



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

"a growing family"



SUMMER EDITION NEWSLETTER 2016



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

Registered Charity Number 328659

Our very colourful front cover tells an amazing story that illustrates the wonderful support that Francis House has attracted both in the North West and from around the world. In 2001 a dedicated group of knitters (co-ordinated by Jackie Hadfield) began knitting chicks to cover crème eggs for sale in schools. Two years ago the pattern was published in a European knitting magazine and was also put on the world wide web – Francis House chicks went viral and this year the thousands of chicks knitted raised over twenty seven thousand pounds. Our cover photo shows the various colours of chicks arranged in the symbol of the Rainbow Family.

Chicks have come from America, Australia and across Europe and the Francis House Facebook page has been buzzing. Thousands of people giving their skills freely in order to help our families.

We never cease to be amazed by the dedicated people who support us and we take great pride in the fact that last year over 89p in every pound donated went directly to the care of the children. That is in a large part due to the work of volunteers and the many people on salaries who put in so much extra unpaid time.

A big thank you to every unsung hero, fundraisers, volunteers and staff, your dedication makes a big difference.

Have a lovely summer.

*David*



# 463

As we go to press our new residential project is nearing completion and I have just returned from taking our curtain supplier around to measure up for curtains and blinds.

It is hard to believe that at the beginning of April 2015 we didn't even know that we would have to embark on this exciting new project but since then we have purchased the property, built a new team under the new Registered Manager, Dermot Murphy, provided staff training and employed Contractors to expand the accommodation to make it financially viable.

In order to facilitate this new work, without putting the ever expanding work of Francis House and Lodge at risk, a new subsidiary company has been formed – Francis House Families Ltd.

Whilst the building work progresses the current residents have been living at Francis Lodge and the whole building seems to be splitting at the seams. Francis House and 463 staff have managed to work well together and much has been learnt on both sides.

The extended building will accommodate seven residents, who for one reason or another can't be looked after by their families or live independently. Their care is paid for through social and healthcare budgets and so the facility should be virtually self-supporting.

The real joy has been seeing some of the young people getting ready in the morning to go out to college, one even does some shifts in the shop! The aim as always at Francis House is to allow young people to live their lives as fully as their conditions permit.

We hope that the residents will return to the newly expanded building in August/September and anticipate that by October there will be seven residents.

A big thank you to the staff of both teams for being so professional under very trying circumstances.



# RUNNING FOR FRANCIS HOUSE

Two of our significant running events have taken place over the last two months. April saw the Virgin Money London Marathon. Eight runners competed on behalf of Francis House, Charlotte Bailey, Iain Brooks, Lyndsey Hay, Laura Stafford, Sarah Coombs, Helen Bly, Paul Horrocks and Ellie McKinnon who between them raised an incredible £20,200.00.



On the 22nd May over 300 runners took part in the Great Manchester Run together with a further 80 who ran in memory of Kirsty Howard. Kirsty had always worn the No. 1 shirt and this number has been retired from further runs as a tribute to her.

Not one to watch from the side lines our own Emma Rapley, Fundraiser took part finishing in a respectable time of 59 minutes.

Francis House had a gold spot in the Charity Village in Albert Square where we were able to greet and encourage runners who were running for us. Runners ranged from corporate teams to families running in memory of someone who had been cared for at Francis House.

Money is still coming in but so far we have raised £38,000.00.

If you've been inspired and would like to take on a challenge for Francis House let us know - our Fundraising Team will support you with advice and information and provide fundraising literature, sponsor forms, t-shirts etc., call Emma on 0161 443 2200 or email [emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk)

We are now taking applications for places in the 2017 London Marathon. For an application form go to [www.francishouse.org.uk/running-and-cycling-for-francis-house](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/running-and-cycling-for-francis-house).

## Our wonderful support at Bleak Hey Nook

In May Gill and David went off up the Castleshaw valley to Castleshaw House, a farmhouse adjacent to the excavated Roman Fort which controlled the road from Chester to York where it crosses the Pennines. On a typical moorland day with the hills shrouded in mist and that fine rain (the type that gets you wet!) Ella and her friends were holding one of their famous coffee mornings. The house was packed with supporters of linen tablecloths and fine china was the order of the day. Ella (who was born about the same time as the Queen) had been making scones that morning, the tables were groaning under the provisions.

The event was very special and a great tribute to Ella and her friends. The event raised over £600.00 was to be shared amongst several charities but most importantly provided a great deal of pleasure to a large number of people. There must be something special about Yorkshire moorland air to keep these people so youthful!

Thank you to Ella and her friends.

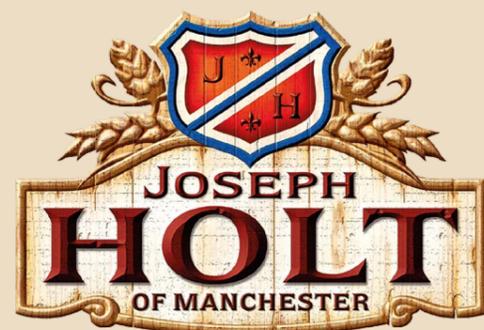


### JOSEPH HOLT CHOOSE FRANCIS HOUSE

Last September we were thrilled to announce Joseph Holt Brewery had chosen to support Francis House for a year. With over 120 local Holt's pubs plus free trade licensees it was sure to be a great partnership with the brewery pledging a target of £50,000!

Staff teams at the pubs have been busy arranging a huge range of fundraising activities and events for their customers, from golf outings to running the distance of a marathon on a treadmill, Elvis tribute nights to games of bra-pong, and bowling competitions to sponsored walks. So far their grand total raised is an impressive £35,667! A big thank you to all the staff at the brewery for their continued support!

Keep up to date and donate via this link [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/JosephHolt-FrancisHouseAppeal](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/JosephHolt-FrancisHouseAppeal)



## THE YORKSHIRE 3 PEAKS CHALLENGE



JOIN US ON THE YORKSHIRE 3 PEAKS CHALLENGE  
SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2016

25 MILES TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF CARING

[rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk) Tel: 0161 443 2200

## A Quacking Day for Francis House at the Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club Duck Race as it raises £12,000

An estimated 20 - 25,000 people packed the annual event at Bramhall Park at the weekend.

A massive "Thank You" to the people of Bramhall and the surrounding areas for coming along to support this event. It was the best yet!

There were a variety of duck races to enter including seven Giant Duck Races supported by local businesses and community groups and four smaller races including 1,000 small ducks in each. As well as the races there was the best dressed corporate duck competition judged by Cheadle MP Mary Robinson and which was won by Bramhall Methodist Church Rainbows. Fairground, games, community choirs and dancing groups provided entertainment and Market Street was filled with food and craft stalls.

Shetland ponies offered rides for the smaller people and this year also saw a Rainbow 88-sponsored Chinese Unicorn Dance.

The Great Bramhall Bake Off was judged by the Mayor & Mayoress of Stockport and the winners were for the best Victoria Sponge, Best Scones and best cupcake plus the most decorative ones whose prizes were a Masterclass with Scott of Bramhall Bakery

I Love Bramhall and I Love Cheadle Hulme went head to head with a Tug of War Challenge. The children's pull was won by Cheadle Hulme Village and the adult's competition was won by Bramhall Village.

The Courtyard Stage hosted music from Walthew House Steel Band, Bramhall High School Orchestra, Clyde Raine Ukuleles and Stockport Schools Brass Band.

At the end of the presentations everyone gave the choirs, other entertainers and themselves a huge cheer for supporting other children and their families who visit Francis House. It was a really magical moment. The event was sponsored by Barclays Bank, Angela Beer, Reed Rains Estate Agents and CadAssist.



# snippets...



## FULL OF VARIETY

Since 2013 Mary and Barry Manock from Heaton Moor have put on fantastic Variety Shows two performances each year including chorus girls, forever young, dancing and singing from the local community and specialised acts - wonderful shows full of entertainment and suitable for all of the family. A real feeling of community spirit.

Mary puts her heart and soul into these performances, makes the amazing costumes and choreographs the dances, she works tirelessly attending every rehearsal. The event is hosted by her son in law Justin Moorhouse, well-known comedian. As the local venues give their rooms free of charge, along with all the artists and people who worked backstage. The ticket sales and raffle raised over £12,000 for Francis house.



## THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT

Brave five year old Scarlet Hampton who had lovely long flowing blonde locks decided to have 10 inches of her hair cut off saying that she wanted to raise lots of money to help poorly people and wants a poorly child to have her hair. Scarlet was smiling the whole time as she had her hair cut and her new bob style looked really cute on her. Scarlet also made a cut through with her fundraising and through sponsorship she managed to raise £1,780.11.



## IRISH ABROAD DINNER DANCE

For many years the Irish Abroad have held a dinner dance to raise money for Francis House. This year their ball was held at the Hilton and was an excellent evening. The food and company were good and the entertainment outstanding. Monies raised were shared between ourselves and Christies. Our photograph shows one of the organisers, John Kennedy presenting a cheque for £13,000.00.



## DANCE RAINBOW

Julie Colton celebrated the 40th Anniversary of her dance school 'In Step' and put on Dance Rainbow 2016, a fabulous performance spread over Saturday and Sunday at the Wythenshawe Forum for Francis House. Julie and many students from the last twenty years have regularly put on Dance Rainbow show's raising over £15,000 in doing so. Thank you so much for you dedication and commitment to Francis House.



## SAFE WORKING INCENTIVE SCHEME

Virador has decided to step-change in health and safety performance and have introduced a nationwide charity rewards scheme to support their commitment to health and safety performance and encourage excellence in safety behaviour at all operational sites. With more than 320 sites nationwide, each employee has been allocated £5 per month to a charity of their site's choosing if they can operate without incident. Andrew from Bury, Christian from Bolton and Mark from the Bredbury sites represented Virador and came to visit us on behalf of the whole transport department in the Manchester area who choose Francis House as their charity and donated £2,085.00 for their April donation.

## CELEBRATIONS FOR PRO MANCHESTER

Over 400 members and guests attended the biggest celebration of the year - the Pro-Manchester Annual Dinner and 30th Birthday at The Midland Hotel in May. The evening was a huge success raising almost £2,000.00 on the night.



## BROWN SHIPLEY LONDON TO PARIS BIKE RIDE RAISES OVER £14,000 FOR FRANCIS HOUSE FROM THE MANCHESTER OFFICE

Setting off from London on September 9th, 26 riders from Brown Shipley's Edinburgh, Birmingham, Manchester and London offices undertook the four-day ride. The 300-mile route took our riders across English countryside and through picturesque French villages. Despite a couple of bumps on the way, the riders arrived in one piece under the Eiffel tower to a hero's welcome.



## ROUTES TO EMPLOYMENT

Students with learning difficulties from the Manchester College, Northenden Campus are holding coffee mornings to help gain work skills. They make cakes, count money and serve people. The scheme also teaches customer service and creating advertisements. They have raised £229.53. Many of the students knew of young people who had used the services of Francis House and some of the students had themselves benefited from support so it was a fundraising venture close to their hearts.



## ST GEORGE'S DAY ANNUAL EVENT

Since the millennium Sale Conservative Club have celebrated St George's Day night by holding a raffle. President, Peter Lees and Chairman Richard Bowyer presented this year's proceeds of £380. Thank you for your support over the last 16 years.

## CHESHIRE PROVINCIAL MARK BENEVOLENT FUND

We were pleased to receive another generous cheque for £2,000 from Alan Smith and Nick Wild on behalf the Cheshire Provincial Mark Benevolent Fund, who have been valued supporters of the hospice for many years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them once again for their continued support.

# 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 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 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 in the future or have made in the past 4 years

I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please let us know if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration
- Change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

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

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

**WEST HEATON BOWLING, TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB SERVE UP A TREAT!**

West Heaton Bowling, Tennis and Squash Club presented a cheque of £1012.00 which was raised during the 2015/16 year, with events such as a Christmas Eve Tennis Tournament, and Bridge Club afternoon. Richard Meadowcroft, President of the Club chose Francis House as his Charity and is seen here presenting the cheque.



**READ-A-THON CHALLENGE**

025 Nursery Ltd in Heaton Mersey raised £1625.00 for Francis House by doing a sponsored read-a-thon. One of our parents, Katie Armstrong brought a gift in to nursery which was a book written by her dad, Marcellus Springer, called 'There is a Spider'. The book was written for his Grandchildren as a lasting legacy as Marcellus has Motor Neurone Disease.

The children and the staff absolutely loved the book and this is where the idea came from for our Breakfast event and Story session. And so we launched our Read-a-Thon Challenge where the children were challenged to read a minimum of 10 books throughout the month and collect sponsors. All of the children at nursery were entered into a prize draw once their sponsor form was returned and a further 20 copies of the book were given to the lucky winners.

**CRICKETERS SWAP BOWLING FOR BAKING**

Didsbury Women's Cricket Club spent a day off the wicket to host an afternoon tea in support of Francis House. With plenty of tasty bakes on offer and fantastic raffle prizes up for grabs, a brilliant £1,225 was raised. Thanks ladies!



**WATERSIDE RAISES £1,200 FOR FRANCIS HOUSE**

For the third year, Waterside Leisure Club have raised over £1,000.00 for Francis House. Each year £5.00 is donated for every new member in November and December. Sales Manager Chris Monk commented "This is always a popular promotion."



**SPOTLIGHT ON AUTHENTIC FOODS**



Much of what happens at Francis House goes unnoticed but can make a phenomenal difference to the lives of the families who often live very stressful lives. Each newsletter we try to highlight some of the background workers who give so generously to help us care for people in a very unique way. One such group is the team from Authentic Foods a commercial company started by Kamal Basran in the mid-eighties but who now supply wholesale and retail outlets with their authentic pre-made Indian and Chinese cuisine.

Kamal has been a good supporter of Francis House over the years but her team have been dedicated workers for Francis House over the last five years. Each year we hold a thank you lunch for the volunteers who work on site and in the shop but in addition Gill, Tracey, Natalie and myself organise quarterly parent evenings which are very well attended. For all of these occasions Authentic Food staff come along and make delicious meals free of charge.

Chefs Kathryn and Michelle come as the advance party and take over Dean's kitchen and Director Paul and his team come along in their own time and serve the food - seconds are always gratefully received and when Authentic Foods are on site diets are forgotten!

Another way in which Authentic Foods help us is by providing some of the buffet for Memory Day when over 200 families come back to Francis House to share in their remembering and meet up with the Francis House Care team.

We cannot thank Authentic Foods enough for all that they do for Francis House, their staff are lovely and have become special friends. Their generosity save us money and time preparing food for large numbers.

What a great team!!



## A NEW TAKE ON "SHOP TILL YOU DROP"

We're inviting all of you people keen on retail therapy to join us at the Trafford Centre to drop in on your favourite outlet after abseiling from the Bell Tower.

If the weathers good you will enjoy amazing views of Manchester, Cheshire and the Peak District as you abseil 200ft.

Entry costs £38.00 but the main challenge is sponsorship. We have a dedicated hour on Saturday 17th September but there may also be places on Sunday 18th September.

In 2015 twenty six abseilers raised over £7600.00 this year we have a target to beat - don't hang about, drop in (and bring your plastic!!)

To take part call the Fundraising Office on 0161 443 2200.



## STOCKPORT BUSINESS AWARDS

Stockport Business Awards is now celebrating its 5th year since its inauguration. Each year the organisers choose a different local cause to support and this year's fundraising efforts will see money raised go to Francis House Children's Hospice.

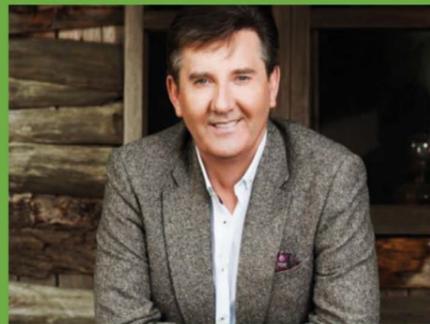
Andrew Baggott, Managing Partner of Clarke Nicklin (the organisers) commented; "We're absolutely thrilled to be supporting Francis House. They are a fantastic charity whose much valued services touch lots of people in the area, and I hope they'll benefit greatly from the funds raised. It is always such a tough decision choosing our charity partner out of the numbers of applicants, but everyone can agree that Francis House is a really worthy cause."

You can help by donating raffle prizes. Please contact Julie Tunstall at Clarke Nicklin on 0161 495 4700 or julie@clarkenicklin.co.uk.

The Stockport Business Awards is an event set up for businesses by businesses. Entries are open now and close on 27th May. It is organised by accountancy practice Clarke Nicklin, and headline sponsors are high profile businesses from the region; Gorvins Solicitors, Orbit Developments and NatWest.



## DANIEL O'DONNELL LIVE IN CONCERT



Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
7.30pm

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

The proceeds of 200 tickets sold goes to Francis House



Tickets £42.50  
(upper circle only)

### Contact

Jim Nicholas  
Variety Events Organiser  
0161 793 0248  
nicholas\_j@sky.com

During his phenomenal twenty-five year career Daniel O'Donnell has achieved the pinnacle of success, both at home and abroad. Always the idealist, he has never given less than perfection on stage whilst remaining modest and unassuming.

### Francis House Children's Hospice

### Summer Party Night

## Hold Tight its 60'S Night

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July  
2016

Grounds open from 2pm. Music from 7.30pm.

Tickets £25

Ticket Hotline ☎ 01260 223320

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

ALL PROCEEDS TO FRANCIS HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE



## Do You Need a Helping Hand from our Children?

To celebrate our 25th birthday the Francis House kids have helped design a new tea towel (no man should be without one! - Ed).

Titled 'a helping hand from the children' it features our logo made up of the children's hand prints. You can order your 100% cotton tea towel for just £5 from the Fundraising Office on 0161 443 2200.



## And there's more!

Our old friend Jimmy Cricket continues to work hard for Francis House. Together with Jim Nicholas he filled the Coliseum Theatre, Oldham in March with one of his now famous 'Stars Come Out for Francis House' evenings, which raised £9000.00. In addition he helped David to celebrate a special birthday at the Millgate Theatre, Delph, this raised a further £2100.00. To cap it all he is making his bid for the Christmas Number 1 slot with his new CD 'Santa Bring My Wellies Back to Me' - all in aid of Francis House. You can get your CD from 1st September at Francis House or online at [www.jimmycricket.co.uk](http://www.jimmycricket.co.uk) - Jimmy your mammy would be proud of you!



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2016

9th July	Hold Tight its 60's Night!	Gawsworth Hall, Macclesfield	Judy Bailey 01260 223320 judy@francishouse.org.uk
1st Sept	Charity Golf Day	Stockport Golf Club	John Andrew 07711 817503 john.andrew@francishouse.org.uk
10th Sept	Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge	Walking 25 miles to celebrate 25 years of caring	Rachel Astill 0161 443 2200 rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk
12th Sept	Daniel O'Donnell Live in Concert	Liverpool Philharmonic Hall	Jim Nicholas 0161 793 0248 nicholas_j@sky.com
17th & 18th Sept	Abseil	The Bell Tower at The Trafford Centre	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk
30th Sept	Colours Fashion Show and Pop Up Shop	St Catherine's Social Club, Didsbury, M20 6HS	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk
1st October	Luxury Train Excursion to Historic Edinburgh	Aboard the Belmond Northern Belle Train	Travel by Design 01625 584195
3rd October	Senior Charity Open Day	Davyhulme Park Golf Club	Brian Cooke 0161 747 8819 golf@davyhulmegolfclub.co.uk
13th October - 20th October	Annual Charity Golf Event	Almerimar, Spain	Tarleton Travel 01604 633633 golf@tarletontravel.com
29th October - 11th December	Festival of Christmas Trees	Lowry Outlet Mall	Mary Gillatt 0161 443 2200 mary.gillatt@francishouse.org.uk
5th November	Viewing Day	Francis House	0161 434 4118
18th November	Service of Thanksgiving for 25 Years	Mere Golf & Country Club	Ann Kirwin 0161 434 4118 ann.kirwin@francishouse.org.uk
2nd December	Francis House Christmas Ball	Mere Golf & Country Club	Judy Bailey 01260 223320 judy@francishouse.org.uk