

Newsletter

ISSUE 26 | WINTER 2025



A Christmas to Remember

Read more on pages 4-7



 [eastlancashirehospice](#)
 [east-lancashire-hospice](#)
 [eastlancshospice](#)





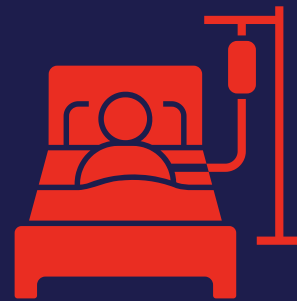
Our Year in Numbers 2024– 2025



**Hospice at Home
team carried out
2,321 visits**



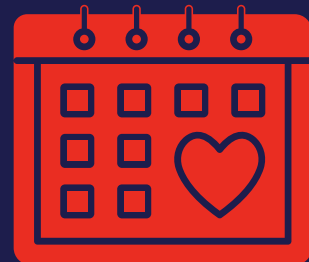
**Hospice at Home team
gave 9,412 hours of care
to patients in the
community**



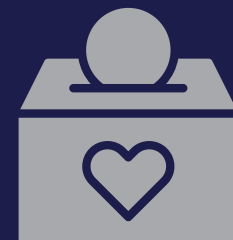
**10 beds on the
Inpatient Unit**



**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**

A New Era For East Lancashire Hospice

East Lancashire Hospice is proud to reveal a new brand identity – a bold step forward that reflects who we are today, the care we provide, and the future we're building.

For forty years, we've supported people across Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley through some of life's most difficult times. While our care has continued to evolve, our old brand no longer reflects our warmth, vibrancy, or the uplifting experience people find within our Hospice.

Many people who haven't used our services have forgotten about us entirely. Visitors often tell us they "didn't know where we were" or expect a sad, clinical place, only to be surprised by the warmth, laughter and genuine care they find inside.

This misunderstanding goes beyond perception; it affects our ability to raise funds and build partnerships. Our old brand is getting lost among more modern charities; it doesn't stand out or resonate. And without sustainable funding, our future is at risk.

Our two-year rebrand journey has been shaped by hundreds of voices, patients, families, staff, volunteers, local businesses and supporters. Together, we've created a brand that truly captures the spirit of East Lancashire Hospice: compassionate, positive and focused on helping people make the most of life.

Our new identity is more than just a logo. It reflects our holistic approach to care, supporting physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual wellbeing and meets full accessibility standards to ensure everyone feels welcome.

The new design has strong Lancashire roots with a connection to the Lancashire Red Rose, resonating with the people we support and connecting our community, just like the Hospice. We are at the heart of our community for the people of Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley, and each of the four petals reflects this.

While our look has changed, our purpose has not. We remain committed to putting patients and their loved ones at the heart of everything we do. This new brand simply brings that to life, helping us stand out, change outdated perceptions, and ensure East Lancashire Hospice continues to be visible, trusted and valued for generations to come.

Kind Regards,

Hilary Barrett

CEO of East Lancashire Hospice



A Christmas to Remember

For Maurice and his wife Jean, East Lancashire Hospice has been a lifeline of support and care for the past three years.



Jean, who has been diagnosed with syringomyelia, a rare neurological disorder, COPD and breast cancer, has been receiving support from the Hospice at Home team at East Lancashire Hospice.

Maurice shares: **"If I need to go out for some shopping or if I have a hospital appointment, I just ring the Hospice at Home team, and someone will come and stay with Jean while I go out."**

"I don't like leaving Jean on her own, it gives me comfort knowing that she's OK while I'm out. Jean looks forward to their visits, she likes chatting to the nurses, and they make her feel relaxed and comfortable."

Maurice's connection to East Lancashire Hospice started well before using the Hospice services: **"I first came into contact with East Lancashire Hospice over 40 years ago. I was one of the bricklayers who helped to build the Hospice building on Park Lee Road. I built most of the inside walls and some of the outside walls too; I worked on the building from the very beginning, and it's still there now!"**

Jean and Maurice never imagined they would one day need the Hospice's support. But for many families across East Lancashire, the Hospice can make a life-changing difference, often when it's least expected.

Make moments matter this Christmas, with your donation.

For June Buck from Blackburn, East Lancashire Hospice has become a place of transformation, both physically and emotionally.

After her husband and carer, Kev, died suddenly, June had to live with life-limiting illnesses alone, whilst grieving the death of her partner.

Having been diagnosed with complex illnesses, including heart failure, kidney disease, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, and more, June's mobility was limited – unable to access the upstairs of her home for over six years.

June was first referred to the Bereavement Support Team at East Lancashire Hospice, and after receiving care, was later referred to the bathing service and CaST (Creative and Support Therapies).

Since then, June has accessed the bathing service regularly, and as a result, her mobility has been restored to around 50%. Once entirely reliant on a wheelchair, June is now able to walk again with a stick.

"On the day of my husband's funeral, I had every friend in the world, but as you start to live life afterwards, you realise how lonely you really are – that is, until I came to CaST. We're all like-minded and of an age, but it's so good. We sing and we dance; I never thought I'd sing and dance again after my husband died. I even stood up without my stick, the staff are really helping me!" said June.

June values the hard work and determination of the staff and volunteers and the care that the Hospice provides: **"They don't leave angels in heaven, they send them down to us, to work at East Lancashire**



Hospice. You come to the Hospice a stranger and you leave as a member of the family.

"I used to think the Hospice was for people who were dying. We all have life-limiting illnesses, and I'm aware of that, but the Hospice helps you to live and not to give up."

"If everyone gave £5 to East Lancashire Hospice instead of buying their weekly coffee, it could make such a difference. Think about what the Hospice could do for you, for your parents and grandparents. We've got to make sure that funds are raised and that people are aware of hospice care, because without it, people would suffer."

Support people like June, with your donation.

For Kelly, a nurse on the Inpatient Unit at East Lancashire Hospice, the value of hospice care within the local community is something she sees every day; especially at Christmastime.

Kelly shared: **"There's a lot of love at East Lancashire Hospice. We see families at one of life's most crucial moments and help ease their pain and make them comfortable. The team I work with are one of the most caring and compassionate teams I've ever worked with."**

The ten-bedded Inpatient Unit at the Hospice caters for those with a range of life-limiting illnesses, and it's a common misconception that hospices only care for those with cancer. Common non-cancerous life-limiting illnesses include Parkinson's, MND, dementia, chronic kidney failure, and heart failure.

"There are a lot of different conditions that we care for, and it's about making sure each of our patients are as comfortable as they possibly can be. We give them dignity in dying and support their families."

"The support we offer ranges from symptom management, medication reviews, end-of-life care, pain relief and much more. Patients come to the Hospice to get the care they need; they can come and get their medications altered and get discharged. Many think that once you're admitted on to the Inpatient Unit, that's the end – but it definitely doesn't mean that at all."

East Lancashire Hospice is known for going the extra mile; from hosting weddings and date nights to organising games evenings and memory-making activities, there's always something special to bring joy to patients and their friends and family.



"At Christmastime, the Hospice is a lovely place to be," shared Kelly. **"We have decorations and twinkling lights on the Inpatient Unit. For those that are unable to go home, we have Christmas lunches available and a buffet on Boxing Day for patients and their friends and families. A brass band plays on Christmas Eve and a live singer performs on New Year's Eve. We make sure that everybody's got something to open on Christmas Day and help families to make special memories."**

Make it a Christmas to remember, with your donation.

Lynne Buckle from Blackburn has been accessing the Bereavement Support services from East Lancashire Hospice, following the death of both her mother and father.

"My mother died of lung cancer at home," shared Lynne. **"Ten months later, my father died, and was supported by the Hospice at Home team."**

Following the death of her mother, Lynne started accessing one-to-one Bereavement Counselling, which enabled her to talk, share her thoughts and feelings and develop coping techniques.

Lynne now accesses the Hospice's Bereavement Support Café twice a month, giving her the opportunity to talk to other people in similar circumstances.

"It means the world to me, having the support from East Lancashire Hospice," said Lynne. **"If the Hospice didn't exist, there'd be a lot of very lonely people, and I think for a lot of people when struggling with grief, it can be difficult not really knowing where to go, where to turn, or how to cope."**

Christmas can be a difficult time for many bereaved families, and Lynne shares the importance of making people aware of the support and opportunities available at the Hospice, especially over the festive season:



"At Christmastime, it's very family and friend oriented. It's about spending time with your loved ones, and for some people, it can be a struggle. Since going to the Bereavement Café at the Hospice, I've realised that there are so many individuals who are going through lonely, sad times and that a lot of people are in the same situation. It really does help talking to others and sharing stories."

Your donation, could help people like Lynne access Bereavement Support over the festive season.



A Christmas to Remember

6

At East Lancashire Hospice, Christmas is about love, togetherness, and comfort. For some families, this Christmas may be their last, and we're here to make sure it's filled with memories that last forever.

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.

Last year, 483 patients were cared for by the Hospice during November and December.

We believe everyone deserves compassionate, dignified care, surrounded by the people they love, especially at Christmas. We want the families and friends of our patients to make special memories that will last a lifetime.

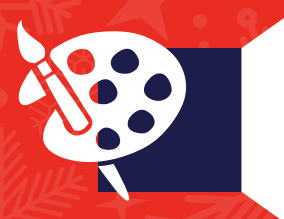
Both at home and in the Hospice, our team bring the magic of Christmas. We create special moments for patients and their families, sharing festive meals, giving gifts, pulling crackers or simply enjoying quiet time together.

Christmas is also a time to remember those who have died, and our Bereavement Support Team provide support and coping methods to those who may be struggling during the festive months; so no one has to face Christmas alone.

This Christmas, we're asking you to make a donation of £50 to East Lancashire Hospice to ensure our patients and their friends and families have '**A Christmas to Remember**', but we can't do that without your support. **What would you want if this was your last Christmas?**

7

Your donation of £50 could provide any of the following for our patients and their friends and families over the festive period:



Assist with memory-making activities, creating keepsakes and special memories



Support our annual Christmas party for CaST patients



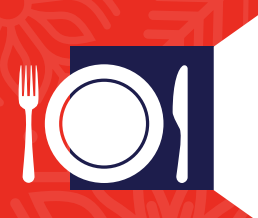
Support someone with Bereavement sessions and teach them coping methods to use over the festive period



Provide specialist, compassionate care, ensuring dignity and comfort on the Inpatient Unit



Care for patients in the comfort of their own home, with night visits and support



Provide a traditional Christmas Dinner for our patients during December



Give patients the opportunity to spend Christmas in the comfort of their own home



Collaboration with Carehomes

Our Community Specialist Nursing (CNS) team has launched a new project designed to support staff within care homes and nursing homes across Blackburn and Darwen.

The aim is incredibly important; to help reduce unnecessary hospital admissions by giving care staff the knowledge and confidence to care for residents nearing the end of life.

Our CNS team have been visiting care homes throughout the area to understand what training would be most helpful. From recognising signs that someone may be approaching the end of life, to managing pain and opening up conversations with families, each session is fully tailored to the individual needs of the staff and residents.

These short, bite-sized training sessions are already making a huge difference. Feedback has shown that carers who have undergone the training sessions feel much more confident in providing person-centred care and feel reassured that if they do need any extra advice, they can contact the Hospice 24-hour helpline.



Memory Making at Home

East Lancashire Hospice brings memory-making into the heart of the community through a new initiative with the Hospice at Home team, developing services in the community, ensuring equal access to hospice care for all.

Memory-making is an essential aspect of palliative care, offering individuals and their friends and families a chance to create lasting, meaningful moments together. These activities provide emotional comfort, a creative outlet, and an opportunity to strengthen connections during some of life's most difficult moments – and often long after.

Each member of the Hospice at Home team has now been equipped with a specially prepared toolbox containing a variety of craft supplies and sensory materials. These portable toolkits allow staff to respond flexibly and proactively when patients or families express a desire to participate in memory-making. The toolboxes include items such as art materials, worry stones, and other sensory objects designed to support emotional regulation and provide distraction during times of agitation or distress.

The team has been actively working to expand their skills and resources to ensure they can provide sensitive, personalised support tailored to the needs of patients and their friends/families navigating complex and emotional circumstances.



Bereavement Support Café

East Lancashire Hospice has recently introduced its new Bereavement Support Café, offering a warm and welcoming space for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.

The Bereavement Café, based at Café Retreat, inside East Lancashire Hospice, takes place on the first and third Monday of every month from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

Created to help those coping with grief, which can often feel overwhelming, isolating, and all-consuming. It provides a safe and informal environment where people can come together, share experiences, and find comfort among others who understand what they are going through.

Whether visitors wish to talk, listen, or simply sit quietly with others, the café is open to all. No booking is needed – people are welcome to attend whenever they feel ready and can bring a friend to accompany them.

Lucy Fish, Family Support Therapist at East Lancashire Hospice, commented,

“We know that grief can be isolating and lonely. Many people find great comfort in being with others with a shared experience, and our Bereavement Support Café is here to offer compassion, support, and a safe space.”

If you'd like to find out more about the Bereavement Café at East Lancashire Hospice, please visit eastlancshospice.org.uk

Become a Volunteer!

Have you ever thought about volunteering? What about encouraging a friend, family member, neighbour, or colleague to volunteer? Sometimes, all it takes is a friendly conversation or a shared story to spark someone's interest.

Whether it's a few hours a week or support at one-off events, there's a role for everyone. From selling items in our shops, greeting visitors on reception, supporting our admin team, lending a hand at our fundraising events, serving food in Café Retreat or simply donating your time – every role matters.

For more information, please contact our team: recruitment@eastlancshospice.org.uk or call **01254 965830**.

Islay's Story

For Islay, volunteering at East Lancashire Hospice has been a part of her life for more than thirteen years.

When she first joined in 2012, without any personal connection to the Hospice, she just knew it was a cause she wanted to support. Since then, both her family members and friends have been cared for by the Hospice, making her role even more meaningful.

Islay started her volunteering journey on the Inpatient Unit Reception desk, welcoming families and helping with administration tasks. Over time, her hours increased, and she moved into a more hands-on role on the ward. Today, she volunteers one day a week, serving meals to patients, offering tea and coffee to families, and spending invaluable time chatting with patients. “I try

to do anything that helps relieve the nurses,” said Islay. “They're absolutely incredible and go above and beyond for everyone.” she shared.

Some of Islay's most treasured moments have been witnessing the many weddings that take place in the Hospice:

“Volunteering at East Lancashire Hospice is so worthwhile. We always need more volunteers, so if you're thinking about it, do it now, do it yesterday! Whatever time you can spare is so appreciated.”

When people hear she volunteers at the Hospice, Islay says their first reaction is often sympathy. **“They ask, ‘Isn't it sad?’ But I tell them they couldn't be more wrong; it's such a happy place. The staff create a warm, positive atmosphere for patients and families, it's a real privilege to be part of that.”**



If you've been inspired by Islay's story and would like to join our volunteering team, visit our website to find out more: eastlancshospice.org.uk

£48,918 Raised From the Corporate Challenge!

The East Lancashire Hospice 2025 Corporate Challenge has come to an end, and we've crowned our worthy winners!

Over the past 6 months, 27 Lancashire-based businesses have come together to compete in this year's awards, in aid of East Lancashire Hospice. Together, they've raised an incredible £48,918.13 to support patient care.

We're proud to announce our winners, Amplify Success, who raised an amazing £6,197. The recruitment and retention company's achievement was led by Senior People Consultant, Carolann Thompson, who completed an 800-mile sponsored walking challenge. She also teamed up with One Financial Services to host a range of community fundraising events.

Carolann's motivation was deeply personal, inspired by family members who have accessed Hospice services and her business partner's recent cancer diagnosis.

In second place, James Dewhurst Ltd, a local textile company, raised £5,000 through a range of creative fundraisers. Their finance team took on a sponsored run, hosted raffles in collaboration with suppliers, and Finance Assistant, Stephanie Isherwood bravely completed a mile cold-water swim in Lake Windermere. Stephanie has seen firsthand the impact of the services provided by East Lancashire Hospice when her father, Peter, received hospice care.

Taking third place, The Cardboard Box Company raised an impressive £4,515. The team are long-time supporters of the Hospice, and this year's Corporate Challenge held extra meaning for their team, following the sudden death of their colleague Steven Latham, a passionate hospice advocate who championed their fundraising each year.

If you're feeling inspired by this year's challenge, why not sign up your business for the 2026 Corporate Challenge, starting in April? Contact our Corporate Fundraiser, Marisa Bannan, to find out more: marisa.bannan@eastlancshospice.org.uk



Stadium Sleep Out!

Wham Stadium became a sea of sleeping bags and community spirit on Friday, 10th October, as 30 people took part in the Stadium Sleepout, raising vital funds for Accrington Stanley Community Trust and East Lancashire Hospice.

The unique fundraising event saw participants give up the comfort of their beds for one night, sleeping outdoors at the home of Accrington Stanley Football Club to show solidarity to support the two charities, making a difference across Hyndburn and East Lancashire.

Lia Holmes, Events Fundraiser at East Lancashire Hospice, shared, "We're so grateful for the incredible support from everyone who took part. The money raised will help us continue to provide specialist, compassionate care to local people and their families when they need it most."

The Stadium Sleepout was made possible thanks to the support of event sponsors and hospice supporters, Prestige Beds and The Cardboard Box Company.



Light up a Life

Our Light up a Life event is a time to pay tribute to someone special, whether or not they were cared for by the Hospice.

By adding a dedication to our online Book of Remembrance, you can share a name to celebrate their life.

Attend our event in the Hospice gardens on Sunday 14th December, 4pm - 5:30pm.

Visit our website to find out more: eastlancshospice.org.uk

#MakingTheMostOfLife

Sean's 30-Mile run to Blackpool in Memory of his Mum

In memory of his mum, Sarah, Sean Towers has taken on a series of running challenges, including the Manchester and Loch Ness Marathons, raising money for East Lancashire Hospice, where his mother died last year. Sean also completed a 30-mile tribute run from East Lancashire Hospice to Blackpool Tower, which was to honour his mother's wishes to visit Blackpool Zoo and their shared memories at the Hospice.

When Sean's mum, Sarah Towers, first came to East Lancashire Hospice, he admits he didn't know what to expect. "I thought it would be like a hospital, but the Hospice is so homely and peaceful, it's nothing like I imagined," explained Sean.

During her time at East Lancashire Hospice, Sarah was referred to the Inpatient Unit, where she also received Complementary Therapy sessions. She enjoyed spending time in the Hospice gardens whenever she could, soaking up the sunshine over summer. Sean remembers sleeping in a recliner chair beside her bed for the final few nights. Other family members used the overnight stay room within the Hospice. The staff made sure everyone was comfortable; "They couldn't do enough for us, they even let me keep items in the Café fridges," Sean added. Sarah had a close bond with many of the Hospice staff, in particular, Michael on the Inpatient Unit, who had coincidentally also cared for Sean's grandad with the Hospice at Home team.

Some of their families' most precious memories are shared with Sean's young daughter. At only 18 months old, when her grandma died, she loved exploring



the Hospice gardens. Even months later, when the family attended the Sunflower Memorial Event at East Lancashire Hospice, they found her searching for the flamingo situated in the garden pond. To this day, she refers to the Hospice as 'Granny's Special House'.

Sean's mum had planned to visit Blackpool Zoo, to see her favourite animal, the orangutan. The family had a coach booked to make the trip happen, but sadly, she was admitted to the Hospice just two days before the visit. Months later, Sean took his partner and daughter to the zoo, and when he finally reached the orangutan enclosure, he was overwhelmed with emotion, "I honestly cried my eyes out, thinking of her," he shared.

In memory of his mum, Sean has taken on a series of running challenges, from the Manchester and Loch Ness Marathons to a 30-mile run from East Lancashire Hospice to Blackpool; a symbolic journey to the place his mum longed to visit. So far, he's raised over £4,000 for the Hospice. Even Sean's daughter has joined in the fundraising efforts, taking part in the Hospice's Hop, Skip, and Jump event, proudly bunny-hopping her way to raise sponsorship.

Sean reflects, "We honestly couldn't have picked a better place for my mum to spend her last days."

If you'd like to support Sean's fundraising efforts for East Lancashire Hospice, please donate using this link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/seantowers>



Blackburn Charity Shop Opens its Doors!

East Lancashire Hospice is excited to announce the opening of its new charity shop, located on Crabtree Street, in Blackburn.

Situated around the corner from Tesco, in Blackburn, the new charity shop is open six days a week, making it an ideal stop for browsing while doing the weekly shop.

Offering a wide range of quality men's and women's clothing, children's wear, small items of furniture, bric-a-brac, household goods, and books, there's something for everyone.

The shop marks an important step in building a stronger community presence in Blackburn and reconnecting with its history, with Blackburn being home to the very first East Lancashire Hospice charity shop many years ago.

Claire Shilton, Head of Retail at East Lancashire Hospice, shared:

"We are so excited to open the doors to our new Blackburn shop and can't wait to welcome the local community inside. This is an important step in building a strong retail presence here in Blackburn – taking us right back to where it all began for our first ever shop. We're looking forward to meeting new



volunteers, supporters, and customers who will help make this store a real success."

The Hospice is currently appealing for donations of stock and volunteers to help run the shop, with flexible hours available.

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering opportunities at East Lancashire Hospice, please visit: www.eastlancshospice.org.uk

Indulge in the Magic of Christmas at Café Retreat!



Celebrate the season with our delicious Christmas Menu – enjoy 3 courses for just £25 or 2 courses for £21.

Last year's Christmas lunches sold out fast, and this year's bookings are already filling up! Gather your friends and family, soak up the festive atmosphere, and help support patient care with every meal.

To start, choose from Roasted Carrot Soup, Chicken Liver Parfait, or Falafel with Toasted Pitta Bread.

For main, enjoy a Traditional Roast Turkey Dinner, Mushroom, Leek & Pine Nut Filo Purse, or Masala-Marinated Salmon.

Finish with Christmas Pudding, Caramelised Biscuit Cheesecake, or Chocolate Brownie.

Call 01254 965861 to reserve your table today. (A £5 non-refundable deposit per person applies for parties of six or more.) Available from 1st – 17th December



STARTERS

Roasted carrot soup, honey drizzle, snipped chives, home-made roll
Allergen: celery, wheat, milk

Chicken liver parfait, caramelised onion, toast, salad leaves
Allergen: sulphur dioxide, milk, eggs, wheat

Falafel, cucumber yoghurt (without if needed), salad leaves, salted cashew nuts, toasted pitta bread shards
Allergen: mustard, sulphur dioxide, tree nuts, wheat, milk

MAINS

Roast turkey, all the trimmings, roast gravy, cranberry sauce
Allergen: wheat, milk

Mushroom, leek and pine nut filo purse, roasted root vegetables, mushroom tarragon sauce
Allergen: wheat, tree nuts, milk

Masala marinated salmon fillet, jewelled basmati rice, lime and tomato salsa
Allergen: fish, wheat

DESSERTS

Christmas Pudding, navy rum sauce
Allergen: wheat, sulphur dioxide, milk, may contain nuts

Vegan caramelised biscuit cheesecake, sugared banana, raspberry coulis
Allergen: wheat, sulphur dioxide

Chocolate brownie, chocolate sauce, Bailey's cream
Allergen: wheat, sulphur dioxide, milk, eggs, may contain nuts

3 courses
for £25.00
or
2 courses
for £21.00



13

12 Meet Fiona!

Meet Fiona, our new Retail Operations Manager, who is helping to grow our retail portfolio!



Fiona supports the running of our hospice charity shops; implementing and monitoring retail processes, developing new retail ideas, refurbishing our current shops and helping with the opening of new charity shops.

Fiona shared, "Our shops are much more than places to pick up a bargain; they're community hubs where friendly chats are as valued as sales. They also play a key role in sustainability, giving pre-loved items a second life, while raising vital funds for patient care."

BBC Radio Lancashire Shines a Spotlight on our Wilpshire Charity Shop!

Our retail team recently featured live on BBC Radio Lancashire, proudly promoting our Wilpshire Charity Shop as part of the Best Charity Shop in the UK competition, organised by the Charity Retail Association.

Shop Manager Zoe Holden joined the broadcast to share what makes our charity shop so special, while Head of Retail Claire Shilton spoke about the incredible community of volunteers and supporters who make everything we do possible.

In true Wilpshire style, Zoe even dashed around the shop live on air to find the perfect fashion outfit for one of the callers – it was great fun and captured the heart of what we do!

Although we didn't take home the 'North West Best Charity Shop' award this time, we're so proud of our amazing team and community. Thank you to everyone who voted for East Lancashire Hospice!



Festive Pie!

From 1st – 17th December, we're swapping our usual Life of Pie flavours for a brand-new Festive Pie – full of seasonal goodness!

Chef Lee has been working hard behind the scenes to create this delicious dish, which provides a rich medley of caramelised onions and earthy sage, tart cranberries, tender turkey, and smoky bacon, all wrapped in a luscious festive sauce.



Serving 4-6 people, the Festive Pie is available for pre-order for only £10! With profits supporting hospice care.

Please note, this special pie must be pre-ordered, and other flavours won't be available during this busy festive period.

Don't miss out on your slice of Christmas cheer!

Call 01254 965862 to order.

Festive Opening Hours

From 1st December, Café Retreat will be serving pre-booked Christmas lunches only – the perfect way to celebrate the festivities! Please note, we'll be closed for breakfast and lunch during this time.

Café Retreat will then close over the Christmas period from Thursday 18th December to Monday 5th January, reopening to the public on Tuesday 6th January 2026.



Win FREE Pie!

To celebrate the launch of our limited-edition Festive Pie, we're giving you the chance to WIN a free Festive Pie for you and a friend during December!

To be in with a chance of winning this fantastic prize, simply head over to our Facebook page @CaféRetreatBlackburn and follow the competition instructions.

Please note, the competition will run from the 1st – 12th December, with the winner announced on Monday, 15th December.

Please note collection must be made on Wednesday, 17th December.

Celebrating our Amazing Employees!

Building on the success of last year's event, East Lancashire Hospice recently hosted its second annual Staff Awards ceremony, celebrating the outstanding commitment and dedication of our incredible team.

At East Lancashire Hospice, we know that the quality of our care is a direct reflection of the remarkable people who deliver it every day.

Twelve deserving winners were recognised for their exceptional contributions; a huge congratulations to each of you for your hard work, passion and dedication.

This year's Employee of the Year award went to Chris Hughes from the Hospice at Home team, a fantastic achievement and well-deserved recognition.

Staff also enjoyed the opportunity to connect with colleagues from different departments, take part in a fun quiz, and share a delicious buffet.

We're immensely proud of every member of our hospice team, these awards are just one of the many ways we say thank you for all that you do.



East Lancashire Hospice Welcomes Three New Trustees!

Over the last few months, we have welcomed three new Trustees to our Board. Each brings a wealth of experience, specialist knowledge, and fresh perspectives that will strengthen the Hospice's leadership and help guide our future direction. Their combined skills and insights will play a vital role in supporting the Hospice's mission to provide exceptional, compassionate care for patients and their friends and families across Blackburn, Darwen, Hyndburn and the Ribble Valley.



The first of the three new Trustees is Michael Graveston, who has a strong background in marketing. After starting his career as a Broadcaster at The Bee and 2BR radio stations, he moved into various marketing roles. He spent several years working in media and marketing at Blackburn Rovers Football Club, where he continues to host events part-time. He now works as Head of Marketing for an international maritime software company. Outside of work, Michael is also a Councillor on the Ribble Valley Borough Council and is the current Mayor of Clitheroe.



We also welcomed Sara Knagg-Whiteley to our Board of Trustees. Sara is the Director and Head of Business Transformation at Carris Consulting, where she leads health and safety strategies across numerous sectors. She specialises in risk assessment, compliance, auditing, accident investigation, and occupational health. Her leadership ensures organisations adopt effective safety cultures and maintain regulatory compliance. Sara has been an active fundraiser and supporter of East Lancashire Hospice for 20+ years and is looking forward to bringing her skills to support the Hospice as a Trustee.



Lastly is Carole Ward, who began her career in the NHS, training as a Registered Mental Nurse, and has worked in a number of roles in the private, public and third sector over the last 40 years. Carole also gained her teaching qualifications while carrying out research on the Saudi-Iraq border with a charity dedicated to supporting women and girls facing significant challenges. Upon her return to the UK, she retrained as a Psychotherapist, working with people at the end of life or with life-limiting illnesses.

Keep an eye out for our new Trustees over the coming months!

Community Volunteer Awards

On Thursday, 6th November, the Blackburn and Darwen community gathered to celebrate the remarkable difference volunteers make across our local area.

We're delighted to share that one of our own volunteers, Carmen Charnley, was nominated for an award at this year's Community Volunteer Awards.

Carmen's connection to East Lancashire Hospice began after the death of her mother, who received care and support from the Hospice. Deeply moved by the compassion her family experienced, Carmen and her sister Lydia began fundraising in their mother's memory.

Their first fundraising effort saw the duo donate 12 inches of her hair to The Little Princess Trust, while raising sponsorship for the Hospice. Since then, the pair have taken on numerous fundraising challenges, helping to raise vital funds for East Lancashire Hospice.

Carmen's dedication didn't stop there. She has since reduced her working hours to volunteer regularly on our main reception desk, where she warmly welcomes patients, guides visitors to their appointments, and supports families visiting loved ones in the Inpatient Unit.

We're incredibly proud to see Carmen's kindness and commitment recognised within our community through this well-deserved nomination.



Blackburn MP visits during Hospice Care Week

Blackburn MP, Mr Adnan Hussain, visited East Lancashire Hospice's newest charity shop in celebration of Hospice Care Week. The annual campaign, facilitated by Hospice UK, celebrates the work of hospices across the UK and raises awareness of the specialist palliative and end-of-life care they provide.

This year's campaign highlighted services that often go unseen by the public, such as Counselling, Bereavement Support, Complementary Therapy, and Bathing services; all of which are central to the holistic care that hospices provide for both patients and their friends and families.

Nicola Hanna, Director of Income Generation and Marketing at East Lancashire Hospice, shared: **"We were delighted to welcome our local MP to our new charity**

shop, located on Crabtree Street in Blackburn. It meant a lot to the staff at East Lancashire Hospice that he visited during Hospice Care Week. He showed a great interest in the services we provide, and we were able to highlight the importance of hospice care in our community and give him a tour of our new shop, which will raise vital funds for the Hospice."



Secure your family's future, and remember us in your Will.

Did you know you can leave East Lancashire Hospice even 1% in your Will, so those closest to you inherit 99%?

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