

BOLTON HOSPICE NEWS

Spring | Summer 2024



IN THIS ISSUE:

FIND YOUR PERFECT
VOLUNTEER ROLE!
PAGES 4-5



GOVERNMENT
FUNDING UPDATE
PAGES 8-9

COMING SOON -
BUBBLE RUSH
PAGE 10



Bolton Hospice
caring from the heart

www.boltonhospice.org.uk

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HELLO

I hope you enjoy reading this special edition of Bolton Hospice News, celebrating our 700+ strong team of volunteers!

I am in constant awe of our wonderful volunteers who gift their time to help us provide our vital care and support – thank you for everything you do.

As second-hand shopping increases in popularity, our charity shops continue to provide our community with affordable, sustainable fashion and generate much-needed income to fund our services. If you'd like to join our retail volunteering team, we'd love to have you on board – more information about how you can join can be found on page 4&5.

As you'll be aware, last year we announced our projected financial deficit was £1.2 million, and that without further government funding for 2024-25

and beyond, we would need to consider closing or reducing our services. You can read more about our funding updates on page 8.

A special thank you to all of you who have supported the **'Save Bolton Hospice'** appeal, your efforts have helped to sustain our existing services for longer. A priceless gift for families living with life-limiting illnesses in Bolton.

IN THIS ISSUE

Find Your Perfect Volunteer Role	4-5	Funding Update	8-9
Volunteer in our Café	6	Bubble Rush	10
Jo's Story	7	Upcoming Events & Dates	11

Bolton Hospice,
Queens Park Street, Bolton, BL1 4QT

Tel: 01204 663 066 **Web:** www.boltonhospice.org.uk

General Enquiries: admin@boltonhospice.org

Fundraising Enquiries: fundraising@boltonhospice.org

CONTACT US



CARING FROM THE HEART

VOLUNTEERING AT BOLTON HOSPICE

Thank you to our amazing team of volunteers for generously gifting their time and expertise to help Bolton Hospice. We couldn't do it without you!

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at Bolton Hospice. From helping to provide compassionate and dedicated care at the hospice to raising vital funds in our charity shops, Bolton Hospice simply wouldn't exist without people who generously give up their time to support us.

Our volunteers regularly tell us how much they enjoy their roles, and knowing they're making a positive difference to their local charity. As a volunteer, you're not only helping us to continue caring for local people living with life-limiting illnesses, and

their families, you're giving yourself the opportunity to learn new skills, grow in confidence, and make life-long friends.

Bolton Hospice has a large number of different volunteer opportunities, and with lots of training and support available, there really is a role out there for everyone!

Find a role that suits you!



"I started volunteering because my grandad was a patient at the hospice, and he loved it. I'd just finished my degree and had some time on my hands, so I thought it was the perfect time to volunteer, and know that I'm helping people just like my grandad."



Sam

"I've been volunteering for 21 years, and they can't get rid of me! We all get on so well, we work together, and I love that it gets me out in the community making friends with people I wouldn't otherwise get to know. If you're lonely at home, or just looking to make a fantastic new group of friends, it's the best thing you can do. It's amazing."

Pat, Shop Volunteer



Joanne

"I decided to start volunteering as, unexpectedly, I spent quite some time at the hospice in a very short space of time, losing both my parents within 5 months of each other. They were both cared for by the hospice team everyone was truly amazing. I knew I wanted to become part of the hospice community, and I really wanted to be there to support others who were experiencing grief."

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Whether you have a flair for fashion and fancy yourself on the shop floor, or can see yourself helping behind the scenes as a volunteer van driver, PAT tester or eBay administrator, we can't wait to welcome you to our shops team. Which role would suit you?



COULD YOU VOLUNTEER IN OUR CAFÉ?

Meet new friends, learn new skills and make a positive difference

There's more than just a warm welcome and a smashing cuppa at our Old Bank Café in Astley Bridge. There is also the opportunity to volunteer as part of our friendly and welcoming team that serves the public six days a week and is a home from home to many. Not only is it a welcome source of income but has also become a community asset.

And none of this happens without the amazing volunteers who generously gift their time to help out.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEER

Hannah started volunteering a year and a half ago to gain work experience. She volunteers once a week and is a valuable member of the team.

Hannah's volunteer role is varied and she helps to take orders, serve customers, prepares beverages and ensures the cleanliness of the café.

Hannah plans to go to university and study to become an environmental scientist but has found her volunteering experience has given her social and practical skills she couldn't have found anywhere else.

In addition to great social opportunities our volunteers all get the chance to develop their skills and gain qualifications including NVQ certificates.

We urgently need volunteers at The Old Bank Café!
No experience is necessary and full training is provided!
Please apply online or call 01204 663 063 for more info.



"I don't know what I really expected but I don't think it was to go into such a warm and friendly place. We have plenty of regulars and you get to know about them and their families. It's really good to talk to people and everyone is so nice when they come in."

JO'S STORY

Ward & Fundraising Volunteer



My nanna was diagnosed with bladder cancer when she was in her late 80s, and even though she initially fought it off, a few years later it came back and spread. She ended up being admitted to the hospice where she stayed for about 2 weeks before she died.

I'd known other people who had used the hospice, so I wasn't at all worried about the care she would receive there. Everyone is so warm and welcoming, and all of the staff absolutely go the extra mile. Nothing is ever too much trouble. What particularly stood out, though, is how different the care is to anything else out there, and not just for patients, but all family members. After my nanna died the nurses spent so much time with us making sure we were okay, and some of my family even had counselling from the hospice.

I started volunteering a little while after my nanna died as I wanted to do something for the hospice that wasn't about putting your hand in your pocket. I think that's great, but I also think putting yourself out there makes such a big difference, not just to other people but to yourself. It absolutely boosts your own morale to know you're helping those who need it.

A typical volunteer shift for me starts with a handover from a member of staff, where I find out what patients are in, the sort of care they need, and whether they're eating or drinking. After that I'll take breakfast or dinner orders depending on when

I'm volunteering, and speak to the kitchen staff to make sure everyone gets what they fancy. Then I'll spend the rest of the shift helping out where I'm needed. That can include looking after visitors, getting them cups of tea, and I'll also sit and chat with patients if they want some company.

I'll be honest, I did expect volunteering on the ward to be sadder, but it's a really, really happy place. The patients are all so happy to be getting the care and support they need, and all the staff are so happy to work there. It's just a lovely, happy place for patients to spend time, whether that's their final moments, or a bit of respite care.

The thing I enjoy most about volunteering is knowing I'm giving a bit of something back, something you can't buy. It's people giving their time that the hospice needs, as well as money, and I know they wouldn't be able to do what they do without volunteers. It's amazing to be one of those people.

To anyone thinking about volunteering, whether at the hospice or in the shops, I'd say, "Just do it". You'll be making more of a difference than you'll ever know, to families just like mine and to people just like my nanna.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR HOSPICES

'NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE'

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Hospice and End of Life Care published their report earlier this year following an inquiry into the state of government funding for hospices.



The inquiry found that despite the introduction of a legal requirement for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to commission palliative and end of life care, ICB commissioning of hospice services is currently not fit for purpose. As a result, the services hospices provide for dying people and their families and the value they provide to the health system is at risk.

As Chair of the Greater Manchester Hospices Collaborative, Bolton Hospice CEO Dr Leigh Vallance was recently interviewed by the BBC on the state of hospice funding.

Last year we announced that due to a combination of the cost-of-living crisis, high fuel and energy costs, high inflation and over 15 years of below inflation increases to our government NHS funding, our projected financial deficit for 2023-24 was £1.2million, and that without further government funding for 2024-25 and beyond, we would need to consider closing or reducing our services.

Thanks to the incredible support of The Bolton News with their 'Save Bolton Hospice' campaign and the efforts of our generous local community, an extra £450,000 has been raised, reducing the deficit to £750,000 and helping to sustain our existing services for longer.

However, our underlying unsustainable financial deficit remains which is why we continue to focus our efforts on exploring all possible avenues of further income generation and crucially, securing a fairer government NHS funding deal.

How can you help?

If you'd like to support Bolton Hospice, please consider a monthly donation, volunteer at one of our charity shops, sign up to our hospice lottery, attend or organise a fundraising event, donate items to our charity shops, or pledge to leave a gift in your will so that we can continue to support local people living with life-limiting now, and in future.



Dr Leigh Vallance,
Chief Executive Officer at Bolton Hospice

“

The stark findings from the APPG report confirm what we already knew: NHS/ICB commissioning of hospice services is not fit for purpose, and if left unresolved much longer will leave vital hospice services for dying people and their families at risk.

With no confirmation currently of any longer term sustainable NHS/ government funding being committed, we find ourselves facing an uncertain future, unable to plan effectively with an unsustainable financial deficit.

Without a fairer funding deal, we will have no choice but to consider reducing our vital services for local people. This is a measure we were hoping to avoid, but sadly, is one that hospices up and down the country are getting ready to face if a deal is not secured in good time.

Dr Leigh Vallance, Chief Executive Officer at Bolton Hospice

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HOW YOU CAN HELP



BUBBLE RUSH 2024

It's coming back!

And it's more bubbly than ever before!

Run, jog, skip or toddle your way through our super foamy course whilst raising vital funds to support Bolton Hospice.

Stay tuned to our social channels for further updates.



**8TH
SEPTEMBER
2024**



UPCOMING EVENTS

100K MAY Throughout May

Can you run or walk 100k in a Month? Increase your fitness and wellbeing and join our online challenge throughout May. Search '100k May for Bolton Hospice' on Facebook to join our group!

GOLF DAY 25th July

Our popular Golf Day returns!



**FIRST PRIZE
£1,000**

SUMMER BUMPER DRAW

21st June

Take part in our bumper draw to be in with winning up to £1,000 cash prize, TUI holiday voucher and more!

BUBBLE RUSH 8th September

Keep an eye on our channels for more details!

**IT'S
BACK!**

LADIES LUNCH 16th May

Make a date with your friends. Enjoy a fantastic lunch at Rivington Hall Barn with great entertainment and a wonderful selection of stalls to browse.



SUPPORTER ORGANISED EVENTS

Visit our website for further details

**LANCASHIRE LADIES FUNDRAISING
GROUP LUNCHEON 24th April**

ROTARY LEVER CHARITY BALL 11th May

DOG SHOW 2nd June

TALKING FOOTBALL CHARITY MATCH 6th July

30

**Scan the QR
code for more
information on
all of our events**





Bolton Hospice
caring from the heart

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

**We need volunteers to help
raise vital funds in our shops**

**“I'd recommend volunteering
with Bolton Hospice to anyone!
It's so varied what you can do
here, and it really does help
you as much as you're
helping them.”**

– Sam, volunteer



**Find out more:
www.boltonhospice.org.uk/volunteer**

   **@boltonhospice**

