

News

FOR ST GEMMA'S SUPPORTERS
AUTUMN/WINTER 2023



The healing power of horses

We recently welcomed some very special visitors to the Hospice.

Retired racehorse Goldream, known as Remy and therapy pony Poppy brought big smiles and delight to many patients and families.

The nursing team made it possible for patients to meet with the horses outside in the Hospice gardens, whilst others watched on from their balconies.

St Gemma's Nurse Clare Dixon said: *"It was really heart-warming seeing patients interacting with Remy and Poppy. Both horses created a sense of calm and comfort and their visit really brightened everyone's day. The patients were visibly uplifted by the meeting. Many lovely memories were created which is what it's all about."*



A tender moment for Andrew and Remy

The visit was arranged thanks to York Racecourse and the team at New Beginnings, who re-home and re-train retired racehorses. Remy, who had a successful racing career, is now a York Racecourse Equine Ambassador. With his friend Poppy they tour the community and bring joy to many.



Satnam provides a snack to Remy



Chloe and Alana loved cuddling Poppy the pony

Light
UP A Life

2023

Dedicate a light
and remember
someone special.



Visit www.st-gemma.co.uk/lightupalife
or call 0113 218 5555.



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Give a monthly gift to St Gemma's

Your name:

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☐ Please tick to receive occasional updates and fundraising news by email.



I would like to give a monthly donation of £ _____

Starting on 1st or 22nd (please circle) of _____ (month)

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit. Please fill in the whole form and send it to: St Gemma's Hospice, 329 Harrogate Road, Moortown, Leeds, LS17 6QD

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society:

Service User Number

6 4 8 7 0 4

To: The Manager

Bank/building society:

Address:

Postcode:

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account number

Branch sort code

Reference (for office use only)

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay St Gemma's Hospice Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with St Gemma's Hospice and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature(s):

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I enclose: <input type="checkbox"/> cash <input type="checkbox"/> cheque (made payable to St Gemma's Hospice) or <input type="checkbox"/> please debit my card detailed below:									
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<p>Add 25% to the value of your donation with Gift Aid</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a UK taxpayer and I would like St Gemma's Hospice to treat any donations I have made in the past 4 years, today and any future donations as Gift Aid donations, until I notify you otherwise. I understand 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.</p> <p>Gift Aid is reclaimed by St Gemma's Hospice from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address (provided above) is needed to identify you as a UK tax payer. Please let us know if you want to cancel this declaration, change your home address or no longer pay sufficient tax.</p>									
Please return to: St Gemma's Hospice, 329 Harrogate Road, Moortown, Leeds, LS17 6QD									
Alternatively you can donate online at: www.st-gemma.co.uk/onlinedonation									

45 years of volunteering!

The dedication of our volunteers astounds us, and it was an absolute privilege to award two 45-year long-service awards at the event. Eileen and Mike have volunteered for the Hospice since 1978! They have made a phenomenal contribution and we are so grateful for their dedications. They are pictured here receiving their award from Chief Executive Kerry Jackson.

Dr Peter Westwood and **Dr Bhajneek Grewal** recently completed rotations at the Hospice. Before moving on, they shared their thoughts about being part of the team.



45 years and counting...

Thank you and here's to the next 45 years.

A celebratory graphic for 45 years of care. The number '45' is large and purple with a green outline. A green heart with a purple stem and leaves sits atop the '5'. Below the number is a green banner with the text 'YEARS OF CARE' in purple. The background is white with scattered orange and yellow leaves and dots.

The Cabin is open...

Comments included:

The Cabin, designed by ArkleBoyce has also been shortlisted in the Leeds Architecture Awards.

Built from low-carbon, highly-insulated structural panels. Solar panels generate electricity for the building

The Cabin

The Cabin is a dedicated space for the children supported by the St Gemma's Young People's Service. It is made from larch wood, is fully sustainable and was designed by local architects with inspiration from some of the children supported by the service.

Find out more about The Cabin here:
[**www.st-gemma.co.uk/young-peoples-cabin**](http://www.st-gemma.co.uk/young-peoples-cabin)
 For more about the St Gemma's Young People's Service
 visit: [**www.st-gemma.co.uk/young-peoples-service**](http://www.st-gemma.co.uk/young-peoples-service)

Your donations and fundraising make every moment matter for local people living with a terminal diagnosis and their families

There are a whole host of ways you can support St Gemma's care this autumn and winter.

Visit www.st-gemma.co.uk/Christmas for details of all our fundraising activities in the coming months.

Give a Charity Shop Gift Card

We are now proud members of this nationwide scheme, so you can buy or spend vouchers in our stores. As sustainability becomes a priority for many shoppers, this is a fantastic step towards reducing waste and helping people across Leeds and beyond to shop more sustainably. Why not give a gift card this Christmas.

Ask in one of our charity shops or visit thecharityshopgiftcard.co.uk.

St Gemma's Winter Ball Saturday 4 November LUFC Pavilion at Elland Road

Join us for an evening filled with glitz, glamour, delicious food and fantastic entertainment and celebrate 45 years of care at St Gemma's Hospice. Generously sponsored by Skopes Menswear.

Buy your tickets now online or call **0113 218 5570**.

The Leeds Big Sleep

Thursday 23 November Emerald Headingley Stadium

Spend a night sleeping out on the terraces at this iconic venue while supporting three local charities that support Leeds' most vulnerable communities. All sponsorship raised from this event will be split between St Gemma's, St George's Crypt and the Leeds Rhinos Foundation.

Sign up today.

Make a donation and give the gift of care

£10 could pay for a delicious 3 course meal for one of our in-patients during the festive period.

£50 could provide specialist support to a child missing their loved one this Christmas.

£250 could fund a visit from our Community team to enable a patient to spend Christmas at home.

£500 could fund a day of care for one of our in-patients this winter, covering everything from expert care, to pain relief and meals.

Donate online or call our Supporter Care Team on **0113 218 5555**.

Buy your Christmas cards

We have an exclusive range of beautiful designs this year, including a stunning new design of the Queens Hotel.. And unlike many of the charity Christmas cards you'll find on sale in supermarkets, 100% of the profits from our cards directly support the work of the Hospice.

Cards are now on sale at your local St Gemma's shop, over the phone on **0113 218 5555** or visit our Christmas page online.

What
will you

Give?

Christmas Tree Sales

Friday 1 and Saturday 2 December, new venue to be announced!

Support the Hospice by buying your Christmas tree from us. Various sizes available at very competitive prices.

Reserve your tree online, or turn up on the day to select your super spruce!

Santa Dash

Santa Dash will be a little different this year. We're inviting you to run any distance, whenever and wherever you wish. Make a donation and we'll send you a pack with all you need.

Check out the details online.

Light up a Life

Sunday 10 December, at the Hospice

Join us at the Hospice for this poignant ceremony to remember and celebrate your loved one. To dedicate a light to someone special, make your donation now.

For full details and to donate, call **0113 218 5555** or visit our website.

Treecycle your Christmas tree

Take the hassle out of the post-Christmas clear up – simply make a donation to St Gemma's and our tree-mendous Treecycling volunteers will come and collect your tree. We are also seeking volunteer drivers and co-pilots for the service.

**January
2024**

Book your collection online or call **0113 218 5570**.

Full details can be found at:
www.st-gemma.co.uk/Christmas
Visit the link or scan the QR code



Get in touch

Donate: **0113 218 5555**
Events: **0113 218 5570**
fundraising@st-gemma.co.uk



Thank you for supporting St Gemma's care and making a difference.

We are hospice care...

Every autumn, we celebrate national Hospice Care Week and use the opportunity to share stories and feedback to demonstrate what hospice care is about. Each and every day, the St Gemma's Hospice team works with patients and families to ensure they experience the best possible end-of-life care, tailored to them. This is what hospice care means to them ...

Hospice care is... helping me to live my life fully

One of our in-patients, Andrew, is a keen gardener and said that being at the Hospice and being able to help out in the gardens is bringing him so much joy and a sense of normality. Andrew is pictured here on the right, with our resident green-fingered experts Andy and Nathan, planting this beautiful hanging basket.



Hospice care is... about fulfilling wishes

It was our privilege to help this special couple celebrate their wedding at the Hospice. The bride Lisa, who was being cared for on the St Gemma's In-Patient unit married Andy in a beautiful service with family and friends. The newlyweds said:

We had a wonderful day and we are so grateful to everyone who made this possible.



Hospice care is... there when you need it most

For Sue and her brother Tony, St Gemma's was a constant source of care and support before, during and after his death. Tony was supported at home by a St Gemma's community nurse and Consultant. After being taken to A&E by ambulance, Tony was adamant he didn't want to die in hospital. The St Gemma's team worked to ensure he was admitted to the Hospice.

In those last few hours we finally found a sense of calm. Tony was going, but it was peaceful. The support from the Hospice didn't stop once Tony died either – both my sister-in-law and I have received counselling from St Gemma's bereavement service.



Hospice care is... respectful

The loving care my dad received made his death much easier to cope with. From out of the blue he kept saying the Lord's Prayer - no matter how or when he said it the staff would pause what they were doing and say it with him. It is the small things in life to which happy memories are made, even at such a sad time.

Hospice care is... everywhere

I didn't know that the Hospice cares for people at home or wherever they live. The doctor and physio came to me. A Hospice is so much more than the building.



Hospice care is... for everyone

I'm under the care of St Gemma's community team and I'm Buddhist. I receive fantastic spiritual care from a Tibetan Buddhist chaplain via the Hospice. I couldn't ask for more.



You are hospice care...

Every single day, St Gemma's care continues thanks to your support and kindness. Every heart-warming story in this Newsletter is thanks to you. Make a difference by donating today. Visit www.st-gemma.co.uk or call 0113 218 5555 or scan the QR code.



Your story is the story of St Gemma's ...

We are so grateful when individuals share their personal experiences. You put things into words better than we ever could. So we invite you to share your experience of St Gemma's care in our online community – Hospice Stories.

Simply visit www.st-gemma.co.uk/hospicestories, share your story and tell our community how St Gemma's made a difference.

We want to communicate with you and keep you posted about news, events and updates from St Gemma's. We also want to show you how your support benefits local patients and their families. But we respect your decision if you wish to change how we send you information, or choose not to hear from us at all.

Ring us on 0113 218 5555, email supportercare@st-gemma.co.uk or update your preferences online: www.st-gemma.co.uk/mydata

Music to our ears...

Did you know that behind the scenes of our charity shops we have a specialist team who scour our donated items and make sure they are sold for the best price? The St Gemma's ecommerce team can spot a hidden gem, and make sure it is sold in the right place, for the best price for the Hospice. We sell items on eBay, Vinted, depop and more but we sometimes use auction houses for rare or valuable items.

We found this cello amongst a pile of items donated to our shops. The man who donated them didn't mention the musical instrument or that there was anything of particular value. The cello was very old, well used and also damaged in places. But the eagle-eyed team investigated further, found the manufacturers' label inside, predicted it was antique and listed it on eBay. It sold for £1,020!



You can trust us to make the most from your donations. Donate in one of our 24 stores today or call for a home collection. Visit our online shops here: www.st-gemma.co.uk/shop-online or contact our retail team on **0113 255 7552**.

If you are donating an item you feel might have a higher value, please do mention it to our teams and they can divert this to the ecommerce team to research and sell, making the most of your donation and supporting hospice care.

New Seacroft store

Our retail chain is about to grow to 25, with a new branch set to open imminently in Seacroft. At the time of writing, we can't confirm the location, but head to our website for updates!



Farewell and welcome Trustees...

We'd like to send our heartfelt thanks to two Trustees who retire from our Board over the coming months. Angus Martin and Sue Ansbro have collectively volunteered for almost 20 years and we are grateful for their massive contribution to the Hospice, particularly their expertise in finance and governance.

We are however delighted to welcome three new Trustees to our Board – Mukesh Parekh, Lisa Hollidge and Bassem Keir each of whom bring a wealth of experience in technology and commercial strategy.



Our Trustees are all volunteers and collectively they are accountable for the governance of our organisation. They ensure that St Gemma's is run safely, legally and efficiently. We are indebted to them for their time and expertise. More information about St Gemma's Board can be found at: www.st-gemma.co.uk/patrons-trustees

Make a Will Month

Write your Will this October with a local solicitor. Solicitors are generously waiving their fees and donating their time to help raise funds for St Gemma's. Every donation made as part of Make a Will Month will help provide vital care and support to patients and families.

“ I have two young children so I wanted to make a Will to make sure they would be taken care of if anything happened to me or my partner. It was really easy to arrange and the process of making the Will was straightforward. - Jessica ”



To find out more, visit www.st-gemma.co.uk/makeawillmonth or call the fundraising team on **0113 306 9170**.