



# SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

- 30 years of memories
- Meet the chef
- Step up for Francis House

## A growing family

Francis House Family Trust  
Registered Charity Number 328659



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# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

**When I look back to this time last year, I cannot believe how many things have changed. Thankfully, the Government has lifted some restrictions and Francis House has begun to return to something more 'normal'.**

In April, the young people returned for planned respite care, and we opened both Francis House and Francis Lodge. Laura Earley became the second Clinical Lead and now oversees care at Francis Lodge.

The young people are able to come downstairs and enjoy activities inside, in the garden, and even go out on trips (two families were also able to access the new wheelchair friendly beach at Fleetwood).

In May, we began to provide care for whole families and parents have come along for a well-earned rest and a chance to 'off-load' after eighteen months of unremitting care.

Since April the telephone contact has continued, doorstep visits have taken place and symptom control, emergency respite, emotional support and homecare have continued to work hard. Since April

29, new families have been referred and have been able to look around. Whilst we were sorry that restrictions were not lifted in June, we look forward to July and the beginning of a summer where masks are optional, and life becomes more tolerable.

But things will be different. Homecare is growing, as is the emotional and bereavement support service. We are still recruiting Care team members so that services not only open up but improve and expand.

The Fundraising team are trying to catch up on lost time, and plans for events post restrictions are already taking shape. We have all come through a stressful and tiring experience, but we are excited and happy to see families old and new and friends who have supported us out in the community, but – we cannot rest on our laurels, the

next year is going to be hard. Government grants and furlough schemes have come to an end for Francis House and yet many corporate supporters are still struggling financially; the number of families on roll grows week on week and the need to raise funds to see us through the next twelve months is even more important.

**So, a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us in any way over the last eighteen months, your kindness and support is invaluable and gives us the confidence to move forward, trusting in the**

**caring friendship of all of our loyal supporters and the knowledge that what we do is God's will, and he will not let us fail.**

**Every blessing**

*David*

## HOW TO CONTACT US

Francis House Children's Hospice,  
390 Parrswood Road,  
Didsbury, Manchester, M20 5NA

Hospice tel: 0161 434 4118  
Fundraising tel: 0161 443 2200



Laura Earley - Clinical Lead - Francis Lodge

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# 30TH ANNIVERSARY

## SPECIAL FEATURE

**We celebrate the care at Francis House with nurse Jackie Graham - the longest serving member of the hospice care team still in post - as we head towards our thirtieth anniversary year.**

She may have missed seeing Diana, Princess of Wales, open the hospice in 1991, but senior nurse Jackie has had her fair share of magical memories.

After training as a Registered Nurse at Stoke Park Hospital in Bristol, specialising in learning disabilities, Jackie spent three years working at a children's respite home in Bath.

Whilst volunteering with Toc H, the Manchester children's camp for disadvantaged children, Jackie saw an advertisement for nurses at the newly opened Francis House Children's Hospice.

Hospice founder Sister Aloysius, head of care Margaret Hickie and former chairman of the board of Trustees Robin Wood, interviewed

Jackie and she joined the team in October 1992.

The care team in the 90s consisted of approximately 30 members of staff - roughly half the size of what it is today.

"I felt comfortable straight away," said Jackie, "I knew where I wanted to work and progress. Some of the children's clinical needs were new to me, but it was family centred care, and a very special place then, as it is now.

"Families always come first at Francis House. We didn't have as many children receiving care back then, so they were with us for longer periods of respite, and we only had seven bedrooms whereas now we have fourteen."

Childhood illnesses found decades ago are still around today, but through medical interventions children are now living longer. Gene therapy, surgery and other treatments are now available that weren't possible in the past.

Jackie explains: "We have children living with very rare conditions and so the ratio of nurses to children is now much higher because of their complex medical needs."

One of her fondest early memories was taking a large group of siblings back to Toc H one summer.

**"For many siblings it was the first time that they had experienced something just for themselves. We had a brilliant weekend away on the beach, and around that time we were starting to develop a programme of sibling care."**

Cont. on page 6



Jackie Graham



Jackie became part of the Season's sibling support group, which gives the brothers and sisters of the sick children, opportunities to meet up with other young people and take part in trips and activities.

"It is a pleasure to be around some truly inspirational children and their families – I get so much from them."

A familiar face at Francis House from the late 90s was the late Kirsty Howard who received respite at the hospice from aged three and a half until her death in 2015.

"Kirsty was an amazing lady and we had lots of laughs over the years. But we also had many difficult conversations with her and her two sisters about what the future might

hold. I remember doing lots of night shifts and how important it was for them to have the time to talk through their feelings.

"I watched Kirsty grow up from being a little child, as I've watched lots of children grow up, and then to be with them and their families at the end of their lives.

"Being with parents in the Rainbow Room and able to share some truly special memories is always a privilege.

**"The joy of simply playing on the swings or giving complex nursing care or ensuring a bath is luxurious and relaxing or offering emotional support to siblings, one day is never the same as the next as it has been right from the beginning."**

**"After almost three decades I still love coming to work."**



Picture taken 1998



# STEPtember



Make September  
your **STEPtember**



Take part in **STEPtember** and complete 10,000 steps a day to show your support for the nurses, care team, children and families of Francis House.

Walk 10,000 steps every day for the 30 days of September and you will have covered the distance from Didsbury to London!

Hundreds of local families are navigating the most challenging of paths.

The STEPS they take every day are difficult and demanding. Our care team walk with these families, helping them on their journey and creating special memories along the way.

## LET'S GET WALKING

**Walk at your own pace**  
in your own time

**Complete 10,000 steps**  
every day of September

**Collect sponsorship**  
to motivate you in your challenge

**Raise more than £50**  
to be entered into a prize draw!



## SIGN UP

Tickets for **STEPtember** are £5 and include a fundraising pack containing a wall chart, sponsor form with helpful tips and a Francis House t-shirt.

[www.francishouse.org.uk/stepember](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/stepember)  
Find out more call Kate on  
0161 443 2200



Scan the code  
using your  
mobile camera  
to Register

# HAVE A CUPPA WITH...

**Howard Maddocks - Chef**



**Howard Maddocks**

## **What is your background?**

I kind of fell into cheffing 28 years ago when I travelled to South Africa and Eastern Europe. I've worked in Spain, the Channel Islands as chef de partie in a five-star restaurant and in Cornwall at the Carbis Bay Hotel - the venue for the recent G7 summit. Prior to joining Francis House in February this year, I worked for ten years as a specialist diet chef, including eight years at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

## **What does your role involve?**

Cooking healthy homemade meals, sauces, and special diets for the children. Using fresh, colourful ingredients, keeping the families and staff healthy and happy.

## **Who do you work with?**

I work alongside chef Dean, who has been at Francis House from day one. We work different shifts and organise the menus together, keeping it consistent with plenty of fresh veg and tasty salads. I've worked in lots of kitchens, with lots of chefs, and we work together keeping within the guidelines of delivering healthy food.

## **What is the best thing about your job?**

The smiles and compliments on my food. When I do brunch on a Saturday and a roast on a Sunday the kids are so excited to eat the food. They wolf it down and that makes me happy. From the kitchen I love seeing the reactions of the young people and staff.

## **What's your secret talent?**

I'm good at making animal noises like farm animals and mimicking cartoon characters! My son has cri-du-chat syndrome and complex additional needs, and when I make these sounds it really makes him laugh.





# OUT AND ABOUT

Looking to make the most of travel freedom next year? Look no further than our overseas trek! We'll be heading to Norway in September 2022 for a magnificent adventure involving:

- Five-days of trekking
- A glacier crossing
- A climb up Norway's
- Highest summit
- Remote mountain cabin stays
- A spectacular fjord trip
- Sightseeing in Oslo.



## TREE SPONSORS WANTED

Support Francis House at the Festival of Christmas Trees.

We supply the tree - you decorate it in the theme of your choice! Your tree could be joining a number of big-name brands on display at Quayside MediaCityUK. All trees are then auctioned off to the highest bidder. Visit [www.francishouse.org.uk/events](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/events)

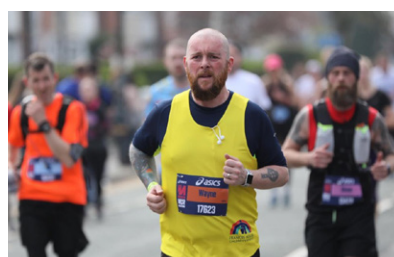
Support one of our fantastic Summer/Autumn events...



**TOUGH MUDDER & LIDL MUDDER**  
**4-5TH SEPTEMBER**



**GREAT MANCHESTER RUN**  
**26TH SEPTEMBER**



**MANCHESTER MARATHON**  
**10TH OCTOBER**

For more information or to sign up visit [www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk) or call us on 0161 443 2200

# A GOOD YARN

## Chick Appeal – 'egg-ceeds' expectations!

Despite being hit by lockdown restrictions as a result of the Coronavirus crisis, our Easter knitted chick appeal proved as popular as ever and raised an incredible £30,000.

Large numbers of chicks left over from last year's appeal meant we concentrated on selling existing stock and more than 18,000 crème eggs were sourced to fill them.

Rachel Astill, fundraising officer at Francis House said: "We were absolutely thrilled with the response to our appeal this year. With all the uncertainty in the air, we didn't think anyone would find time for our chicks this Easter. But we needn't have worried – the chicks were as popular as ever and dozens of supporters generously offered to help however they could!"

We are now looking forward to next Easter when we hope our fantastic body of knitters will be keen to spring back into action, ensuring we have plenty of stock for a bumper year!



## Knit OFF contest

Our virtual Knit Off contest is here! Enter pictures of your makes into any of the five fun categories including the natural world, cuddly soft toy, novice knitter, beautiful baby item and attractive accessory. Your £3 entry fee will raise funds for Francis House and up for grabs are £25 Hobbycraft gift cards as well as a yarn bundle up to the value of £50! Enter before 31st August by visiting [www.francishouse.org.uk/knitoff](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/knitoff)





# MEMORY LIGHTS

**You are invited to sponsor a light on the Christmas Tree at Francis House in memory of your loved ones. Their names will be entered in the Book of Memories which will be on view in the Francis House reception during the Christmas period.**

**We will send you a memory card (or cards) printed with the names of those you wish to be remembered.**

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## Contact details

Name of sponsor.....

Address .....

..... Postcode.....

Telephone..... I enclose a donation of £ .....

## Gift Aid Declaration

*giftaid it*

I wish Gift Aid to apply to the enclosed donation and all donations I make in the future or have made in the last 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax in that tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature ..... Date .....

## THANK YOU

**Please return the form with your donation (cheques made payable to Francis House)**

To: Francis House Children's Hospice, 390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA

**To make sure your loved ones are entered in the Book of Memories please return your request by 30th November 2021.**

Coming Autumn 2021.

Dedicate a light on our virtual tree visit [www.francishouse.org.uk/memory-lights](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/memory-lights)

Registered Charity No. 328659

# BUSY MOUSE

Hi, my name is Francis Mouse and I live here at Francis House.

I have been very busy lately visiting schools and telling the children all about the work we do at the hospice. The children love me, and they also love to fundraise for Francis House!

If you or your school would like to raise funds for Francis House and would like me to pay you a visit to say thank you, please contact the fundraising team on **0161 443 2200** or send me an email via **[fundraising@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@francishouse.org.uk)**

I also have lots of goodies for sale including a mini-mascot of me so please let me know if you think you can sell anything – I would be mouse-grateful.



**Donate at [francishouse.org.uk/donate](https://www.francishouse.org.uk/donate)**  
**Scan QR code to donate →**



## **I want to help the families of Francis House**

Here is my gift of:

☐ £10   ☐ £25   ☐ £50   ☐ other £

I enclose a cheque made payable to **Francis House Family Trust**

Title.....First Name .....Last Name .....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone Number..... Email Address.....

## **Gift Aid**

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 donated**

*giftaid it*

I would like Francis House Family Trust to treat as Gift Aid Donations

☐ This donation

☐ All donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years

I am a UK taxpayer 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.

Signature.....Date.....

## **Keep in Touch**

Your support is vital and we look forward to keeping in touch with you by post, sharing our news, activities and appeals.

Would you like to receive our supporter emails too?

☐ Yes, I am happy to hear  
from you by email.

Email Address.....

If you do not wish to receive information by post, or wish to change how we get in touch, please contact [rachael.taylor@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:rachael.taylor@francishouse.org.uk) or call 0161 443 2200.

## **THANK YOU**

**Please return this form with your donation to:**

Francis House Family Trust, Francis House Children's Hospice,  
390 Parrswood Road, Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA

**To donate online go to [www.francishouse.org.uk/donate](https://www.francishouse.org.uk/donate) or call 0161 443 2200**



# MAKE A REGULAR DONATION

To continue to provide our services we need to raise 4.7 million pounds per year to keep Francis House and Lodge operating.

Become a regular giver and make an ongoing difference to the lives of the families that we support. By completing this form, your regular donation will enable us to plan for future needs. If you are a UK taxpayer, please also sign and return the Gift Aid Declaration.

STANDING ORDER

The Manager .....  
Bank/BSoc Address .....  
.....  
Account Name .....  
Account Number .....  
Sort Code .....

Please pay: Francis House Family Trust  
Yorkshire Bank, 45-50 Market Street  
Manchester M1 1PW  
Account Number 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 Carole Fletcher, Francis House  
Children's Hospice, 390 Parrswood Road,  
Didsbury, Manchester M20 5NA  
Registered Charity No. 328659

GIFT AID DECLARATION

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 .....

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

If you are one of our REGULAR DONORS  
Thank you for your continued support – we are truly grateful.



Pauline Armitage  
90th birthday walk

**£28,893**



Sale High School  
Non uniform day

**£629**



Prestbury Golf Club  
Captain's Day

**£888**



Burnage Academy for  
Boys Y7  
sponsored mile run

**£458**



Nicola MacDonald  
Brave the head shave

**£933**



Manuel Atkinson  
(BTP Architects)  
Hadrian's Wall walk

**£450**

# EVENTS 2021

Francis House Virtual Knit Off	1st July – 31st August
STEPtember challenge	Throughout September
Tough Mudder and Lidl Mudder	4th - 5th September
Great Manchester Run	26th September
Brunch, Boutiques and Beauty at Gusto Didsbury	2nd October (tbc)
Virgin Money London Marathon	3rd October
Jimmy Cricket We Made It Show at Chorley Football Club	8th October
Manchester Marathon	10th October
Festival of Christmas Trees	30th October – 12th December
We're Back... to the Future Francis House Ball	3rd December
A Christmas Story Service at St Elisabeth's Reddish	10th December
Memory Lights Service	15th December
London Marathon 2022	24th April 2022
Norway Trek 2022	September 2022

**The dates of all the above events are subject to Government restrictions.**

**To find out the latest information or to take part in any of these events contact the fundraising team on 0161 443 2200 or email [fundraising@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@francishouse.org.uk) or visit [www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/get-involved/events)**

## **STOP PRESS!**

**We're Back!!... to the future Ball at the Concorde Conference Centre, Manchester Airport on Friday 3rd December. For an evening you won't want to miss and to reserve your table contact [susie.poppitt@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:susie.poppitt@francishouse.org.uk) or call 07931 642409.**

## **Mailing List**

If you no longer wish to receive a copy of the newsletter through the post, please call the fundraising office on 0161 443 2200 or email [rachael.taylor@francishouse.org.uk](mailto:rachael.taylor@francishouse.org.uk) to be removed from the mailing list. Our newsletters are available to view online [www.francishouse.org.uk/news/newsletters/](http://www.francishouse.org.uk/news/newsletters/)



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[FrancisHouseChildrensHospice](https://www.facebook.com/FrancisHouseChildrensHospice)



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