shout out to Aly Greenway Workplace Training who created the most magical grotto!

Keep an eye out on social media for dates of festive events for 2024 which will be announced shortly!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Here's an overview of some events you may be interested in – for further details please visit our website or call **01949 860303**.

Friday 31st May & Friday 30th August – Firewalk* (@ Firewalking UK Headquarters, Peterborough)

Friday 7th June – Volunteer recruitment open morning (@ The Engine Yard)

Sunday 7th July – 'Pawsome Family Fun and Dog Show' (@ Stathern Lodge)

Sunday 8th September – Outdoor theatre performance of 'Dr Dolittle' (@ Dove Cottage Tea Room)

Sunday 13th October – Run Leicester (@ Victoria Park, Leicester)

*Please note the Firewalk dates advertised are not public events and attendance must be registered well in advance via Dove Cottage



Keep up to date with the latest news and events from Dove Cottage by following our Facebook pages [@dovecottagedayhospice](#) [@dovecottagehospiceshops](#) [@dovecottagetearoom](#)

FOLLOW US ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.DOVECOTTAGE.ORG





PAWSOME

FREE ENTRY!

(£5 DONATION FOR CAR PARK)

FAMILY FUN DAY & DOG SHOW!



Follow us for updates and more details



@dovecottagedayhospice

THE ADVENTURES OF DOCTOR DOLITTLE Outdoor Theatre Performance

We have teamed up with professional touring theatre company 'Illyria', to bring you a fun and exciting rendition of the story about the doctor who can speak to animals.

The performance will take place in the grass paddock area behind our tea room.

Bring along your own chairs, blankets (and clothing suitable for the weather!) to enjoy a wonderful family-friendly performance in the open air (and – hopefully – beautiful sunshine...!)

Sunday 8th September @ 3pm



Get your tickets now! www.dovecottage.org/theatre

FUNDRAISING

BANGERS AND CASH

The family-owned company **Davies Salvage** based at Langar Airfield, are long term friends of the hospice and for the last three years have been

donating the coins that fall out of vehicles while they are being scrapped! What an ingenious way of supporting us!

A huge shout out goes to Davies Salvage for their most recent donation of £1229.69.



'SURGE' OF SUPPORT

A huge thank you goes out to **Eaton Electrical Products** for all of their fundraising initiatives carried out in aid of Dove over the past couple of years. We recently received the last instalment of cash, pushing the grand total to £2573.40. Thank you to all of their staff members for running, cycling, baking, gardening, donating goods for sale through shops and everything else they have done for us as their nominated charity of the year! It is hugely appreciated!



DO YOU WORK FOR A COMPANY THAT COULD DO SOMETHING SIMILAR?

Our hospice relies so heavily upon funds raised by local businesses and supporters. It costs over £700,000 each year just to keep our doors open for local families to access our services free of charge. Of that amount, less than 4% is currently funded by the government (and that is set to be reduced further in the next government budget talks)

Could you contribute towards our costs? We are on the lookout for more local businesses to get behind the hospice and help us support our community. Whether it be a quirky fundraising initiative like Davies Salvage, nominating us as your charity of the year like Eaton or simply having one of our collection pots in your office... every little helps. Please get in touch with fundraising@dovecottage.org if you'd like to support us in some way.

ROTARY ROTUNDA

A huge thank you to the **Vale of Belvoir Rotary Club** who recently chose to donate £970 to the hospice to cover the costs of purchasing a new rotunda.

A rotunda is a vital piece of equipment here at the hospice used to assist guests who are unable to walk, to help them move from a wheelchair to a chair (and vice versa)

Without these pieces of specialist equipment we simply wouldn't be able to offer our services to families with certain mobility conditions, so we are hugely grateful to the Rotary for enabling us to purchase this.

The Rotary have also been supporting our garden project by providing a team of volunteers to help spruce up our garden furniture! Thank you!



FREEMASONS

The Freemasons are regular supporters of our hospice and we were grateful to receive the latest donation from two of the local lodges.

St Mary's Lodge, Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons and the **Oudh chapter, Melton Mowbray** collectively donated £700 towards our services. Thank you!



DACHSHUND DOES IT FOR DOVE!

Dolly the wire-haired Dachshund (accompanied by her owner Sue) chose to walk the length of the Grantham-Nottingham canal in order to raise money for Dove Cottage.

The sponsored walk – which was undertaken in several phases – took some time as she only has little legs, but raised a whopping £500! Thank you Dolly – we hope you had a well-deserved treat and rest at the end of it!



LIONS, DUCKS AND ELVES!

Every year the **Vale of Belvoir Lions** go above and beyond to fundraise for local causes. 2023 was no exception, and we were honoured to be chosen once again to receive a proportion of the funds. As a result of their hard work out in the community organising events such as the annual duck race, fireworks display and their Santa's sleigh collection, we received a fantastic £5500!

Thank you so much for your continued support!



VOLUNTEERS

Dove Cottage Day Hospice provides services, support and respite care for local families living with life-limiting illnesses. Around 100 families a week rely on the support that we provide, and we couldn't do what we do without our amazing team of volunteers.

- ▶ Do you have a few hours to spare each week?
- ▶ Would you like to make a difference to local families?
- ▶ Do you want to be part of a fantastic team?

We have an amazing team of hard-working, dedicated volunteers but we are in desperate need for more! There are lots of opportunities to get involved with supporting the hospice and we encourage anyone who is interested to enquire as we can always find a role to suit everyone! Roles are available across all of our four charity shops, our tea room and our hospice. And if you don't want to commit to a

Volunteers
needed

regular slot, we always need extra pairs of hands to help at our fundraising events!

We are holding a **volunteer recruitment open morning** at The Engine Yard @ Belvoir Castle on Friday 7th June at 10am. Pop along for a cup of coffee and a chat to find out more about what's involved.

Visit www.dovecottage.org/volunteering or call our volunteer facilitator Rachel on 01949 860303 for more details.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Are you a budding photographer? Do you have some amazing photos you'd like to share? We need your help!

Dove Cottage is looking for a range of photographs to be included in their 2025 calendar.

The theme will be 'Wildlife in the Vale' and we are welcoming any images depicting local flora and fauna.

The final calendar will be available for sale in the autumn via our hospice and four charity shops. Thanks to the generous support of local



businesses, 100% of profits raised from the calendar goes directly to fund the services of the hospice.

For further details on how to submit your images, as well as our terms and conditions, visit www.dovecottage.org/calendar

IN MEMORY GIVING



Donating in memory of a loved one who has sadly passed away can be a wonderful way of honouring a life and making a difference to a cause they held close.

One of our longstanding supporters Bea Haldenby, has kindly offered for us to share her family's story and reasons for donating to Dove.

Mark was a regular volunteer at Dove Cottage for around four years, helping in the lounge with the guests every Thursday. He began as a driver, helping to bring guests in for their day at the hospice, then stayed to make tea and coffee, serving lunches, reading out quiz questions, calling bingo numbers etc before returning guests safely home again.

In 2019 Mark was diagnosed with Parkinsons but in June 2023 this diagnosis was amended to Lewy Body Dementia - a condition which presents as Parkinsons but has a much shorter life expectancy. The swift deterioration of Mark's health and onset of his symptoms meant that he regretfully

had to stop spending his time caring for others and start focusing on his own health.

In a surreal turn of events, Mark then began attending Dove Cottage - where he had spent so much of his time helping others - but now as a guest himself. Just six months after receiving his amended diagnosis, and at the age of 59, Mark sadly passed away at home with his family by his side.

The family decided to ask for donations to Dove Cottage at Mark's funeral, as the hospice had been such an important part of his last few years. His wife Bea has also added a gift to Dove Cottage in her own will to enable the charity to continue helping more families in the future.

● *In 2022*, Dove received around £9000 from donations made in memory of a loved one. Would you consider remembering us at a funeral of someone close to you? Or maybe even your own?*

**April 2022 – March 2023*

There are a number of ways that you can donate to Dove in memory of someone close to you, please visit our website www.dovecottage.org/inmemory to find out more.



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Sensational Summer

PRIZE DRAW



Win a family trip via  **eurostar**

(x 4 return tickets to Paris, Bruges or Brussels)

OTHER PRIZES INCLUDE:

-  Brockleby's Pies Ultimate Pie Making Experience
-  Reflexology Session
-  Doctor Dolittle Outdoor Theatre Tickets x2
-  Burghley House Family Day Admission
-  Belvoir Castle Afternoon Tea for 2
-  Dove Cottage Tea Room "Coffee for a Year"
-  Gates Garden Centre Circus Tickets
-  Frisby Lakes Paddlesports SUP Taster Session
-  Olive Tree Beauty Gift Voucher

TICKETS £1

(£5 PER BOOK)

 GET YOUR TICKETS IN ANY OF OUR DOVE
COTTAGE CHARITY SHOPS OR ONLINE AT:
WWW.DOVECOTTAGE.ORG/WIN

Draw date:
Sunday 7th July