

LifeMatters

The newsletter from St Peter & St James Hospice • Spring/Summer 2026

"The incredible free care the hospice provided for Dad, and the support they gave us all, is why I wanted to raise funds, to help other families like ours."

Cam Mitchell talks to us about his dad, Jamie and why he ran a marathon for us

Page 4-5



Meet our new Speciality Doctor

Living Well Centre Services

Investing in future hospice care



St Peter & St James Hospice

Welcome to *Life Matters* magazine, St Peter & St James Hospice's community newsletter

Welcome to the Spring/Summer issue of Life Matters. As Chair of the Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to introduce this edition.

This month our cover story features the Mitchell family, and it has been an honour to tell their story. Cam, 20, undertook the Brighton Marathon for us in 2025 to fundraise in memory of his dad, Jamie. We are so grateful to his whole team for their support, and to hear firsthand how the hospice supported not only Jamie, but the wider family.

Families so often describe their relationship with the hospice as one of calm, peace and quiet professionalism, particularly when they have come from a busy hospital setting. The hospice remains committed to delivering highly-personalised, specialist care at end of life, and we are incredibly proud of the feedback we receive about our services.

Given the size of the community we serve (around 250,000 people), we can't assume everyone knows someone who has been supported by the hospice, and so we continue to develop our brand awareness within our catchment area. We want to ensure that everybody knows that the hospice is here for them, and that all of our services, including the Inpatient Unit, Living Well Centre and hospice community nursing team, remain free of charge.

We are delighted that the Local Hospice Lottery, which many of our supporters play as a way of giving us a monthly regular donation, now includes four £10,000 superdraws a year. The lottery has also increased the number of cash prizes to 312 each week. For just £6 per month, it's an exciting way to help provide vital care for local families and offers weekly chances to win up to £2,000 per prize. Players select the participating hospice that they would like to support which means that the proceeds from every £1 you spend will directly benefit us. If you would like to find out more visit www.localhospicelottery.org.

The Hospice Open Gardens is back for another season, offering inspiration for everyone. The season kicks off on May 9th, when the hospice grounds are open, and we warmly invite you to admire the work of our dedicated volunteer gardeners. Don't forget there is the chance to meet our resident donkeys, Dudley and Dylan! Following the hospice event, there will be village trails and individual gardens to explore. This year, we are excited to feature two new individual gardens, a new trail in Barcombe and additional new gardens within our existing village trails. Please check the website at www.stpjhospice.org for more information and to plan garden visits. We are always looking for new gardens to take part, so if you know anyone who may be interested then please contact Wendy at wagate@stpjhospice.org.

It just leaves me to say a huge thank you for your ongoing support, we simply couldn't do what we do without you. We would be grateful if you could spread the word about the hospice in your own communities, both as a way to raise funds, and more critically, so we can ensure people know we are here for them. I hope you enjoy reading this Spring/Summer edition of Life Matters, and perhaps I could ask that, when you have read it, you might consider passing it on to someone to read or leave it somewhere useful for others?

Harriet

Harriet Creamer
Chair of Trustees



3

Hospice News

4-5

Hospice Stories:
The Mitchell Family

6

Day in the life of a
volunteer

7

Investing in future
hospice care

8

Meet Linda Holding,
Speciality Doctor

9

The Services - Living
Well Centre

10

The Role of a Trustee :
Robin Knight

11

Summer Events



St Peter & St James Hospice

North Common Road
North Chailey
Lewes
BN8 4ED

01444 471 598

Registered Charity Number
1056114



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



HospiceNews

Sussex Hospice among the first to adopt AI pilot to improve patient experience

St Peter & St James Hospice are rolling out an AI transcribing tool to cut paperwork, reduce administrative hours and improve patient experience.

The tool, called Heidi, uses AI ambient listening to help clinicians take notes and create documents, such as referral letters and patient summaries. The clinician checks and signs off its outputs. St Peter & St James Hospice is amongst the first hospices in the country to adopt the technology, which is already used by more than 60% of UK GPs. Heidi will ease clinicians' workload, speed up admin time and allow doctors to focus on their patients during appointments, not their notes.

A two-month pilot of the technology found potential savings of at least 45 minutes, per clinician, per day. Such efficiency gains may allow for an additional patient visits daily, improving both clinical efficiency and the capacity for direct patient care.

Medical Director, Dr Helen McGee, hosted Mims Davies MP and ITV News who filmed a feature on AI at the hospice earlier this year.



Medical Director, Dr Helen McGee

SAVE THE DATE

SHINE BRIGHT

WALK + CELEBRATE + REMEMBER

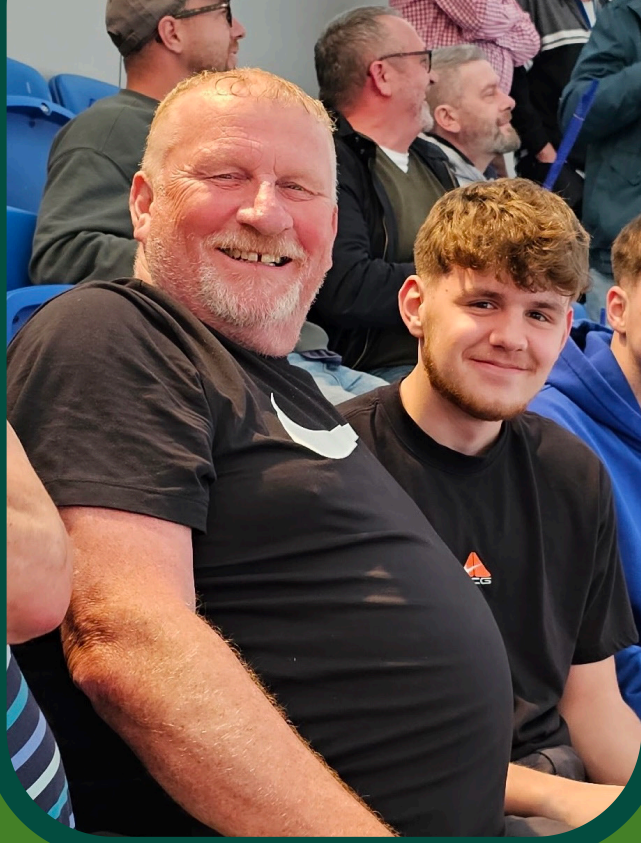
3k Illuminated In-Memory Walk

Live Music • Light Displays • Performers • Food • Refreshments

17th October 2026 from 4pm

www.stpjhospice.org

" I have heard many people say this about hospice care, but it's really true, being at St Peter and St James just allowed us to be a family together again "



Jamie Mitchell, 59, from Hassocks was cared for by St Peter and St James Hospice in June 2024 after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. His son Cam, 20 years old, talks to Life Matters about the support the family received, and why he decided to raise funds to help other families like theirs.

"We are a very close family and Dad was at the very heart of everything. He and Mum (Jill) were childhood sweethearts and they were just the most amazing parents to Carrie (23) and me growing up. Dad was a perfect role model to look up to, he was social and always positive about other people, he kept us grounded and when we needed a serious chat, he was there for us. Dad had his stern side too, but we all knew that Mum was really the one in charge, and when she was in her "Go Mode", Dad would revert to being a cheeky kid with us! Growing up, Dad figured in all my mates' lives as well, he was really easy to get on with and I know they miss him too.



Dad grew up in Lindfield, and mum in Hassocks, which is where we grew up too. Like many people in the area, they both had careers at American Express, in fact mum is still there! Dad had also been a Teaching Assistant at Hassocks Infant School and I remember walking down the street with him and all these kids saying hello. I used to wonder how he knew everybody and how they all thought he was so cool, now I realise he taught them!

Dad was very creative, and always dreamt of becoming a professional chef, but he worked hard at Amex, retiring about 10 years ago. I know that he struggled with his mental health at work, and I think a lot of that was due to him being in the wrong job and not feeling fulfilled. So, I am glad that in the months before he got ill, he managed to finally fulfil his dreams when he worked in the kitchens of Washbrooks Family Farm. I really admire him for being brave enough to step away from a job that just wasn't making him happy, that takes real guts, especially when you have kids to provide for. Dad loved fishing, golf, music and Brighton & Hove Albion FC and I have many happy memories of watching matches most weekends (and some of the results less so!)

I vividly remember the day we got the cancer diagnosis, I was just going out to meet some mates and mum called me back. The whole family was devastated, especially as it brought back memories of my sister Carrie, who was diagnosed with cancer when she was 13 years old.

The doctor told us that Dad had a matter of weeks, and although he was offered chemotherapy to give him some more time, he made the decision to enjoy the time he had left without enduring grueling treatments that wouldn't be able to make him better. In many ways I am glad that this stage was quick, I hated leaving the house to go to work and knowing he was in pain, I often heard him crying.



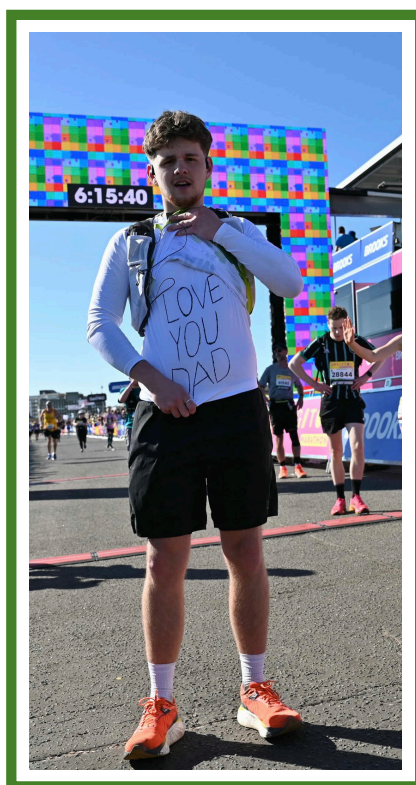
I got a call at work one day from Mum to say that Dad's condition had deteriorated and he was being taken to hospital in Brighton, I rushed home to say goodbye. Dad was put on a shared ward without much privacy, and it was here that they broke the news that Dad didn't have much time.

After four days there, I remember the relief we felt when we heard he had a bed at the hospice. It genuinely felt like the first bit of good news we had for quite a while.

The change in Dad, and Mum, was immediate. Dad seemed more relaxed and peaceful and for Mum, I could see that it took a load off her shoulders, Dad was safe and comfortable in this beautiful setting. I have heard many people say this about hospice care, but it's really true that being there just allowed us to be a family together again. I would come in a couple of times a day and just watch TV with dad, sit and chat, regular family stuff. When he was sleeping Carrie and I would often go and hang out with the donkeys and take in the view of the Downs. Right up until he died, he was cracking the usual appalling dad jokes and looking out for us and telling us to go home if we got overwhelmed, caring about us right till the end.

The help we got from the hospice after Dad died was incredible, Mum had lots of support from the team at St Peter & St James, and Carrie and I know that counselling is available if and when we need it.

This incredible free support that the hospice gave, not only in caring for Dad, but the way they stepped in and supported us all, is why I wanted to raise some funds to give other families the same chance. I remember asking someone at the hospice why all the rooms weren't full, and they explained to me that as a small, local charity they could only open rooms if they got funding to pay for them. I was chatting about doing something in memory of Dad with a mate on the farm I worked on later that Summer, and out of nowhere found myself suggesting we could try and run the Brighton marathon!



It snowballed from one mate to ten of us, and we registered in December. Jessica Jenkins, "the boss" at Washbrooks farm, where I was working at the time, allowed us to train on the farm, and whilst admittedly it was a pretty short training window, we fully committed. We only started training in January, but by April, we thought we might make it round!

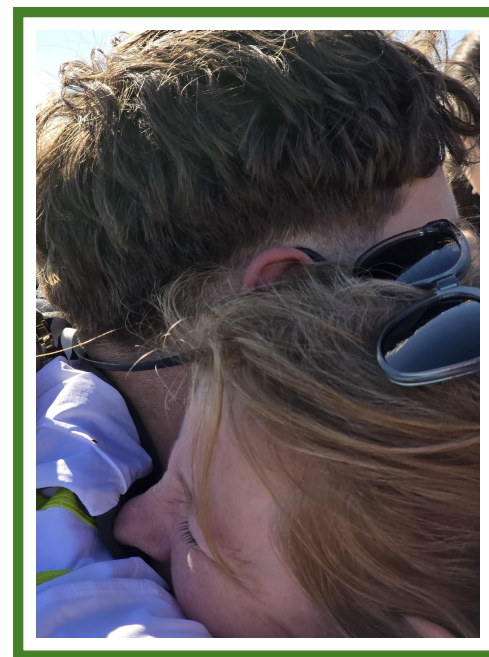
The support from our community when we were fundraising was incredible. Jessica allowed me to run 'Jamie's Big Fat Quiz' at the farm, and people really got behind it, helping to raise £6,000. We also had a big raffle and pub night in Cuckfield which raised around £2,000. Mum, Carrie and I plus all our friends and family pushed the message out on social media, through work and local friends and businesses. I was completely blown away when I saw we had raised over £20,000 in total!

The marathon was an amazing experience, I have never been so scared and excited at the same time about anything! The first 10k was the best feeling in my life, I started the race with my oldest friends from infant school, Jake and Finn, and as we ran we chatted and I felt my body was in perfect harmony.

Our fan club, who were our incredible support crew popped up at moments along the way, and stopping for quick chats and taking it all in with them were special moments. Wearing my hospice running shirt with my name on meant I also had strangers shouting my name and encouraging me to keep going.

For me though, the biggest highlight was the last stretch. I queued up Dad's all-time favourite song, ACDC's Highway to Hell on my playlist, and ran the last mile, stopping to have a hug with Mum and Carrie before I crossed the finish line, knowing dad would have been so proud of me.

I am committed to continuing to support the hospice in memory of Dad. I am just starting out, but I recently trained as a barber, and I am setting up my own business. Having been brought up surrounded by all of Dad's incredible values, I intend to ensure they remain part of the way I live my life, and helping others is right up there with one of his finest."



If you wish to support the hospice, please visit:

www.stpjhospice.org/support-us/donate/.

If you would like to refer someone to the hospice, either contact your GP or healthcare professional, or self-refer via:

www.stpjhospice.org/our-care/refer-to-us/.

In the first of this 'Day in the Life' series, we catch up with Portia Barker, who has volunteered at the hospice since 2022.

Q: Have you always been based in Sussex?

I grew up in Lindfield and, other than a short period living and working in London, I have always lived in the area. I worked as a Medical Practice Administrator at University College Hospital, London. We now live in Scaynes Hill and I can honestly say I love this area.

We are an enormous family, I have six children ranging from 17-34 years old! With busy children and my husband regularly working abroad, I have built up a lovely network of friends in our community. During lockdown, I realised that my children were growing up and I finally had some capacity to pursue my own interests, so I started volunteering at the hospice in February 2022.

Q: What made you decide to give your time to support St Peter & St James?

The hospice looked after my father, and I know the charity offers all its services free of charge. It is also just eight minutes away from my home, an easy commute!

For me, volunteering was about doing something for myself, and to remind myself that I wasn't just a mother and a wife. I joked to my girlfriends that it was to "make me a better person"! Like many mums, I was out of the workplace whilst I bought the children up, and unsure what work I might do. Life had been school runs, dog walking, managing the pigs and sheep, and I can't describe how lovely it felt to put a nice skirt on, clean myself up and meet new people.

Q: How do you find volunteering rewarding?

From the very first day I started, I loved being a part of the hospice, putting on my lanyard and being useful. It can be as many hours as I like, and I genuinely feel I get as much out of it as I give. I love that it has enhanced my old skills, as well as enabled me to learn new ones.

I love talking and making connections with people, and I get enormous pleasure from seeing visitors leaving more relaxed than when they arrive.

In 2025, I was blown away to receive the "Volunteer of the Year" award at the annual volunteer awards ceremony, I am beyond proud to have received it. I see volunteering as a mutually beneficial relationship - I reward the hospice by giving my time, and the hospice rewards me by making me feel valued.

Q: What is a typical volunteer day for you?

I volunteer every Wednesday, and I start by supporting the housekeeping team in the morning and then spend an hour on reception to cover Sheila's lunch break.



I only started supporting the housekeeping team in 2025. I saw they were always really busy and so I 'persuaded' Jackie, who heads up the lovely team, to let me volunteer as a housekeeper.

It is a privilege to speak with patients and their families as we clean. Often when we are with them, the patio doors are open, birds are singing, and I think they like the normality of having a chat.

When I am on reception, It is an honour to be the first face people see when they come into the hospice. Often you don't know who is coming in, and some patients are very anxious about coming to the Inpatient Unit, as they don't know what to expect. I really value being a warm and friendly face in such uncertain and difficult moments.

It's a really varied role, which includes managing visitors and calls coming in, appointments for the Living Well Centre, and ambulance arrivals. If there is a rare quiet moment, I enjoy arranging the flowers.

I love all the home comforts that we see patients receive – from Waitrose food deliveries to pet visits, I even remember one man regularly bringing his wife's hairdresser in, to set her hair just as she liked it.

From time to time, I cover Sheila's holiday and I do get asked if I can help with other roles. I enjoyed donning a hi-vis jacket on car park duty for Open Gardens, and I helped walk the donkeys around the rooms a few weeks ago (though not sure I will be asked again!)

Q: Why do you think people should volunteer?

It brings out the best in people, its uplifting and helps prevent loneliness. It certainly gives you confidence that you still have a use, whatever life stage or age. Take the gardening team, they are incredible and one recently celebrated turning 80 and is still actively involved.

The way I see it, every volunteer gives the member of staff more time to do their jobs, to focus on supporting patients and their loved ones.

Q: For people interested in volunteering, what should they do?

Give the hospice volunteer team a call or apply online. You can work flexible hours and days, there are a wide range of roles and the hospice in one, big friendly team. There is lots of training and a great induction programme and there is always someone to ask if you don't know something. The more you get involved, the more you get out of it!

Visit www.stpjhospice.org , email volunteering@stpjhospice.org or call 01444 471598.

Matthew Dean, Finance Director, provides an overview on our capital expenditure from government funding.



During the last year we received £314k from the Government to spend on capital projects. Although we would have also liked additional funding to spend on running our services, this has given us the opportunity to spend funds to improve our patient reach, our patient facilities and increase our sustainability which we would not have been able to invest in without receiving these funds. Dr Helen McGee explained about the 4 new rooms we opened and our new nurses station as a result of the additional funds in the last issue of Life Matters, but here are some more ways we have spent this money since then.

To help with our sustainability we have now installed solar panels on the hospice. This not only reduces our carbon footprint, but it will also help decrease our ongoing energy bills; we estimate these solar panels will save us £17,000 per year. We have also invested in new computers to improve staff efficiency, and have purchased a new electric car which will be available for our Community Nurses to use to visit patients within their own homes, and for patients to be transported to our Living Well Centre.

We have installed air conditioning in all of our inpatient rooms so we can maintain the temperature in the summer months, and have purchased specialised reclining chairs for our inpatient rooms, both of which will help improve the comfort levels our patients. We have also taken the chance to buy new medical equipment for our inpatient unit such as new vital signs monitors.

We have purchased new training equipment including a tracheostomy simulator, a catheterisation simulator and a complete nurses skills manikin. This equipment will help us continue to upskill our clinical staff and ensure they continue to develop to be able to continue to offer the best care levels for our patients.



Our Living Well Centre has also benefitted from this additional capital funding. We asked our patients if there was anything we could do to improve our services there; Following this we have purchased new furniture which is both comfortable and meets our high infection prevention standards.

Due to the current funding situation in the hospice sector, we would not have been able to do all of these improvement works which will benefit patients for years to come without this additional capital funding, and we are pleased to have been able to spend it in a way which will help us continue to give our patients the best care possible.

The Government required us to spend this additional funding before the end of the financial year which did not give us much time to plan and undertake these improvements, but thanks to the tireless work of our staff, we have been able to finish all these projects within the short timescale, and these improvements will improve our patient care for years to come.



Meet Linda Holding, Speciality Doctor at St Peter & St James Hospice



Q: Welcome Linda!

Can you tell us about your career journey?

I joined St Peter & St James Hospice at the beginning of 2025. The draw for me was the provision of excellent palliative care and I am thrilled to be working with colleagues here who feel the same way.

I was born and grew up in Johannesburg, and studied for my medical degree at the University of Witwatersand (WITS). In 2016, I did my post-graduate studies in Palliative medicine at the University of Cape Town. Initially, I started working in General Practice, but I didn't enjoy such a broad role. I then joined Discovery Health, who own Vitality Health Insurance. I really enjoyed working in the clinical risk management area, heading up various departments in my 21 year career including radiology, pathology and geriatric medicine.

The hospice movement is less developed in South Africa, and whilst the care provided is exceptional, resources in both people and finance are limited. In 2016, Discovery Health launched a ground breaking palliative care programme, the Advanced Illness Benefit (AIB). I feel privileged to have led the team that launched the AIB, the first palliative product in the South African private healthcare market, it's like leaving a legacy.

I decided to follow my newfound passion and do my own thing, and crossed paths with an actuary who shared my interest in palliative medicine, so we launched a value-based care company 'Alignd' in 2019. Alignd is now in its seventh year, and I am proud to say that between the Alignd Palliative Care Programme and the AIB, over 3 million South Africans have access to comprehensive home based palliative care, as part of their health insurance package.

I had been splitting my time between the UK and South Africa as I have family in both, and in July 2023, I decided to move to the UK. I absolutely love working at the hospice, it is caring, compassionate and a great teaching environment with two hands-on consultants as part of our multi-disciplinary team. I consider it an enormous privilege being able to support patients with life-limiting conditions.

Q: What is your role at the hospice?

I am a palliative care trained Speciality Doctor, as opposed to a Consultant. I work on both the inpatient unit (IPU) and in the community supporting our community nurses, and our patients who have complex needs.

Q: Having seen the cost savings that home-based palliative care made to the acute units in South Africa, how could we improve this in the UK?

At Alignd, we describe it as a win-win-win! Patients and their families have home care support, funders and insurers save thousands on hospital bills and the teams delivering the palliative care in the community are properly remunerated for their work.

Whilst I appreciate it's different in the UK with free health care provided by the NHS, I believe that a number of patients in acute hospital beds could be better served by hospice based palliative care specialists, freeing up beds for emergency cases, and more importantly, getting patients home or into a hospice IPU instead of a busy hospital ward.

I am not saying there is an overnight solution, but the government should find a way to pay for end of life care properly and not rely on charities to raise funds to provide this care. Every person deserves 'a good life to the very end', to quote Atul Gawande.

Q: Why do you feel it is important that we talk about dying and death more in the wider community?

The fact remains that it's something that's going to happen to all of us, and none of us know when it's going to happen, so we should all be thinking about our end-of-life wishes. We often see family members unsure about what their loved one would have wanted.

I think that talking about death has become taboo. Now it's sanitised and hidden, but it doesn't have to be morbid- it's about being practical. I encourage people to put an advance care plan together, then go on to live their best life, knowing their wishes are going to be respected.

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love to spend time with family. I am the mother of a son living in London and a daughter in Cape Town, so I also travel a lot! I live in Hadlow, near Tonbridge and spend time regularly with my parents and three of my siblings nearby. I am an avid tennis player, and have joined St John's Tennis Club in Tunbridge Wells. I also love spending time in nature, reading – historical fiction is a favourite – and scrap-booking memories from family holidays.

Living with a life-limiting illness can be challenging and prevent people from doing the things that matter most to them. In this edition, we are pleased to introduce the range of Living Well Centre services available to patients, and their carers, family and friends who support them.

We are fortunate to have a stunning Living Well Centre situated adjacent to the hospice. A bright and modern space, it is welcoming and friendly with regular groups meeting to socialise, chat and enjoy activities.

The team at the Living Well Centre will help people to:

- Focus on what living well means to them.
- Identify their concerns and priorities.
- Find ways to do the things that matter most to them.

I attended my first bereavement café yesterday and will be going again next week. I booked my first complimentary treatment too. It was lovely to chat.

There is a timetable of activities designed to support your physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Initially, one of the team members will meet with you and explore your needs through assessment and discussion. Collaboratively, you can decide what types of activities, groups or individual sessions may be most beneficial for you. This conversation, or subsequent ones, can also include planning for future support to ensure that what we offer continues to reflect your priorities and goals.

Last month's activities for those living with a life-limiting illness included: Aromatherapy*, Reflexology*, Singing for Wellbeing*, Acupuncture, The Watering Hole*, Art for Wellbeing, Reiki*, Creative Writing, Fatigue & Breathlessness Group*, Tabletop Games, Stories for Life, Make do and mend, Relaxation* and Singing Bowls*.

The Living Well team also understand that carers, family and friends can be affected by a loved one's diagnosis and are committed to supporting them too. For Carers, in addition to those asterisked above, which can be attended by carers as well as patients, there is a weekly Carers Café and a Carers Crafting group. Our relationship with the families of patients is there for as long as people need us, with a Remembering Together Café weekly for the bereaved and a monthly walking group.



For more information or to find out about making a referral, please visit the website www.stpjhospice.org or call us on 01444 470218

He enjoyed the company at the Living Well Centre and being able to spend a morning being creative instead of watching TV.

The Living Well Centre is a lifesaver. I would not leave my home otherwise. It keeps me going.

This is what I needed. To have contact with people who are in a similar situation to me, I feel better for it.

In this edition, Robin Knight talks to us about the role of a Trustee, and why he wanted to support the hospice.



Q: Tell us a little about yourself

I grew up in South Devon on the edge of Dartmoor, and I am half-Indian. After finishing my studies, I moved to London and worked in commercial property investment. My wife, Lisa, persuaded me to learn to horse ride, so we used to come down to Mid Sussex to ride every weekend. In fact, it was the horses that decided our move to Sussex in 1996. We lived in North Chailey and Isfield, before finding our dream house in Maresfield. We loved the community we lived in, and our daughter Georgie, now 25, was born at the Princess Royal and attended school locally.

Lisa sadly died at the hospice in January 2011. I live in Seaford now, with my second wife Xanthe, but I still feel very connected to Mid Sussex, not least due to the many, many years commuting from Haywards Heath station!

Q: Why did you choose to become a trustee at St Peter & St James?

Quite simply, it is a way of giving back and helping to ensure this hospice is here for generations to come, to help people at the hardest of times, just like they did for us.

When Lisa was diagnosed in 2008 with a brain tumour, our GP put us in touch with the hospice. At the time, we were sure we wouldn't need the hospice, as Lisa was determined to beat the diagnosis. She did amazingly well and she fought it for as long as she could, but the statistics were against us. The hospice stepped in. They offered practical support like getting a disability sticker for my car and sourcing equipment to maintain Lisa's independence and dignity as long as possible. They offered counselling and advice when needed, and Lisa also came into the hospice for respite care. As Lisa's needs became more complex and demanding, The Living Well Centre became a haven for her, with holistic therapies and art sessions. In fact, she was very cross that it wasn't every day of the week! For me, it felt secure for her to do those things under the gaze of medical experts, it really made life richer at a time when everything was so limited.

When I had to break the news to Lisa that she was dying, one of the hospice doctors sat in the room with me and helped deliver the news and I remember being impressed with the doctor's ability to be strong, sensitive and intelligent in the way she handled it.

Q: What are your commitments as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees?

I became a trustee seven years ago, and the Chair of the Income Generation Committee soon after. I was appointed Vice-Chair of the board over three years ago.

The trustees job is to ensure that our charity carries out its purpose for the public benefit and we are responsible for the hospice's strategy, risk management and financial accountability.

I am still working in property financing and investment, and as a CEO and MD with specialist business experience, I am able to lend my support with land and estates, commercial knowledge and generating income. I have dealt with good times and bad in business, and for a charity, I think that is a useful thing.

As Vice Chair, I also stay connected to what is happening nationally in healthcare. I support and deputise for Harriet, our Chair, and get involved with meeting key stakeholders and supporters.

We have regular board and committee meetings, there are a lot of papers to read, and we have fortnightly zoom updates with Amanda, our CEO. We also attend workshops and training sessions. I calculated that last month alone, I spent the equivalent of seven days reading papers, completing training, chairing meetings, and supporting a land project!

Q: Why are volunteers so important to the hospice?

Put bluntly, we couldn't exist without our 400+ volunteers. Three-quarters of our team are made up of volunteers, and they are across everything we do, from our drivers to our gardeners, event and shop volunteers.

Q: What do you see as the challenges for hospice care in the future?

It's a bleak place for many, with two-thirds of hospices across the UK in deficit. With increased costs, static/falling central government funding and the impact of the cost of living crisis on people donating.

Whilst we aren't in that position, the National insurance rate rise in 2024 had an impact overnight of hundreds of thousands of pounds. Hospices need to stand together. We are part of the Sussex Hospice Alliance which is a platform to unite and influence change. We are also currently collaborating with Southern Hospice Group in projects involving sharing medical and fundraising expertise. We all provide an essential service which is funded only in part by the NHS, and so are very dependent on goodwill funding.

Q: What can people do to support the hospice?

By raising awareness of the hospice at every opportunity: please talk about us, in the pub, at work, with friends. Explain what we do, that our services are free of charge, that we need the community we serve behind us. The truth is that our care is as much about living well as dying well and ensuring our patients can make the absolute most of what time remains to them.

St Peter & St James Hospice

OPEN

Gardens

May - September 2026

NEW
Gardens
for 2026

Hospice Open Garden

9th May, 1-5pm - £5.00

The Old Rectory, Newick

16th May, 2-6pm - £8.00

Lindfield Village, Garden Trail

24th May, 1-5 pm - £8.00

Old Timbers, Burgess Hill

7th June, 2-5.30pm - £8.00

Ringmer Village, Garden Trail

20th & 21st June, 2-5pm - £7.00

Chestnut Farm, Nutley

27th June & 28th June, 2- 6pm - £8.00

Plumpton Village, Garden Trail

28th June, 2-6pm - £6.00

23 Station Street, Lewes

4th July, 10am-4pm - £5.00

Hassocks Village, Garden Trail

5th July, 2-5.30pm - £6.00

Barcombe Village, Garden Trail

5th July, 2-5pm - £6.00

Malthouse Farm, Streat

6th September, 2-5pm - £8.00

Danny House, Hurstpierpoint

13th September, 10am-4pm - £8.00

For more information please visit www.stpjhospice.org

ADOPT A DONKEY



ADOPTION PACK

For just £30 per year you will receive:

- Adoption Certificate
- Miniature donkey soft toy
- 'Signed' photo card from Dudley & Dylan
- History of the hospice and our donkeys
- Update during the year

Scan to adopt!



St Peter & St James Hospice
Registered Charity: 1056114

Visit stpjhospice.org to find out more

75th Anniversary of the Wivelsfield Green Donkey Derbies



Did you know that the hospice wouldn't be here without the famous Wivelsfield Donkey Derbies? The races began in 1951, when Jim Dinnage, who owned the farm where the hospice now stands, rescued a lonely donkey, which inspired him to create "The Donkey Club" and the much-loved derbies. Jim, his wife Susan and the Club saved hundreds of donkeys and raised funds for local children. After Jim died, Susan decided to set up a respite home that later became St Peter & St James Hospice, named in loving memory of Jim and their son, Peter.

To celebrate the derbies 75th Anniversary, you can meet our two resident donkeys at our Open Garden launch on Saturday 9th May.



Find out all the facts about the derbies, ask questions, and even adopt the donkeys, which will help keep the hospice running for generations to come.



St Peter & St James Hospice

**Working together
to fund hospice
care locally**

Support local families in need by helping to
fund essential hospice care in **YOUR** community!



Play the lottery where all of your weekly £1 entries will
make a BIG difference to **St Peter & St James Hospice!**



Win up to **£25,000**
312 cash prizes
every week!

£2,000
prize
every week!

PLUS
4 x £10,000
Super Draws
annually

Join: www.localhospicelottery.org/play4spj
Call: **freephone 0800 316 0645**



**Scan the QR
code to play
and help
TODAY!**



All players must be
aged 18 or over

GambleAware
Play the Local Hospice Lottery responsibly



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