

# "a growing family"



WINTER EDITION NEWSLETTER 2018





## From the Editor...

Francis House has so many stars that we need our own constellation! We are so lucky to have people from the stage and screen who help us with our media presentations – people like John Thomson who does our voice-overs, Jimmy Cricket who makes us laugh, Simon Rimmer who's far better at cooking than dancing, the Key 103 and Radio Manchester presenters who help with our publicity – and a special thanks this month to the “Mayor of Weatherfield” herself, who took time off from her Coronation Street filming to present our new fundraising video. Sally Dynevor is a long-standing friend and supporter who gives her time freely for Francis House, thank you Sally.

On the cover you'll see we were visited by Manchester United stars Michael Carrick, Chris Smalling and Phil Jones, who came in to bring United Christmas Cheer, and ‘Strictly Come Dancing’ partners Aljaz Skorjanec and Gemma Atkinson who helped to spruce-up a glittery tree at our Festival of Trees. Then there are the many stars who raise money, giving their time, volunteering or knitting chicks under mango trees, on Australian beaches or at home in Bolton!

Our constellation of stars shines brighter each year as more and more people fall under the Francis House spell. Even so the Brightest of the Stars are our children and young people who smile through the most difficult circumstances and certainly light up our lives.

At this time of year Christians think of the star that led wise people of other faiths to overcome adversity and prejudice and smiled as they knelt at the cradle which held love incarnate. Not a bad story to illustrate what happens at Francis House where people of all backgrounds come together through their self-giving love for others, helping the Francis House constellation shine. People across the world changing peoples' perception of each other and lighting up the dark places. Thank you to all of our stars - keep on **shining**.

*David*

## Work across the globe



Pictured with Gill and David: Ms. Rie YAMAJI, Hospital Play Specialist, Osaka City General Hospital, Mr. Hisato TAGAWA, Representative Director of Yokohama Children's Hospice Project, Professor Takatora SATO, Asahikawa University, Rep. Dir. of Hokkaido Children's Hospice Project, Ms. Yuko MOUE, Rep. Dir. of Paediatric Brain Tumour Association, Mr. Hitoshi HOSHINO, Member of Yokohama Children's Hospice Project

### Over the last decade, palliative care in Japan has progressed significantly under the national policies and the Cancer Control Act.

However, palliative care for children still leaves much to be desired. So far, there are only two children's hospices: one is managed and operated by a medical institution and the other, a free-standing children's hospice, just opened its doors last year.

A delegation from Japan visited Francis House with the aim of setting up free-standing children's hospices in various parts of Japan (Yokohama, Hokkaido, Fukuoka).

The purpose of their visit was to learn from the experiences of Francis House and to find out what kind of facility would fit the needs and culture in Japan.

In February 2018, the First National Summit on Children's Hospice will be held in Japan.

The objectives of the symposium are to raise public awareness about children's hospices and the issues surrounding childhood palliative care. In addition, to strengthen partnerships, not only between these children's hospice projects but also with the medical, welfare and education sectors.

We are very excited that children's hospices may be formed in Japan and we wish them all success in the future!

## Our Video Stars

Our new video features families from Greater Manchester who receive respite care and support.

The film produced by our friends at Manchester based Doodledo Motion, had its first screening to more than 400 people attending the fundraising ball at The Mere Resort and Spa.

Andrea Brookshaw from Ashton-under-Lyne, describes the morning almost four years ago, when the eldest of her three daughters Isabel, awoke in a critical condition.

“Isabel was fine up to being seven-years-old. A normal kid going to primary school and just about to do her Sats in year 2,” she explains.

“She just woke up one morning and couldn't breathe, couldn't talk, couldn't move. She went to A&E and was put on a ventilator for 16 days.”

Although no formal diagnosis was given, it was suspected that Isabel had suffered a serious inflammation of the brain. She remained in hospital on a rehabilitation ward for six months with Andrea by her bedside.

Andrea said: “I remember one day they turned up with a wheelchair for her. I just thought it was for while she was in hospital, I had no idea it would be a long-term thing.”

Francis House would provide a vital lifeline to the family.

In spite of their desperate need, many families find it difficult to accept that their child could be eligible for the help and support of their local children's hospice.

*“We looked around Francis House and it's not what you think it would be like at all, all you hear is laughing, it's a really happy place.”*

“You forget it's a hospice, it's just somewhere that we all come to as a family and make lovely memories.”

Isabel, now 11, has regained her sight and is learning to eat again.

The video is presented by Coronation Street actress Sally Dynevor. She describes filming at the hospice as a ‘privilege’, and said: “I am very pleased to be taking part in this video,”

“Every time I come, I meet children who are very poorly, but here they are supported with their families. It's a wonderful charity and I'm just so pleased to be part of it.”

Watch our film at [www.francishouse.org.uk/video](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/video)

> Andrea and Isabel take part in filming for the new video





## Francis House facelift

Anyone who has visited us recently on an open day will know that Francis Lodge, the teenager and young adults facility is very up to date, incorporating state of the art technology.

Francis House on the other hand is over 26 years old and whilst very comfortable, was designed in an age before digital technology and computers. It is now time for Francis House to come of age!

Since the 25th anniversary thanks to the generosity of so many people, we have been gradually upgrading the building. Those of you who have read the autumn newsletter will know that a priority was chef Dean's kitchen – which has been very well received and has allowed him to introduce new options in the menu. Thanks to the team from Chapelgreen Contracts, we continued to operate as efficiently as ever during the refurbishment.

### Building Work in Progress:

- > **New Snoezelen** – multisensory room
- > **New Soft Play room** – to replace the old Snoezelen
- > **New 'Pod'** – a younger version of the facilities in Francis Lodge – with a home cinema, recording facilities and computer generated activities
- > **Remodelled Nurses station** – new medical store
- > **Upgraded Bedrooms** – new wardrobes, full room cover hoists, digital TV, gaming systems, carpets and lighting



Work underway on the new Snoezelen

All of this work is being carefully phased to allow the respite care to continue with as little impact on the families as possible. Alongside the building work and general maintenance, the Care Team is being developed with new structures to improve Emotional and Bereavement Support and in the near future, major developments will be made in the Homecare Team.

Exciting times as we prepare for the next twenty five years.

**All of this is made possible through the hard work of our trusted contractors, the staff and volunteers but most importantly our generous supporters.**

Sister Aloysius said, that growing Francis House with little money but a large amount of faith was a 'Worthwhile Error' – that error has not only helped thousands of families but has provided a focus for the love and concern of the people of the north west – long may it continue.

## Iceland Trek

**Director of Care Gill Bevin pulled on her walking boots to help raise funds. Here she explains why the Icelandic Mountains trek was her favourite so far.**

This is the third trek organised by Francis House and in my opinion the best! I like to imagine that my roots are Nordic, although I have no reason to believe this EXCEPT for the blonde hair, a love of outdoors and I used to watch Kirk Douglas in the film 'The Vikings'.

Our group of twenty five landed in Reykjavik on September 3, minus 3 bags of luggage (one of which was mine). The bags were returned to us during the trek, but in-between times our fellow trekkers came up trumps and supplied us with everything we needed – and probably less dirty washing to take home – always a bonus.

I have too many words to describe the next few days but will try to be concise. We walked through breath-taking scenery daily, up and down mountains and hills, across spectacular mountain passes carved by glaciers, witnessed the splendour of the aurora borealis, swam in the sea which was just 58 miles from the Arctic Circle, saw a herd of wild reindeer and a pool of the bluest water I have ever seen, from a glacial melt.

That was only the days. The nights were spent in remote cabins, where the group prepared the evening meal, chatted about the day, compared photographs and played a few games. I was initiated into a game called Spoons (Judith Ireland is very competitive by the way) and taught the pancake roll to others.

We flew back to Reykjavik on day 6 and spent some time exploring the city and a few of us decided to take a trip to the famous blue lagoon, David looked splendid in his hired shorts for the occasion and we all benefitted from the mud face masks looking years (hours) younger.

The Treks are a great a way of fundraising for Francis House. Everyone on the trek is required to raise a minimum of £1000 to support this fabulous charity that I am privileged to be part of. It's fantastic that the Iceland trek raised more than £26,000 in sponsorship.

***"The experiences and new friends that I have acquired over the last three treks, will ensure that my name is first on the list for the next one."***

If you enjoy walking, experiencing new things and making new friends, why don't you join us in 2019 – destination to be decided!





# YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED EVENTS AND NEWS



## Our Easter knitted chick appeal

has gained new supporters from exotic climes, after a knitting group in East Africa gave it a helping hand. Soft Power Education is a charity working in Bujagali, close to the River Nile in rural Eastern Uganda, and the idea to involve the knitting group came from a Trustee, Margaret McAlpine.

The group provides a sustainable way for women in the community to generate income. Members are paid a generous Fair Trade price for the goods they knit. The women knit beneath the shade of a mango tree, and the first brood of 550 chicks recently arrived at Francis House in Didsbury after a flight of over 4000 miles. An anonymous UK benefactor is paying the group for each chick knitted, so both Francis House and the women in the group benefit from the project.

In March, all of these chicks – along with tens of thousands of others – will be filled with a Cadbury's Creme Egg before flying the nest to local schools and businesses, where they will be sold for £1 each.

We are seeking knitters, chocolate egg collectors, people to sell chicks and deliver chick orders. Visit our website for more information or contact Rachel Astill 0161 443 2200

Families enjoyed an early Christmas treat courtesy of a Virtual Reality experience as part of **Key 103's** Cash for Kids Mission Christmas appeal. Hosts Gemma, Matt and Mike broadcast the breakfast show live from the lounge in Francis Lodge!



## Get set for Ladies Lunch – June 29

Join us on Friday 29th June at the stunning Principal Hotel, Manchester for our debut Ladies lunch! Starting at 11 a.m. with an arrival reception drink, wander the stalls and grab yourself a treat before enjoying a delicious 2 course lunch. Be inspired by a fashion show by Fuzzy Goose boutique and relax to accompanying music from presenter and Key 2 DJ Darren Proctor, who will also delight you with his enthusiastic auctioneering style, helping to raise money from some exciting prizes. Tickets are £55 or £60 per person with a goodie bag. To book call Lucy on 0161 443 2200 or email [lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk)

**Join Team Francis House**  
at the

**great manchester run**

on Sunday 20th May 2018

Choose between 10k or half marathon distance

Register now to support your local children's hospice,  
helping children with life-limiting conditions and their families



Discounted charity places available  
Online: [www.francishouse.org.uk/great-manchester-run](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/great-manchester-run)  
Call: 0161 443 2200  
Email: [emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk)  
Registered charity number 328659

## Golf Day

There were special celebrations last September as the Francis House Golf Day at the prestigious Stockport Golf Club had its 25th Anniversary. We were pleased to have the continued support from HAE Group as our main sponsor, with the team from Cubic Surveying walking away with the winning trophy from the 18 hole afternoon competition. The day raised £6,700 with thanks to all the players, sponsors and prize donors.

If you would like to enter a team for this year's event on Thurs Sept 6, visit our website for an entry form or call Lucy on 016 443 2200.



## Our golfing legend

We'd like to say a big thank you to John Andrew our dedicated golf volunteer who retired from his role in 2017. John gave over 20 years of support to Francis House organising charity golfing trips to far flung places including South Africa and Barbados, regular trips to Spain, as well as running the Annual Stockport Golf Day.



Despite 'retiring' John is still doing his bit for Francis House, recently handing over £1,355 from a golf fundraiser in Almerimar in Spain.

**Thank you John for your commitment over the decades!**

Big thanks to both Northenden Golf Club and Withington Golf Club who kindly supported Francis House throughout. Both clubs each raised over £8,000 through their excellent fundraising efforts, including golf days, quiz nights and raffles in the clubhouses.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

To continue to provide our services we need to raise 4.2 million pounds per year to keep Francis House and Francis Lodge operating.

Regular donations provide us with ongoing income that enables us to plan for future needs. So we are asking as many of you as possible to consider a regular weekly, monthly or annual gift. You can do this by completing and returning the Standing Order request on this page to Pauline Armitage, Francis House Children's Hospice, 390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA or by going to our website and emailing us a standing order. You can also ring Pauline on 0161 434 7252 and she will do the work for you.

If you are a UK tax payer please also sign the Gift Aid Declaration on the reverse of this slip and return it along with your Standing Order Request.

## STANDING ORDER

### FRANCIS HOUSE FAMILY TRUST REQUEST FOR STANDING ORDER

To the Bank Manager .....

Date .....

Branch Address .....

Please charge Account: Sort Code .....

Account No .....

**Pay to: Yorkshire Bank, The Chancery,  
Spring Gardens, Manchester, M2 1YB  
Account No. 68170373 Sort Code. 05-05-73**

The sum of £ .....

Commencing on .....

and thereafter on each succeeding .....

Ending on .....

Name .....

Address .....

Signature .....

Date .....

Please return to Pauline Armitage at Francis House  
Registered Charity No. 328659



Name of Charity .....

**Details of Donor:** Title .....

Forename(s) .....

Surname .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

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 .....

GIFT AID

We are most grateful to everyone who has already completed a Gift Aid Declaration. To date over 2500 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 if we can help.

make a will  
make a difference

Did you know that almost £1 million of the £4 million that we need to fund our work each year comes from bequests?

If you are planning on writing or updating your Will any time soon, perhaps you would be kind enough to consider including a gift to Francis House.

When it comes to making a Will, your loved ones and family should come first in your thoughts. But many people also like to remember a special charity that is close to their hearts.

Making a Will isn't difficult or expensive but we would always recommend that you use a solicitor to prepare the Will for you. To talk confidentially about gifts in Wills please contact Rachael Taylor on 0161 434 4118.

If you are a firm of solicitors and would like one of our Make a Will Make a Difference display stands and leaflets please contact chris.swinton@francishouse.org.uk



Solicitor Rachel Damianou of Wrigley Claydon offers some professional advice on including a legacy to charity in your Will.

Why make a Will?

"If you haven't made a Will, the law dictates how your assets must be divided - and the law may not reflect your wishes. Making a Will is an opportunity to minimise or eliminate tax payable on death. It is also a way of protecting some assets from being used to pay for future care home fees."

Is it common for people to include a gift to charity?

"Many people chose to include a gift to charity because the charity is close to their hearts for a variety of reasons."

How does Francis House benefit?

"When someone makes a Will and chooses to leave a legacy to Francis House we will donate our fee to Francis House. By leaving a gift in their Will they will be helping Francis House to support the many families that rely on their services now and in the future."

Our team at Francis House can provide you with the details of solicitors in your area who specialise in Will writing.

Visit our website to download a copy of our new legacies guide francishouse.org.uk/donate/making-a-will

Volunteers - we need YOU!

**Volunteers are vital to the smooth running of Francis House.** If you have visited or phoned the hospice it is likely that you will have spoken to a volunteer on reception or seen someone working in the kitchen.

Did you know that we only employ one person in our two kitchens - chef Dean? We rely on 33 volunteers to help with all other kitchen duties and preparing and serving meals.

Our volunteers also work in our charity shop; look after our gardens and fish tanks; support us by organising fundraising events; help with bucket collections, public speaking and take part in fundraising activities.

**Laura O'Shea joined us as a volunteer four years ago when she was aged eighteen. She describes how working at Francis House - on reception and in the kitchen - was completely different to what she was expecting.**

"I wasn't sure whether it would be a sad atmosphere but all the staff are so lovely and friendly, and all the children are happy when they are here and always have a great time. You do sometimes see things that are hard to deal with, but you look at yourself and it makes you thankful for what you have and how you are."

Laura works full-time in a busy marketing office for Together - a finance company on Cheadle Royal Business Park. She still finds time to give three hours on a Sunday afternoon to work in the kitchen with fellow volunteer Jacque.



"I think people volunteer for different reasons: depending on what the charity means to them, or if you or family members have been helped by a charity. I chose Francis House because it is local to me and it's for children, and I'm quite passionate about helping children's charities." says Laura.

Laura acknowledges that hospices and many charities couldn't function without volunteers and that although she has a busy life, the few hours out of her week make a big difference.

"Yes you can come in and you might be tired but then you look around and you think there are people here who would give anything to feel how I am feeling - it gives you a bit of a reality check. I really enjoy it."

We are truly grateful for the commitment to Francis House shown by our volunteers but we still need more help.

Ideally if you can commit on a regular basis we are looking for people to work on our reception desk and in the kitchens. If you would like to find out more about volunteering opportunities with us, and are over 18 years of age, please visit our website or call 0161 443 2200. Thank you

- Volunteer fact file:**
- 73 people volunteer at Francis House
  - 275 hours a week are worked by volunteers
  - 93 hours in the Kitchen
  - 36 hours on Reception
  - 139 hours in the Shop
  - Ages are between 20 and 92 years
  - This saves us almost £112,000 a year! (Based on national minimum wage)



# THE NEWS WHERE YOU ARE...



## Crime doesn't pay?

A crime and punishment themed Quiz Night held by the forensic and investigations services team at Grant Thornton bagged more than £1,200. The Impossible Bar in Manchester saw fourteen teams test their knowledge, with firm Hewlett Swanson aka 'Trivial Lawsuit' crowned the winning team.



## Students get their Buzziness heads on

Students from St Anthony's Catholic College in Urmston beat 19 other schools from across Greater Manchester in Manchester Airport's Dragons' Den competition. They created a wooden Manchester bee decoration in the challenge to create a Christmas present that could be sold for £5 or less. They managed to raise £6,181 from the sale of the bee. In total a record breaking £20,234 was raised by the twenty schools and distributed to charity.

## They're just so Co-operative

Matt Arrigoni area manager for the Co-operative group with Dave Kay manager at the West Didsbury store, and six other managers, walked eleven miles calling in at seven local co-op's. Collections along their way and each stores fundraising event totalled £1,110.



## Juice Nursery 'Toddle Waddle' raised £323.41



## LDC get Quizzical

Lloyd's Development Capital hosted their annual Quiz Night at The Revolution Bar in Parsonage Gardens attended by twenty seven corporate teams from across Manchester.

Each team paid £400 to enter, and LDC generously provided a free bar. Quiz winners on the night were Zeus Capital. The real winners however were Francis House, after a raffle, auction and match-funding, a grand total of £21,342.20 was raised!

## Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge

National Walking Month in May is the perfect excuse to head into the fresh air and prepare for our Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge in Macclesfield on Sunday June 10. Test your endurance and sign up now.



## Go Go Jason!

Ultimate challenger Jason from Cheetham Hill, Manchester is taking on over 25 separate running events throughout 2018! Jason has already ticked off his list the Liverbird Marathon on New Year's Eve and the Wirral Way Half Marathon. We wish Jason good luck. To sponsor his events go to [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jason-bruce88](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jason-bruce88)



## Terra Nova on Terra Firma

Pupils from Terra Nova School in Cheshire undertook a sponsored walk in the Lake District for one of their biggest fundraising events of the academic year. Accompanied by staff and parents the pupils braved strong winds to reach the summit of Catbells. Eleven year-old Harrison said: "I went to raise money for Francis House. It was an excellent walk with a start on the road and then a wooden bridge in the marsh. It was then quite a trek up the mountain. It was so windy when we reached the top that we nearly got blown away." We were blown away too when Headteacher Philip Stewart presented us with £5,173.32



## Christmas Ball

More than 400 guests attended the Francis House 'Hollywood Christmas Ball' and enjoyed an evening of classical Hollywood glitz and glamour at The Mere Golf and Spa Resort near Knutsford. Thanks to our incredibly generous guests an amazing £101,000 was raised! Come and join us on Friday 7th Dec 2018 for a fantastic night of fun and fundraising. Contact [lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk)

## Young Fundraisers Make a Splash

Rachael and Matthew Banks raised over £840 by selling Easter Chicks at the Grand Central and Avondale Life Leisure Swimming Pools, Stockport and holding a Christmas raffle.



## Festival of Trees at the Lowry Outlet

Proved as popular as ever with 56 trees going for hundreds of pounds to delighted bidders. One tree even went to a family in Lincoln who collected it while on their honeymoon! More than £35,000 was raised. A huge thank you to Mary and Alan Gillatt and all who supported the event.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2018

March - early April	The Great Didsbury Easter Chick Hunt	Didsbury	Rachel Astill, Fundraising office 0161 443 2200
March 5	Easter Chick appeal deadline for knitted chicks	Francis House	Rachel Astill, Fundraising office 0161 443 2200
March 18	Wilmslow Half Marathon	Wilmslow	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk
April 8	Asics Greater Manchester Marathon	Manchester City Centre	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk
April 22	Virgin London Marathon	London	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk
April 23	Open Day 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Francis House	Fundraising 0161 443 2200
May 19	Jimmy Cricket Show	Millgate Arts Centre, Delph, Saddleworth	Ticketsource.co.uk Tim Newbold 07515 392462
May 20	Great Manchester Run 10k and Half Marathon	Manchester City Centre	Emma Rapley 0161 443 2200 emma.rapley@francishouse.org.uk
June 10	Cheshire Three Peaks Challenge	Tegg's Nose Country Park, Macclesfield	Rachel Astill, Fundraising office 0161 443 2200
June 14	Bridge Drive	Mobberley	Carole Geary 01625 583995 carolegeary@aol.com
June 16	Concert in the barn	Mobberley	Carole Geary 01625 583995 carolegeary@aol.com
June 19	Ascot Lunch	Mobberley	Carole Geary 01625 583995 carolegeary@aol.com
June 23	Ladybridge Singers Gala Concert	Holy Trinity Parish Church, Horwich	Harry Ainsworth 01942 811021
June 29	Francis House Ladies Lunch	The Principal Hotel, city centre Manchester	Lucy Thompson 0161 443 2200 Lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk
July 8	Gorton Philharmonic Concert	Gorton Monastery	Gorton Phil 0161 432 2263 or Gorton Monastery 0161 223 3211
Sept 6	Stockport Golf Day	Stockport Golf Club	Lucy Thompson 0161 443 2200 Lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk
Nov 3	Open Day 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Francis House	Fundraising 0161 443 2200
Dec 7	Francis House Christmas Ball	The Mere Golf Resort & Spa	Lucy Thompson 0161 443 2200 Lucy.thompson@francishouse.org.uk

### STOP PRESS!

Fans of our cute Easter chicks are in for a treat this spring as we launch the first ever Great Didsbury Easter Chick Hunt. Jumbo customised knitted chicks will be dotted around Didsbury during March and early April, hosted by local businesses and venues. Track them all down to be in with a chance of winning a prize! For more information on how to take part, call 0161 443 2200 or look out for our leaflets around Didsbury Village from early March.

### MAILING LIST

If you no longer wish to receive a copy of the newsletter through the post, please call Pauline on 0161 434 7252 or email pauline.armitage@francishouse.org.uk and ask to be removed from the mailing list. Did you know our newsletters are also available to view on our website [www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk)