



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

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN EDITION 2016

"a growing family"



Duke and Duchess of Cambridge officially open
Francis Lodge in Francis House 25th anniversary year



www.francishouse.org.uk

Francis House Family Trust Registered Charity Number 328659

By the time that you receive this newsletter, it will be twenty five years since the late Princess Diana officially opened Francis House. On Friday 15th October as you can see, we received a visit from the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge who came to help us celebrate our anniversary and officially open Francis Lodge, our facility for teenagers and young adults.

Once again, this was a wonderful occasion when staff and some volunteers but most importantly families were able to rub shoulders with Royalty and talk about their experiences of Francis House.

Back in 1991, I was impressed by the fact that Princess Diana left her entourage and took time to talk to families. Ever since talking to the families seeking their advice on how to provide care, for their young people has been central to the philosophy of Francis House. It was good to see that on our latest Royal visit, the Duke and Duchess emulated Princess Diana and spent lots of time talking to families and young people.

In addition to the families the Royal Visitors were introduced to staff who have worked at Francis House ever since the opening day – Carmel, Natalie, Dean, Pat and Sister Austin – after speaking to them Prince William commented that this seemed like a family centred place – (I couldn't have been more pleased!)

Favourite comments of the day:-
In Francis House, Samara (aged 5) leant against the Duchess and said "You are a Princess and I'm a Princess", bringing a smile to Kate's lips.

Josh (aged 20) was asked by Prince William what he liked about Francis Lodge and gave a truly Northern response "the cooked breakfasts!"

This was a wonderful day for everyone associated with the Francis House Family and we look forward to welcoming Prince George in 2041!

David

Christmas is coming!

Francis House Christmas Tree Festival

The magical atmosphere of a winter wonderland will be on display at the Francis House Christmas Tree Festival with more than 50 decorated Christmas trees. It runs until Sunday December 11, next to the Vue Manchester Lowry cinema on the upper level of the Lowry Outlet Mall, Salford Quays. There will also be a raffle and a pop-up shop selling Christmas gifts. People can bid on Christmas trees decorated by businesses and supporters of Francis House such as L'Oreal, Fibre Hairdressing, Manchester United, Virgin Media, Holland and Barrett, Whittards and Nandos.



Jimmy Cricket brings Christmas musical magic to hospice

Comedian Jimmy Cricket entertained families and volunteers at Francis House with a mini concert to launch the release of his charity Christmas CD in October.

Jimmy was joined by his wife May Marion, Jim Nicholas (AKA Cliff's Disco) and the school choir from St Patrick's RC primary School in Rochdale.

The CD is available from: www.jimmycricket or from the fundraising team at Francis House by calling 0161 443 2200 or dropping in to the fundraising office at 390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 5NA.

Your help is needed to make the 10th Francis House Christmas Fair a big success!

The 2016 Christmas Fair is at The Heatons Sports Club, Green Lane, Heaton Moor, Stockport, SK4 2NF on Sunday November 27, from 10am to 3pm. Last year's fair raised £3000 for the hospice.

Donated items being sought include Christmas themed handmade crafts and decorations, items for the bottle tombola, such as bottles of drink and perfume, plus new toys, games and gift sets.



Items can be posted or dropped off at the Francis House fundraising office or call 0161 443 2200 to arrange pick up.

Poignant moment as Prince William and Catherine visit 25 years after Princess Diana



Sister Aloysius who ran the hospice until 2005 and former Bishop of Salford Patrick Kelly, met Princess Diana at the opening of the hospice in 1991

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge delighted families, volunteers and staff at Francis House Children's Hospice when they officially opened Francis Lodge on October 14. The Lodge is a wing of the hospice and provides respite care for 113 young people over the age of 16, with different care and emotional needs.

The visit tied in with the 25th anniversary of the opening of the hospice in 1991 by Princess Diana.

David Ireland said: "This was a really special occasion for Francis House. It was 25 years to the month since Princess Diana opened Francis House. So it felt extremely fitting that her son, Prince William, officially opened Francis Lodge and set us off on the next stage of our journey."

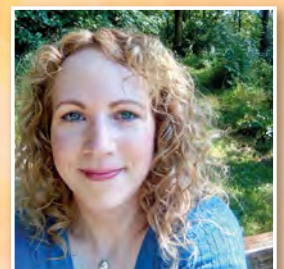
Continues on pages four and five.

Meet Francis House new Press and PR Officer

Hi, I'm Sian Ilett, the new Press and PR Officer for Francis House, and I joined the hospice in August 2016.

Since I started, as well as producing the autumn issue of the newsletter (I hope you like the new look!), I have been producing media releases, which are articles that are for publication in the media in order to inform people about all the good work of the hospice. I have also been helping to promote the many different events organised by the fundraising team, volunteers and members of the public.

My phone number is: 0161 443 2200; mobile: 07919 493318; email: sian.ilett@francishouse.org.uk



Families are delighted and moved to meet Prince William and Catherine on special day



Prince William enjoyed meeting mum Sharon Nelson and daughter Angel



Parents Tracey and Steve Sutherland spoke to the Duke and Duchess about how they relied on Francis House for support for their son Daniel



Duchess of Cambridge meets Francis Lodge young people

The Duke and Duchess met families whose children are cared for by the hospice including mum Sharon Nelson and her daughter Angel, who has a condition known as encephalocele, meaning that part of her brain developed on the outside of her skull. They also met mum Fiona Sweeney and her son Josh who has spinal cancer.

Josh said: "It was amazing them being here. It's so good to have been invited to Francis House when they were here. The Duchess was really nice and kind."

Fiona said: "They were so down to earth. They just make you feel so comfortable. It's not like they think they're better than you. They're just lovely. It was just like speaking to anybody else, which I didn't expect. Josh felt really comfortable. The Duchess was great with Josh."

Members of staff who were present at Princess Diana's opening of the hospice in 1991 also shared a poignant moment when they met the Duke and Duchess, including Clinical Lead Natalie Hands; Chaplain Father Tom Mulheran; Chef Dean Jenkins; Receptionist Carmel Holland; Admin Officer Sister Austin and Nurse Pat Whitehead.

David Ireland and Gillian Bevin took the royal couple on a tour of the hospice before the Duke and Duchess ended their visit by unveiling a plaque to commemorate the official opening.

Prince William and Catherine also met Chair of Trustees Mr Christopher Roberts, Francis Lodge Clinical Lead Tracey Potts as well as people who laid the Francis Lodge foundation stones including Paralympic cyclist Dame Sarah Storey and husband Barney, actor John Thomson and Kate Snape who has received care from Francis House for many years.

Francis House Clinical Lead Natalie Hands said: "Today was fabulous because Diana came here originally and they've come back here."

"The families that come here face such huge challenges in their lives that unless you went through it, you wouldn't understand what the challenges are. To have someone like the royals take time out and meet them and lend their support is a huge moral boost."

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED

EVENTS AND NEWS

Battle the gladiators in 2017 Gauntlet Games

Anyone with an adventurous spirit and a sense of fun should take part in the Gauntlet Games on Saturday September 16, 2017. The games are an obstacle course race at Heaton Park, Manchester. Run 5k or 10k, taking on a series of inflatables, water, climbing obstacles and not forgetting real Gladiators along the way! Finally, jump onto the rope swing and onto the giant air bag to the finish line.

Charity tickets can be bought at a discounted price of £35 per person and the aim is to raise as much sponsorship as possible. For tickets call Lucy on: 0161 443 2200 or email: lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk

Knitting needles at the ready

Knitters are being called on to make little chicks for the Francis House Easter 2017 Chick Appeal!

The fundraising team fill each chick with a Cadbury's crème egg and sell them for £1, across Greater Manchester in the run up to Easter. The pattern can be found on the Francis House website: www.francishouse.org.uk or call Rachel on 0161 443 2200 to request a copy. Chicks need to be sent to the fundraising office at Francis House by March 13, 2017.



Take a trip down memory lane with Afternoon Tea Dance

Enjoy a fabulous afternoon of tea, cakes and ballroom dancing at the Stockport Town Hall on Tuesday March 28. The Ashby Tea Dance Band will play timeless classics from George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller. There will be the opportunity to enjoy a variety of ballroom dances, such as Quickstep, Foxtrot, Tango and Jive. Tickets are £35 per person. For more information call Lucy on 0161 443 2200 or email: lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk.

Help out when you check out

Whenever you buy online you could be raising a free donation for Francis House through the Easyfundraising website.

There are nearly 3000 retailers involved, including M&S, John Lewis and Amazon. The best thing is that it doesn't cost you a penny! More information can be found at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for Francis House.

A great Christmas stocking filler!

To help celebrate Francis House's 25th Anniversary year, the children of Francis House got messy designing a bright new tea towel. The cotton tea towels can be yours for just £5 each! To order call 0161 443 2200. They are also available on the Francis House website: www.francishouse.org.uk



TREK THE ICELANDIC MOUNTAINS

Adventurous walkers looking for a challenge should sign up to the Francis House five-day Iceland trek. It will take place from September 3 to 10, 2017 and will help raise funds for the hospice through sponsorship.

The tour will include five days of hiking through the beautiful landscapes of mountains and small bays in the North East of Iceland.

Accommodation will be in heated mountain huts and luggage will be transported in trucks each day. Trekkers must be aged over 18 and have a good level of fitness.

Training walks will be provided. Registration packs are available from Emma on 0161 443 2200 or email: emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk More information is on the Francis House website: www.francishouse.org.uk/iceland-2017



Silver Jubilee Ball Celebrating 25 years

At the Mere Golf Resort and Spa

Friday 2nd December 2016

In aid of Francis House Children's Hospice

Tables of 10 £750 / £850

Black Tie

7.00pm Drinks Reception

7.30pm Dinner

Live Music

Carriages at 1.30am



Contact Lucy Thompson

07841 530248 / 0161 443 2200

lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk

BIG ADVENTURE: JUMP, RUN,

Walkers put best foot forward on Yorkshire's Three Peaks for Francis House 25th anniversary



A brave group of 23 walkers powered up Yorkshire's three highest peaks in one day, raising a fantastic £5,476. The 25-mile challenge was organised by the hospice to mark the 25th anniversary of its opening in 1991. The walkers went up Pen-y-Ghent (694m), Whernside (736m) and Ingleborough (723m) in September.

Chorlton chiropodist Nigel Bell, raised £1200 through the walk. He said: "It was tiring but rewarding knowing we were fundraising for a marvellous cause. I had a well-deserved pint of Yorkshire bitter at the end with my sons!"

More than 120 walkers raised over £10,500 when they took to the hills of Macclesfield in June for Francis House's annual **Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge**. To join in the walk next year on Sunday June 11, email: rachel.astill@francishouse.org.uk

Couple swap pub for Peru

Landlord Ian Slamon and his wife Julie, from Holts Brewery Pub, The Lord Nelson, in Urmston raised £4808 by taking on the Machu Picchu challenge. Holts Brewery are supporting Francis House during this year.

Ian said: "Our trip to tackle the Inca trail in Peru has become one of the highlights of my life. From the beautiful photo opportunities at every single turn, to the challenging 3000 steps up to 'Dead Woman's Pass' (4015m) on the second day And down again!"



HIKE, CLIMB, SCRAMBLE

Super Power Rangers are Born Survivors

The Power Rangers Team from Siemens battled through 30 military-style obstacles over a 10km course in the Born Survivor Challenge at Capesthorpe Hall in September.

They crossed tough terrain, waded through icy water, crawled under barbed wire, climbed steep hills and walls and scrambled through deep mud before completing the arduous challenge and raised £1,690 between them.



Age proved no barrier to jumping off Trafford Centre

Abseiling down the 200ft Bell Tower at The Trafford Centre was no problem for a former Oldham Hulme Grammar School teacher, who is nearly 80.

Bernard Counsell, 79, from Chadderton, relishes taking on a challenge for Francis House. He said: "If I can jump off buildings and go on Zip Wires at my age then anyone can; I like variety in life!"

He joined 39 other brave people in September, who have so far raised £10,310.

Friends push themselves to the limit on gruelling charity hike

Two friends from Cheshire put their stamina to the test in a gruelling 56-mile hike in treacherous weather for Francis House. Paul Brennan, 45, and Rob Doogan, 36, from Cheshire, work as senior consultants for Cullen Wealth Ltd in Stockport, which has supported Francis House for many years.

The daring duo spent nearly 24 hours in the Peak District on September 3, walking through the night on the Bullock Smithy Hike. They contended with navigating their way in the dark, torrential rain, flooding, deep mud, and rocky and steep descents.

Paul said: "I knew I would really have to push myself or there would be a real chance of failure as a quarter of people don't complete it. To give me the extra motivation I wanted to feel I was completing it for a great cause."



THE NEWS WHERE YOU ARE...



Marvellous myriad of gifts

To mark the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, Islamic organisation The Myriad Foundation visited Francis House to deliver fabulous gifts for the children in July. The presents were collected in mosques around the city throughout Ramadan.

Girls pull out all the stops to raise money

In their final year at Styal Primary School, 11 year old pupils Niamh McLaughlin and Laura Keay (pictured) raised £500 for Francis House before the summer holidays. The girls organised a cake sale, an Easter Egg hunt, a sponsored walk and a messy hair day.



Oldham Health Festival

Francis House fundraiser Emma Rapley shared the work of the hospice with people at Oldham Health Festival in August. Oldham Mayor Derek Heffernan, who has chosen Francis House as one of the Mayoral charities to support met with stallholders.



Pictured from left to right: Helen Gleave (best cake); Star Baker Tracy Andrew; last year's winner Sophie Farrow

Bake Off competition tantalises tastebuds

Keen bakers from Siemens whipped up a scrumptious £207.74 by selling the tasty treats from their Bake Off competition in October. Judges were Francis House fundraisers Rachel Astill and Kate Puc and last year's winner Sophie Farrow who has since set up her own tea room. Budding Pauls and Marys showcased some very impressive tarts, cupcakes and sponges but it was Tracy Andrew's caramel and peanut butter tart that scooped her the Star Baker prize!



Francis House fundraisers Rachel Astill (left) and Kate Puc (right) are pictured with actor Will Mellor.

Fundraising spectacular: a night for awards and quizzes

A magnificent £6200 was raised at the **Stockport Business Awards** in October (pictured), organised by local accountancy practice Clarke Nicklin. A raffle saw one lucky winner take the grand prize of a luxury holiday to Crete, courtesy of Miss Ellies Travel. There were 400 business people at the packed out annual event at Stockport town hall. **Lloyds Development Capital** raised more than £14,300 for Francis House at their annual quiz night. Manchester businesses competed against seven team from across the country.



Hospital porters triumph at football tournament

A football tournament saw a fantastic £1,565 raised by Central Manchester University Hospitals Trust last month. The event, organised by hospital porter Steven Hennessy and colleagues, saw various departments across the hospitals put teams together and work hard to collect sponsorship and donations. The hospital porters scooped the win on the day and took home the cup!

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 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: _____

Registered Charity No. 328659

Calendar of events

2016

October 29 - December 11	Festival of Christmas Trees	Lowry Mall, Salford Quays	Mary Gillatt 0161 443 2200 mary.gillatt@franchishouse.org.uk
November 5	Viewing Day	Francis House	0161 443 2200
November 28	Annual Francis House Christmas Fair	The Heaton's Sport Club, Stockport, SK4 2NF	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@franchishouse.org.uk
December 2	Francis House Christmas Silver Jubilee Ball	Mere Golf and Country Club	Lucy Thompson 07841530248 lucy.thompson@franchishouse.org.uk
December 4	Manchester United Foundation's Santa Run	Old Trafford	Register online www.manufoundation.org/santarun
December 7	Memory Lights Service	Emmanuel Church, 6 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, M20 6TR	Pauline Armitage 0161 434 7252 pauline.armitage@franchishouse.org.uk

2017

March 27	Afternoon Tea Dance	Stockport Town Hall	Lucy Thompson 0161 443 2200 lucy.thompson@franchishouse.org.uk
April 2	Asics Greater Manchester Marathon	Trafford	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@franchishouse.org.uk
May 28	Great Manchester Run - 10k and new Half Marathon distance	Manchester City Centre	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@franchishouse.org.uk
June 11	Cheshire 3 Peaks Challenge	Macclesfield	Rachel Astill 0161 443 2200 rachel.astill@franchishouse.org.uk
September 16	Gauntlet Games obstacle course race	Heaton Park, Manchester	Lucy Thompson 0161 443 2200 lucy.thompson@franchishouse.org.uk

Visit our website at www.franchishouse.org.uk
Francis House Children's Hospice, 390 Parrswood Road,
Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA Tel: 0161 434 4118