

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

"a growing family"



AUTUMN EDITION NEWSLETTER 2015



Why not visit our website at [www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 328659

Charities have received a great deal of adverse publicity over the last few months and we have had questions from some of our loyal and committed followers. Sister Aloysius wanted Francis House to care for families in need, supported on a great raft of love and concern provided by the people of the North West and beyond. The support of regular donors has given us the confidence to expand and develop the service to meet the changing and ever increasing need.

To put your minds at rest -

- Francis House protects your personal information - we have never and will never 'sell' it on to other people
- We do not permit door to door collections
- We do not get involved in 'chugging'
- We do not pay large salaries to fundraising managers
- We do not send unsolicited mail or make unsolicited telephone calls
- We do not use call centres

Wherever possible we use our highly involved and ever increasing array of volunteers to reduce costs (this magazine is always packed and posted by volunteers who give their time generously).

86p in every pound donated goes to the care of the children and our accounts are published on the website and are freely available.

We appreciate every penny donated and a large amount of our income comes in donations of fifty pounds or less, we are thankful for every penny.

Donations to Francis House are always gratefully received and we implore you not to think that we have been involved in any of the practices publicised. We rely on your trust and send each of you a huge thank you on behalf of all the children, young people and their families.

We are all externally grateful.

*David*

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Those of you who are regular readers will remember that in the summer 2014 edition we informed you of a new partnership with Caritas Diocese of Salford to provide residential accommodation for young adults with life limiting or life threatening conditions whose accommodation is inadequate or who don't have people able to care for them.

Francis House provides respite care to many young people whose parents are ill themselves or who have died. This often means that people in their early twenties are found accommodation in residential homes for the elderly or in specialist care facilities who lack the resources to care for them as their condition deteriorates. Some of our young people experience independent living but find themselves unable to manage when carers aren't available.

463 had been converted as our temporary Lodge and was handed back to Caritas fully equipped in February 2014. It is now the home of three young people who continue to use Francis Lodge for respite breaks. Three of our Senior Care Team members Geraldine Earley, Sister Maureen and Becky Allen were seconded to help establish the facility and the ground breaking project is now up and running.

Sadly Caritas have decided that they are unable to continue the project and so...

Francis House has formed a new subsidiary company to operate the project. The young people's care will be commissioned by the Social and Healthcare Commissioners and we hope that once established the facility will become self-sustaining financially.

Sadly over twenty of our young people are in need of this type of accommodation and so we have submitted a planning application to increase the size of the building to accommodate seven, it is hoped that this could be a pilot project looking to other developments in the future and encouraging other people to address the problems faced by young adults with life limiting conditions.

The young people who are already in residence are settling in well and one has enrolled at college which will help him to make new friends and links with the wider community.

... so watch this space for future developments as Francis House expands and develops its service thanks to the support of people like you.



# Emotional Support

In 2010 Francis House commissioned some Independent Research from Manchester University with the guidance of one of our Trustees, Dr Sue Kirk (this can be seen by going to <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/sue.kirk/research>)

The research looks at how we could best provide care for the many teenagers and young adults who access Francis House services. The research identified the need for a different type of Emotional Support, and Jackie Giles was charged with the task of looking at how this could be best achieved and soon it became obvious that there were two main requirements emotional support for young people who have capacity and are able to articulate their concerns and support for young people with complex needs many unable to speak (this work was already being carried out by Gail Merrett of the Bereavement Team in some instances).

Jackie, one of our Seniors on the Care team says, "A lot of the young people I speak with grieve for their future - a future that they will never have. Concerns range from, "I'll never be a mum or dad" to "I'll never drive a car" or "I'll never work". Often they say, "I'll never have a title other than my name and my diagnosis" - there is great sadness".

Some young people are quite open and want to plan their own funeral services - but requests always come from the young people themselves, they broach different topics as they feel necessary.

Support meetings can take place at Francis Lodge or on home visits but often the young people choose neutral venues such as coffee shops.

*"The service gives them the chance to 'get things off their chests' and share their thoughts with another person, particularly one who isn't a parent or carer".*

At Francis Lodge young people feel that it is becoming a normal thing to talk about feelings. What they are sharing is very honest and open - it's becoming the culture here and the young people are constantly telling us how much it helps.

As we expand the Care team the service will also grow - and it can't happen soon enough.



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEWTON HEATH SUPPORTERS

### Irish TV films at Francis House

It was camera, sound, action! when Irish TV came to Francis House to film as part of a feature for the Out and About in Manchester series.

Presenter Martin Logan chatted to David Ireland, about the work of the hospice and cameraman Sam Harcourt filmed scenes around the building and grounds.

The crew were invited by long-standing hospice supporter Bernard Marshall. Bernard had met the TV host during the filming of a concert at Christ the King Catholic Church in Newton Heath, Manchester.

Bernard's support began in 1994, after a visit to the church and a moving talk from Father Mulheran. The congregation held a retiring collection but then later decided that their support of the children's hospice couldn't end there. Bernard and the late Tommy Lowry, continued to fundraise through the parish as well as the Newton Heath Catholic Club where Bernard is the secretary. Over 21 years almost £56,000 has been raised - an incredible achievement. Bernard said: "People have been so generous with their money and it just goes to show what a difference you can make with grass roots donations that can add up to thousands."

"We started by asking 6 or 7 parishioners to act as agents, each in turn then asked family, friends and fellow parishioners to pledge a regular weekly amount that they could afford and then pass their donations to myself and Tommy on a quarterly basis. We put the total together and passed it onto Francis House."

The church's quarterly newsletter was used to remind supporters to hand in their donations to the agents. "It just takes a little co-ordination, we'd encourage other Parishes and Diocese' to consider getting involved and help support this wonderful charity" added Bernard.

David said "Bernard is a truly enthusiastic supporter of Francis House, as well as organising the charity concerts he has even abseiled 140ft from the roof of the north stand at Old Trafford for us."

Bernard also 'roped' in Richard Richardson, Keith Phillips and Tony Mongy from the parish to join him on the abseil.

Irish TV broadcasts 24 hours day to a global audience and is available in the UK on Sky 191 or Freesat 400. Out and About in Manchester airs on Tuesdays at 8.30pm and is repeated on Fridays and Sundays.



## Grace before meals

Sadly Grace will be missing on Wednesday lunchtimes. Grace Cooke, one of our longstanding volunteers has shown real commitment since she joined us over twenty years ago. Grace, together with her colleagues Doreen and Ann, have helped Dean prepare and serve meals and wash up afterwards every Wednesday regardless of weather and personal commitments. Sadly she has decided to retire and so she was presented with gifts and flowers by her colleagues and Francis House.

Grace is pictured with Ann, Doreen and the Volunteer Co-Ordinator, Linda Flowers on her last Wednesday. Grace is an example to so many of loyal commitment and generous giving of her time.

We need to recruit volunteers to work in the kitchen and for reception duties. If you are interested you can visit our website to find out more or contact Rachael Taylor for an application form.

We are sorry to see you go Grace. Thank you for all of your work over the years.



## All smiles at the Orthodontists

A husband and wife team Tazeen Usmani and Bilal Bhatti, orthodontic specialists from the Heaton Mersey Orthodontic Centre, donated £5,000 of profits from their practice to Francis House. The generous couple did the same in 2012 after hearing about the work of their local children's hospice.

The state of the art practice that treats NHS and private patients and specialises in braces, gave fundraiser Kate Puc a guided tour of the 7 surgeries, ending in the purple room for the cheque presentation.

"It's great to be able to support a local charity and as parents ourselves of two young boys, we feel a great deal of compassion towards the children and families that Francis House supports. If we can help them help those families, we're happy to do so," said Tazeen.



## snippets...



### CAR SHOW DRIVES DONATIONS

Francis House were the chosen charity to benefit from the 5th Annual Didsbury Car Show. An estimated 3,000 car enthusiasts and local families enjoyed the display of over 200 cars in Didsbury Park with visitors helping to raise £1,064. Particular thanks to Peter and Paul for all their hard work and support.



### MANCHESTER BOYS' YORKSHIRE BED RACE!

Adam Hebden and friends took part in the Great Knarborough Yorkshire Bed Race, dressed as Mario Bros characters. The 'Manchester Boys' team joined in the fun participating in the traditional race to help celebrate the events 50th anniversary. The team pushed their decorated bed through the fancy dress themed parade and then continued with a grueling time trial race over a 2.4 mile course. The race ended with a swim through the icy waters of the River Nidd! Well done Boys and congratulations on raising £1,655.



### CHARITY BURGER

As part our Big BBQ appeal we asked pubs and restaurants to join in with the barbecue and burger theme. The Cocked Hat on Market Place in Stockport and The Cock and Swine in Swinton, got involved throughout August (and September) with their new burger menu. Licensee Richard Maw, agreed to donate the 30p per topping charge to Francis House, and with over 20 toppings and 10 sauces, their customers had plenty of tasty combinations to choose from.



Richard said: "Francis House does incredible work caring for children and young people with life-limiting conditions and supporting their families. Gemma and I spend a lot of time in hospitals with our own daughter Jessica but consider ourselves to be fortunate not to be facing the prospect that her condition is terminal." (News of the 2015 BBQ appeal will be featured in our newsletter next year).

### IRISH DANCING - THE MANCHESTER FEIS & BETTY KELLY MEMORIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Irish Dancing Fraternity in the north west once again put a spring in their step and raised funds at their annual event. Proceeds from the British National Championships raised £1,500 with a further £125 donation from car parking proceeds from the staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in Oldham.



### BETHELL BUILDS ON GENEROSITY FROM FAMILY FUN DAY

The Managing Director of Bethell Construction, Vinny O'Dowd visited Francis House to present a cheque for £5,000 raised at a family fun day.

Joined by Finance Director Chris Morley, the Kearsley based firm celebrated its 150th anniversary in May. Over 200 guests contributed to the fundraising through a grand charity draw and Group MD, Tim Kilroe personally topped up the fund. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support.

### SUCCESS AT SAINSBURY'S

In the summer we were delighted to be the chosen charity of four local Sainsbury's supermarkets -

- 347 Wilmslow Road, Fallowfield M14 6SS
- Fallowfield Shopping Centre, Birchfields Road, Fallowfield M14 6FS
- 204-208 Ashley Road, Hale WA15 9SN
- 496 Wilmslow Road, Withington M20 3BG

By being a chosen charity it means that the staff and customers will be working together to support their local cause. Our fundraisers have already been busy visiting each store to tell them more about Francis House, including attending the Sainsbury's Hale launch day with Francis Mouse.



Each of the four supermarkets have already raised hundreds of pounds through sponsored walks, in-store bike-a-thon challenges, a hamper raffle, staff bike rides and a bag packs.

Members of the public can help by making donations in the Francis House collection tins found in each store.

### A MAGICAL EVENING OF DISNEY

Anna Challenger organised a magical evening at The Pavilion Gardens in Buxton. All the guests embraced the Disney character themed evening and donned Red Riding Hood, Olaf the snowman from Frozen and Maleficent costumes. But the Belle of the Ball was definitely Anna who looked like a Disney Princess and raised an enchanting £1,200.



### FULL OF VITALITY

Vitality Health brought the seaside to Stockport with over 400 employees taking part in Beach Party theme day which raised £441.85. After the sand castles were cleared away the company announced their ongoing support for the foreseeable future with planned fundraising events and staff pledging to volunteer on Francis House fundraising activities.



# GIFT AID

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 20p 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 projects mean that we need to raise 3.6 million pounds per year. 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 ever 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.

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 £

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

I want the Hospice to reclaim tax on this donation

I wish Gift Aid to apply to donation(s) and confirm that I will pay in this tax year, an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount that all Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs will reclaim, against my gifts to them this year

I understand that other taxes such as Council Tax and VAT do not qualify.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**COME ON THE BLUES**

The Astley & Tyldesley Branch of the Manchester City F.C. Supporters Club, fundraised over the last season and fundraiser Kate was presented a cheque for £400.00 by Stephen Crick the secretary of the Club and Manchester City Legend Alex Williams MBE from City in the Community.

**JD PARTIES PUTTING THE FUN INTO FUNDRAISING**

Christmas Parties at Tatton Park have got bigger and better than ever, and this year JD Parties are raising money for Francis House through proceeds from their fun casinos and silent auctions. If you're thinking about Christmas, check out the glamorous Alpine Ball on their website [www.jdparties.co.uk](http://www.jdparties.co.uk) and then call 0845 757 3043 to book. Please quote the code FH15 and JD Parties will then donate £5\* to Francis House for every ticket you buy.  
\*(Selected dates apply)



**MYRIAD FOUNDATION**

Members of the Islamic charitable organisation the Myriad Foundation, were busy with support over the summer months. In July, they delivered a host of presents for the children to mark the celebrations of Eid. The gifts were collected in mosques across Manchester throughout Ramadan. A team then later ventured up Mount Snowdon raising £10,191 in sponsorship. Our grateful thanks to everyone at the Myriad Foundation for their valued support.



**WHEN YOU ARE HALF WAY UP YOU ARE NEITHER UP NOR DOWN!**

J Parker Dutch Bulb Wholesales Ltd sponsored Snowdon challenge was to go up and down the mountain in less than four hours. The 10 member team of all ages took part from all departments. On the day of the challenge the weather was not the best for climbing with wind, rain and thick cloud for most of the time and no view from the top. Nevertheless they completed the challenge in three hours and forty six minutes - no mean feat and raised an admirable £2,179.00.



**Thursday 31st March 2016**



**OLDHAM COLISEUM THEATRE**

Start - 7.30pm

Tickets priced at - £18 and £15

Box office - 0161 624 2829

[www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)

# THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR WALKING

The Cheshire Three Peaks event (started originally by Maurice Ireland) is now going from strength to strength under the direction of Neill Astill ably assisted by his daughter Rachel (one of our interns) and Peter our Fundraising Office Manager.

This year 132 walkers participated in the walk which takes in Teggs Nose, Shuttlingsoe and High Tor not forgetting the 'bacon buttie' at the Cat and Fiddle (a big thanks to the staff there). The 2015 walk raised £13,276.00 for Francis House.

This walk is now a major event in the Francis House calendar. If you would like to take part next year's walk will take place on 12th June. You can book a place by contacting Rachel on 0161 443 2200 or by emailing [rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk)

This year our Moroccan Trek group used the walk as a training exercise and you can see the group at the summit of Shining Tor (can you spot Dr Emma and David?).

## STOP PRESS

Next year Francis House will celebrate its Silver Jubilee and we are to hold a celebration walk – The Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge 25 miles (a mile for each year) climbing Pen-y-Ghent (694m), Ingleborough (723m) and Wharfedale (736m) moving from millstone grit to limestone pavements. If you are interested contact Rachel to be added to the mailing list.



# Golfing News (or John Andrews retirement plan)

Our golf supremo the Tony Jacklin of Greater Manchester has organised another amazing year of golf events which so far this year has raised over £20,000.

A number of Captains and Lady Captains have chosen Francis House as their charity for the year and we send each of them and their golfing colleagues a big thank you.

In May 30 golfers joined us for a 5 day break in Bulgaria which raised over £2000 (it's a hard job but somebody has to do it)

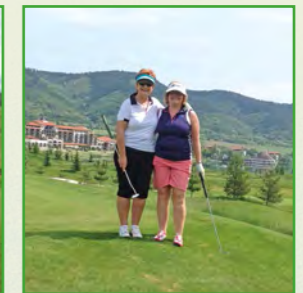
The Trafford Park Annual Golf Day at Davyhulme Park Golf Club which is organised each year by David Marsden and his colleagues at Hardwood Dimensions raised nearly £3000.

The 23rd Annual Golf Day held at Stockport Golf Club sponsored by the HAE Group raised over £6000. One of the lady players, Shirley Anders showed the men how it is done when she achieved a 'hole in one' at the 5th (the first hole in

one ever on a Francis House golf day - Ed). A huge thanks to everyone at Stockport for their continued support.

By the time you receive the magazine over 50 players will be enjoying our Spanish Golf Trip.

We are currently organising a holiday in Newquay, Cornwall in June 2016. Contact John Andrew on 07711 817503 or email [john.andrew@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:john.andrew@francishouse.org.uk) for more information.



**In Aid of Francis House Children's Hospice**  
Friday 4th December 2015



# Crafts wanted for our Christmas Fair

It's that time of year again, and we're putting the plans together for our Annual Francis House Christmas Fair. The venue is The Heaton Sports Club, Green Lane, Heaton Moor, Stockport SK4 2NF and the date Sunday 29th November.

To help make the day a big success we need your help! We're looking for donated items including Christmas themed hand-made crafts and knitted goods, bottles of drinks and perfume etc., for our bottle tombola, plus new toys, unopened games and gift sets.

If we could please have all items by Friday 13th November. They can be posted, dropped off at the Fundraising Office or please call us on 0161 443 2200 to arrange for a member of the team to pick them up. Thank you!



# Showtime

**At the Mere Golf Resort & Spa**

**Black Tie**

**Tables of 10 £800/£700**

7.15pm Drinks Reception

7.45pm Dinner

Contact

Judy Bailey

01260 223320

[judy@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:judy@francishouse.org.uk)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2015

14th October	Trek 2 Morocco		Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk
14th October	Bridge Drive	Hale	Carole Geary 01625 583995 carolegeary@aol.com
15th October	Hanson's Auctioneers & Valuation Day	Coach & Four, Wilmslow	Kate Puc 0161 443 2200 kate.puc@francishouse.org.uk
15th October - 22nd October	Francis House Golf Week	Almerimar, Spain	John Andrew 07711 817503 john.andrew@francishouse.org.uk
17th October	Charity Collection at Manchester City FC	Etihad Stadium 12.30 - 3pm	Chris Swinton 0161 443 2200 chris.swinton@francishouse.org.uk
18th October	Jimmy Cricket 70th Birthday 5K Fun Run	Cown Reservoir, Rochdale	Andy O'Sullivan 01706 750620 info@andemsrunners.co.uk
1st November - 6th December	Festival of Christmas Trees	Lowry Outlet Mall	Mary Gillatt 0161 443 2200 mary.gillatt@francishouse.org.uk
7th November	Viewing Day	Francis House	0161 434 4118
19th November	Hanson's Auctioneers & Valuation Day	Coach & Four, Wilmslow	Kate Puc 0161 443 2200 kate.puc@francishouse.org.uk
20th November	Irish Abroad Dinner Dance	Hilton Hotel, Manchester	Ann Billington 07789 435330 ann.bill@ntlworld.com
28th November	Charity Night Broadheath Central Club	Broadheath, Altrincham	Anne-Marie Noon 07539 375206 annemari noon79@gmail.com
29th November	Francis House Christmas Fair 10am - 3pm	The Heatons Sports Club, Green Lane, SK4 2NF	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk
30th November	Production of Vicar of Dibley	Playhouse 2 Theatre Shaw, Oldham	Judith Haughton 01706 844366 judithurc@gmail.com
1st December	Memory Lights Service	East Didsbury Methodist Church, Parrswood Road	0161 434 4118
4th December	Francis House Christmas Ball	Mere Golf Resort & Spa	Judy Bailey 01260 223320 judy@francishouse.org.uk
17th December	Carols at the Farm	Mobberley	Carole Geary 01625 583995 carolegeary@aol.com

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2016

31st March	Stars Come Out 6	Oldham Coliseum Theatre	Box Office 0161 624 2829 www.coliseum.org.uk
22nd May	Morrisons Great Manchester Run	Manchester	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk
10th June	Golf Holiday (Includes hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & coach travel)	Newquay, Cornwall	John Andrew 07711 817503 john.andrew@francishouse.org.uk
11th June	Concert at the Farm	Mobberley	Carole Geary 01625 583995 carolegeary@aol.com
12th June	Cheshire Three Peaks Walk	Macclesfield	Rachel Astill 0161 443 2200 rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk
14th June	Ascot Day		Carole Geary 01625 583995 carolegeary@aol.com