

# SPRING & SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026



## Taunton Half Marathon

### 13 runners took on Taunton Half Marathon, raising thousands for Love Musgrove!

The streets of Taunton were filled with energy, determination and community spirit as thousands gathered for the 40th Taunton Half Marathon on 1st March 2026. This year, 13 incredible runners took part on behalf of Love Musgrove, together raising an outstanding £6,152.70 to support patients and families at Musgrove Park Hospital. Among the inspiring fundraisers were six members of the **Somerset Wyverns American Football Club**, who completed the challenging 13.1 mile course wearing full shoulder pads. Their determination and team spirit helped raise £1,040 for Love Musgrove. Many runners also shared deeply personal reasons for taking part. Molly completed her first half marathon in memory of her sister Anna Faith, raising a remarkable £1,314.80 for the Somerset Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (SNICU), which provides lifesaving care for premature babies and support for their families.

One of the most inspiring stories from this year's Half Marathon came from Jenny Palmer, who ran topless to raise awareness of life after breast cancer and celebrate self-acceptance following her mastectomy. Running for the Breast Care Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital, Jenny raised an incredible £1,492.50. Cheered on by spectators throughout the course, she inspired many with her courage, openness and determination. Jenny's phoenix tattoo, created over her scars, symbolises resilience and recovery - a powerful message she proudly shared on race day.

Reflecting on the experience, she said she hoped to encourage conversations around cancer and show others **"there is still light at the end of the tunnel."**

Thank you to every runner, supporter and donor who helped make this year's event such a success.



An incredible total of

**£6,152**

### What's inside

- A message from our Head of Charity
- Our wonderful fundraisers
- What's coming up?
- Your impact

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# DEAR SUPPORTERS

## Welcome to the Spring & Summer 2026 edition

Every act of support, no matter how big or small, helps make a meaningful difference to the lives of NHS patients and their families. Thanks to your generosity, dedication and compassion, we continue to fund projects and equipment, improve environments and support wellbeing across our hospitals and community services.

This edition celebrates the people behind that impact, whether that is amazing young fundraisers taking on inspiring challenges or individuals and families turning deeply personal experiences into extraordinary acts of support for others.

Their stories remind us of the strength, kindness and community spirit that make our charity, and the people that support it, so special. We are incredibly proud to share some of those moments with you in these pages.

We hope you enjoy reading the stories and updates inside and seeing the difference your support makes.

Many thanks,

**James Kirton**  
Head of Charity



## THE CHILDREN'S UNIT Charity Spring Ball

Charity Spring Ball raises an incredible **£20,467** for a dedicated bereavement space on the Children's Ward.

Families, friends, supporters and local businesses came together for a fantastic evening at the Children's Unit Spring Charity Ball, held on Friday 29th May at Somerset County Cricket Club.

The elegant black-tie event raised money towards the creation of a dedicated bereavement space on the Children's Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital - a calm and private area designed to give families comfort and peace during some of their most difficult moments.

The evening began with welcome drinks before attendees took their seats for a three-course dinner and a packed programme of entertainment, fundraising activities and dancing.

Throughout the night, guests enjoyed games, raffles and an auction, all helping to raise vital funds for the appeal. The total amount raised was £20,467!

The evening's success was made possible thanks to the support of sponsors, local businesses and organisations who donated raffle prizes and decorations. Sponsors included Albert Goodman, Bredons Sewing Machine Specialists, Prescott Entertainment, RG Setsquare and Somerset County Cricket Club.

A wide range of local businesses also contributed prizes, helping to make the fundraising activities a huge success.

The Spring Charity Ball not only raised important funds for the

Children's Unit but also highlighted the strength of community support across Somerset. Thanks to the kindness of everyone involved, the vision of creating a dedicated bereavement space for local children and families moved one step closer to becoming a reality.

On behalf of the organising committee, we are incredibly grateful and humbled by the generosity shown on the night and would like to thank everyone who attended, donated or supported the event in any way.





# 'Three and a Half' Paramedics

**'Three and a Half Paramedics' Complete 100km Ultramarathon Across Somerset in under 24 Hours, to support the Beacon Centre!**

Mike, Ben, George and Ben, better known as the "Three and a Half Paramedics", completed an extraordinary 100km ultramarathon across Somerset in 15 hours and 45 minutes, raising more than £7,500 for the Beacon Centre. Starting at Minehead Ambulance Station, the team ran to Burnham-on-Sea and Bridgwater, before finishing at the Beacon Centre in Taunton, where they were welcomed by cheering crowds, ambulance escorts, colleagues, friends and family members. The challenge also carried a deeply personal significance. Last August, Mike's mum, Beverley, was diagnosed with breast cancer and received vital care and support from staff at the Beacon Centre throughout her treatment. In an emotional finale, the runners arrived just as Beverley completed her final radiotherapy session, ringing the centre's bell beneath a balloon arch surrounded by loved ones. Their achievement stands as a powerful display of resilience, gratitude and community spirit.

An amazing  
**£7,847**  
raised!

## Kindness Starts Young

**A huge thank you to some very special fundraisers, making a difference for the Children's Ward.**

Harry (7) created colourful Hama Bead designs and sold them in his grandmother's community shop, raising a fantastic **£62.97**.



Archer (9) and Ada (6) organised their own front-drive charity bake sale, complete with homemade cakes and biscuits, raising a wonderful **£48.71**.



Their creativity and kindness have made a real difference. Harry, Archer and Ada are a wonderful reminder that no matter your age, you can have a big impact.

# LEWIS GREGORY'S Testimonial Year

**We are incredibly honoured to have been chosen by Somerset Cricket's Captain, Lewis Gregory, as one of the charities he will support during his testimonial year with Somerset County Cricket Club.**

Lewis has been awarded this special year in recognition of his long-standing service to the club. He has chosen to support Love Musgrove, particularly the Beacon Centre, a cause very close to his heart. Lewis sadly lost his mum to cancer in November 2024 and has spoken movingly about the exceptional care she received. He highlighted the compassion, kindness and dedication of staff, saying the ward environment made a lasting difference during their family's hardest time. Lewis hopes to give back to the hospital, helping improve services and support staff who care for patients every day.



# CHARITY GOLF DAY 2026

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May saw another glorious day of golfing, community, and camaraderie at our annual Charity Golf Day, hosted at the picturesque Cricket St Thomas Golf Club.**

The weather forecast was touch-and-go during the lead-up to the event, but the skies stayed dry and mostly clear, allowing our 12 teams to enjoy their round in bright, if rather windy, conditions. Our players and visitors were incredibly generous on the day, purchasing raffle tickets, enjoying refreshments at the Halfway House, or simply making donations - all of which helped us raise an amazing **£3,824** for our family of charities.



Thank you so much to everyone who attended, and to Cricket St Thomas Golf Club for once again being superb hosts and donating some incredible prizes. With special mentions to Mortgage Select, who sponsored the 18<sup>th</sup> tee; Heritage Cider, Thatchers Cider, Frome Brewery Co, and M&S for supplying the refreshing drinks for our Halfway House; and to all the local businesses that were generous enough to donate to our raffle prizes.

Last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers - this event simply wouldn't have been possible without their support (and a special shout-out to Mandy for her delicious homemade flapjack).

## Alison's Skydive

**To celebrate 10 years of being cancer free, Alison set herself the incredible challenge of completing a 15,000 feet tandem skydive.**

Not only did she face this amazing challenge with courage, she also raised an incredible £1,697.66 for the Beacon Centre. Alison wanted to give back and say a heartfelt thank you for the outstanding care, support and treatment she received during her cancer journey. Alison says:

**"At the Beacon Centre all the staff, especially the nurses and volunteers were there for me along that life changing journey, and I can't thank them enough."**



# TAUNTON Swimathon

We were thrilled to be selected as one of the chosen charities for this year's Taunton Swimathon, with proceeds supporting the Somerset Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (SNICU) at Musgrove Park Hospital.

The Taunton Swimathon is a fantastic annual event organised by **Soroptimist International Taunton** and **Taunton Round Table**, bringing together local teams to raise vital funds for good causes. We were especially proud that our very own Orthopaedics team took part in the challenge too! It was a privilege to attend the awards evening and accept an incredible cheque for **£5,818.82**. A huge thank you to everyone involved for their generosity and support.



# BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

## Become a regular giver today.

By becoming a regular giver to Love Musgrove, 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.

Regular giving also helps us plan ahead, ensuring your generosity is used in the best way possible.

Every monthly gift, big or small, helps make even more of a difference to our patients, families, and staff. Join our community of regular givers today and be part of something that truly changes lives.

[www.lovemusgrove.org.uk/donation](http://www.lovemusgrove.org.uk/donation)



## DONATE YOUR BROKEN OR UNWANTED JEWELLERY

Your donations will help us to raise vital funds for the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital. As a centre of excellence for cancer services, it provides the very best of cancer care for patients and their families.

Donate your broken or unwanted:

- ♥ Fine jewellery
- ♥ Costume jewellery
- ♥ Watches
- ♥ Gold and silver items

Drop off

Drop off your donations at the Love Musgrove Fundraising Office, near the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital.



## 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.



### Wheelchairs

We have been able to purchase 20 new wheelchairs here at Musgrove, making a difference to the comfort, mobility and care of our patients, when it's needed the most.

### Bedside Lockers

Thanks to your kind donations, Sheppard Ward has recently purchased new bedside lockers so our patients can keep their personal belongings safe and secure during their stay.



### Over-the-bed Tables

Over-the-bed tables have been funded for our Children's Ward, which makes such a difference for our young patients - giving them a comfortable space to do arts and crafts, enjoy their meals and play games.

### 'Vinnie & Annie'

We've been able to fund two innovative training models, helping healthcare professionals across Somerset improve lower limb assessment skills and support faster, more accurate diagnoses - enhancing patient care across our communities.



## 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](mailto: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.

## What's coming up?



### NHS Birthday Abseil - 5th July

Are you brave enough to go over the edge?

Celebrate the NHS's 78th birthday with our annual Abseil Challenge. Take on an exhilarating 112-foot descent from the roof of Yeovil Hospital, enjoy spectacular views, and support a fantastic cause. Sign up today for an unforgettable experience filled with adrenaline, teamwork and appreciation for our NHS.



### Cycle 42 for Cancer - 13th September

Going the distance for cancer services in Somerset

Join our much-loved Cycle 42 for Cancer event at Walronds Business Park and help raise vital funds for Cancer Services across Somerset. With cycling and running routes for all abilities, everyone can get involved. Every mile makes a difference to local cancer care - sign up today!



### Firewalk - 20th October

Can you take the heat?

The legendary Charity Firewalk returns to Yeovil Rugby Club, and we're inviting you to take on the ultimate challenge! Step barefoot across red-hot embers in support of your local hospital charity. Places are limited - don't miss out!

Sign up to our events here:



or visit our website:

[www.LoveMusgrove.org.uk/Events](http://www.LoveMusgrove.org.uk/Events)

## Children's play area

We are thrilled to announce the completion of the new children's playground located outside the Children's Outpatient department.

This project would not have been possible without the generous donations from the **The Marion Evered Trust** and **Hippychick**. We've all seen how difficult hospital waiting areas can be for children. This new play area provides a fun and engaging space for our young patients, helping them continue to feel like children during what can be a scary time for them.



