

LOVE MUSGROVE NEWSLETTER

The Official Charity of Musgrove Park Hospital
For patients • For colleagues • For our hospital

A cheer for Charlie!



“The care Charlie was given by the staff during his four week stay was incredible and he wouldn’t be here today without it.”



Just before Christmas Love Musgrove was thrilled to receive over £17,000 from the family and friends behind Charlie’s Challenge, all raised in aid of the Somerset Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (SNICU).

Charlie (left) spent a number of weeks in the Unit after he was born with his family who were supported by the amazing staff while he was receiving treatment. Having now turned 1 just before Christmas 2020, Charlie is a happy and healthy boy. After just under a year of fundraising, his family were able to present this incredible amount to Sue Fulker, Sister of the Neonatal Unit.

Charlie’s mother, Emma, said: “I was taken poorly at 32 weeks with HELLP syndrome (a rare liver and blood clotting disorder that can affect pregnant women) and unfortunately it was a case that Charlie had to be born or we might have not made it.

“I didn’t know what happened the initial days after Charlie was born because I was so poorly. But the Neonatal Unit did not only look after Charlie, they helped us and accommodated us as well so we were able to stay. There, he was given respiratory, temperature and food support in order to keep him alive. The care he was given by the staff during his four week stay was incredible and he wouldn’t be here today without it.”

And so Emma and her wife, Jo, set up **Charlie’s Challenge** to raise money for Love Musgrove.

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“We were completely overwhelmed with the support we had for **Charlie's Challenge**, it's so nice when a community pulls together to raise this amount of money. We started off wanting to raise £3,500 in Charlie's first year. This was just to say a massive thank you for the support we were given by the **SNICU** team when Charlie was born. We will never give the Unit what they gave us, saving our little boy, but I hope that this money will help to buy more vital equipment (in particular, new incubators) to help save and help more babies like Charlie who need this extra support in the first weeks of their precious little lives. Thank you so so much to the staff at the **SNICU** for what you did for us and a massive thank you to everyone who helped to make this amazing total possible. We would like to say a massive thank you to Gwilliam's of Edington for all their help and donations and selling raffle tickets, Minehead Running Club for their donations and all the local community who donated, bought raffle tickets, donated prizes for our raffle, we were overwhelmed with all the support. Also, thanks to The Parlour and The White Hart in Chilton Polden and everyone else who helped sell raffle tickets.”

Neonatal Unit Sister, Sue Fulker, said: “We were absolutely thrilled to receive the support of **Charlie's Challenge**, and the funds raised will make such a difference to future babies who spend time in **SNICU** for years to come. A huge thanks to Emma and Jo for organising such a brilliant array of fundraising, especially during a huge variety of COVID-19 restrictions. It was lovely to see how many people rallied around this brilliant cause and donate so much money, thank you!”

Love Musgrove will have regular updates on what the funds will help to buy for **SNICU**, and they look forward to inviting Charlie, Emma and Jo back, when restrictions allow, to let them see what a huge difference their donation has made.



Charlie with his parents presenting a cheque to SNICU!

A message from our chair

A very warm welcome to you all to this summer edition of our **Love Musgrove** newsletter.

Being June, I hope the sun is shining wherever you are and that you are feeling cautiously optimistic as the government's road map unfolds. The past year has truly been the most testing that many of us across the country and indeed here in Somerset will have to face. In March, we joined others in observing the National Day of Reflection, taking a moment to reflect and think about the last year, remembering those who have lost their lives, and those who have lost loved ones.

Following the pandemic the sense of community spirit across our towns and villages in Somerset has been so lovely to see, and something I hope we can take with us going forward as we return to some sort of normality. We have kept in touch with our loved ones and neighbours, picked up new skills along the way, and shared a variety of experiences. Your support throughout has been truly remarkable, not by donations alone, but by going above and beyond supporting your local NHS hospital with words of support and acts of kindness. We saw an abundance of donated items in support of front-line staff which have been a huge morale boost as they worked tirelessly day and night.

With that said, I do hope this newsletter can help in some small way to lift spirits as we look back at some of the activity that has taken place over the last few months in support of Musgrove by some of our amazing fundraisers, plus events to look forward to as restrictions begin to ease in the approaching months.

We still need your support and there isn't a better time to start thinking about hosting a fundraiser of your own, an event like a cake sale, or taking on a once in a lifetime challenge like a skydive, all in support of your local NHS hospital – the choice really is yours! If this is something you would like to do or require further details, get in touch with the team at Fundraising@SomersetFT.nhs.uk

Keep safe and best wishes,

Barbara

Barbara Gregory
Chair, Love Musgrove



A NATIONAL OUTPOURING OF LOVE

In a year like no other, everybody has their own reason for saying thanks to our **NHS heroes**. We clapped loudly on our doorsteps. Placed rainbows in our windows. But we're not stopping there. On **5th July**, the NHS's birthday, we'll be coming together for the **NHS Big Tea**. And we want you to get involved!

There's never been a better excuse for a brew.

The **NHS Big Tea** is about so much more than sharing a cuppa. It's a national outpouring of love, thanks, and generosity for the people at the heart of our **NHS**. The people who go above and beyond to care for us, even in the darkest of times.

By hosting a tea party in support of **Love Musgrove**, you are helping to care for these incredible people when it matters most.

We'll be celebrating the **NHS Big Tea** at **3pm** on the **5th July** – the birthday of the **NHS**. But feel free to choose a different date or time if it works better for you. After all, there's never a bad time to bring people together, share a brew and show an outpouring of love for the **NHS**.

Whether you raise a mug with your nearest and dearest, your work mates, or a local group is completely up to you. After a difficult year, an **NHS Big Tea** is a lovely way to bring your favourite people together, raise spirits and vital cash, and support our **NHS heroes**.

To register, head to www.lovemusgrove.org.uk/nhsbigtea

SUPPORTING:

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Fundraiser journeys



April & Tom accumulated 150 miles in the month of March!

In memory of Lily

April and Tom took on the phenomenal task of running and walking 150 miles in March after their little girl Lily was sadly born sleeping and they were cared for by our brilliant team in **Rowan Suite**. “Our Lily was born sleeping on the 13th of November 2020, she was just perfect. Her due date was in March so we thought we’d put our heads to something positive and raise money for two great causes.”

We could not be more grateful that they both took this opportunity to support the work of the team who looked after them.

Raising over **£4,300**, April and Tom raised funds for both **Love Musgrove**, and Aching Arms who donate bears to 140 hospitals for midwives and nurses to hand out to bereaved families as well as sending them to parents.

Fran’s plan

Fran smashed his target of £1,200 by running 5km every day in February raising over **£1,600!** We were so thrilled to see him take on a challenge that was able to happen virtually, like so many others during the pandemic.

Fran set himself quite a challenge and running every day of the month is some feat! Using the GPS running app, Strava, Fran recorded every run to keep track of his progress. Fran raised money for our **Covid-19 Response Fund** which has supported staff and patients right across the Trust throughout the pandemic. Fran received lots of encouragement from family and friends, including his two daughters who cycled alongside him on one of his daily 5km outings.

Fran said: “My daughters were born at Musgrove and were in the **Somerset Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (SNICU)** for four weeks which is one of the reasons I chose [to raise money for] Musgrove”. Even Fran’s dog, Cobe, made an appearance along the way!



Fran joined by his two daughters during his challenge!

If April and Tom’s, and Fran’s stories have inspired you to take on your own challenge, why not consider our **Miles for Musgrove** challenge over a month of your choice or think about getting a group together to skydive or trek when restrictions allow. You could climb Kilimanjaro, cycle to Paris or walk a marathon round London, we have plenty to offer – head to www.lovemusgrove.org.uk/fundraise for lots more information!



Maternity Update



The difference you have made!

Progress has been continuing on work funded by our **#MusgroveBabies** Appeal. Thank you once again to everyone who donated and to the wonderful staff on the Maternity Unit who have been working under difficult Covid-19 conditions whilst changes to the building have also been happening.

Getting back to our events

After a year of not being able to fundraise in the way we love, not seeing our supporters and not being out in the community, we are pleased to announce the first two events that will happen before the end of the year, restrictions allowing.

First up is our **Cycle Challenge**, a staple of our fundraising calendar since 2018 it sadly couldn't happen last year. We plan to hold the event in October (date to be confirmed) and riders will be able to take on a 50km route to raise vital funds for **Love Musgrove**. Keep an eye out for updates by heading to our website www.lovemusgrove.org.uk

Secondly is our **Tree of Light** Christmas Appeal. After the success of our virtual Appeal last Christmas, we are hoping to allow supporters to hang their baubles on Musgrove's Christmas Tree in person this year. Last year we encouraged supporters to make a gift and use our specially created baubles to write a message in memory of a

loved one they had lost, or someone they wanted to recognise in thanks for their support during the year, and were thrilled to have over 50 baubles written and in excess of **£1,700** donated. The Appeal will launch on 1st November and we will invite supporters to hang baubles in December once the Christmas Tree goes up, restrictions permitting.

If you'd like to be the first to hear when we officially launch either of these events, then please email us at Fundraising@SomersetFT.nhs.uk and we'll make sure you do.



From the hospital

Musgrove 2030 building works

Over the past few months, you may have noticed lots of construction work start to take place across the Musgrove Park Hospital site. This ambitious work is all part of our Musgrove 2030 programme to transform the hospital's facilities and ensure people are cared for in the right place to meet their health needs. The fact that Musgrove Park is so strongly supported by you and our local community has I am sure been influential in the government's decision to fund these exciting improvements.



Much of the work already underway is preparation for the construction of the new Surgical Centre, and I'm delighted to share that we received final approval from the government earlier this year to fund the build. The **£87 million** state-of-the-art centre will provide:

- Six endoscopy rooms, patient recovery and clinical support area.
- Eight operating theatres (including two state-of-the-art hybrid operating theatres that can be used for both surgery and interventional radiology), recovery areas and clinical support.
- 22 critical care beds, all specified for level 2 and 3 critical care patients.

I'm sure you'll join me in celebrating this excellent milestone, which will bring a huge boost to our patients and colleagues across Somerset. We are currently estimating the new centre will be open for patients in 2024.

The surgical centre isn't the only exciting work to be taking place, and there are many other projects underway. The development of our **£11.5 million** acute assessment hub is due to start any day now, creating modern, state-of-the-art facilities for patients who need urgent and emergency surgical care. This also includes the relocation of the hydro pool to our Dene Barton site.

This is a really exciting time for Musgrove Park, and the wider NHS in Somerset, and I look forward to bringing you further updates as the project develops.



This ambitious work is all part of our **Musgrove 2030** programme



Somerset's COVID-19 Vaccination Programme



Our incredible staff and volunteers behind the brilliant COVID-19 vaccination programme taking place at Taunton Racecourse

Of course we can't forget that while there are many exciting projects happening at the hospital site, one of the biggest projects we have seen, probably within NHS history, is that of the **COVID-19 vaccination programme**.

In early December 2020 we started vaccinating our first patients in Somerset from Yeovil District Hospital. Over the past 6 months since, the programme has gone from strength to strength, vaccinating 100,000s of people from 21 sites county-wide.

This included the hospital hub at Musgrove Park, which delivered the vaccine to our colleagues and patients so efficiently during its operation.



This has been a massive joint effort from GPs, colleagues from **Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, Somerset County Council, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust** and from the voluntary sector. I'm sure you'll agree that it has been absolutely wonderful to see the success of this.

My heartfelt thanks go out to every single person who has played a part in delivering the programme – I hope you are all as proud as I am of our Somerset COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Colin Drummond OBE DL
Chairman
Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

Making your donation count



lovemusgrove.org.uk/donate

Jane makes a **£50** donation after their son spent some time in the Children's Unit.

We receive their donation through our website and assign it to the Children's Unit fund at Jane's request.



The Children's Unit senior team decide it would be really helpful if they purchased a specialised adolescent sized training simulation doll with Jane's donation as well as a number of others made to the Unit.

The staff team work with procurement to find the best quality and price for a brand new doll.

The doll arrives and is used to train newer members of the team and students on best practice on younger patients.



A gift for future generations

Leaving a gift in a Will to a charity can make a lasting difference, not only for now but for future generations. When it comes to your Will, we understand that your loved ones come first. Would you also consider leaving a gift and a lasting tribute to support **Love Musgrove**?



Gifts don't have to be a large amount of money, whatever your story; a gift in a Will can make a huge difference.

If you have left a gift to **Love Musgrove**, please do let us know so we can keep you updated on our work.

For further information and to read the impact Legacies have, visit our website below or get in touch with Zoe Steer, Head of Fundraising, at Zoe.Steer@SomersetFT.nhs.uk

Raising awareness is key to our work as a charity. One way we do this is through our fabulous embroidered merchandise.

Show your support for **Love Musgrove** by getting your hands on our stylish embroidered hoodies and t-shirts available in various colours.

All profits go to **Love Musgrove** to support work at Musgrove Park Hospital, head to:

www.lovemusgrove.org.uk/shop



are proud to support **Love Musgrove** and **Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**



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