

# Newsletter

Autumn / Winter 2023



## A part of life

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# Chief Executive's message



A very warm welcome to our Autumn Newsletter, which I hope you are reading on the back of a peaceful and restorative summer break.

As I look back on the past 12 months I am reminded that, sadly, our prediction that our care would be required for ever increasing numbers of people has proven to be correct. I am, however, buoyed by the knowledge that, with your continued and hugely valued support, the incredible efforts of our Fundraising and Retail teams, and the 'stepping up' of our amazing staff, volunteers and local partner services, we have been able to achieve our many goals.

We know, however, that we can't just keep providing more of the same care to more people, so I am thrilled to share the news of the arrival of our first Dementia UK, Admiral Nurse. This role will allow us to meet the needs of so many more in our community through direct care, alongside our offer of training to our community teams and local care homes.

To thank her for her continued support and provide a chance for her to hear first-hand from patients and their families, we were honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness,

Princess Anne to Winsley to open our newly expanded Firefly Woods last month. These woods offer a space for people to remember loved ones and share memories in a peaceful setting.

Shortly before this, we also relaunched our Dragonfly Project. This project, led by our wonderful Creative Therapy colleagues, Ros and Bethan, creates an opportunity to work closely with our local primary school community to destigmatise death and answer important questions about life. It was a privilege to take part and hear the young people talking openly about the importance of our care. These are just two of the steps we have taken in our aim to create opportunities for the site at Winsley to be seen as a community resource and an open space of reflection and memorial.

Recognising that Winsley is not local for the majority of our community, you will see us testing the use of our new shop in Midsomer Norton to provide a space to both raise valuable funds and work with our community; offering group activities and one to one sessions.

As has always been the case at Dorothy House, working together with our local communities, our supporters and our NHS colleagues is what makes us stronger. So, thank you for taking the time to read more about our work and for considering how you can support or volunteer with us to ensure that everyone who needs our care and support is able to receive it.

Wayne de Leeuw (Chief Executive)

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### Privacy statement update

Dorothy House is committed to protecting the data we hold, whether this relates to patients and clients, donors, staff or volunteers. We have updated our privacy statements to explain how we handle data for the different groups of people we work with. You can find these at: [dorothyhouse.org.uk/privacy/](https://dorothyhouse.org.uk/privacy/)

If you are unable to view them online and would like a hard copy, please phone 01225 722 988

**Please note:** Some of our photography may have been taken pre social distancing measures

# Community heroes



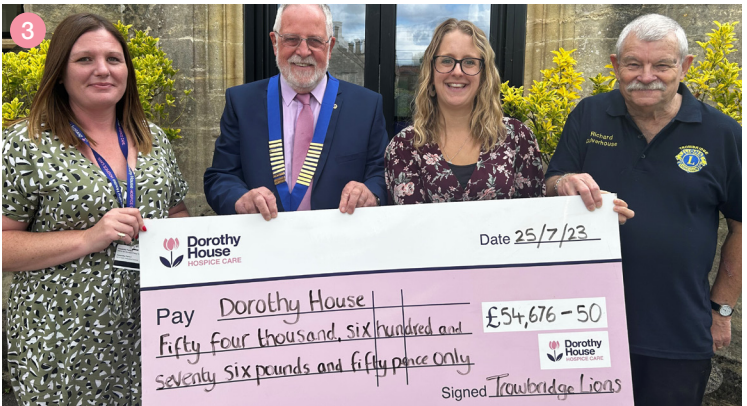
## 1 Trudy Myatt

On 13 May, over 50 friends and family met for a walk in Bradford on Avon in memory of Chris Myatt, who sadly passed away at Dorothy House in 2023, aged 57.

The weather was perfect for the walk that took them along the canal and through Becky Addy Woods to the No. 10 coffee shop at Avoncliff, where they stopped for refreshments and cake. The group then headed towards Turleigh, where they turned at Elbow to walk back along the river to their starting point. The group raised a wonderful £2,127 for Dorothy House. A big thank you to everyone who donated and took part.

## 2 North Wiltshire Friends host a Midsummer Evening

On 30 June, The North Wiltshire Friends of Dorothy House held a Midsummer Evening at Charlton Farm, by kind permission of The Simon Rivett-Carnac Trust. Some 100 people enjoyed rosé wine and delicious canapés whilst strolling through the various spectacular 'rooms' in the garden. Despite a rather grey and drizzly evening, everyone had a wonderful time, and the North Wiltshire Friends raised a fantastic total of over £2,500 for Dorothy House.



## 3 Trowbridge Lions' Roarsome Total!

In 1990, Trowbridge Lions began donating regularly each month to Dorothy House. Fast forward to 2023, 300 monthly payments and many fundraising events later, the total amount they have raised for us has reached an astonishing £54,676.50!

**Dorothy House has always been close to our hearts.**

**Richard Loverick, President of the Trowbridge Lions Club**

Trowbridge Lions Club is part of Lions International, the largest voluntary service organisation in the world, with over 1.3 million members and 46,000 clubs in 202 countries.

**If you'd like to find out more about their work and how you can get involved, visit [trowbridgelions.org.uk](https://trowbridgelions.org.uk)**

## Corporate Hero

Colleagues from DPDgroup UK came to The Hospice to present a cheque for £6,902.40 to pay for four brand new syringe drivers. These special pieces of equipment help deliver medication to those staying on our Inpatient Unit. The donation comes from DPD's Community Fund, and Sue and two of her colleagues were thrilled to be able to see the drivers and hear first-hand about how important they are.





# Firefly Woods opening receives a Royal visitor

On the evening of Thursday 14 September, Dorothy House was honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to celebrate the opening of our Firefly Woods as a place of reflection and remembrance for everyone across the Dorothy House community.

Her Royal Highness officially opened the newly expanded Firefly Woods before taking a guided tour around the Winsley gardens and Day Patient Unit to meet with Dorothy House patients and families, volunteers and staff.

Nature can have powerful benefits for people encountering grief. The event also launched an exciting new partnership between Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Dorothy House to ensure more people have routes to connect with nature in bereavement.

In 2021, internationally renowned artist, Bruce Munro, gifted Dorothy House hundreds of individually handmade 'Fireflies' for installation in the woodlands at Winsley House. Each Firefly is a constellation of separate small lights, which glow from dusk to dawn. The 'Firefly Woods' have since become a deeply valued space for those impacted by Dorothy House's care.

The newly expanded immersive space of reflection contains almost 20,000 individual lights and is now open to all across the community: a place where anyone can come to remember loved ones and explore their grief.

To mark the opening up of the Firefly Woods to the community, Firefly number one isn't dedicated to any one individual but glows to represent everyone we have all loved and lost.

Now anyone who has experienced grief can visit the Firefly and feel part of a wider compassionate community; united in destigmatising death and in acknowledging bereavement.

“

Our aspiration is to enable our community to have a place to remember loved ones, reflect and pause from their busy lives in the peaceful and tranquil setting of our amazing grounds.

Wayne de Leeuw, Chief Executive  
Dorothy House

To fund the vital, compassionate care provided by The Hospice, each year Dorothy House invites people to dedicate a light on a Firefly. This is a wonderful way to create a lasting legacy for a loved one and to join a community of support in bereavement.

The opening of the Firefly Woods was a great success and we are very grateful to Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal for joining us on such a special occasion for our Hospice. ●



## Dorothy House to continue supporting haematology patients for the RUH

We are very pleased to announce that following the successful trial of the Blood Transfusion clinic at Dorothy House, we have now secured ongoing funding with the Royal United Hospital Trust (RUH), enabling us to continue supporting haematology patients.

The aim of the initial trial was for Dorothy House to support the Haematology department at the RUH by delivering blood transfusions for palliative and end of life care patients, alleviating the NHS of additional pressure caused by the pandemic.

Since the trial commenced, the clinic has been successfully providing this service to the community with very positive patient feedback:

“I had some reservations about coming to the Hospice for the transfusion clinic but when they described how relaxed it was, I gave it a go. It feels like you're getting pampered! The one to one attention is brilliant.” – **Adrian Haskins**

“I think it's great coming here – it's a really pleasant way to carry out the blood transfusion. Here they're all so nice, really pleasant and friendly.” – **Marian Burgess**

By working in collaboration, the RUH and Dorothy House Blood Transfusion Service will continue to ensure that the majority of patients are able to access care closer to home, in a quiet, supportive environment.



ABOVE: Her Royal Highness visiting the Day Patient unit

LEFT: Her Royal Highness visiting the Firefly lights gifted in memory of her late parents, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.



# Dorothy House Dementia Training

**“It is more important to know what sort of person has a disease than to know what sort of disease a person has” – Hippocrates, the father of medicine’s mantra has been incorporated within the Dementia training that our carers receive during the Tulip Standard Essentials of Care course.**

The likelihood of developing Dementia increases significantly with age, and with one in 14 people over the age of 65 suffering from Dementia, training is essential for all our carers. The training within the Tulip Standard offers the essentials that we will build on in future training days.

Starting with physiology, it is important to know how the brain functions in order to understand the symptoms and progression of Dementia. This insight and discussion allows our carers to appreciate why people have different experiences of the disease, such as Terry Pratchett, who wrote a best seller after being diagnosed with Dementia at the age of 59, yet struggled with everyday tasks, or why a person’s personality might suddenly and noticeably change. Understanding symptoms and why they occur allows us to support our patient and their families more effectively.

The focus of the training then shifts to consider what we can do to enable and support people in our care. It explores and discusses how to make life that little bit easier for patients, looking at both physical and emotional needs. Finally, it addresses communication; tools that can be used and how we can work with patients and their families when there is emotional distress. This is the first step on an essential training journey around Dementia for our carers.



## A huge thank you to the Margaret Fisher Charitable Trust

Earlier this year we spoke to our long-standing donors, the Margaret Fisher Charitable Trust, about our ambitions to enhance our Dementia-focused care. Recognising the importance of this work, the Trustees awarded Dorothy House a significant grant to aid the realisation of our plans. Furthermore, the Trust has also pledged funds for the year ahead to support both our Family Support Team and a specialist ‘Patient Flow Coordinator’ role, with the goal of helping patients return home from hospital more rapidly.

As with so much of our care, this positive step change in our provision for patients with Dementia and their families has been made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters. We are deeply grateful to the Margaret Fisher Charitable Trust for their outstanding kindness.

“  
The Margaret Fisher Charitable Trust awarded a significant grant to aid the realisation of our plans



## Staff Spotlight Esther Mackillican

**I’m Esther, the new Admiral Nurse for Dorothy House. My role is supported by Dementia UK. This enables everyone across the Hospice and the patients and families we support, to access their resources.**

I have worked in Dementia care for 15 years, starting in care homes in London and Somerset. This gave me the opportunity to gain post-graduate qualifications in Dementia care, and focus on creating Dementia-friendly environments, where staff were supported to build their skills through specialist training.

I qualified as a Registered General Nurse from the University of the West of England in 2018, after which I worked for four years at a GP practice, assessing, diagnosing and supporting people living with Dementia, and their carers, to live as well as possible. I worked with a proactive Multi-Disciplinary Team, which included one of the fantastic Dorothy House Nurse Specialists.

I am passionate about ensuring all people living with Dementia, and their carers, have access to timely, appropriate and personalised care, including advanced care planning, with their decisions being heard and acted on. We know supporting someone with Dementia can be very difficult at times, and it is vital that carers feel they have a service that can help signpost and respond to their needs, as and when they have a concern.

As an Admiral Nursing service, this is what we will aim to achieve across all aspects and services that Dorothy House offers. Our initial focus will be supporting advance care planning for people with Dementia, delivering Dementia and end of life training for all staff working in a Dementia care setting, and supporting the community teams with specialised care plans for patients and families.

# Dorothy House Pioneer Programme

## Join our evolving Pioneer Programme

In 2020, we launched the chance for supporters to become ‘Pioneers’ – a fundraising programme that offers the opportunity to fund key areas of innovation and development in our services, through a generous three-year commitment.

Since its launch, over 50 people have joined this programme and have helped us to take pioneering steps within research, community care, and training for health professionals. Through their kindness, we have gained deeper insight into patients’ and families’ needs, enhanced our community nursing practice, and enabled scores of carers to acquire new skills and knowledge. The support of our Pioneers has been, and continues to be, absolutely invaluable.

As we look to the future, we know that our Pioneers will play a pivotal role. The Pioneers’ investment will help ensure our palliative care, end of life care, and bereavement support is the very best it can be, and that we can reach all those who need us.

To give more people the opportunity to be part of this exciting programme, we are now able to offer more choice in which areas of our work you would like to support, putting you in the driving seat of the difference you can make to your local community.

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**To find out more, please visit [www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/support-us/pioneer-programme/](http://www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/support-us/pioneer-programme/) or call Anna Robertson on 01225 721480.**





## Making death a part of life – The Dragonfly Project

**After a hiatus of four years due to Covid, the Dragonfly project is back! Dorothy House welcomed the year six children of Winsley Primary School once again, to introduce them to The Hospice; bringing us closer to the community and demystifying what we do here.**

Over four weeks, the children spent time with Ros and Bethan, our Creative Therapy team, making artwork with staff, volunteers and day patients. During week one, the focus was on everyone getting to know each other, and discovering how Dorothy House supports patients, carers and families. We achieved this through short presentations, a quiz and a 'getting to know you game.'



During the next two sessions, the children went on a tour of the grounds at Winsley with Paul, Head of Estates and Facilities. They also made and painted clay poppies, adding butterflies and other insects for decoration, exploring the idea of transformation and change. The staff, day patients, volunteers and children continued to chat together and learn about Dorothy House.

An invited audience made up of parents of the year six children and all supporting participants, came together in week four to reflect and celebrate all that had been achieved. Ros and one of the patients presented a summary of this year's activities, along with a film showing each stage of the project. The children read prepared pieces about what they had learned from being part of the Dragonfly sessions, and the patients gave the children certificates. Finally, there was an opportunity for everyone to chat over refreshments while reviewing the finished artwork.

"Seeing patients and children working together is brilliant. It offers our patients an opportunity to give back, especially at a time when many of their roles may have been taken away from them. For the pupils, visiting The Hospice challenges their perceptions of what a hospice does, and helps take the fear out of death and dying. It is fantastic to hear the children openly asking questions about a subject that society often shies away from." **Ros Gardiner, Creative Therapy Co-ordinator at Dorothy House.**

## From Dust to Data

**We all have a digital footprint. Be it on social media, via music downloads, gaming avatars, voicemails, photos or email. But what happens to all of these digital touchpoints when someone dies? Could AI be the way to soothe grief and prolong life after death, or could technology be racing too fast for regulation to steer a safe and steady course?**

Jump on board for a night of technological exploration and envision a future where digital immortality becomes a reality. As part of the 2023 FilmBath Festival, join us at the world premiere of *Dust to Data* to explore the important impact of technology on grief, mortality and digital legacies.

As part of a live film debate on 26 October at Widcombe Social Club, audiences are invited to watch four film monologues that each explore relatable near future stories of the opportunities and threats posed by different aspects of digital afterlives.

The four screenings will be followed by quick-fire live surveys that will help the audience and Dorothy House discover how prepared as a society we are to embrace or reject the emergence of AI immortality.

All responses will be gathered together and published as a 'manifesto' to give the public a voice in the future development and regulation of these fast-moving technologies.

These films are brought to you as part of Dorothy House's partnership with the University of Bath and the University of Bristol's joint Responsible Innovation Challenge.

Following on from last year's investigation of Grief Bots, PhD students from the EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Cyber Security used their knowledge of the technological advancements in Artificial Intelligence, Digital Avatars and Deepfakes to work with representatives from Dorothy House and Kilter Theatre in creating these four fascinating films.

Shape the debate, buy your tickets at [film bath.org.uk](https://film bath.org.uk)



## Growing an internationally compassionate community

### 1 China

The May 28, 2023 Art in Hospice and Palliative Care event at the University of Shanghai featured artwork and information from Dorothy House. The event was attended by over 300 academics, hospice care providers, Shanghai government representatives, and University of Shanghai students.

Colleagues from the University of Bath's Centre for Death and Society discussed their work with Dorothy House at the event. Everyone agreed it was a fantastic day and the organisers look forward to creating a follow-on event. All of the artwork sent by Dorothy House is now in the University of Shanghai's permanent art collection.

### 2 Nepal

In July, Dorothy House was delighted to host the Deputy Medical Director from the 'Gurkha Welfare Trust,' in Pokhara, Nepal.

As part of a growing movement towards the Hospice care model in Nepal, Dr Satish Gurung visited Dorothy House to learn more about the ways in which we deliver care to our community. He spent the week shadowing our staff, both on the Inpatient and Day Patient Units, and on patient visits with our Community Palliative Care Teams.

When we caught up with Dr Gurung at the end of the week he told us the multi-disciplinary team approach, pain management and continuing support from our Research and Education teams were highlights of his visit.



# light up a life 2023

**My name is Dave Smith, the Spiritual Support Lead at Dorothy House, and it is my pleasure to let you know that this year's Light up a Life Appeal is now live. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to our wonderful Services of Light.**

Each year we invite our community to join us in remembering their loved ones by sponsoring a light on our beautiful Christmas tree that shines brightly here at Winsley House. Each light is a symbol of those we love and, in turn, your donation leaves a lasting legacy for those we are remembering.

Light up a Life is a very special time; it is a celebration of inner light spreading out across our community. It can be part of a healing process, a way to help come to terms with loss during a time of grief. For some, Light up a Life can be a part of a spiritual journey; this can be faith-based, or not. For all of us, however, it is a time of remembrance, a poignant and special way to celebrate a loved one.

Our Services of Light are open to everyone. They are offered as a space to reflect and remember, to spread light across our community in celebration of those we love.

During the services, you will be offered a candle; this is yours to take and light at a time that is meaningful to you. For younger attendees, we will be offering a Christmas gift as a symbol of our thanks.



## Where your money goes

**£41.30**

could pay for a full hour of care on our Inpatient Unit for a patient receiving essential care, symptom control and pain relief.

**£58.70**

could pay for a morning of care, delivered at a patient's home, by a compassionate, skilled and experienced Hospice at Home Carer; providing care to patients and essential respite to families, enabling a patient to stay at home at the end of their life.

**£74.50**

could fund an expert counsellor to run a full support group session for young adults with a life-limiting illness, helping them feel less alone.

**£1,055**

A gift of £1,055 could fund a Hospice at Home Carer to deliver care to patients and families in their home, every day, for a week.

For those attending our Winsley House services, you will be able to see our wonderful Christmas tree, sparkling with the lights for those we wish to remember this year.

**This year's services will be held at the following times:**

**Winsley House** / 26 November / 12 noon & 3pm

**Bath Abbey** / Tuesday 28 November / 6pm

For those unable to attend in person, you are welcome to join our virtual Bath Abbey live stream via our website: [dorothyhouse.org.uk/light-up-a-life](http://dorothyhouse.org.uk/light-up-a-life)

You will also find an online, recorded version of our service. You can use this set of resources to hold your own service, perhaps in a place that is meaningful to you, with friends or family.

As part of this year's appeal, we are privileged to be able to share John and Lyn's story with you. John has kindly explained why Light up a Life is important to him and his family, why he continues to support Dorothy House, and what Dorothy House meant to Lyn. You can read this story on our Light up a Life appeal page.

Their story highlights the importance of community, that together, we can offer comfort and support to those in need; not only how Dorothy House can offer support to our community, but how we can all continue to support each other. ●



Thank you for your ongoing kindness. I hope for the opportunity to welcome you at this year's Services of Light.

**Warm Regards, Dave Smith,  
Spiritual Support Lead**

**You can sponsor your light, as well as book your free place at one of our services by visiting our website [dorothyhouse.org.uk/news/light-up-a-life](http://dorothyhouse.org.uk/news/light-up-a-life), scanning the QR code below or you can call our Supporter Care Team on 01225 721 480.**



**LOCAL  
HOSPICE  
LOTTERY**



## Are you feeling Lottery lucky?

Sign up to the Local Hospice Lottery today, and for as little as £5 per month you could win amazing cash prizes while directly funding lasting care for your community, when and where it is needed the most.

The Local Hospice Lottery was set up to provide financial support to adults' and children's hospices across Great Britain. The Lottery provides regular income we can rely on and a chance to win prizes, so it really is a win-win! Be part of a caring community raising millions of pounds for those in need.

To date, our amazing Local Hospice Lottery players have raised over an incredible £3.2 million for Dorothy House patient and family care, and counting!

Dorothy House Volunteer and Melksham resident, Marilyn won the rollover prize of £25,000 just this year! By joining our Local Hospice Lottery community, you'll have the chance to win some amazing prizes every single week, including up to £2,000 – along with 200 other cash prizes.

Players are also automatically entered into Super Draws, which take place every March, September and December, and have an additional guaranteed top prize of £10,000!



**To enter, scan the QR code here or visit [localhospicelottery.org](http://localhospicelottery.org) and click on Dorothy House. Alternatively call 0800 316 0645.**



# The Dorothy House Peace of Mind Planner



It might surprise you to know that 50%\* of the UK population does not have a valid will in place, and even fewer have made plans for later life. The 2023 survey also revealed that over a quarter of all UK adults, both with and without wills, said that leaving loved ones with lots of paperwork worries them.

At Dorothy House, one of our core aims is to make death a part of life, and to help us achieve this goal we are proud to share our Peace of Mind Planner. We hope it encourages important conversations about end of life planning. Are you bold enough to sit down and fill it out?

One of my colleagues recently told me that her elderly father has a file at home labelled 'Death.' While it may seem a bit macabre, it is an extremely useful file that will be relied upon when the time does come, and she will be very grateful for his foresight. Taking time to face the inevitable, planning and talking openly about our wishes empowers us in our own lives. We can take control, leave instructions, and set out our requests. In a time of grief, the Peace of Mind Planner can take some of the stress away for our loved ones by enabling them to make the decisions we would have chosen for ourselves.

Sarah Dodd, Head of Legacies

\* Source: Research based on a survey of 2000 UK adults, commissioned by Canada Life and conducted by Opinium.



At Dorothy House, one of our core aims is to make death a part of life

If you do not have access to a printer and would like a Peace of Mind Planner sent to you, please call 01225 721480 or email: Sarah.Dodd@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk.

Please scan here to download your own copy of the Peace of Mind Planner.



## New ways to shop sustainably this Christmas

Buying your Christmas cards, calendars and diaries from Dorothy House helps us to provide specialist care to more patients and families in our community when they need it most.

We are continually reviewing our environmental impact, and last year we launched a range of cards that featured recyclable packaging. This year we are going one step further by removing the cellophane wraps and excess packaging from our calendars and diaries and have a new delivery plan in place to decrease petrol miles!

To further reduce paper waste and costs, we are now offering an alternative to the Christmas paper brochure. Cards, calendars and diaries will continue to be available in your local Dorothy House Shop and via our website, but they can now also be ordered by scanning the QR code below.

Our diaries come in several different designs, and back by popular demand is our slimline calendar featuring pictures of the local area. This year's card range features our bestselling local scenes and festive favourites.

Packs of 10 cards will be available from £3.99 and each purchase makes a difference to some of the most vulnerable patients in our community.

Order your Christmas items via the QR Code below, visit [dorothyhouse.shop](https://dorothyhouse.shop), or call our Retail Support Team 01225 812 622.



SUSTAINABLE  
23  
SEPTEMBER

87%

OF MATERIALS USED TO MAKE CLOTHING END UP IN LANDFILL – EQUIVALENT OF ONE TRUCKLOAD EVERY SECOND\*



IT TAKES 2,700 LITRES OF WATER TO PRODUCE THE AMOUNT OF COTTON NEEDED FOR A SINGLE T-SHIRT\*\*



CLOTHING PRODUCTION PRODUCES MORE EMISSIONS THAN INTERNATIONAL PLANE TRAVEL AND SHIPPING COMBINED\*\*

THE FASHION INDUSTRY IS THE SECOND HIGHEST CONSUMER OF WATER WORLDWIDE, PRODUCING 20% OF TOTAL GLOBAL WATER WASTE\*\*



IN THE AVERAGE UK HOUSEHOLD

1/3

OF CLOTHES HAVE NOT BEEN WORN IN THE LAST YEAR\*

A huge thank you if you shopped as part of our #SustainableSeptember campaign this year.

Sources:  
\*[www.theroundup.org/sustainable-fashion-statistics](https://www.theroundup.org/sustainable-fashion-statistics)  
\*\*[www.ecothes.com/blog/fast-fashion-statistics](https://www.ecothes.com/blog/fast-fashion-statistics)



# Calendar of events

To sign up to any of our events visit  
[dorothyhouse.org.uk/get-involved/events](https://dorothyhouse.org.uk/get-involved/events)



## Paws in the Park

**Sunday 8 October 2023**

Join us for our first ever 5k sponsored dog walk, it's set to be a pawsome family day out!

## Santa and Elf Run

**Sunday 3 December 2023**

Our hugely popular Christmas run/walk is back for 2023; be elf-ful - come and raise funds for The Hospice whilst spreading festive cheer!

## The January Challenge

**January 2024**

New year, new start! Keep an eye out for this brilliant month long virtual challenge, with details to be released soon.

## Christmas Tree Collection

**Friday 12 to Sunday 14 January 2024**

Get your tree booked in as part of our mammoth collection, or help join the army of volunteers collecting over 5,000 trees this January!

## Men's Walk to Support

**Saturday 9 March 2024**

Team up with your brother, your son, your dad, your best mates, or take on the walk solo - it's up to you!

## Bath Half Marathon

**Sunday 17 March 2024**

Back to its usual March date, join Team Dorothy House and take on the famous half marathon for The Hospice.

## London Marathon

**Sunday 21 April 2024**

If you have an independent place at the London Marathon in 2024 and would like to run for Dorothy House, we'd love to hear from you.

## Wing Walk

**Thursday 9 May 2024**

Fancy a walk in the clouds? Then we have the challenge for you!

## Survival Challenge

**Saturday 1 to Wednesday 5 June 2024**

Join this challenge and survive 5 days in a mystery location, learning to live off the land and make it in the wilderness.

## Coffee Morning

**A date of your choosing**

Host a Coffee Morning for Dorothy House and gather friends, family and colleagues to raise a cuppa and a few pounds for The Hospice!



# New furry fundraiser

On **Sunday 8 October**, Dorothy House is welcoming woofs of all shapes and sizes, from Dachshunds to Dobermans, to take part in a sponsored 5K dog walk around Southwick Country Park in Trowbridge.

'Paws in the Park' will take place from 10am - 4pm, with the sponsored dog walk starting at 11am. Have a go on our agility course, enter a fun dog show, as well as listen to a talk from Wiltshire Police Dog Handlers. There will also be a selection of dog related stalls and merchandise to spoil your pooch. Could your dog have the waggiest tail? Come along and find out!

"We are delighted to announce the launch of Paws in the Park, which will give dog owners and their four-legged friends the chance to 'paws for a cause' whilst enjoying a fun day out." **Clare Way, Community & Events Fundraiser at Dorothy House.**

Dorothy House is pleased to be supported by Fairfield Animal Centre, who will be offering refreshments throughout the day. Profits from the refreshments stand will go towards Fairfield Animal Centre, which provides jobs for young adults with learning disabilities.

Every entrant receives their very own event-branded bandana, with an optional matching t-shirt for their accompanying human. For more info and to register your pooch, please visit: [dorothyhouse.org.uk/get-involved/events/paws-in-the-park/](https://dorothyhouse.org.uk/get-involved/events/paws-in-the-park/)

It's a doggy day out!



## 8th annual Christmas Tree Collection

In partnership with the Justhelping charity, we're gearing up for our 8th annual Christmas Tree Collection fundraiser in January 2024. Last year's collection raised a record-breaking £75,000 to fund local hospice care, and over 5,200 Christmas trees were collected across Wiltshire and Bath.

As well as raising much needed funds for Dorothy House, the charity also gave part of the money raised to nine other local charities through the JustHelping community fund.

On **Wednesday 15 November 2023**, local residents can book their Christmas tree collection for a charitable donation via the website. Dorothy House and our 200+ volunteers will be out in force over the weekend of 12 - 14 January 2024, encompassing sixteen postcodes and covering 700 square miles.

Anyone who has a van and wants to get involved is welcome to join the local businesses and individuals who come back year after year to join in the fun!

To find out more about how you can help support the Dorothy House Christmas Tree collection, please contact [clare.way@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk](mailto:clare.way@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk) or call 01225 721480.

## Calling all Santas and Elves!

Dorothy House's ever-popular Santa and Elf Run is back for 2023. Taking place on **Sunday 3 December**, the event will see Santas and Elves complete the 2.5 or 5km route around the Hospice in Winsley as a walk or run, all to raise funds for vital end of life care in Bath, North Somerset and North and West Wiltshire!

Elves (aged 2-11) will receive a FREE Elf Hat and Santas (aged 12+) will receive a FREE Santa suit and you can find out more about the event, sign up information and how we raised an incredible £17,000 at last year's event on our website now.

Oh and keep an eye out for our Christmas Coffee Morning and Christmas sale at Dorothy House on **Saturday 2 December** too!





## Phone

Switchboard: 01 225 722 988  
Fundraising: 01 225 721 480  
Clinical 24hr Advice Line: 0345 0130 555

## Online

[dorothyhouse.org.uk](http://dorothyhouse.org.uk)  
[info@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk](mailto:info@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk)



## Post

Dorothy House, Winsley, Bradford on Avon,  
Wiltshire, BA15 2LE

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this newsletter,  
contact the Communications Team:

[comms@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk](mailto:comms@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk)

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# Newsletter

Autumn / Winter 2023



# A part of life

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