

Newsletter

ISSUE 25 | SUMMER 2025



Every Donation, Brings Care Home

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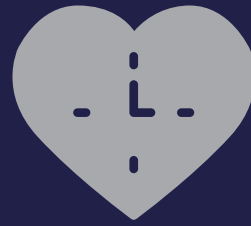
East Lancashire
Hospice



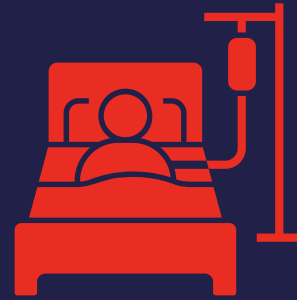
Our Year in Numbers 2024– 2025



Hospice at Home team carried out 2,321 visits



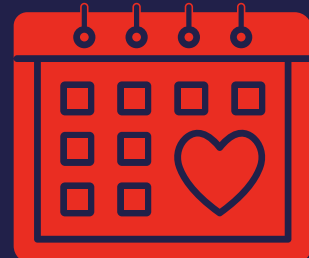
Hospice at Home team gave 9,412 hours of care to patients in the community



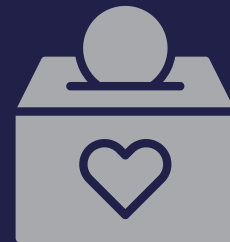
10 beds on the Inpatient Unit



98,010 items sold in our charity shops



Patients in the community were cared for by the Hospice at Home team for an average of 71.5 days



4,594 people made a donation to the hospice



31% of Hospice at Home patients that were cared for had non-cancer life-limiting illnesses



1,500 pies sold by Café Retreat



42 new members of staff



Hospice at Home: Compassionate Care Where it Matters Most – Home

At East Lancashire Hospice, we believe that everyone deserves compassionate, dignified care in the place they feel most comfortable – their own home. Our Hospice at Home service provides a range of support from a dedicated team of nurses and healthcare assistants to people living with a life-limiting illness across Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn, and the Ribble Valley.

This service ensures patients can receive high-quality palliative and end-of-life care in familiar surroundings, helping to enhance quality of life, provide comfort, and preserve dignity. Last year, our Hospice at Home team carried out **2,321 visits** to offer support to our patients and their family/friends with a total of **9,412 hours** of care given. On average, patients were supported for **71.5 days**, with **31% living with non-cancer life-limiting conditions**.

There are **two ways** to be referred to the Hospice at Home team:

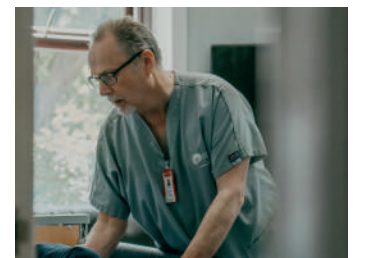
- Through healthcare professionals such as your **GP or district nurse**, or
- By **self-referral**, via our **website** or by **telephone**.

With your consent, our team will coordinate with other professionals involved in your care to ensure a smooth and consistent approach. Once a referral is received, a **Hospice at Home nurse** will visit to carry out an initial assessment and develop a **Care Plan** – addressing your emotional, physical, social, and practical needs.

Following this, our compassionate **Healthcare Assistants** provide day and night care tailored to individual needs, helping to maintain physical and emotional wellbeing. To ensure ongoing support, our **Supportive Care Coordinators** also make weekly phone calls to patients and their families, helping identify any changing needs or additional support.

Available **seven days a week**, Hospice at Home is designed to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions by offering flexible, person-centred care. It also facilitates a smooth transition from hospital to home, supporting patients as they await further care. Importantly, our team respects personal choices and empowers people to be cared for – and, if they wish, to die – in their own home.

Your support makes this possible. Your donations directly fund the care we provide – helping us continue to be there for those who need us most.



Support When it's Needed Most: Fahrat and Habib's Story



For Fahrat and her mother, caring for her father, Habib Nawaz, has been an emotional and physically demanding journey.

Habib lives with both dementia and Parkinson's disease; life-limiting illnesses that require constant attention and care. When things became too overwhelming, East Lancashire Hospice's Hospice at Home team stepped in to help, transforming daily life for the whole family.

"We've been receiving care from the Hospice at Home team for about a year and a half now," Fahrat explains. "Me and my mum were really struggling before. It was the district nurse who first introduced us to East Lancashire Hospice, and since then, the support has been absolutely brilliant."

Initially, the family began with night visits to help manage Habib's disrupted sleep. **"At night, my dad doesn't sleep, so caring for him 24/7 became exhausting for both of us,"** she shares. **"The night visits gave us some much-needed rest. After a while, we decided to have some day visits, which gave us a break and the chance to take mum out, knowing dad was in safe hands."**

The difference this care has made to their lives is profound. **"We honestly couldn't have managed without them,"** says Fahrat. **"East Lancashire Hospice not only helps my dad, but they've helped us, mentally and physically. It gives us peace of mind, knowing we're not doing it all alone."**

Fahrat is especially passionate about encouraging others in the Muslim community to reach out for support. **"Less than 5% of our Muslim community receives care from East Lancashire Hospice. I know what it's like, we try as a community to do everything ourselves and not ask for help. But it's so important to know the hospice is here for everyone. I was in the same situation, me and my mum, we couldn't cope any longer. I'm so glad we reached out to the hospice. They really do take a huge burden off your shoulders."**

She urges members of the Muslim community not to hesitate. **"It's important to reach out. Any family struggling with care, please get in touch with the hospice. They will help you more than you can imagine."**

And when it comes to supporting East Lancashire Hospice, Fahrat is clear: **"This is a free service, but it needs donations to survive. The hospice needs funding to reach more homes and support more families like ours. Every donation helps bring care to those who need it most."**

For Fahrat, her mother, and many families across Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley, East Lancashire Hospice provides so much more than care – it's life-changing.

With your donation, you can help to 'Bring Care Home'.

Meet Corinne Collier, our Head of Hospice at Home

"I was honoured to receive the Queen's Nurse title from The Queen's Nursing Institute, which recognises commitment to community nursing and patient care. It connects me with a network of like-minded nurses, and through shared learning and leadership, we work together to improve care in communities."

"East Lancashire Hospice puts people, not just illness, at the centre of care. I work alongside other services to meet the full range of needs for patients and families. Having lived experience of disability in my own family, I care deeply about inclusion and carer support. I'm proud to be part of a team that shares these values and ensures no one faces challenges alone. The hospice is a place of hope, care, and compassion – whether that's in the building or in people's homes."



Tony and Maureen's Story with Hospice at Home



For Tony Ford and his partner of 30 years, Maureen Simpson, East Lancashire Hospice's Hospice at Home service has become a vital source of comfort, connection, and care.

Tony, from Great Harwood, lives with dementia, and as his health has declined, the support of the Hospice at Home team has made a meaningful difference to both him and Maureen.

"The support that East Lancashire Hospice provide is just incredible," Tony shared. **"When you're struggling with a life-limiting illness, it means so much to have someone come in and help you through the day. You find yourself looking forward to their visits. It's very comforting."**

Maureen, who is Tony's main carer, agrees wholeheartedly. **"We've been using the service since just before Christmas, and we're so pleased with the care we've received. It's given us a real sense of security."**

Their decision to use the Hospice at Home service was an easy one. **"Tony's not very mobile anymore, and without a car, getting to the hospice would be difficult. This way, we get the support we need right here in our own home,"** Maureen explained.

The couple particularly appreciate the personal touch the nurses bring. **"They don't just check in medically, they take time to chat, to get to know you,"** said Tony. **"That kind of connection makes the day more meaningful."**

Maureen added, **"When they're here, I can step away and do some shopping or just have a little time to myself, knowing Tony is in safe hands. That break is so important. It's what carers need."**

Their journey with the hospice began through their district nurse, who suggested reaching out to East Lancashire Hospice. After a visit and a tour of the facilities, they were introduced to the full range of services offered, and haven't looked back since.

To others who might be unsure about using the service, Tony has a clear message: **"Don't hesitate. It makes such a difference, not just to the person who's unwell, but to their carers, friends and family too."**

Tony also urges people to support the hospice however they can. **"It's a free service, but it only runs because of donations. If people didn't donate, how would you keep such an incredible place going? Every penny helps bring this level of care into people's homes. It really is exceptional."**

Thanks to the Hospice at Home service, Tony and Maureen can face each day with a little more peace, dignity, and joy.

With your support, you can ensure that more families like Tony and Maureen can benefit from compassionate care from the comfort of their own home.

With your donation, you can help to 'Bring Care Home'.

A Lifeline at Home: Kay and Harry's Story

For Kay and her husband Harry, East Lancashire Hospice's Hospice at Home service has become much more than care: it's a lifeline.

Harry, from Accrington, was diagnosed with vascular dementia nearly 16 years ago. As the condition has progressed, life at home has brought increasing challenges. But with the help of the Hospice at Home nurses, his wife, Kay, has found crucial support – both for Harry and herself.

"We've used the service for quite a while now," Kay says. "And honestly, I don't know what I'd do without them. They are an absolute lifeline."

As Harry's primary carer, Kay manages most of his day-to-day needs, including washing and dressing. But the demands of caring for someone with dementia around the clock can be exhausting. That's where the Hospice at Home team makes a real difference.

"When the nurses come, I can just have five minutes to myself, even if that's to do the washing or some ironing, I get a break. Harry calls for me constantly, 'Where are you? What are you doing? Why aren't you sitting here with me?', but when the nurses are here, it gives me time to breathe. Time to get a wash on. Time to rest. Time to sleep. That's what keeps me going."

The service the couple receive is mainly during the night; crucial in a household where restful sleep is hard to come by.

"If I go to bed, Harry follows me," Kay explains. "Even when we try to nap in the afternoon, he'll often talk through the whole thing. But knowing someone else is there during the night, it gives me peace. It keeps me sane."

Importantly, it's not just Kay who benefits from the Hospice at Home service. Harry has developed a rapport with the nurses, which brings him comfort and routine. **"He's really getting used to them now," Kay says with a smile. "They're lovely, every one of them."**

Reflecting on the value of the service, Kay is clear: **"East Lancashire Hospice is more than what people think. They help in ways you don't always expect. That one visit makes such a huge difference."**

"As a community, we need to support the hospice – they need it," shares Kay. "And because every donation helps to bring care home, families like ours; we wouldn't manage without them."

For Kay and Harry, and countless other families across Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley, East Lancashire Hospice is a vital lifeline, providing so much more than compassionate care.

With your donation, you can help to 'Bring Care Home'.



Your Donation, Brings Care Home

Each year, East Lancashire Hospice has to raise more than £4 Million to provide compassionate care, free of charge to those living with life-limiting illnesses across Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley.

We believe that everyone deserves compassionate, dignified care in the place they feel most comfortable – their own home.

With your support, we can continue to provide specialised care in the comfort of people's homes.

Your Donation, Brings Care Home.

Your donation of £30 could provide any of the below for our patients and their family/friends:



Assist with mobility, keeping patients comfortable



Support patients with night visits and monitoring health



Create an Advanced Care Plan



Provide M-Technique Massage Therapy



Support a patient's personal care including feeding and hydration



Enable family/friends with respite



Build relationships and provide companionship



Assist with memory-making activities for patients and their family/friends



Support with daily activities, such as helping patients get ready for the day

**Scan to
Donate
£30**



Breaking Barriers – Inspiring a New Generation!

At East Lancashire Hospice, we believe in the power of community and education to break down barriers and encourage open conversations about hospice care.

Over the last few months, we have partnered with Hippings Methodist Primary School in Oswaldtwistle to help young minds understand what a hospice is, why it is so important, and the many ways it supports individuals and families.

For many, the word ‘hospice’ can feel daunting, often associated with sadness and end-of-life care. However, through this initiative, the Year 4 pupils at Hippings Methodist Primary School have learned that hospices are not just places for the end of life – they are places of care, support, and joy.

During their visits to East Lancashire Hospice, the children met patients in our **Support and Wellbeing Therapies** department and spent time with our **Creative and Support Therapies (CaST)** team. They joined in with singing groups, danced with patients, took part in physiotherapy sessions, played games, and even explored the **Complementary Therapy** rooms, where they learned about aromatherapy and the importance of relaxation; helping to change perceptions from a young age.

The impact of these interactions was felt by both the children and the patients. One patient in particular was Ellen who attends the sessions in CaST twice a week. She shared:

“Having the children visit the hospice was so beautiful. At first, they were sitting very quietly and were quite shy, but then gradually, you saw all of their different personalities come out, and they were singing and dancing. It was beautiful. Everybody, all the patients afterwards were saying how much they enjoyed the session.”

When asked about the importance of educating young children about hospice care, Ellen replied:

“Children need to know more about hospice care; it’s so important. I know it’s sort of sad in a way, but having the children visit has shown them that we’re not just in bed poorly – they see us enjoying ourselves, singing and dancing. It shows them that we’re having fun and that we’ve still got a lot to offer.”

The programme didn’t just stop at the hospice. Patients from CaST later visited the primary school, where they were welcomed with singing, dancing, and an arts and crafts session – a transformative learning experience. The joy and connection between generations were evident, with smiles all around.

Headteacher Mrs Westwell, and Class 4 teacher Miss Eccles, reflected on the impact of the project:



“It’s important for children to learn about hospice care from a young age so they don’t become scared. Some of the children have family members with cancer, and now they understand the different services available. It gives them hope and insight – it’s not all doom and gloom, and it helps to remove fear.”

“It has been a positive learning experience for the children. They have grown emotionally in their understanding and haven’t stopped talking about meeting and helping the patients.”

By engaging with patients and seeing first-hand the joy and care that a hospice provides, the pupils have developed a greater sense of empathy and understanding. Many of them have expressed interest in continuing their involvement with the hospice and supporting charitable causes in the future.

One pupil summed up their experience beautifully:

“Isn’t it good that the patients are so happy, even though they are so poorly?”

The success of this programme highlights the importance of normalising conversations about hospice care, death, and dying. By starting these conversations early, we can remove fear and stigma, ensuring that future generations understand that hospices are places of warmth, care, and life.

If you’d like to get involved with this initiative, get in touch with our fundraising team:
fundraising@eastlancshospice.org.uk

Gill’s Story



“I have no control over my diagnosis, and I know I need to make sure I take care of myself,” says hospice patient, Gill.

After being diagnosed with a brain tumour, Gill has been a frequent face at East Lancashire Hospice, attending our Creative and Supportive Therapies (CaST) group.

Gill was diagnosed with a brain tumour after experiencing the same ‘weird sensation’ within a matter of months.

After being diagnosed over three years ago, Gill was referred to the hospice where she could get the help she needed.

Since then, Gill has remained a familiar face at our CaST sessions where she has made new friends, developed new skills and gained confidence.

Our Creative and Support Therapies sessions help patients to develop strategies to overcome life’s obstacles, set goals and be supported to achieve them. The therapies aim to increase confidence and independence, empowering patients to manage their day-to-day life.

Patients who attend our CaST sessions are supported to participate in planned programmes using art, craft, music, exercise, outdoor activity, conversation, discussion, debate and reflection. Through activity, patients share life experiences, connect with others and gain new skills.

“I was happy to have a go at anything – and there is something for everyone in CaST. I try to come at least once a week and I’ve had a go at yoga, singing, aromatherapy and crafts. It’s a place to relax and enjoy gardening, music, or crafts.”

“I find it easier to speak to people in CaST. You can discuss things that you’re feeling and know people understand what you’re talking about. You can chat to people who get it. I highly recommend East Lancashire Hospice. I love it here. It’s such a nice place to take time for yourself with people who get you.”

For more information on our CaST sessions or the services provided at East Lancashire Hospice, visit **eastlancshospice.org.uk**

VE Day Celebrations for CaST Patients

East Lancashire Hospice brought the spirit of the 1940s to life with a VE Day celebration, marking the 80th anniversary. CaST patients and their families arrived in wartime fancy dress, ready to enjoy a day filled with nostalgia and cheer. Live singers performed beloved classics, prompting many to join in and sing along, with others dancing a waltz.



Bereavement Support Group

Grief is complicated. It can be all-consuming, debilitating and isolating. It is a personal journey, but you don’t have to go through it alone.

Our groups are open to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one within the last three years. There is no cost and no pressure to share.

For further information, please contact our Family Support Team on **01254 965857** or visit **eastlancshospice.org.uk**



Corporate Support Opportunities!

Is your business looking to make a meaningful difference to the local community? From corporate volunteering and partnerships

to ambassador roles, our Enterprise Hero scheme, or taking part in our Corporate Challenge – there's something to suit every business. To find out more contact fundraising@eastlancshospice.org.uk

FUNDRAISING WHAT'S ON GUIDE

SPRING/SUMMER 2025



Facebook: [eastlancshospice](https://www.facebook.com/eastlancshospice)
Twitter: [east-lancshire-hospice](https://twitter.com/east-lancshire-hospice)
Instagram: [eastlancshospice](https://www.instagram.com/eastlancshospice)



Summer What's On Guide

From our Star Wars Fun Day to the legendary Morecambe Bay Walk, Classic Car Shows to the hilarious Gravy Wrestling Championship, and our renowned Ribble Valley Pub Walk, there's no shortage of ways to have fun while making a difference to East Lancashire Hospice.

Every step, splash, and smile helps to raise vital funds for the hospice – so get involved, enjoy a fantastic day out, and support a cause that truly matters!

Pick up your copy of our Summer What's On Guide from one of our charity shops or download it from our website.

#MakingTheMostOfLife

Celebrating a Decade of Giving During Ramadan

East Lancashire Hospice has celebrated its 10th annual Ramadan Appeal, which this year, has raised an incredible £12,000 for the hospice. Over the last decade, the campaign has raised over £90,000 for East Lancashire Hospice; helping to support patient care.

Originally organised by Suleman Khonat, a long-time supporter of East Lancashire Hospice, the Ramadan appeal has been running since 2015. Inspired to make a difference, Suleman and his family launched the appeal after his wife, Rabia, was cared for by the hospice and later died. Suleman launched the appeal to give back to the hospice by encouraging Lillah donations from the local Muslim community during Ramadan.

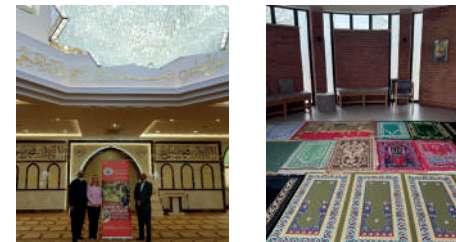
Over the past decade, the Ramadan Appeal has grown into a community effort supported by mosques and individuals across Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley.

"The Ramadan Appeal has become one of our most meaningful and unifying fundraising efforts," said Jackie Morris, Community Fundraiser at East Lancashire Hospice. **"We are so grateful to Suleman and to every individual and mosque who has supported us over the past 10 years. Your generosity ensures we can continue to provide specialist care and comfort to local people and families when they need it most."**

Reflecting on a decade of dedication, Suleman Khonat added: **"This appeal started as a tribute to my late wife, Rabia, and it has become something much bigger – a reflection of the compassion and strength of our community. I'm proud of what we've achieved together and incredibly thankful to everyone who continues to support the hospice year after year."**

In honour of the holy month and to thank the community for their continued support, East Lancashire Hospice hosted a special Iftar event at Café Retreat on 17th March 2025. Over 70 guests attended the event and came together as a community to break fast. The event was featured in a live broadcast by ITV's Granada Reports programme, showcasing the power of community and compassion behind the appeal.

If you or someone you know have been inspired by this story and would like to raise money for East Lancashire Hospice during Ramadan, please get in touch with our team: fundraising@eastlancshospice.org.uk or call 01254 965877.



A Leap of Faith: David's Skydive in Memory of his Mum

On 30th August 2024, East Lancashire Hospice supporter, David Connoley, took fundraising to new heights – quite literally – by completing a tandem skydive at 15,000 feet. What made this incredible challenge even more inspiring? David is visually impaired.

David took on the skydive in memory of his beloved mum, who died ten years ago. **"I was thinking about Ma the whole way,"** David shared. **"She wouldn't even let me go on escalators when I was young – she'd have panicked if she was watching! But doing this for East Lancashire Hospice meant something to me. It made it extra special."**

Months of planning and assessments with his support worker led to the big day at Black Knights Parachute Centre, where David became the second visually impaired person ever to complete a skydive with the team. Instructor, Paul, guided him every step of the way – describing each moment from boarding the plane, to feeling the wind rush past as the door opened and the countdown began.

"I could hear the other jumpers being called forward, the planes landing and taking off – it built the excitement," David recalled. **"Then I felt my legs hanging out of the plane, and we were falling! The freefall was the best part. I felt so free."**

The parachute opened, and David floated gently down to the cheers of around 30 friends and family members who had gathered to support him. In total, he raised an amazing £400 for East Lancashire Hospice.

David's story is one of courage and is a powerful reminder of the incredible things people can do in memory of their loved ones.

If David's leap of faith has inspired you, and you'd like to take on a challenge or organise your own fundraiser in support of East Lancashire Hospice, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with our fundraising team by emailing: fundraising@eastlancshospice.org.uk



BLACK KNIGHTS
Skydiving
Centre

Celebrating World Book Day in Style!

On Thursday 6th March 2025, East Lancashire Hospice Charity Shops came together in a vibrant celebration of World Book Day, bringing communities together through the joy of reading and a shared love of stories.

The Clitheroe Kids shop held special storytime sessions throughout the day, with staff and volunteers dressing up as beloved characters from children's books. The team created a magical atmosphere for young visitors as families were invited to the shop and enjoyed the storytime sessions, making the shop a hub of imagination and laughter.

Across all East Lancashire Hospice Charity Shops, families could also pick up a range of affordable fancy dress costumes – perfect for getting little ones ready for their own school World Book Day celebrations.

The Great Harwood shop stole the show with an eye-catching window display that transformed the shopfront into a true work of art. Volunteer, Pauline Timperley, took the lead in crafting a literary-themed



masterpiece, decorating the display with books and pages that brought the world of literature to life. Her creativity and dedication turned heads, reminding everyone of the magic held between the pages of a good book.

The event not only celebrated World Book Day, but highlighted the incredible efforts of our staff and volunteers. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day one to remember!

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Meet Dionne Eaton, our Great Harwood Retail Manager



"With over 33 years' experience in retail – much of it as a business owner – I've always had a passion for customer service and community connection. I previously worked in the charity retail sector with Cornwall Hospice Care, where I managed several stores and discovered just how rewarding it is to work for a cause that makes a difference."

"After relocating to the North West and falling in love with the area, I was excited to return to charity retail. When I came across the opportunity to manage the East Lancashire Hospice shop in Great Harwood, I knew it would be a perfect fit.

"I absolutely love working for East Lancashire Hospice – the Great Harwood shop has a real charm, and our volunteers are truly wonderful. Great Harwood itself has a strong sense of community, especially along the high street. I've enjoyed getting to know many of the local businesses, and I feel proud to be part of such a welcoming area."

"The Great Harwood shop offers a fantastic selection of high-quality preloved clothing, unique bric-a-brac, beautiful jewellery, handbags, shoes, and a great selection of jigsaws. Best of all, every customer is guaranteed a warm welcome from our friendly and dedicated team.

"If you're passing the Great Harwood shop, pop in and say hello!"

#MakingTheMostOfLife

More Than a Shop: Celebrating our Amazing Charity Shops!

During April, our East Lancashire Hospice Charity Shops proudly took part in the Charity Retail Association's 'More Than a Shop' campaign – a nationwide celebration of the unique roles charity shops play in our local communities.

The campaign highlighted a simple but powerful message: charity shops are no regular high street shopping experience – by encouraging local communities to shop preloved during the week, they are so much more!

At East Lancashire Hospice, our shops are more than just places to find a great bargain or donate preloved items. They are welcoming community hubs, spaces for volunteers to connect, learn new skills, and make a difference. Every purchase made and every item donated helps to raise money, enabling our team to provide compassionate care to those with life-limiting illnesses.



Did you know?

In 2024/25 our charity shops sold a huge 98,010 items!

Chinese-Style Vegetables

Our Chef, Lee, has shared one of his signature light dishes – a great accompaniment to grilled fish, chicken or even duck, it's perfect for summer! Try this delicious dish at Café Retreat.



Ingredients

- 15g Mange tout
- ½ Red chilli (finely chopped)
- ¼ Red pepper (finely sliced)
- ½ Clove of garlic (finely sliced)
- ½ Inch of ginger (finely grated)
- 30 Bean sprouts (approx)
- ½ Medium carrot
- ¼ White of leek (finely chopped)
- ¼ Yellow pepper (finely sliced)
- Fresh coriander
- Sesame oil
- Vegetable oil

Equipment

- Large mixing bowl
- Chopping knife
- Wok
- Wooden spoon

Method

1. Finely slice the mange tout, carrots, leek and peppers.
2. Finely dice the garlic, ginger and chillies.
3. Mix all of the ingredients together in a large bowl.
4. Empty the ingredients into the wok and stir-fry using the vegetable/sesame oil.
5. Add the chopped coriander to the wok at the last second to keep it fresh.

Top Tips:

- Be careful not to overcook the vegetables, as this can make them soggy!
- If you're not eating straight away, store in a container, label and date.

13

Meet Kay, our Supervisor at Café Retreat



Kay has been a friendly face at Café Retreat for almost four years, working as a supervisor. Before starting her role, Kay already had a connection to East Lancashire Hospice through friends who worked there. **"My friends always spoke so highly of the hospice and how amazing it was to work there, so when I saw a position advertised at Café Retreat, I applied and the rest is history!"**

When asked about her favourite part of the job, Kay says it's the people that make it so special. **"I meet**

such a diverse range of individuals – from patients and their families, to CaST patients and regular Café Retreat customers. Everyone has their own story, and I feel privileged to listen and offer a personal service. It's incredibly rewarding."

Her go-to dish? The ever-popular cheese and onion pie! One of Kay's most cherished memories is working during the festive season. **"The atmosphere at Christmas is amazing – we're busy with Christmas lunches, we host a special three-course meal for staff and volunteers, and we create wonderful festive menus and moments for our patients. It's a time full of variety, connection, and joy – and I love being part of it."**

Did you know?

Café Retreat is available for private hire and outside catering, with all profits supporting patient care!

Contact lee.hyatt@eastlancshospice.org.uk to find out more information.



Life of Pie!

Choose from the following fillings: **Cheese and Onion, Chicken, Leek and Mushroom, or Meat.** Call our team to place your order, just make sure to order 24 hours in advance – **01254 965862.**

Our signature homemade pies serve up to 6 people and are **£7.95 each or 4 for £30!**

This is Hospice Care: Hospice UK's Gifts in Wills Legacy Campaign

143 Hospices across the nation came together as part of Hospice UK's National Gifts in Wills Legacy campaign, 'This is Hospice Care', aiming to change perceptions of Hospice Care.

Facilitated by Hospice UK, the campaign raised awareness of the vital role hospices play, aiming to shift public perceptions and encourage people to leave a gift in their Will to their local hospice, to ensure that hospices can continue to provide essential services and specialist care for future generations.

The campaign, which launched on Monday 17th February, captured the hearts and minds of the nation through a powerful TV advert based on real-life hospice stories.

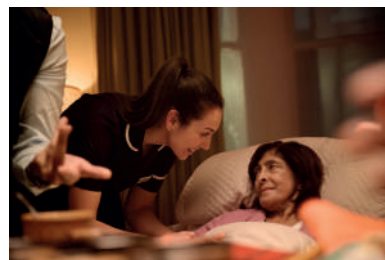
By 2040, the number of annual deaths in the UK is expected to rise by 130,000, with 90% due to natural causes — these are the people who could benefit from the care hospices provide.

The increase in demand will place unprecedented pressure on our hospices, which already rely on support and funding from their local community to provide services.

"If we don't start planning now, the gap in hospice care could become very real. This is why we're urging people to consider leaving a gift in their Will to ensure we can continue to support our community in the years to come," shared Nicola Hanna, our Director of Income Generation.

Currently, **one in four people in the UK dies without the care and support they need.** By leaving a gift in your Will to East Lancashire Hospice, you're helping us to care for our community.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to East Lancashire Hospice, please visit eastlancshospice.org.uk/legacy or call 01254 965877.



THIS IS HOSPICE CARE

A Heartwarming Reunion in the Hospice Gardens

A special visitor trotted into the gardens of East Lancashire Hospice to bring some sunshine and smiles to one of our patients on the Inpatient Unit.

Fflur the horse came to see her beloved grandma, Eileen Purdey, creating a truly unforgettable moment for all who witnessed it. Intrigued by the hospice gardens and pond, in particular our resident plastic flamingo, Fflur enjoyed a few carrots and even looked ready for a nap in the sunshine.

Fflur, a rescue horse from HAPPA (Horse & Pony Protection Association), was found abandoned in Wales at just 18 months old. Since then, she's been lovingly cared for by Eileen's daughter, Holly, and has been part of the family for the past seven years.

Holly said, **"She recognised my mum straight away and didn't want to leave her side."**

Moments like these reflect the warmth and compassion that make East Lancashire Hospice such a special place.



Making a Difference, Every Hour

From April 2024 to March 2025, our volunteers continued to make an incredible impact. With 272 dedicated volunteers working an average of 3 hours each per week, the savings to East Lancashire Hospice are truly remarkable.

Based on the minimum wage for 2024, our volunteers save the hospice on average **£485,422.08 each year.**

We are forever grateful to our volunteers and for the ongoing support they provide to our patients and their families each day.



Alyson's Story: From Visitor to Volunteer



Alyson's journey with East Lancashire Hospice first started when her son-in-law, Lee, aged 38, died from bowel cancer at the hospice.

After making craft mementoes with her grandchildren as part of the hospice's Creative Connections service, Alyson decided to volunteer and

support the Creative and Supportive Therapies (CaST) team.

She said: **"I looked after my grandchildren a lot while Lee was at the hospice. Liz, who ran CaST used to open up on a Saturday especially for the children so that they could do crafts and make little mementoes. I didn't know this kind of activity existed at the hospice."**

When the children went to school, Alyson was invited to volunteer – and she has been running weekly craft sessions ever since.

Speaking about her introduction to the hospice, Alyson shared: **"East Lancashire Hospice was so helpful. The grandchildren still remember playing in the hospice gardens and they created a lot of positive memories at East Lancashire Hospice. The**

hospice had a big impact on helping a young family and helped us come to terms with Lee's death."

"Volunteering makes you feel like you've achieved something. Patients might come in one day and not be in a great place, but they leave laughing and joking. People can be themselves, whatever they're going through," said Alyson.

Alyson, a former special needs teacher, lives on a farm and learnt to needlefelt during lockdown. Now, she picks up the fleece from the field, washes it, cards it and brings it into the hospice for the patients to use to make their own creations.

"None of the patients had done needlefelt before and now they're obsessed with it! It's great stress relief," shared Alyson.

Speaking about volunteering at the CaST sessions, Alyson said: **"It's something I look forward to each week. I love crafting. I look forward to seeing people and having a laugh. I enjoy coming to East Lancashire Hospice! A lot of the people who attend the CaST sessions live alone, so these sessions provide them with company. They become friends and check up on one another."**

If you'd like to find out about volunteering at East Lancashire Hospice, please contact our team by calling 01254 965830 or recruitment@eastlancshospice.org.uk



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