AUTUMN & WINTER NEWSLETTER 26/27

Love Musgrove



NHS Birthday Abseil

Going over the edge for the NHS!

What better way to celebrate the NHS's 78th birthday than by stepping backwards off a 112-foot hospital building?

On Sunday 5th July, 35 adventurous fundraisers did exactly that as they took part in our spectacular NHS Birthday Abseil Challenge at Yeovil Hospital, raising an incredible **£10,688** for local NHS services. With nerves, laughter and plenty of adrenaline, participants descended the hospital's towering exterior as family, friends and supporters cheered them on from below. Delivered by the expert team at Devon Adventure, the challenge ensured everyone could take part safely while enjoying an unforgettable experience. Our dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes, keeping everything running smoothly and providing encouragement every step of the way. As the NHS celebrates 78 years of changing lives, this event highlighted just how much local people value and support their hospitals.

For Angela, the challenge was deeply personal. After receiving compassionate care herself for bowel cancer, she has spent recent years fundraising through abseiling to give back to the NHS teams who have meant so much to her family. In 2025, her beloved husband, Michael, was admitted to Musgrove Park Hospital with breathing difficulties. Sadly, he passed away just a week later. Angela took on this year's challenge to raise money for Coleridge Ward, in memory of Michael and to recognise the care he received.

"The doctors and nurses treated Michael with kindness and respect, professionalism and compassion. I'm raising money for the Respiratory Unit in his memory."

Angela's courage is a moving reminder of the difference NHS teams make to families during their most difficult moments. A heartfelt thank you to Angela, all 35 participants, our volunteers, donors and supporters for making this day such a success.



An incredible total of

£10,688

What's inside

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Follow us...

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DEAR SUPPORTERS

Welcome to the Autumn & Winter 2026–2027 edition

Every donation makes a real difference to the care patients receive every day. From funding equipment that improves comfort and safety to creating welcoming environments, your generosity helps our NHS teams provide the best possible care for patients and their families.

In this edition, we're sharing inspiring stories of people who have turned deeply personal and difficult experiences into something positive. By taking on incredible challenges, bringing people together and raising money to help others, they offer a powerful reminder of how hope and generosity can emerge from heartbreaking times.

As an Endoscopy Team, we've seen first-hand how your support has made a tangible difference in our own unit. In the brand-new Endoscopy Unit in the Kings Building, your donations have helped fund cannulation chairs that have significantly improved patient comfort and experience. The chairs have also helped reduce the incidence of vasovagal episodes during cannulation compared with those previously used, supporting patient wellbeing and safety.

We know how important it is for patients to feel comfortable, safe and supported throughout their visit. Having the right equipment helps us deliver high-quality care in a welcoming environment and makes a meaningful difference to our patients and staff.

Your support has been invaluable, and we truly appreciate your contribution to improving the care and experience we provide to our patients. Thank you for helping us make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who use our service.

With heartfelt thanks,

Bright Inkoom
Deputy Clinical Manager, Endoscopy





THE CHLOPECKI FAMILY
Three Peak Challenge

Inspired by their Dad, the Chlopecki family's three peak challenge raises £8,477 for Love Musgrove

Inspired by their dad's cancer journey and the care he received at Musgrove Park Hospital, the Chlopecki family and friends took on an incredible challenge — climbing the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales within 24 hours. Their efforts raised an amazing **£8,477.74** for Love Musgrove!

Their dad, Tone, began chemotherapy at Musgrove after being diagnosed with lymphoma. Seeing someone previously so fit and active, who cycled every day, become so unwell was heart-breaking for his family.

Tone had also received life-saving treatment at Musgrove in 2023 after developing sepsis. The family says:

> **"We feel so grateful to the people that have looked after Tone that, naturally, we wanted to give something back! When we told him of our idea for the fundraiser we asked which charity he would like to choose, Tone's response was that he probably 'owed Musgrove a few quid in rent'"**

George, Celine, Phil and Abbie, alongside friends and partners, began their challenge at Ben Nevis, continued to Scafell Pike and finished at Snowdon — hiking through the night to complete all three peaks within 24 hours.

The family were also keen to highlight the importance of supporting their local hospital, helping ensure it can continue caring for patients and families when they need it most.

A huge thank you to the Chlopecki family, their friends and everyone who donated. Your incredible achievement and generosity will help Love Musgrove fund the extras that make a real difference to patients at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Inspired to take on your own challenge? Email us: LoveMusgrove@SomersetFT.nhs.uk



CYCLE 42 FOR CANCER

A phenomenal **£31,613** raised!

On 13th September, Cycle 42 for Cancer returned for its ninth year, raising vital funds to support cancer services across Somerset.

Founded in 2018 by Iain and Ken, after both of their families received care at the Beacon Centre, the event began as a small cycling challenge to give back to the NHS and help future patients. Nine years later, it has grown into a much-loved community event, with this year seeing the largest turnout in the event's history. More than 260 people took part and raised a record-breaking £31,613.11. The event has now generated an incredible total of £127,800 in support of local cancer services. A special thank you goes to Iain, Ken, Gary, Matt, and all the amazing volunteers, sponsors, supporters, and donors who helped make this event such a success. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, donated and supported the event so generously.

PENNY'S Summer of Life Ball

Following her own experience with Stage 4 breast cancer, Penny wanted to give something back to the **Breast Care Centre** at Musgrove, a cause that is incredibly close to her heart. On Saturday 11th July, Penny hosted her beautiful 'Summer of Life' Charity Ball, bringing friends and loved ones together for a wonderful evening and raising an incredible **£4,218.80** to support patient care. Thank you, Penny, for your incredible generosity and for helping make a difference to other patients.



Amazing Ebony

Nine-year-old Ebony ran one mile every day throughout August, raising an incredible £1,357.50 for the Children's Ward at Musgrove.

Ebony chose to take on the challenge after spending time on the ward herself two years ago, when she became very unwell and needed hospital care. Her achievement is even more remarkable knowing that Ebony at one point had to use a wheelchair, followed by walking sticks for almost a year.


Thank you Ebony

"They were amazing at helping me have fun and looked after me whilst I was there, and I want to help other children staying there have fun too."

THE PURITON INN Wild West Fun Day

A huge thank you to The Puriton Inn for hosting an incredible Wild West Fun Day and raising an amazing £578 for the Beacon Centre!



Theo's Skating Marathon



When Theo's mum was diagnosed with Stage 4 ovarian cancer in 2012, their family's lives changed forever. Over the past 14 years, she has faced multiple surgeries, seven rounds of chemotherapy and drug trials, supported throughout by the team at The Beacon Centre. Wanting to give something back, Theo decided to take on a huge personal challenge – his first marathon, on roller skates!

On Sunday 16th August, Theo skated an incredible 26 miles around the Castle Combe race circuit as part of Go Skate 2026, raising an amazing **£2,750.01** for The Beacon Centre.

For Theo, the challenge was about much more than completing a marathon. He wanted to help other families facing cancer and give them the opportunity to spend more precious time together. We're incredibly grateful to Theo for his perseverance and generosity. His amazing fundraising will help support The Beacon Centre and the care provided to local patients and their families.

"I want to help raise some funds for Musgrove and The Beacon Centre in the hope it will give other families an opportunity to stay together longer, to make more memories with each other and to improve their experience. - Theo"

JACOB & THEO'S Cycling Fundraiser

A huge thank you to Jacob and Theo for completing an incredible 100-mile cycle challenge and raising an amazing £562.93 for the Children's Ward at Musgrove Park Hospital!

Jacob chose to support Love Musgrove and asked for his fundraising to go towards the Children's Ward, where he has received such wonderful care in the past. What an incredible achievement and a fantastic way to give back!


Well done...


Jacob & Theo!

JOHN, TOM & JONATHAN'S Cycle from London to Paris

Over four days, John, Tom and Jonathan cycled 311 miles from London to Paris, raising an amazing £7,496.22 for Love Musgrove.

Their fundraising will help create a dedicated bereavement suite in the children's unit at Musgrove - a private, compassionate space where families can spend precious time with their child during the most difficult of circumstances. Thirteen years ago, John and his wife experienced the devastating loss of their baby. In a matter of moments, their excitement and happiness turned into heartbreak. During that time, a quiet room gave them space to process their grief together.

"That space gave us comfort, privacy and dignity when we needed it most."

John shares how he remembers seeing a sign explaining that Love Musgrove had helped provide the space, and for John the experience showed him the real impact of fundraising - that it doesn't just provide equipment or buildings, but "care, compassion and support at the moments people need it most." The trio's incredible fundraising will help give other families that same comfort and support when they need it the most.





thank you

£15,000

RAISED FOR THE BEACON CENTRE FROM YOUR JEWELLERY DONATIONS

TREE OF LIGHT

Think of someone special this Christmas

Dedicate a bauble in memory of a loved one, which will be hung on our Christmas Tree in the Concourse at Musgrove

Request your bauble or make a donation - call: 01823 344437 or visit www.lovemusgrove.org.uk/tree-of-light

CHARITY FIREWALK



On 20th October, our much-loved Charity Firewalk returned for an unforgettable evening!

Brave participants took on the fiery challenge, raising vital funds for wards and departments across Yeovil Hospital, Musgrove Park Hospital and our wider community. Hosted by UK Firewalk, the evening was led by expert instructor Scott, who inspired fundraisers to overcome their fears and embrace the challenge.

After a safety briefing and an incredible demonstration of focus and confidence, participants stepped onto glowing coals reaching 637°C. Cheered on by family and friends every participant successfully completed the three-metre walk, with many bravely taking on the challenge more than once! The atmosphere was electric, filled with cheers, laughter and some well-earned victory dances. A huge, fiery thank you to all our fundraisers for making the evening such a success.

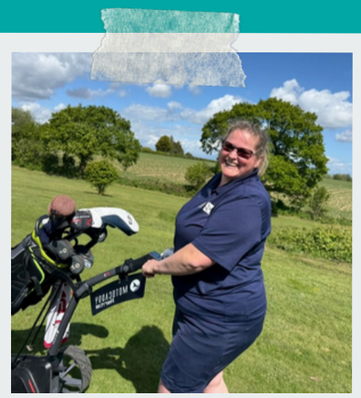
So far, we've raised an incredible £3,450! We're already looking forward to 2027.

Fancy taking on the heat? Keep an eye out for next year's event updates, or to find out more email: **LoveMusgrove@somersetft.nhs.uk**

Charity Golf Day 2027
FRIDAY 21ST MAY

We're excited to announce that our 2027 Charity Golf Day will take place at Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club. This year's event will be in aid of **children's services** across Somerset, helping us to raise vital funds for play and sensory resources. Registrations are now open! Book your team or sponsor a tee: www.lovemusgrove.org.uk/charity-golf-day

Sign up to our events here:



21.05.2027

Your impact

Your generosity has a powerful impact every day - making a real difference for patients at Musgrove Park Hospital. With your support, we have been able to continue funding vital equipment and services across the hospital.



Cannulation Chairs

We have funded new cannulation chairs for the Endoscopy Team, in the new surgical centre, providing patients with a more comfortable experience during cannulation.

Children's Toys

Thanks to your kind donations, we've recently been able to fund these lovely new toys for the children visiting our Day Surgery Centre, providing much-needed distraction, comfort and fun.





IO Training Kit

We've funded a new IO (intraosseous) Training Kit for the Children's Unit. This specialist training equipment enables staff to practise and develop vital IO access skills, helping them provide the highest standard of care.

Vein Finder

Thank you to **The Marion Evered Trust** for funding a vein finder for our paediatric surgical department, helping staff provide quicker and more comfortable care for our younger patients, making procedures less stressful.



Support 'Clarinet Bob'

Every week, you'll find 'Clarinet Bob' faithfully playing his clarinet in the hospital concourse, filling the space with music and bringing smiles to patients, families and staff. For almost two years, Bob has been giving his time so generously - and along the way, he has raised an incredible £7,000 for the hospital! Now, we want to help him reach one very special milestone: £10,000! To support Bob, scan the QR code or visit:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/clarinet-bob



MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR PATIENTS

GIFTS IN WILLS

Your gift for future generations

By leaving us a gift in your Will, you are supporting local people who need our help. Your support makes a difference to everyone that uses our hospital, including those who need lifesaving or specialist treatment, mums and new babies, and of course the elderly members of our community who often rely on NHS services the most.

Leaving us a gift in your Will gives you a chance to make a lasting difference. Just like our doctors and nurses, you will be helping people at a time when they need it the most.

For more information on leaving us a gift in your Will, please contact **James.Kirton@SomersetFT.nhs.uk**. If you are already thinking about leaving us a gift, Somerset-based law firm **Lyons Bowe** have agreed to offer a 50% discount to anyone that includes us in their Will.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE GIVE A GIFT TODAY

Love Musgrove

I am over 16 years old and my details are:

Title

First Name

Last Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

If your donation is in memory of someone, please tell us:

Their name

Your relationship with them

We like to keep you up to date with our news, activities and ways to get involved. We'll never sell or swap your details with anybody else.

I am happy to hear from Love Musgrove by

Email ☐ Post ☐ (Tick all that apply)

Signature

Date

You can unsubscribe or change your preferences at any time by emailing **LoveMusgrove@SomersetFT.nhs.uk** or contacting us on **01823 344437**.

Love Musgrove always stores your personal details securely. For full details see our privacy policy on our website.

I would like to make a one-off donation of:

☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ Other amount _____

To the following fund/department:

☐ The Better Everywhere Fund ☐ The Children's Unit

☐ The Beacon Centre ☐ The Maternity Unit

☐ Other _____

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to **Love Musgrove**

Or please debit my Visa/Maestro/Mastercard (circle as appropriate)

Cardholder's name

Card number:

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Start date: ☐☐/☐☐ Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐

3 digit security code: ☐☐☐

Signature

Date

Make a Gift Aid Declaration

Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ _____ and any donations I make in the future, or have made in the past 4 years to Love Musgrove.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference, I will notify Love Musgrove if I want to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address, or I no longer pay sufficient Income Tax and/or Capital Gains tax.

Become a Regular Giver

By becoming a regular giver, you'll help provide the very best care, equipment, and comfort for patients and families at Musgrove Park Hospital - not just today, but all year round. If you would like to make a regular gift via direct debit, please visit: **www.lovemusgrove.org.uk/donate**

Every donation goes towards improving the care, comfort, and experience of patients here at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Love Musgrove
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