

ROSSENDALE HOSPICE Friends

ISSUE 1 » SPRING/SUMMER 2025



Rossendale Hospice
Making every moment count

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter



Dear Supporters,

The Hospice is now 35 years old and during that time the aspiration of staff and volunteers to provide a range of services to look after and support patients and their carers with life limiting conditions in our area has never wavered. We have worked hard to develop and extend these services over time and are proud with what we are able to offer today.

For the whole of this period the majority of the money needed to fund our activities has come from the local community, which has been magnificent and unstinting in its support, and long may that continue, because without it we would be a shadow of the vibrant organisation that we have become.

Times are hard for many and all at the Hospice appreciate that the funding we need to survive must be balanced in households against many other competing demands, so despite all our successes we cannot afford to be complacent and take everyone's involvement for granted. That is why we are always looking to update and refresh our fundraising activities to make sure that people continue to enjoy themselves in the knowledge that their contribution is for an incredibly worthy cause.

The newsletter contains details of a number of forthcoming events and other regular activities and I hope you will be encouraged to participate in one or more of them. And tell your family and your friends and your workmates about us and how much we need the support of the whole community, because without it we will find that times are extremely hard indeed.

Whatever you do and however you do it and no matter how much or little you are able to give we are grateful that the Hospice remains in your thinking as an important charity based in the Valley, providing services to local people.

May I offer best wishes for the remainder of this year and hope that 2025 is a good year for us all.

Spring is on its way – at last.

Geoff Summers
Chairperson

Sunflower Memories

The Sunflower Memories campaign by Rossendale Hospice has truly made a remarkable impact on the local community, raising nearly £70,000 since it began.

This initiative, running annually from June to August, offers a meaningful way for people to honour loved ones with sunflower plaques. For just £17, participants can choose a location significant to their loved one, creating a beautiful tribute that brightens the valley and brings comfort and happiness to those who see it.



Beyond the lamppost tributes, memory markers are also available, allowing supporters to have a lasting

reminder in their own gardens. Each sunflower and memory marker is a testament to love and remembrance, turning Rossendale's streets into a vibrant celebration of life.



The ongoing success of this campaign, made possible by the generosity of Rossendale Hospice supporters, highlights the community's strength and compassion. Every sunflower is a symbol of collective support, remembrance, and gratitude, making this campaign a cherished tradition in the area.

Sunflower Memories campaign launched March 2025.

Join our team of Volunteers

Join over 200 volunteers making a difference in Rossendale

Can you spare a few hours a week?

We'd love you to be a part of our amazing team and at the same time help us to support and care for patients. We have a variety of roles available across the Hospice including our shops, wellbeing sessions and our fundraising team.

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator on **01706 393870** or email **volunteering@rossendalehospice.org**



SUNFLOWER MEMORIES

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Hospice Weekly Draw



The 'Care to Win' weekly draw partnership team were active again recently as we caught up with everyone involved to celebrate the good news and make plans for the coming year. Central to this was a cheque presentation and photo opportunity to help showcase the results of the good work going on behind the scenes.

The partnership has been successful in raising funds for the Hospice - thanks to the wonderful supporters who have entered the draw. With over 400 members currently supporting the 'Care to Win' initiative, it was great to involve Yvonne, Susan and Ruth who are at the forefront of our services.

Building on previous year's successes, the partnership with NYCDA (National Youth & Community Development Association), continues to generate much needed funds. Over the last 12 months the partnership raised over £20,000 which has helped fund 125 Hospice at Home Night Sits for patients and to provide respite for their families.

Supporter Engagement Fundraiser, Grace said: "We are so grateful for the support that we receive from the community! The Weekly Draw is a mutually beneficial way to give to the hospice as it also gives you the opportunity to win a substantial amount of money."

Friends of Rossendale Hospice can join now for as little as £1 per week and be in with a chance to win £1,000s of cash prizes every week by supporting the hospice's local work in the community. Members have access to lots of fantastic cash prizes up for grabs including a weekly £1,000 jackpot and a £500 Rollover Extra, which can reach a huge £10,000, as well as other amounts such as £100, £50, £25 and 10 x £10.



It's quick and easy to sign up, go to:

www.rossendalehospice.org/caretowin or scan the QR code

Dionne's story

A dedicated salon owner whose Mum received care from our team. Her journey is a powerful reminder of how important it is for us to come together to support one another through life's most challenging moments.

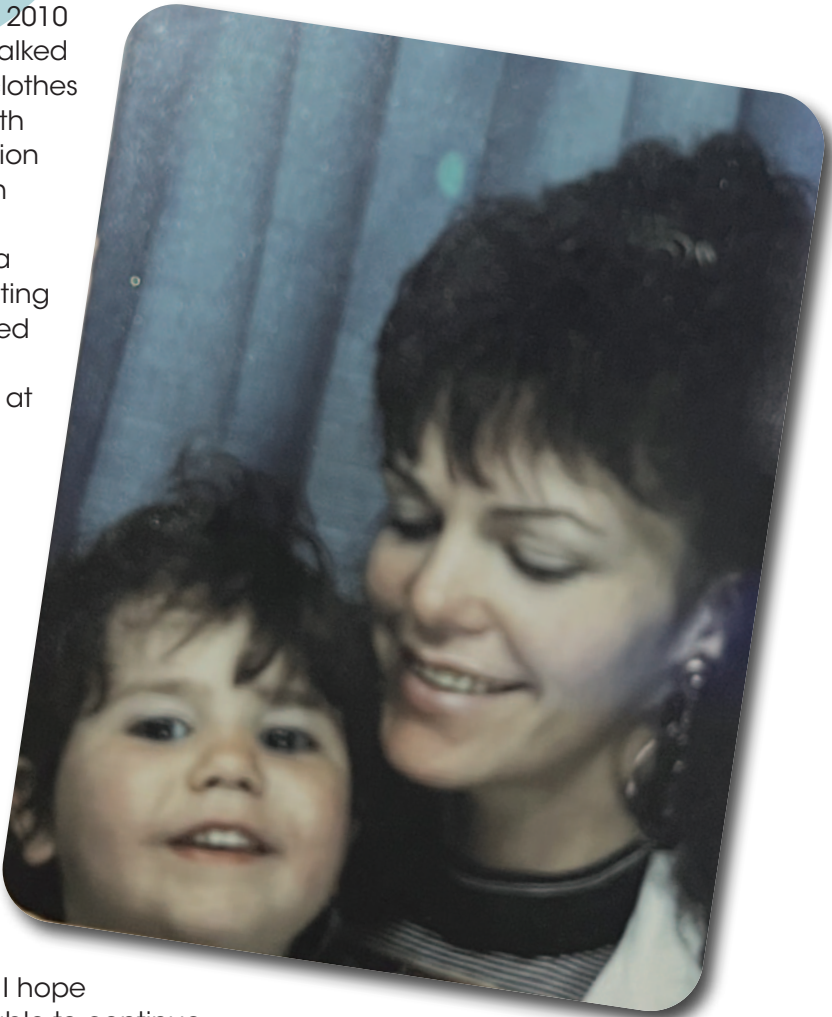
"My Mum Theresa Shackleton used the services with Rossendale Hospice in 2009 when she sadly became ill with triple negative breast cancer. She absolutely loved to come and spend time with the other ladies in similar situations. We had never experienced anybody in our family have cancer before and never thought about how traumatic it can be, so it was amazing for her to go and spend time and make friends with people who truly understood how she was feeling and what she was going through.

Because she benefited so much from the services provided by Rossendale Hospice, I thought it would be the perfect opportunity for me and my clients at Fakery Refined Beauty & Aesthetics to fundraise and get involved with the Beauty Heroes campaign.

She would glow after her sessions with the hospice. She had reflexology and massage which she loved! My Mum also loved to talk, when she would come back from her wellness sessions/day therapy she would tell us all about the updates on her friend's journeys with their treatment, she really looked forward to catching up with the other ladies and made so many friends!

My Mum passed away peacefully asleep in 2010 (after having sleep talked all night about her clothes shop!) I struggled with anxiety and depression coming to terms with what we had experienced, it was a very lonely and isolating time for me. I attended a few bereavement counselling sessions at the hospice, it was nice to share how I was feeling with no judgement.

I saw for myself how cruel cancer can be. Rossendale Hospice offer so many services for patients and carers that you can benefit from, you are not alone! Even the little things they do mean so much and I hope the Hospice will be able to continue providing their services and support to the people of Rossendale with our help of donations!"



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Young entrepreneurs raise nearly £12,000 for Rossendale Hospice

Five Valley schools raised a record amount for Rossendale Hospice in an entrepreneurial challenge.

The event, organised by Rossendale Hospice and supported by Alder Grange School, is in its 10th year and has so far raised over £35,000 for the hospice. The five schools raised a combined total of £11,873.93 in this year's 'Youth Enterprise Challenge'.

The contest, launched in November of 2024, lasting twelve weeks and saw Year 9 & 10 teams from Alder Grange, Whitworth Community High School, Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School (BRGS), Haslingden High School and All Saints High School all come up with enterprising initiatives to generate as much income as possible to be donated to the Hospice.

The schools were judged on seven award categories; Most Profit Raised, Most Money Raised Per Pupil, Most Innovative Idea, Greatest Community

Involvement, Best Presentation, Special Recognition Award, and the Fundraisers Achievement Award.

The Most Profit Raised award went to Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School (BRGS) raising a spectacular £6,227.82, undergoing various activities including a 12K run over the Christmas period.

BRGS earned a further award – Most money raised (per pupil in School.) The pupils raised an incredible £5.90 each.

Haslingden High School, stole the top spot for the Greatest Community Involvement Award with their Winter Showcase. They won over the community with their performances from Blood Brothers, Wicked and many more.

Lucy Howarth from Alder Grange stood out and won the **Fundraiser's Achievement Award**. She spent time

contacting Burnley Football Club and arranging for a signed Burnley Football shirt to later be used in the raffle, which accounted for £790.10 of their total amount raised.

The next award was awarded to All Saints High School for the **Most innovative fundraising idea Award** for their 'Denim sale'. They had the creative idea to get all types of denim clothing donated which they later sold for £1 per piece. Raising a total of £70 from the sale.

Whitworth Community showed great passion and enthusiasm when showing their presentation, they went into great detail about how they raised the money for the hospice and the different ideas that they had, winning the award for **Best Presentation**.

Last but certainly not least, the **Special Recognition Award** had clear winners – Josh McLean, Max Harrison and Henry Sagar for completing the 12K's of Christmas.

The three BRGS students decided to take on a mammoth task to run 1k starting on Christmas day 1, 2k on day 2, 3k on day 3 and so on, until they got to their 12th day when they ran 12k in the heavy snow and freezing cold. The students persevered throughout the long days and raised a total of £1,434.24 between the three of them.

The Hospice were thrilled to have the Mayor of Rossendale join them for the celebration event to present all the awards to the students, along with representatives from the Hospice.

Grace Cole – Supporter Engagement Fundraiser of the Hospice, said: 'It's been wonderful to see how much the students have learnt and developed over the past 12 weeks, watching their confidence grow and their passion for fundraising for the hospice has been truly special.'



Personalise your Donation Boxes

If you are celebrating a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary or wedding, we can provide you with personalised donation boxes so that you can ask for donations in lieu of gifts.

Contact the Fundraising Team on 01706 393870 opt 3 or email fundraising@rossendalehospice.org for more details



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Have you visited our Charity shops?

Rossendale Hospice is proud to own two lovely charity shops in the local area; one in Rawtenstall and the other in Haslingden. Here you can purchase a variety of things at discounted prices, such as women's, men's and children's clothing, books and games, homeware, small electrical items, jewellery and accessories.

We have dedicated staff and volunteers across both of our stores that work tirelessly on the quality and presentation of the items for sale, ensuring a regular rotation of stock. With new items added regularly, there is always something fresh to discover. We carefully select stock to match the current season, so you will find the perfect pieces all year-round. Make sure to drop by often—you never know what treasures you might find!

Each week there are different items up for grabs, therefore regular visits are recommended to ensure you do not miss out! Every purchase and donation helps us raise vital funds to support the day-to-day care we provide for our patients. Donations are accepted in both stores Monday to Saturday.

Be sure to follow us on social media to catch our weekly 'Donation of the Week' highlight and visit our website

for more information. Your support makes a world of difference!

We also have opportunities for volunteers to join our team in the charity shops where you can help with things such as operating the till, socializing with customers, steaming, and tagging products and much more. For further information on our volunteer program please contact us on 01706 393870 or ask for an application form directly from our shops.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows charities like ours to claim an extra 25% on top of donations. To do this, we require you to inform us whether you are a UK taxpayer. Whether you are making a cash donation or simply donating an item in one of our Charity Shops, we ask that you tick the 'Gift Aid my donation' box. This will not cost you a penny extra but will make all the difference to us and to any future donations you make. In 2024 we claimed an extra £17,000 on top of donations from Gift Aid!

Please note that this is only applicable to UK taxpayers. Please speak with a member of our team if you have any queries.



Wellbeing Days at Rossendale Hospice

- Monday:** 10.00 - 12.30 - Bereavement Café (Temporarily on hold)
- Tuesday:** 10.00 - 14.30 - Palliative Care Day
- Wednesday:** 10.00 - 13.00 - Early Diagnosis Day (Cancer)
- Thursday:** 10.00 - 14.30 - Long Term Conditions Day
- Friday:** 10.00 - 14.00 - Dementia Early Diagnosis Day



For more details:

T: 01706 393870 opt 2
E: admin@rossendalehospice.org
W: rossendalehospice.org
or scan the QR code



Rossendale Hospice offer an extensive range of free services to those in need across Rossendale.

Rossendale Heroes hailed at Hospice event of the year!

Rossendale Hospice held their third awards event to celebrate the most inspiring people in the community.

The Rossendale community were invited to nominate special and commendable people who contribute so much to life in the Valley. Rossendale Hospice's Pride of Rossendale committee who organised the event had 8 categories in which people could be nominated for.

Nominations peaked almost 100 by the closing date which saw a whole host of wonderful people nominated for the awards including various community groups and dedicated volunteers across Rossendale.

The winners were:
Pride of the Valley – Andrew Robinson for his dedication and success running Rossendale Mens Shed

Man of the Year – Andrew Cooper for his work with 38th Rossendale Scout Group and his support to young people in the Valley.

Woman of the Year – Pippa Holland for her work at 38th Rossendale Scout Group, Citizen's Advice and Emmaus Homelessness Charity.

Community Group of the Year – Rossendale PHAB Club – a local group who help support local people and help them socialise, have fun and build friendships.

Young person of the Year – Lola Woolley, a young lady who raised over £1000 for the Hospice running the Yorkshire Three Peaks during the Youth Enterprise Challenge.

Hospice Star of the Year – The Hospice Volunteer Drivers for being faces of Rossendale Hospice and their compassion and dedication for transporting patients to and from the Hospice.

Supportive Business of the Year – awarded to La Latte Lounge for their community hub and providing local groups with a place to meet.

Supportive School of the Year – an award aimed at recognising the extra work that local schools do to support children of the Valley. Winners were St Joseph's RC Primary School in Stacksteads.

Hospice Volunteer Driver – David Woods said:
"We were delighted to have been nominated and then actually win the inaugural Hospice Star of the Year award. It is wonderful to receive this recognition for the work the drivers do, in order to, ensure that our patients receive the best care and support during their time of need. Thanks to Rossendale Hospice for arranging a great event celebrating all that is so special about Rossendale."

The event, sponsored by Auckshire Homes was held at The Ashcroft in Whitworth and was attended by 200

people. Nominees were shortlisted and supported by their family, friends and colleagues as winners were announced.

Rossendale based presenter Tracy Heatley hosted the event along with local lad Grant Bromley and guests were entertained during the interval by Grant himself and the Valley Academy's singers.

Joanna Williams, the **Senior Fundraiser at the Hospice** said:
"The Pride of Rossendale is there to highlight the wonderful work the Rossendale community does for each other. Working with volunteers myself, it never ceases to amaze me the selflessness of those who give up their time and expertise to support others. The event was a great success and it was so lovely to see everyone come together to support those who have really made a difference."

The event raised over £4,600 to date and could not have been possible

without the financial support from local businesses.

Joanna said:
"We thank all the local businesses especially our main sponsor Auckshire Homes and those who sponsored the awards – James Neary, Unscripted, Kids in Rossendale, Tuffies Hair & Beauty, David Gould Opticians, Churnside Funeral Service, Cherry Tree Paraplanning and 1832 Barista. Thanks also go to Cherie Cain and Kath Humphries who donated the welcome drinks. Without the help of local businesses, events like the Pride of Rossendale would not go ahead."

A huge thank you must also go to the Pride of Rossendale committee who have helped organise and run the event. If you are interested in helping organise this event get in touch with fundraising@rossendalehospice.org

This year's event is Friday 20th June 2025 at Burnley Football Club. Keep your eyes peeled for this year's nominations out in May!



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Helena Keane has taken on the mammoth challenge of the 2025 London Marathon on 27th April!

We caught up with Helena Keane recently as she shared her connection of the hospice and why she decided to fundraise for us.



"So I got into running from my dad! My dad is a huge runner, he's participated in 4 marathons! I always

remembered growing up my dad would always run before work every morning! He inspired me to get some running shoes and try it myself! I can not wait for him to watch me at the London marathon.

Running is massive for me, I've ran competitively which I've loved but I mainly run for my head and mindset! It's the best type of therapy.

I've wanted to run for Rossendale hospice with it being a local charity and I wanted to do my bit to help support you as much as I can!"

Helena has taken on intense training and is on track to raise over £2,000 for the Hospice, providing 40 patients receiving end of life care with a timely Hospice at Home visit.

HIIT for Charity

Katie and Jasmin are local residents and fitness enthusiasts, they recently combined the two and held their HIIT for Charity event.

They ran a Fitness Fundraiser for Rossendale Hospice on Sunday 2nd March at The Circle in Bacup, which held more than 50 people with participants from across the globe.

The day consisted of cardiovascular, moved on to step, and then a 'HIIT Challenge', with all participants paying to take part. Jasmin has been participating in HIIT-style fitness for 8 years, taking that passion and making it into something truly special by helping her local hospice.

Katie, who came third in the fitness coach category of the British Fitness Awards in 2023, said: "I am ecstatic, happy, grateful and proud, It turned out better than I expected."

Jasmin and Katie amongst other fitness instructors did an incredible job, making a substantial amount of money for the hospice and getting the community involved in such a great activity.



Beauty Heroes

From May 2024 - April 2025, we have been celebrating the Beauty Heroes of Rossendale.

We have been boosting the profile of the small businesses that make our little town special, whilst they have been asking for their clients to add just £1 to their beauty bill. A small addition to a beauty treatment, a massive impact on Rossendale Hospice. We have collected almost £1,000 from the campaign, making a massive difference to the lives of our patients. We have been thrilled to work with some very special businesses including:

Nails and Beauty By Nicola Jane
Luciella&Co
Cuticles Hair n Beauty
Bellissima Boutique Beauty and Nails

Thrive Salon by Julie Bradshaw
Fakery Refined
Gemini Hair n Beauty
Emily Guerin Beauty



Andy Macnae Labour MP for Rossendale and Darwen Visit to the Hospice

We were delighted to welcome Andy Macnae to the Hospice on Friday 24th January to meet patients and to learn about our work.

It was reassuring to hear that Andy has participated in several conversations in Parliament around End of Life care and the essential role of Hospices, and also the Assisted Dying debate, which has highlighted the importance of end of life care even further, including the potential for greater Hospice involvement.

Andy assured us that he would represent Rossendale Hospice at every opportunity and that he welcomed the opportunity to work with us.

Geoff Summers, Chairman,



commented, "The interest shown by Andy in the current discussions about palliative and end of life care is most welcome. He is clearly very knowledgeable on the subject and this gives us confidence that the Hospice movement, and Rossendale in particular, will receive the support that it needs to flourish in the future."

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Allow us to introduce Hazel, a star in our midst

During the long, lonely days of Covid and lock down in 2020, Hazel Holland sat down with her morning cuppa to tune into GMB (Good Morning Britain), The Lorraine Show.

On one particular morning Lorraine’s “Change & Check” campaign was being broadcast.

The campaign is to raise awareness of breast cancer signs and symptoms and encourage early detection. Hazel watched and listened and discovered that she too had noticed 2 of the changes discussed in herself. She fleetingly thought of going to her GP.

A week or so later the campaign was airing again during the show and this time she could recognise more of the symptoms. Without hesitation and prompted by her own instincts she phoned her GP and was called into the surgery.

During the appointment her GP was clearly concerned and referred her straight away to Burnley General Teaching Hospital Breast Service.

The consultant performed various tests, including a biopsy, and was clearly concerned. A phone call 2 days later asked Hazel to go along to the clinic and to bring her Husband along.

Whilst asking Hazel if she would mind sharing her story with us at the Hospice, she openly admitted that she knew she had breast cancer, which the Consultant confirmed.

He discussed her treatment plan starting with Chemotherapy, followed by a mastectomy and follow up radiotherapy.

Anyone knowing Hazel will tell you that she is a very strong and positive lady, which is exactly how she approached her diagnosis and treatment. She refused to give into the pain, with a smile on her face and always a sense of humour.

Only one day following her surgery she decided she was going to come along to the Hospice to our Early Diagnosis Session (albeit with some apprehension). She quickly discovered that at these sessions there is a Senior Nurse with many years of experience and a group of ladies, expert by experience, who could really say to her “We understand what you are going through, because they were.

She really appreciated coming along to further sessions, feeling it was a “safe space” where she could openly speak about anything and everything and above all how it was acceptable to laugh or cry, (which she tells me all of the group did).

Having completed the 12 sessions offered to patients attending the Early Diagnosis session she moved on to live her life to the full.

Late September 2022 Hazel, her Husband Nigel and family were finally able to travel and flew off to Portugal for a much-needed dose of sunshine and laughter.

Very early on in the holiday, Hazel noticed some changes in her other breast, just like the ones she had detected the first time around. Yet again her suspicions were confirmed and therein followed more chemotherapy, mastectomy, and radiotherapy.

You could be forgiven for thinking that anyone in Hazel’s position would understandably not feel so positive and determined, but this lady is a fighter.

Inspired by Helen Addis, who features on the ITV Lorraine show, Hazel contacted her and before long was involved in a whole host of activities, including climbing the O2, yes seriously, the Bristol Balloon Festival and in 2023 joined the Change & Check Choir, appearing on The Lorraine Show no less!

The choir has gone from strength to strength. GMB has created a charity single with Scottish singer Marti Pellow and choir members, including Hazel who discovered they had breast cancer after watching her chat show!

The choir was also invited to appear on last years Royal Variety Show.

It was an absolute joy and privilege to hear Hazel share her story with us. She is very candid, honest, and above all, an inspiration to us all.

Hazel, like many people, was very fearful of the word “Hospice”.

She wasn’t sure what to expect when she was referred to Rossendale Hospice, but decided to give it a go and if she didn’t feel it was for her, simply thought she wouldn’t come again.

Hazel feels that the Hospice is a “safe space”, very homely in lovely surroundings; a team of Nurses on hand to offer support and advice; a great group of women, who really can say they get it and above all, much laughter, despite the tears.

Hazel’s message is simple – look and check for changes and don’t be afraid of contacting Rossendale Hospice for help and support for you and your family.







Remember a loved one with Rossendale Hospice

You can remember your loved ones for as little as £25 a month with Rossendale Hospice, all whilst providing a patient with an hour of nursing care every month!

The Twinkle Ball: A Night of Celebration, Remembrance and Giving in support of Rossendale Hospice

Rossendale Hospice was proud to host its highly anticipated Charity Ball on Saturday, 1st March, at Burnley Football Club. Dressed to impress and ready for an unforgettable evening, guests arrived eager to join a night of dancing, great food and heartfelt fundraising.



The event began with a warm welcome and a luxurious drinks reception, setting the tone for an elegant and lively evening. Guests were then treated to a delicious three course meal followed by spectacular live entertainment from The Lomax Brothers which filled the room, creating an uplifting atmosphere. Their lively performance had guests dancing the night away, ensuring the celebration was as vibrant as it was meaningful.



To support Rossendale Hospice's work, guests were invited to take part in an exclusive silent auction, featuring one-of-a-kind prizes. Additionally, a live auction and a raffle offered further chances to win amazing prizes that had been generously donated to the Hospice by local businesses.

This year's Twinkle Ball held special significance, as it was dedicated to the memory of Rachel Bargh, a beloved member of the Rossendale community. Rachel received care from Rossendale Hospice's Hospice at Home service during her illness with cancer and was a devoted supporter of the charity. She frequently attended the annual Ladies Lunch event and continued her support by



donating in memory of her friend Pippa, who sadly passed away in 2015.

Honoring Rachel's memory, her dear friends Susan, Marie, Vicky, Sarah, Cherie, and Joanna played a key role in organising the Twinkle Ball. Their dedication helped ensure the night was a beautiful tribute to Rachel's life, celebrating her kindness, community spirit, and unwavering support for Rossendale Hospice. Rachel sadly died in late November 2023 at the age of 54.

The Twinkle Ball was a true testament to the generosity and compassion of the local community. Thanks to the incredible support of attendees, an astonishing £15,264 was raised for

Rossendale Hospice, helping to provide essential care and support to those in need.



The evening was more than just a fundraiser—it was a celebration of life, love, and community spirit. With an atmosphere filled with warmth, generosity, and heartfelt remembrance, the Twinkle Ball 2025 will surely be remembered for years to come.



Rossendale Hospice join Hospice UK's 'This is Hospice Care' Gifts in Wills Campaign

Rossendale Hospice has collaborated with 143 other hospices across the UK to launch the campaign, 'This is Hospice Care'. The campaign is led by Hospice UK and aims to raise awareness of the vital role hospices play in communities and shift perceptions of Hospice care. Following the campaign's launch on 17th February 2025, a

compelling TV advert, featuring real-life hospice stories was broadcast nationwide, supported by widespread media coverage. The campaign's goal is to encourage individuals to support their local hospice by leaving a gift in their Will, ensuring these essential services continue to provide compassionate, specialist care for years to come.

"It is essential to consider the future of Hospice Care and how we, as a community, can support these vital services. We encourage you to leave a gift in your Will to help ensure that compassionate care continues for generations to come." said Irene Smith, CEO, Rossendale Hospice.

Gifts in Wills are crucial to the survival and growth of hospices across the country, providing 15% of the Voluntary income that hospices rely on to deliver essential care. In 2022-2023, hospices across the UK provided palliative and end of life care to 300,000 people; a number that is predicted to increase in coming years. This increase in demand places unprecedented pressure on Hospices, which already heavily rely on support and funds raised within local communities.

At Rossendale Hospice, it costs in excess of around £1.2 million annually to cover running costs, with only 23% of funding received from the NHS. This means that we rely on our local community to raise around in excess of £900,000 each year to continue providing our free services. By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help to ensure that Rossendale Hospice continues to be the beacon of care, comfort, and compassion for generations to come- because we believe everyone deserves comfort, compassion and dignity in their final moments.

For further information, please visit www.rossendalehospice.org/giftsinwills or www.thisishospicecare.org.uk

