

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025



Friday 16th May brought not only some glorious weather, but another successful Charity Golf Day, held at the Cricket St. Thomas Golf Club.

This year, the event saw our family of charities once again come together to create another successful Golf Day, **raising an incredible £5,614**. The weather certainly understood the assignment, as it was clear skies and sunshine all day, with highs of 21 degrees!

We had some superb sponsorship from Godwin Business Services, the main sponsor of the event, and Porter Dodson, who sponsored a hole. There were some amazing raffle prizes donated from our very own Breeze Café, Berry's Coaches, HippyChick, Thatcher's, Costa Coffee – Chard, Yeovil Town Football Club, Claire Norris, among many others, and we are immensely grateful for their support.

There was a fantastic turnout of 17 teams of four players, all taking part in the Texas Scramble competition, with no handicap, and optional mini competitions of Longest Drive at the 5th hole, Nearest to Pin at the 13th hole, and Beat Nick at the 16th hole. The 9th hole hosted a half-way house, hydrating our players with bottles of Medium and English Berry cider, generously donated by Heritage Cider.

The teams witnessed some incredible golfing, and the defending champion team, led by Musgrove Park Hospital's Dan Barnes, retained their winning title, once again coming in 1st place. And if that wasn't enough, Dan also won the Longest Drive competition! In 2nd place came Anthony Gough's team, and 3rd place Dr Richard Clarkson's team. The winner of the Nearest the Pin competition was Gary Clasby.

We also cannot forget to thank our wonderful volunteers, who gave up their valuable time and helped to make the event such a success by running the half-way house, the raffle, managing the competitions, and helping us set up.

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DEAR SUPPORTERS

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of our Newsletter. Thank you to all who have supported us in your exceptional ways by donating, fundraising, and getting 2025 off to a marvellous start; including those ongoing fundraisers who are doing wonderful work at this moment.



2025 has seen an incredible start in support from our donors and fundraisers, and I would like to extend my personal thanks to those of you who have participated in any capacity, and to those who have any upcoming events across the summer.

I look forward to seeing and hearing about your achievements over the coming year, and greatly appreciate every penny donated in your efforts to make a difference for our patients.

With my best wishes and sincerest thanks.

Graham Hughes

Non-Executive Director and Chair of Charity



Mandy BRIGHTMAN

We are incredibly grateful and proud of the amazing fundraising Mandy has done for our Dunkery Ward, and the difference it will make for family members visiting the unit.

In the early hours of Christmas Day 2023, Mandy was given the devastating news that there was nothing more doctors could do for her mum.

Mandy's mum, Sue, was brought into hospital with a bleed on her brain and was being cared for on the Dunkery stroke unit at Musgrove Park Hospital when she sadly died. With no suitable relatives' rooms on the ward at that time, Mandy and her sister, Jo, received the upsetting news in, what could only be described as, an unused Janitor's closet-come-office.

"At 1am on Christmas morning we were called into a meeting with a doctor, who told us the news. I remember the room vividly as it was at the entrance to the ward and was clearly not being used for anything. It simply had a single plastic chair and a rusty old fridge in it, and it felt an awful place to hear the news about mum. As I came out of that room, I remember speaking to a nurse called Jess, and I said to her that I'm going to fundraise for a new room for you – and we did!"

Mandy received incredible fundraising support from family and friends attending Sue's funeral, raising an initial £1,000. Then, from the Wellington-based John Walker's JW3 Band, who helped to hold a music concert, adding £700 to the total. The Milverton Music Club dedicated a whole evening to the cause, and clients of Aubrey House also donated.

"Other fundraising activities ranged from a group of retired employees of the old electricity board donating from their raffles and the West Somerset Singers who mum sang with donating from one of their concerts, to customers at my own hairdressers giving money and 10 Radio advertising all the events for us too."

With the wonderful support and generosity of all these fundraisers, they **raised an outstanding £5,500**

They raised
£5,500

in five months, and the new Relative's Room opened at the end of May. Some homey touches were also added thanks to the kind donation from Somerset NHS Foundation Trust's 'Art for Life' programme, and beautiful artwork from Tess Armitage.

Mandy truly has accomplished an incredible thing, offering a place of peace and privacy for grieving relatives.

"Mum had done so much for so many in her lifetime, so this room will be her legacy which will hopefully help people to find comfort during difficult times."

Ian Barrow & the Fat Lads

On the 10th of May, Ian Barrow and his friends, the 'Fat Lads', took on the Carten 100, a gruelling one-hundred-mile cycle, starting in Cardiff and finishing in Tenby.

Ian and his family are members of the Marion Evered Trust, which exclusively raises funds for our Children's Cancer Unit and Oak Ward to help revamp the play area, provide equipment, and beds for parents to stay with their children, if required. The trust has raised over £200,000 through various events since it was set up in 1974 by Marion Evered, following the death of a young family member to leukaemia. More recently, they donated £15,000 to improve the gardens and its view to the Oak Ward.

The Lads all had a fantastic day, completing 107 miles in 7.5 hours, which included over 5,700ft of uphill climbing, and burning 4,400 calories! Ian told us it was a 'tough day on the bike, although a great feeling when we got to the finish.' Ian also said the last twenty miles were the toughest, they



'dug deep both physically and mentally but we did it' and all crossed the finish line.

With their incredible efforts and over three months of fundraising, **the lads raised a phenomenal £2,592.00** for the Marion Evered Trust and our Children's Cancer Unit. An amazing feat, and we could not be more grateful to these wonderful gents.

Bob Hitchings

Bob Hitchings (affectionately known as Clarinet Bob) is a familiar face at the hospital, as he generously volunteers his time twice a week to entertain our patients, visitors and colleagues with the jazzy, dulcet tones of his clarinet; and is occasionally accompanied by his friend, Chris, on the piano.



As if entertaining us wasn't enough, in December last year Bob decided he would use his talents to raise money for Musgrove Hospital and gave himself a target of £1,000. Of course, he completely smashed that target, and has, at the time of writing, **fundraised an amazing £2,430.13!** And he won't stop there – he's now aiming for £3,000, and we think he'll keep raising the bar every time he hits his target!

Bob's dedication and support also won him Star of the Month in April, a well-deserved award and a token of appreciation for the commitment he has given to our charity and hospital.

Thank you, Bob, for your steadfast dedication and continuous support of Love Musgrove and the patients of Musgrove Park Hospital. Your fundraising helps heal the body and your music soothes the soul, and we are extremely grateful to have you as part of our volunteering team.

Megan Pimm

In January, the lovely Megan took on the Stoke Stampede for our Beacon Centre.

Megan's Grandfather, who sadly passed away, received treatment at the Beacon Centre, and she wanted to give back for the wonderful work the team did to look after her grandfather during his treatment.

The Stoke Stampede is a 10km run around Stoke St Gregory, starting outside the Old Rose & Crown on Woodhill, with the route running in a figure 8 loop around the village, passing some village sights such as the church, and includes a feisty hill climb on Slough Lane.

Kitted out in her fabulous t-shirt, designed and printed by her cousin and including a lovely print of her Grandfather front-and-centre, Megan began her race. The grey skies and



damp roads did not deter her, and completed the Stoke Stampede, earning herself medals and a trophy for Fastest Female in her age group, and Fastest Local Youth Female! And to top it all off, **she raised and incredible £1373.75!** Such an amazing achievement, and we know how proud her family is of her (and us, too). Well done, Megan!

Carol Matravers

Back in 2019 Carol and her friends, Hazel and Carolyn, started walking the South West Coastal Path at Minehead.

Their challenge sadly had to be put on hold in 2022 when Carol was diagnosed with cancer and could not do the trek whilst also receiving her treatment.

Fast forward to October 2024, and arrangements with Carol's friends were then made to complete the 630+ miles



of the entire path, and for Carol this was "something I couldn't contemplate in 2022 when I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer".

Carol was treated and cared for by our colleagues and "thanks to the dedicated staff at Musgrove Park Hospital, and particularly the Beacon Centre, I continue to 'make good progress!' She wanted to give back to the team that supported her and chose to turn her coastal hiking into a fundraiser for the Beacon Centre. Her friend, Carolyn, even created a blog for everyone to follow their progress and add some wonderful photos. Carol's inspiring strength and efforts resulted in some fantastic fundraising, totalling an **outstanding £2,232.38!**

Dan Bevington

On the 8th of February, Dan took part in the Cardiff Half Marathon Winter Warmer to raise money for our Somerset Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (SNICU), here at Musgrove Park Hospital.

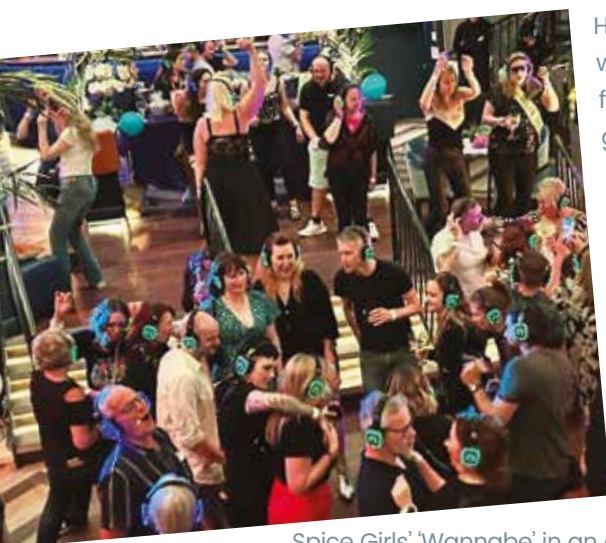


This unit had a personal connection to Dan, as his son was born in April 2024 and had to spend a few weeks in SNICU, and he thought our colleagues were incredible at supporting his family. 'I was overwhelmed with what great care the staff take of babies born prematurely to provide them with the support required at such a complicated time of their lives'.

Dan wanted to give back to SNICU and raise money to go towards any equipment that can help 'save and strengthen the lives of the little babies that have an extremely difficult start'. And he did just that, his hard work paid off, raising an **incredible £1242.50!** And he was still all smiles by the end.

Silent Disco

In May we saw not only another collaboration between our family of charities, but our first ever Charity Silent Disco!



Held at The Loft Bar in Street, the event was filled with oldies but goodies from the 70's, 80's, and 90's. We had a great turnout, with people of all ages and music tastes, and even had the honour of hosting a 50th birthday party! You could observe of sea of green, blue, and red lights, as the attendees switched between each era of music, and the lights of their headphones changing to match.

The cacophony of mis-match sing-alongs was a testimony to the DJ and his choice of songs, with The

Spice Girls' 'Wannabe' in an acapella mash-up of ABBA's 'Dancing Queen' and Paul Simon's 'You Can Call Me Al', becoming the remix we never knew we needed.

We'd like to thank everyone who attended and made the disco such a success. Together you **raised an amazing £1,700** for our NHS services across Somerset. It was such a blast seeing everyone break out their dance moves and singalong to the retro tunes!



Sarah Bonham

When Sarah's daughter received treatment from our Beacon Centre, she was impressed and grateful for how our colleagues provided "so much love and support, all in a no-nonsense manner".

Every nurse on the ward, the oncologists, the radiotherapists, the Healthcare Assistants, and indeed the Porters were wonderful, and nothing was too much trouble.

Sarah is a keen crocheter and having such a positive experience with the Beacon Centre team, she wanted to do something to give back. She found this beautiful crochet pattern by designer Ana Morais Soares, called 'Hope', which spoke to Sarah as it also incorporated the symbolic cancer bow, and uses the Overlay Mosaic Crochet technique.

"I thoroughly enjoyed making it and decided to raffle it to my friends and family and also friends of my daughter."

Sarah had hoped to raise ideally £500, but with her incredible work on offer, ticket sales took off very quickly, and **she raised a fantastic £720!**

WHAT'S COMING UP?

International Cycle 42 for Cancer
Raising funds for Cancer services across Somerset

Sunday 14th September 2025
Starting from 9.45am at Walronds Business Park, TA3 6QP
Take part in The Debutante (22 miles), The Classic (42 miles) or The Tor (62 miles)
Or choose to run the Marathon or Half Marathon
Registration: £35 individual, £55 couple or £65 family (price includes event t-shirt)
Tee and coffee arrival and BBQ included AND a DJ at the finish line

REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.SOMERSETNHSCHARITY.ORG.UK/?EVENT=INTERNATIONAL-CYCLE-42-4-CANCER
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Contact Iain Crabtree at iaincrab@gmail.com for further information

FIREWALK
CAN YOU TAKE THE HEAT?
Wednesday 19th November 2025
Yeovil Rugby Club
Church Lane, Yeovil BA22 9TR

Registration fee £25
Minimum sponsorship £75

Arrival - 6pm | Training - 6.30pm | Walk - 7.30pm

To register or find out more information, contact the Fundraising team on LoveMusgrave@SomersetNHS.uk or 01823 344437
www.lovemusgrave.org.uk/event-charity-firewalk
Registration is required in advance - a training session is held beforehand

It can often go unnoticed how your wonderful donations make a difference for our patients, so this newsletter, we wanted to show you the impact you are directly having to improve the care and experiences of those visiting Musgrove Park Hospital...



Operating Table -

A specialist operating table to accompany the new surgical Da-Vinci robot, which combined, allow surgeons to perform more intricate operations with minimally invasive surgery and crucial timesaving to free up slots to treat more patients.



Hypnotherapy Research -

Ana, one of our Clinical Research nurses from the Colorectal team, has been conducting an experiment on the effects hypnotherapy can have on colorectal patients receiving certain surgeries. The tests have borne positive results in pre- and post-surgery experiences of pain.

Child Resus Dolls -

Specialist dolls to assist in the specialist training of colleagues when treating children and infants.

Reflexology -

A holistic, complimentary treatment used on chemotherapy patients during their visit.

Pool Car - Has allowed chemotherapy clinics to be extended to the wider community, particularly the Bridgwater and Williton Community Hospitals, bringing treatment closer to patient homes.

Volunteer Polos - Allows our wonderful volunteers to be easily visible and discernible to any visitors to the hospital.



iPads - Used to support inpatients, from allowing isolated patients to communicate with loved ones, to distract younger patients during procedures

Music Therapy - This is a Trust-wide music programme with live music sessions on the wards. It offers a wide range of benefits for both mental and physical well-being. It can help reduce stress, anxiety and depression, and promote physical rehabilitation.



The difference it makes to our patients has been amazing. The team of musicians work with our patients, enabling them to get involved and tailoring it to their needs.

Gifts in Wills

your gift for future generations

We rely on the generosity of people to help develop and fund services across the Trust for Musgrove and all our Community Hospitals, and a large part of this comes from legacies or gifts people leave us in their Will, for which we are incredibly grateful.

We have received some incredible legacies with most recently £10,000 for Holford Ward to help landscape a garden and provide new activities. Over £313,000 was received in 2024 which helps to fund equipment and projects across the Trust.

Gifts in Wills can make a real difference to patients and for generations to come.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Zoe.Steer@SomersetFT.nhs.uk

PLEASE DONATE GIVE A GIFT TODAY

I am over 16 and my address 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 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.

One off gift

☐ £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 payable to Love Musgrove
Please debit my Visa/CAF/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.

If you would like to make a regular gift via direct debit, please tick this box and we will send you further information on how to sign up ☐