

FRANCIS HOUSE  
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE  
Caring for children with a short life expectancy

"a growing family"



If you would like to be an important piece in our jigsaw then  
please go to our website [www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 328659

# From the editor...

Manchester United Legends Andy Cole and Mickey Thomas had the privilege of meeting Patrick one of our 'Champions' when they accompanied Fred the Red who brought the Premiership Trophy to show the families at Francis House. This trophy had been won by our United friends for the 19th time, a record for any premiership club. Patrick's brothers Michael and Thomas were invited to be the mascots at the game against Benfica and the whole family had a great evening (and were even mentioned on TV!!). Patrick is one of our champions and is always a lad who makes you smile.

Francis House has many champions - children and young people who enjoy life to the full regardless of the limitations set by their conditions, brothers and sisters who support and care for their siblings and who bring so much life into the house and of course parents who surmount unbelievable odds to give their children the best lives possible. Everyone a 'champion' and a privilege to know.

A second definition of the word 'CHAMPION' is a person who fights for a cause and we are grateful to all of you out there who fight for our cause and who support us with your time and fundraising efforts, without you the excellent work of our volunteers and staff could not continue - each of you are 'champions' in our eyes.

There is of course a third definition of the word as used by my late father who would say "Ee it was champion" meaning it was first class, a colloquial expression but no less important - and that just about sums up the people who use, work and support Francis House, first class every one - everyone a CHAMPION.

Have a lovely Christmas and may you receive every blessing in the New Year.

*David*



## and some more champions

Many of you will remember our first maintenance man, Joe McQuillan. The McQuillan family have been great supporters of Francis House since its opening and Terry and Mark McQuillan still maintain our vehicles.

Terry's daughter, Lisa, decided to attempt the Wilmslow Triathlon and raise money for Francis House. She's pictured here with her family of support and her efforts raised over £1500.



## Great Manchester Run 2012

Kirsty and Liz Dawn launched the Great Manchester Run 2012 at Manchester Town Hall on Thursday 17th November an expected 40,000 runners will take to the streets of Manchester in the biggest 10K in the country and although 25,000 places have already been sold and the balance are on a balloted system. The Kirsty Club have places reserved so if you over indulge over the Festive Season and want to find a really good excuse to get fit then join our team and register with The Kirsty Club on [phil@thekirstyclub.com](mailto:phil@thekirstyclub.com) or call 07900 497067.

## United Visits

A couple of other United visits included a visit to the Lodge by Chief Executive David Gill and a visit by Chris Smalling and Phil Jones who were accompanied by Shobna Gulati from Coronation Street. They are pictured here with Mark, Jake and Kyle.



# Kate's Crusade - Trekker's United all the way to Machu Picchu

## I'm back, it was tough, exhausting, exhilarating and it was a challenge!

In a moment of madness Kate Puc decided to join the Manchester United Foundation on their trek to Machu Picchu to raise money for the hospice. When you hear what she has been through we hope that those who haven't sponsored 'Kate's Crusade' will do so now by either donating by JustGiving on [www.justgiving.com/KatesCrusade](http://www.justgiving.com/KatesCrusade) or by cheque made payable to Francis House Children's Hospice c/o Kate's Crusade, Fundraising Office, 390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, M20 5NA.

### And so on to Kate's story....

After 4 flights and 39 hours in transit we arrived at Cusco in Peru with 3,350m to acclimatise! Finding out that just by walking up one flight of stairs you become very out of breath - what was to lie in store for the intrepid trekkers on this charity challenge! No rest, that's for sure. Up at 5am, tent covered in frost and temperatures at night as low as minus 10°C. Trekking commenced at 6am, slowly taking it step by step into the heart of the Andean mountains. The air was thin and breathing was difficult, having to stop when you could breathe no more just to catch your breath, taking a well deserved drink to prevent yourself becoming dehydrated and with the sun starting to beat down from around 9am. Most us had varying degrees of altitude sickness - from strong headaches, nausea, dizziness, upset stomach's, one of our fellow trekkers also got water on his lungs (Pulmonary Edema!), another fractured his hand and there were some sore legs, bad knees and groin strains. The doctor was kept very busy! But as the group bonded immediately we stood by each other, we were a team, united together in a challenge that was more than extreme.



The trek was an emotional roller coaster for all of us, not only because of the altitude sickness, but through meeting the Andean children who lived in the mountains far away from civilisation, living in poverty, a diet of potatoes and not knowing how old they were, but who still wore their brightly coloured clothes with pride. With their ruddy complexions and dirty feet they laughed and played and sang songs to us and we reciprocated! We gave gifts to some of the school children who had walked miles to see us and who held out their ponchos to collect them. With their dark eyes focused on you and a soft 'gracias' from each child. I cried for the next part of the trek, trying to gasp breaths amongst my tears. The meeting brought a sense of reality back into our lives, turning our thoughts to our own families back home.

We made it to the highest point (4,540m) by foot and some not so well by horseback – we all hugged one another, exhausted and elated – we'd done it. Another emotional moment!

After five days without a shower, only a hole for a toilet and bitterly cold temperatures at night it was with a sense of relief that we reached Machu Picchu, a hotel and a welcome hot shower!

The next day was the day of visiting the Lost City of the Inca's, now one of the Seven Wonders of the World – the pinnacle of the trek and another 3,000 steps! We climbed up into the clouds and then like magic the famous picture of the Gregarious Mountains and the Lost City emerged from the shrouding mist.

I had done it! I had trekked to Machu Picchu through hazardous conditions, a Herculean task but I had achieved my goal. Please help me to achieve my goal of raising £10,000 or more for our children and families at Francis House Children's Hospice.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me.

*Kate*

(Kate tells us it was tough and this can be seen in the photograph of her and Manchester United Foundation boss John Shields! – Ed)





**MARCUS BOXES CLEVER**

Gascoigne Halman Estate Agent have agreed to be one of our new collection points for shoes and textiles. You can join by taking unwanted items to their offices at 739 Wilmslow Road, M20 6RN or perhaps you can host a box.

Thank you to all at Gascoigne Halman



**FRANCIS HOUSE ASKS LOCAL SCHOOLS TO RISE TO THE OLYMPIC CHALLENGE**

Francis House Children's Hospice has launched their Olympic Decathlon Challenge in celebration of the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games and is asking schools across the region to help raise thousands of pounds for children and young adults with life shortening and life limiting illnesses.

The challenge, which is open to primary and secondary schools across Greater Manchester, is being supported by the Stockport branch of the World's biggest sports retailer, Decathlon, which is offering participating schools the chance to win hundreds of pounds worth of sports equipment.

In addition, one lucky school will win a once in a lifetime sports experience at the National Cycling Centre in Manchester, the home of British Cycling and the training venue for Britain's Olympic and World Champions in track cycling.

Kornel Pintara, Store Manager for Decathlon in Stockport commented, "Excitement is already building around the Olympics and this is the perfect way for schools to get involved in the true participative spirit of the event.

Xaverian College are the first school to have signed up to the Challenge with a group of students organising a tag rugby festival involving 6 local primary schools in spring next year and all funds raised will be donated to Francis House.

Contact Emma on 0161 443 2200 for information.



**PREMIER DANCE ASSOCIATION**

Over the past four years the PDA have managed to raise in excess of £11,000 for Francis House and each year the event goes from strength to strength. The Committee presented Pam Daley with a cheque for £3,200 raised at their event this year. On behalf of everyone at Francis House - Well Done!

**ABBEY COLLEGE MANCHESTER**

Liz Elam and Pat McQuade, Principal and Director of Students at Abbey College Manchester, presented Francis House Children's Hospice with a donation of £2,500 and a celebratory cake, following a successful fundraising campaign for the charity.

The college's efforts include a charity fashion show, which saw students present their creative collections at an event brimming with cultural inspiration, an annual charity dinner, in which staff and students gave generously to support the cause.



**ALMERIMAR GOLF EVENT 2011**

The Francis House annual pairs competition was won with 46 points by Idris Browning (handicap 14, aged 81) and John Flynn (handicap 8) both residents of Almerimar. Idris previously won the competition with Jose Lopez in 1997.

The picture is of John Andrew, Idris, John and Uli Dahlbudding who won the competition last year with Hans Ooft (Hans has managed Japan on two occasions in the Jules Rimet World Cup).

The event raised €1200 for Francis House.



**LIZ'S SKYDIVE**

To celebrate a special birthday this year, Liz Bell, teaching assistant at Great Moor Junior School in Stockport, was persuaded to jump out of an aeroplane in the skies above Lancaster. Pupils at the school helped Liz to raise £1,492 which was presented at a special assembly in September where the children enjoyed watching a DVD of their teacher's skydive, screams and all! Thank you Liz for being so brave!



**INSPIRATIONAL CHESTER MARATHON**

Francis House is pleased to have been chosen as Charity of the Year by the Property Finance Team at RBS based in Spinningfields. Team member Martin Franks decided to tackle the Chester Marathon recently to celebrate a mile stone birthday in October and has inspired his colleagues to take part in other challenges for Francis House too! Big thanks to Martin for raising a fantastic £2,150.



**COLIN'S JOHN O'GROATS TO LAND'S END BIKE RIDE**

On the 2nd of July, after catching a midnight sleeper train from Crewe to Inverness, a 4 hour train journey to Thurso and a 26 mile cycle ride to John O'Groats, Francis House supporter Colin Smith's epic bike ride began! Colin covered a distance of 943 miles altogether, averaging 73 miles per day before successfully reaching his final destination of Land's End. Friends, family and colleagues helped Colin to reach a fantastic total of £3,038. Thank you!



# GIFT AID

## HIGH SUMMERSEAT'S HAMERS ARMS PUB

RAISE your glasses to toast regulars at High Summerseat's Hamers Arms pub who have again proved themselves fantastic fundraisers.

Thanks to a series of activities and events, they've now presented Francis House Children's Hospice with a cheque for £5,000 and since the hospice was "adopted" as the main fundraising beneficiary by Sheila and Geoffrey Owen six years ago, the pub has raised an impressive £12,000 for Francis House.

Mrs Owen said: The latest £5,000 was raised over the last 18 months and events included a big fundraising day for the 'Royal Wedding' tombolas, raffles, silent auctions various other nights and a sponsored Three Towers walk. "We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped raise the money and to local businesses for their kind assistance. Without them all, we couldn't have done this."



Picture courtesy of Bury Times.

We are most grateful to everyone who has already completed a Gift Aid Declaration. To date over 2000 supporters have signed up to the scheme.

We are able to claim 25p for every pound donated.

If you are a UK taxpayer and haven't already signed up please consider completing and returning the slip overleaf, no donation is too small to be gift aided.

If you are planning a special occasion - wedding anniversary, birthday, christening etc and wish your guests to make their gift a donation to Francis House, we can supply small gift envelopes and cards to be sent out with your invitations.

We can only claim gift aid if the donors pay UK tax and we have their name and home address.

Please phone Pauline on 0161 434 7252 or email: [pauline.armitage@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:pauline.armitage@francishouse.org.uk) if we can help.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our new project means that we need to raise an additional 3.5 million pounds. Whilst this is happening we still have to keep Francis House and Francis Lodge operating.

Some years ago Sister Aloysius established the Friend in a Million appeal and many of you subscribe regularly. Later we asked people to donate regular amounts through standing orders and we are even more grateful to those of you who continue to support us in this way. However the need to establish regular income continues and so we are asking as many as possible to consider a regular gift weekly, monthly or annually. You can do this by completing the tear off slip or by going onto our website and emailing us a standing order. Better still ring Pauline on 0161 434 7252 and she will do all of the work for you.

To those of you who give already we send thanks from all at Francis House and to those of you who might be considering it, don't delay as every regular donation enables us to plan ahead and decide how we can best expand and develop the service for the benefit of the Francis House families.

## ESTATE AGENT GETS FESTIVE - WITH A LITTLE HELP!

Markus Jolleys, Manager of Gascoigne Halman Didsbury, has enlisted the support of local Didsbury school children from the reception class at Beaver Road Primary School to help decorate a Christmas tree for Francis House Children's Hospice's annual Festival of Christmas Trees.

With stunning entries in previous years from Manchester United, John Lewis and Hoopers Markus knew that the Gascoigne Halman tree had to be something special. Commenting he said, "Our tree has to stand out from the crowd, so I am sure that with 90 personalised children's house themed decorations our tree will be a festive spectacle for all to see."



## THREE PEAK PIONEERS DID A MOUNTAINOUS TASK AND RAISED £4,100

Paul Oakley, Adam Gallimore, Jayne Greaves, Martin Deignan and Dave Curran from ACS Construction came to Francis House and presented Kate with this amazing amount.

The team managed to make it in 23 hours and 35 minutes. It was the smell and the thought of bacon butties that made the last stretch bearable!

Jayne and Dave's Dad, Bob shared the driving and Jayne made sure they were well fed to keep the lads going.

Well done!

## MARPLE BRIDGE AND MELLOR U3A

On Tuesday 16th August 2011, Marple Bridge & Mellor U3A organised a Grand Charity event with all proceeds to Francis House. The event was a great success and raised £600.00. Lucy Heald was proud to present Malcolm Moss, Vice Chairman of U3A with a certificate.

## GORDON DID ALL RIGHT AND RAISED £1,000.00 IN A NIGHT!

Gordon Wright from Morecambe put on his extremely popular annual Charity Dance night and Auction at the Longfield Suite in Prestwich and raised £1,000.00.

## COAST TO COASTING

A team from Acquire's Manchester office completed a 215 mile off road coast to coast cycle challenge along the Transpennine route, raising a fantastic £1,440 along the way. Thank you team!



## MANCHESTER ORTHODONTIC CENTRE GIVE PATIENTS THE SPOOKS

Always at Halloween Manchester Orthodontic Centre, go to town decorating the centre, by all the staff dressing up and baking spooky themed cakes to raise money for Francis House. This year they have been plugging Kate's Crusade to all their patients and the money raised £226.49 which was added onto Kate's Crusade Just Giving page.

Thanks for your continued support.

(Orthodontists frighten me anyway! Ed)

## Gift Aid Declaration

Name of Charity:

Details of Donor:

Title

Forename(s)

Surname

Address

Post Code

Email

**I wish the charity to treat:**  
(please tick as appropriate)

the enclosed donation of £

the donation(s) of £ which I made on:

all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise

all donations I have made for the last 6 years and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise

**as Gift Aid donations.**

**I am a UK Tax Payer.**

Signature

Date

Registered Charity No. 328659

## Working Verse Poetry

On 7th January 2012 at the Lowry Theatre, Salford Quays presents Amateur Thematics by the Working Verse Poetry Collective directed by Dominic Berry in aid of Francis House.

**Box office 0843 208 6000**



### Francis House Calendar 2012

If you would like to help to sell these calendars or simply purchase one/some please contact Kate on 0161 443 2200.

A bargain at just £3.00 each.

## Bag It Up & Bin It

Our number of clothes bins continues to grow and in the first few months have raised over £3000.00. If we are to really make the most of this scheme we need more sites on car parks, playgrounds and forecourts. If you can help us find a site please contact the Fundraising office on 0161 443 2200.

If you have any unwanted clothes, shoes or textiles why not use our bins - your certainly can't miss them and they are a good advert for Francis House.


(Any church related site will receive a £150 donation for their church from Bag it Up).



## FACEBOOK, TWITTER and JUST TEXT GIVING



We are pleased to announce the set up of our new Facebook page where you will find information on up and coming fundraising events as well as general updates from the hospice.

Make sure you click the  button so you automatically receive updates as they are posted. Visit the Francis House website at [www.franchishouse.org.uk](http://www.franchishouse.org.uk) and click the Facebook icon which will take you to our wall.



With our new Twitter link on the website it's now even easier to share short bite-sized updates from our Fundraisers and news from around the Hospice. We hope that these little messages will help paint a picture of what's happening in the world of our fundraisers and supporters. To find out 'what's happening' click the Twitter link on our website.



Looking for an easy way to donate to Francis House why not try via text – it really is that easy! **Text FHCH20£5 TO: 70070**

We'd love to hear from you! Remember - make sure you click the like button and get in touch by posting on our wall.

## MUFC Christmas Events



SUPPORTING OUR HOME TEAM

A number of events are to be held leading up to Christmas which will help swell the pot of gold that we raise as a result of our contract as one of Manchester United's chosen charities. We raised £300,000 in the initial three year contract. Please support us in our efforts over the next three years.

The Christmas events are a Santa Fun Run around the stadium, a football ground collection for the Newcastle game and the Ladies Luncheon in the Manchester Suite at Old Trafford.

Two top events planned for 2012

### Now That's What I Call a Sports Quiz!

A Question of Sport, based on the popular TV quiz is to be held at Manchester United on Thursday 10th May. Teams of 6 to 8 players including dinner plus initial drinks. There will be a celebrity host and sporting guests. It is a brilliant opportunity for corporate entertainment. Please contact David Woodrow on 0161 443 2200 or email [david.woodrow@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:david.woodrow@francishouse.org.uk)

### Live the Dream

We are hoping to stage this very popular event again in 2012 where you have the opportunity to actually play full pitch games in a 16 team tournament on the hallowed turf. Teams entry cost £2500.00 which includes matches, light lunch and a presentation dinner. Please contact David Woodrow on 0161 443 2200 or email [david.woodrow@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:david.woodrow@francishouse.org.uk)

## FRANCIS HOUSE GOLF 2011

Thousands of pounds have been raised annually since the Hospice opened and this year has been no exception.

Many Golf Club Captains and Golf Societies have chosen us as their Charity for the year. This year we have held three events.

Our annual Charity Day at The Stockport Golf Club sponsored by Heavyweight Air Express with 100 Gentlemen and Lady golfer's was again a great success.

Each year an international golfing holiday takes place and this October 66 men and women golfers with friends just out for the craic travelled to the Gloria Golf Resort in Turkey and raised over £5K.

Since 1996 a yearly Pairs Betterball stableford has taken place in Almerimar, Andalucia, Spain competed for by resident UK and Irish ex patriots together with Spanish, Dutch, German, Italian and other EEC nationalities. This year their Friday Golf Society organised a Treasure Hunt before the Pairs competition which raised over €1000. The Pairs competition held on Friday 18th November also raised over €500.

2012 looks like being another great year for Hospice golfing as plans are in place for trips to Ireland in May and our main golfing event back in Almerimar in October.

For information on future events please consult the golf section on our website or contact John Andrew.

## London's Nightrider 9th June 2012

Nightrider is a new and exciting event to raise money for your favorite charity whilst exploring London by bicycle at night. Set off from either Crystal Palace or Alexandra Palace and follow a 100km route past over 50 of London's most famous landmarks. The itinerary is entirely on roads for ease of access and quality of lighting. It will be clearly sign-posted so you can cycle at your own pace, with full support and back up provided. Francis House have an allocation of charity places for this fantastic event. If you'd like more details or to register please contact Lucy on 0161 443 2200 or email [lucy.heald@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:lucy.heald@francishouse.org.uk)

## CHALLENGE YOURSELF IN 2012 WITH FRANCIS HOUSE GREATER MANCHESTER MARATHON 29TH APRIL 2012

After a 10 year absence the Greater Manchester Marathon in Trafford brings the ultimate running challenge back to Manchester. On the 29th April 2012 thousands of runners will take to the streets to achieve their personal dream. The 26mile 385yard course will take in some key landmarks and beautiful countryside around the borough of Trafford. You can also find more details on the website [www.greatermanchestermarathon.com](http://www.greatermanchestermarathon.com)

Francis House have an allocation of charity places for the marathon which we are offering to our supporters at a discounted registration fee of £41. All our runners will be provided with a Francis House Shirt and all the help and support required to succeed with your training and fundraising. There is no minimum fundraising target, all that we ask is that you raise as much money as possible through sponsorship. If you would like to reserve your place please contact Emma on 0161 443 2200 or email [emma.siddle@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:emma.siddle@francishouse.org.uk)

## Britannia Removals

Our Fundraising Team have had to move once again and can now be found at the end of the garden. They are in temporary accommodation whilst our new building programme takes place. Their telephone, postal address and emails remain the same. The move was carried out by our friends Britannia Anchor Removals who made the very difficult move very easy and furthermore did it at no cost. Their small team are real CHAMPIONS!

## Festival of Christmas Trees

The Lowry Outlet Mall once again made one of their shops available for us to stage our fourth Festival of Christmas Trees. A winter wonderland has sprung up once again for Francis House. The festive forest which features trees sponsored by Manchester United and Coronation Street and top Manchester businesses was unveiled by Kirsty, radio DJ Mike Sweeney and Fred the Red.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

17th December 2011	Children's Tombola	Ladysmith Arcade Christmas Grotto Ashton under Lyne	Pam Daley 0161 443 2200
17th December 2011	Aladdin the Panto	Peter Barkworth Theatre, Stockport	07557 048928
24th December 2011	Father Christmas, family carols, mulled wine and much more!	Metropolitan Hotel, Didsbury	Pam Daley 0161 443 2200
7th January 2012	Amateur Thematics Working Verse Poetry Collective	The Lowry Theatre	0843 208 6000
11th February 2012	Valentine's Charity Ball 2012	Palace Hotel, Manchester	Laura 07712 671120
29th March 2012	Conducted Tour of John Rylands Library	Manchester	Pam Daley 0161 443 2200
17th April 2012	Viewing Day	Francis House	10 am to 4pm
29th April 2012	Greater Manchester Marathon	Trafford	Emma Siddle 0161 443 2200
10th May 2012	A Question of Sport	Manchester United	David Woodrow 0161 443 2200
24th - 31st May 2012	Golf Event 7 night hotel B&B 3 day golf	Ireland	John Andrew 07711 817503
TBA	Live the Dream	Manchester United	David Woodrow 0161 443 2200
July/August TBA 2012	Tatton Concerts	Tatton	Judy Bailey 01260 223320
11th - 18th Oct 2012	Golf Trip to Spain	Almerimar, Spain	John Andrew 07711 817503
3rd November 2012	Viewing Day	Francis House	10am to 4pm
7th December 2012	Francis House Ball	Mere Golf & Country Club	Judy Bailey 01260 223320

## 2012 is going to be a big year for events - WATCH THIS SPACE!

### RAFFLE WINNERS ANNUAL DRAW 2011

Ogden	£1000.00	017877	Worsley
Jennison	Laptop	068322	Rossendale
Baker	Hamper	158955	Cheadle Hulme



We are asking as many people as possible to take a piece in our massive jigsaw to help fund the new building. If you want your name or logo on a piece then please go to [www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk). If you aren't able to access a computer contact Pauline on 0161 434 7252.

### Villareal Football Club Visit

We had a surprise visit from four of the Villareal Football team plus Manager and Team Coach on their recent visit to Manchester for their European Championship clash with Manchester City Football club. Apart from signing memorabilia they presented the hospice with two signed squad shirts, a signed football and a yellow submarine for us to auction. All the hospice families present were given Villarreal goody bags. It was a great international gesture. Viva Espana!

