

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025



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 SUMMER 2025 EDITION!

It is always such a welcome sight to see the daffodils and tulips springing up all around the hospice. They really are the spring light dawning at the end of winter and everything begins to feel brighter and more positive. Just as these beautiful blooms arrive each spring, so does the Dove newsletter appearing on your doormats, reminding you of all the amazing things going on at your local hospice.

However, just like the spring flowers, we must never take them for granted and ensure we appreciate our wonderful hospice and all that it brings to the people that use our services, from our local community. Like all hospices, we have financial challenges ahead, due to ever rising overheads such as increases in the national living wage, food prices, consumables and almost everything we need to run our services.

We have been extremely grateful to receive just over £9000 from the Department of Health and Social Care Grant, with hopefully a further £27,000 promised for 2025/26. These grants are being given to all hospices in England and are calculated on hospice turnover. The money is restricted to capital expenditure only so whilst it is a welcome boost, it doesn't solve the ongoing financial challenge.

So, please remember your local hospice, putting smiles on peoples faces when they need it the most. Giving something back to

Dove Cottage, a donation, signing up to our lottery, taking on a sponsored challenge, donating goods to our shops, holding a community event to raise money – whatever you can do will make a huge difference to local people living with life limiting and terminal illnesses. Enjoy the spring flowers and thank you so much for supporting Dove Cottage.



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.

BRING ON THE SUNSHINE!

Some of you may have noticed that our hospice roof has recently been adorned with some brand new shiny solar panels. Forty eight panels now stand proudly on the roof expectantly waiting to absorb the brighter sunnier weather!

This is part of a huge project undertaken to make our hospice building more energy efficient. In addition to the solar panels, we also have new LED and sensor-activated light fittings and wirelessly-controlled thermostatic radiator valves throughout the building. We project that these measures will save the hospice around £13k a year which means that more of our funds can be spent on providing the services that our families rely so heavily on.



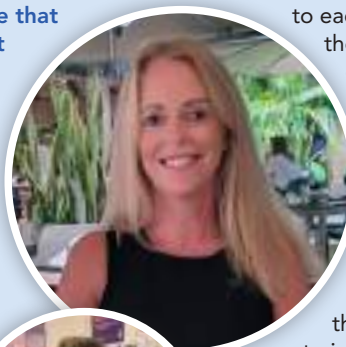
A huge thank you goes to government-funded VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme who have enabled us to undertake this project and to local companies Rutland Renewables Ltd, Dave Tinsley Electrical and the LOROS facilities department for making it all happen!

EXPANSION OF OUR DEMENTIA SUPPORT SERVICE

We are excited to announce that we are now able to support more families living with dementia!

Supported by The Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust, we have welcomed our new volunteer Sally to the team to support Alex in delivering this vital service. Sally has undertaken all the essential training required for the role and started her home visits to local families in April.

Our home-sitting service aims to minimize the impact of dementia on individuals and their carers, by offering two-hour visits at home enabling respite for carers. The visits are tailored



to each individual and can take the form of a friendly chat and cuppa, card game or even a game of snooker!

We still have a considerable waiting list of families that are in desperate need of our home-sitting support and would love to be able to increase our provision of this service even further. Full training will be given and fuel expenses paid. If you are interested in becoming part of our team please do get in touch via email to emily@dovecottage.org to find out more.

**Elise Pilkington
Charitable Trust**



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HOSPICE



WHAT DOES HOSPICE CARE LOOK LIKE?

Our staff are often about in the community, speaking to a local group, business or organisation and taking every opportunity to spread the word about our services and its benefits to local families. A common recurring theme in our conversations often focusses around what the hospice is like and the general feeling inside. A question we are frequently asked is "Isn't it a really sad place to be?!"

So for those of you that may be less familiar with what we do, it's time to dispel the myth of hospice care! We asked some of our guests for some words to describe what hospice care means to them. These are just a few of the responses:

**HAPPY / FRIENDLY
CAMARADERIE / SOCIAL
KINDNESS / SUPPORT
FUN ACTIVITIES / SECURE
HELPFUL / INSPIRING
CARING / INDEPENDENCE
OPPORTUNITIES / FUN**

During the day our hospice corridors are filled with the sounds of the various activities – singing, music, chatting and – probably most often – laughing. In many instances our guests choose to spend time at Dove to forget about their illnesses – enjoying hours in the enchanting garden, absorbing the beauty of the surrounding countryside and observing the many birds and garden friends that appear regularly. Some tell us that their days at Dove are their opportunity to just 'be themselves' and not have to worry about putting on a façade for their family members.

So in answer to the question about it being a sad place - our answer is always a resounding "No! It's quite the opposite!"

We always encourage people to visit the hospice and see it first-hand, in an attempt to dispel these misleading myths. If you'd like to arrange a tour to find out more about what we do and to see for yourself the impact that we have on local families, please give us a call on **01949 860303**.

HOSPICE

CRAFTED COMPANIONS

Hazel is one of our guests at Dove and she loves to knit. She regularly brings us in creations either for us to sell in our shops to raise money for the hospice, or simply to brighten the place up!

We love seeing all of her knitted creations, but some of the most special to us are these lovely Buddy Dolls. Each one exquisitely designed with individual characteristics knitted to resemble members of staff and volunteers that she has the most contact with. There's 13 in total and we are all a little bit in love!



INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Every year we welcome a group of nursing students from **HARLAXTON COLLEGE** into the hospice to offer them some hands-on experience of working within a hospice setting. The students are working towards their four-year Nursing Degree through the University of Evansville and part of their course requires them to spend

a semester in the UK. The students, who visited us before Christmas, spent a day in the company of our lovely guests and were an absolute joy to have around! They thoroughly enjoyed our music session from one of our regular singers Kyle Newman, and it was wonderful to see and hear inter-generational chatter!



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VOLUNTEERS



CAN YOU HELP?

We couldn't do what we do without our team of wonderful and dedicated volunteers.

We currently have around 130 in our team, across our charity shops and at our hospice but we are always in need of more!

Roles include administration, driving, events and community, gardening, reception, hospice kitchen, patient support and activities, serving customers and organising stock in our charity shops. The hours are flexible to fit your lifestyle – you can do just an hour or two helping at our events every now and again or commit to a regular slot each week. Full training is given and expenses paid.

If you'd like to join a friendly team, meet new people and do something meaningful to make a positive difference to people's lives please get in touch on **01949 860303**.



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There have been some recent changes in opening hours of our shops so we thought this was a good opportunity to remind our supporters of where we are and when we are open!

support our shops – both by donating good quality items but also shopping there too! The stock changes on a daily basis so please do visit regularly as there will always be something different to browse!

Our four small shops are run by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers – without whom we wouldn't be able to open – so we would like to say a huge thank you to all of them!

We have teamed up with local company 'Cups & Go' to host their coffee trailer three days per week which offers delicious hot & cold drinks and a selection of home-baked goods—a perfect stop off on a dog walk or cycle ride.

The garden space at our Stathern shop is perfect for enjoying a refreshing drink from the trailer – with plenty of seating and a fun playground for kids, why not bring a picnic and enjoy some time in the outdoors before browsing the shop for hidden treasures?



Canal Lane, Stathern, LE14 4EX

Tel: 01949 860303 **Open to guests**

Tel: 01949 860303 Open to guests
Mon - Thurs 10am - 3pm



Stathern: Canal Lane, Stathern, LE14 4EX

Tel: 01949 861950 Mon - Sat: 10.30am - 4.30pm

Bottesford: Market St, Bottesford, NG13 0BW

Tel: 01949 844467 Mon-Sat: 9am - 4pm

Asfordby: 9 Bradgate Lane, Asfordby, LE14 3YD

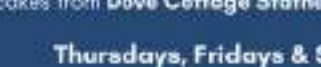
Tel: 01664 668934 Mon-Fri: 9.30am - 4.30pm
Sat: 10am - 4pm

Cotgrave: Main St, Cotgrave, NG12 3HQ

Tel: 01158 372628 Mon-Sat: 9am - 4pm

Now serving a selection of hot & cold drinks and cakes from **Dave Cottage Salford Shop car park**

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays
10.30am - 2.30pm



Cups & GO
 Hot Drinks / Cold Drinks / Smoothies / Froyos / Chocolates / Hot Coffees / Iced Coffees

Follow us on 

Find us at Canal Lane, LE14 4EX

RETAIL



COME TO COTGRAVE!

Opened in 2012, our small shop with a big heart is conveniently placed in the Old Telephone Exchange between the village garage and the Rose & Crown pub (where you can park for free whilst visiting the shop).

Meet our friendly staff & volunteers, browse copious amounts of bargain-priced preloved clothing, homewares, accessories, toys and books.

We welcome good quality donations on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays and – if you're a UK tax payer – remember to sign up for Gift Aid so we can claim an extra 25% on the sale price of your donation!

In a recent survey conducted with some of our lovely customers, we had some wonderful comments about our Cotgrave shop. Why not pop in and see for yourself? We look forward to welcoming customers old and new, Monday to Saturday 9am – 4pm.



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING



EVERYONE'S A WINNER!

We were so delighted to hear that homeowners at **McCarthy Stone**, Catherine Place in Melton Mowbray have started a lottery, where half the money goes to the winner and the other half goes to this year's chosen charity: Dove Cottage! They've raised £400 so far and we received a lovely warm welcome when we went to collect the cheque. We are so grateful to them for their wonderful support!

HISTORICAL EVENING HELPS HOSPICE

Members of the **Granby Barnstone & District Royal British Legion** put on a wonderful evening of entertainment in aid of our hospice earlier this year, where Chief Air Marshall Andy Pulford spoke about 'Operation Paraquet 1982'. The evening was an interesting and informative event, enjoyed by all and raised a fantastic £1080! Special thanks go to all involved in the event, including Andy Pulford for speaking, Whatton Village Hall for hosting and Roger Coulter who organised it all.



MEMORIAL SERVICE

Local funeral directors **A W Lymn** chose to donate the proceeds of a collection from their recent Memorial Service to the hospice. They came in to present the cheque of £250 and have a tour to see how the money will be spent. Thank you!



BLOOMING MARVELLOUS!

We have recently received £350 from the lovely ladies at the **North Midlands Area of NAFAS** (South Notts Flower Club) who chose to raise money for us at their most recent charity fundraising event. Thank you to all involved!



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COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

CAROL SINGERS

Thank you so much to **Muston Parochial Church Council** and everyone involved in spreading a bit of Christmas joy and singing around the village to raise funds for local charities! A lovely £67.50 was raised for Dove Cottage!



MELTON TREE FESTIVAL SERVICE

We were so grateful to have been selected as one of the beneficiaries of the retiring fund at **St Marys Church Carol service** during their Christmas tree festival. The total amount donated was a wonderful £371.16!



BINGO

A huge thank you goes out to Melton Mowbray-based supporters **Sharon Muggleton** and **Elizabeth Hopkins**, for organising and running a bingo evening to raise money for the hospice. Through fundraising activities on the night they raised a fantastic £679!



MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

Local singer **Mark Hopkinson** organised a musical extravaganza in aid of Dove Cottage and another local charity. The group of four friends performed an evening of songs from musicals and movies at Hose Church and raised £313 for the hospice! Thank you!

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

CHARITY OF THE YEAR

We are always amazed by the different ways that our local community get behind us to support local hospice care. In addition to individuals taking on a sponsored challenge or holding an event, we love to hear from companies and businesses that choose to raise money for us all year long – and 2025 has seen some new organisations reach out to see how they can help.

Just a few new names this year have been **Whatton Fundraisers, Bingham Spiritualist Church** and **Stanton on the Wolds Golf Club**. All of these have pledged to raise as much money for us as possible throughout 2025 by organising various fundraising events, sponsored challenges, volunteering their skills and expertise, displaying donation pots etc, but most importantly, spreading the word about Dove Cottage and the services we provide.

If you know of any local groups, organisations or businesses that might be interested in nominating us as their chosen charity, please contact us via email to fundraising@dovecottage.org



AMAZON WISHLIST

We are excited to announce that we have now set up the Amazon wishlist function on our hospice account! This means that for those of you that would like to support the hospice on an ad-hoc basis, you can easily help us with purchasing our much-needed (but often boring) staple items – direct from your own Amazon account. All you need to do is log-in to your Amazon account, view our wishlist, select the item that you want to buy for us, make payment as usual and the item will be delivered directly to us!

For more information and to view our wishlist please visit our website www.dovecottage.org



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GRANT FUNDING

GARDEN TOOLS

We are so delighted to have received a grant from **The Finnis Scott Foundation** for £680 to enable us to purchase a selection of garden tools to maintain our hospice garden including some long-handled tools to enable our guests to enjoy planting and tending too.

Our hospice garden is so important as it allows our guests the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature, help with the garden should they choose to or just enjoy the tranquillity a garden space brings. Watching the seasons and the lifecycle of the garden is a joy and can also support difficult conversations away from the general day to day goings on at the hospice. A small walk around the garden or an opportunity to plant and tend will support our guests not only with general fitness and manual dexterity, but also with general wellbeing. Having a good selection of quality garden tools including kneeling mats, gardening gloves and a wheelbarrow for our garden volunteers and guests to use will ensure our garden is maintained for many years to come. Thank you!



NURSING SERVICES

The James Tudor Foundation have recently awarded us a fantastic £10,000 towards our nursing costs! Securing funding to support the general running costs of the hospice is so difficult, and we are grateful to this foundation for choosing to fund this particular element.



TABLES

We were thrilled to receive a grant of £1255 from **Skipton Building Society** which has enabled us to buy four much-needed new tables for our dining room at the hospice.

CORPORATE SUPPORT



REFRESHING SUPPORT

We are delighted to announce that we have been selected as one of the chosen charity partners for Bottesford-based drinks company **Belvoir Farm**. We have already received several generous donations of refreshing drinks, an initial financial donation of £1000 and some support from staff members as volunteers at our events! Thank you!

Belvoir Farm

SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER

We are so grateful to **Belvoir Melton Mowbray Sales & Lettings** who kindly sponsored Christmas gifts for our guests. A house-shaped tree decoration and a delicious panettone! Support like this goes a long way, especially at Christmas. Thank you!

GREEN-FINGERED FRIENDS

A huge and heartfelt thank you goes out to **Gates Garden Centre** for their support over the last two years as their chosen charity. We are delighted to have received a massive £4396.57 over the course of 2023 and 2024 to support our hospice services. We really appreciate the support of Gates and their customers.



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SAT 7TH & SUN 8TH JUNE
A WEEKEND OF EVENTS TO RAISE FUNDS
FOR LOCAL HOSPICE CARE



SATURDAY 7TH JUNE

Fun dog show

Registration from 10.30am, first class 11.30am

Jumble sale & car-boot

10am - 1pm

SALE

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE

Outdoor Theatre Performance

Doors open 2pm, show starts 3pm



@ STATHERN LODGE, LE14 4EX

FOR MORE INFO VISIT

WWW.DOVECOTTAGE.ORG



MAKE A WILL – COMPLETELY FREE!

We've partnered with [Freewills.co.uk](https://www.freewills.co.uk) to provide you with the opportunity to make your fully comprehensive, legally-bonding will for free. You can make your personalised Will online in three simple steps, from the comfort of your own home and have the added reassurance that it will be checked, vetted and approved by a solicitor.

This service is available to anyone, and you are under no obligation to leave a gift to us if you use it. If you do choose to do so however, a gift in your will - of any size - can help ensure that we can continue to provide our services to local families living with life-limiting conditions.

It will not cost you a penny during your lifetime. It is simple to do and free from inheritance tax.

All gifts, whatever their size, will make a lasting and positive difference to the work of Dove Cottage and the families that we support.

To take advantage of our free will offering, visit <https://www.freewills.co.uk/charity/dovecottage>



MEMORY MEADOW

We have teamed up with Granby-based company Floral Dene Designs to offer our supporters a unique way to remember a loved one. For a minimum donation of £40, you will receive one of these beautiful everlasting glass flowers, personalised with the name of a loved one to plant somewhere special, along with a heart-shaped glass keepsake to keep their memory close to you.

Every flower purchased will help to raise funds to enable us to keep our hospice services free to those that need us.

To find out more scan the QR code or visit www.dovecottage.org/memory-meadow



Best of Belvoir

SUMMER PRIZE DRAW



SUPPORT OUR PRIZE DRAW AND BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING ONE OF THESE FANTASTIC PRIZES, WHILST SUPPORTING LOCAL HOSPICE CARE...

- ☀ Brockleby's Bread Making Experience
- ☀ Off Peak Luxury Hotel Voucher
- ☀ Starnhill Studio Pottery Painting Voucher
- ☀ Frisby Lakes Paddlesports Taster Session
- ☀ Family Ticket to Stonehurst Farm
- ☀ Sports Massage from 24 Sports Therapy
- ☀ 200g Cropwell Bishop Potted Stilton
- ☀ Afternoon Tea for 2 @ Frisby Lakes Cafe
- ☀ Voucher for The Plough at Hickling

TICKETS £1
(£5 PER BOOK)

Draw date: 9th July 2025. T's & C's can be found online at www.dovecottage.org

**BUY YOUR TICKETS FROM ANY OF OUR
CHARITY SHOPS OR ONLINE AT:
www.dovecottage.org**