

# Snapshot



St Oswald's  
Hospice

Spring | Summer 2023  
News and updates

## A message from us, to you..

We would like to begin this issue of Snapshot with a very simple message. **Thank you.**

**Thank you for reading our newsletters, our emails, our posts on social media. Thank you for thinking of us when choosing a charity to support, or telling a friend or neighbour about our campaigns and events. Thank you for donating your pre-loved items to keep our charity shops open and thank you for giving your time to volunteer at the hospice or at our events. Thank you for using your skills to knit, or bake, or host your own event in support. Thank you for being a friend, an ambassador, a community champion. Thank you for simply being there.**

We are always humbled by the kindness and generosity of our supporters, but these past few months, you have blown us away with what you have helped us to achieve for our patients and families. Two examples of things we couldn't have made happen without you were our Christmas Appeal, and our recent Giving Day, a first for the hospice.

### You helped make our Christmas Wish List a reality

When we launched our Christmas Appeal in December, we were a little nervous. Why? Because it was quite different from our usual appeals – an ask for you to help fund an 'alternative Christmas wish list' to fund some vital updates and repairs around the hospice. Based around the '12 Days of Christmas' we showcased twelve projects that would all help to make the hospice more comfortable for our patients and aimed to raise the £40,000 needed to make them all happen. We were overwhelmed by the response, and by January, together you had raised enough to fund our whole list. In fact, a massive £47,000 was raised, meaning that extra jobs further down our wish list can happen too.

Already, many of these projects have been completed with, others underway or planned to take place soon.

A brand new fence has been erected along the perimeter of the hospice, replacing the one badly damaged in the strong winds last year and creating a more secure site. CCTV has been updated and a programme of tree maintenance and cutting back of shrubs has been completed. Emergency lighting repairs have been completed along with upgrades to fire doors and electrical testing done across the site. Your fundraising towards this appeal means that now these vital jobs have been paid for, other money raised can be spent on the 'nice to have' things that our patients tell us mean so much to them.

### You helped Us raise over £300K in a day!

More recently we embarked on our first Giving Day, a 33 hour fundraising campaign which aimed to raise £300,000 towards funding the hospice and its services. It was new, risky and a little bit scary but we need not have worried – you were right there with us. For 33 hours, our hearts were full, as donations flew in from friends new and old, fundraising pages were shared and words of encouragement were sent our way. It was so exciting to walk through the hospice and feel the buzz as the total rose and we got closer to our target. You did that. With just a few minutes until the end of Giving Day, the target was reached and cheers rang out across the hospice. Those cheers were for you, without whom Giving Day would never have been possible.

**These are just two examples of how together, our hospice community of supporters are the ultimate dream team. Please take a moment to celebrate your achievements with us and know how much our hospice family appreciates everything you do. Thank you.**

**From everyone at St Oswald's Hospice**

You Made This Happen!



You Made Us Smile!

# Things are 'LEGO-ing Good' for our New Young Adults Accommodation...

As if we weren't excited enough that the architect's plans are taking shape for our new Young Adults Accommodation, we now have an amazing Lego model that's really helped us piece together how it will look!

It's all thanks to one of our young adults, Noah Bingham, age 22. Noah has been a Lego-lover since he was 4 and remembers building one of his first sets – the Star Wars X-Wing – since then he's lost count of how many he's built. So, when asked if he'd like to be commissioned to build the model, he jumped at the chance to take on his first commission.

Noah explained how he went about building the model:

*"I was given the architect's drawings to work with. I began to build it on my digital building program, stud.io. This allows me to build with an infinite number of Lego bricks in every colour possible. Building it digitally took me about 3 months to complete."*

Next, Noah ordered the pieces he needed from BrickLink (a place for people to buy and sell their Lego). Sourcing the pieces was a task in itself, as Noah described:

*"That took another 2 months, due to waiting for all the packages to arrive, plus postal strikes were happening at the time, making sure everything was there and ordering the missing bits – and then finally, once everything was here, I could start building."*

*"The building process itself was pretty smooth and quick, minus the fact I had completely forgotten to order an entire type of piece, so the wall was full of holes as I was building!"*

But Noah filled the holes, completed the model and we think **"everything is AWESOME!"**

Joss Parker, Matron of our Children and Young Adults Service agrees:

*"We're absolutely delighted! It's so realistic and gives a real sense of what the new building will be like."*

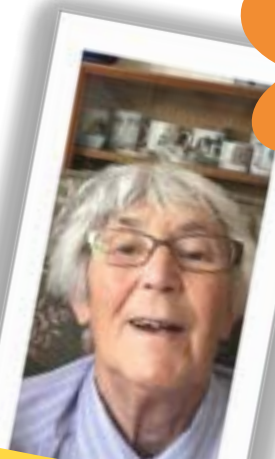
Joss can't wait to have this new accommodation in action and see the difference it makes:

*"It will provide a space specifically designed for Young Adults, allowing us to develop the way we work with them and support them into the future. There is currently a big gap and no provision outside of St Oswald's Hospice to provide Young Adults with complex health needs with short breaks. This new accommodation will be an environment in which they can grow and become more independent. Our young adults will be able to transition to adult care in a more seamless way."*

Talking about Noah's Lego model, Joss added:

*"Noah took so much time and gave great attention to detail – even down to designing his own Lego wheelchairs with realistic controls. We're so grateful to Noah – he's done a brilliant job!"*

*(We couldn't agree more – thanks, Noah!)*



## Did you know?

Our new Young Adults Accommodation has been made possible as we were lucky enough to be the beneficiary of a significant legacy left by a lovely lady from South Shields, Miss Winifred Futter.

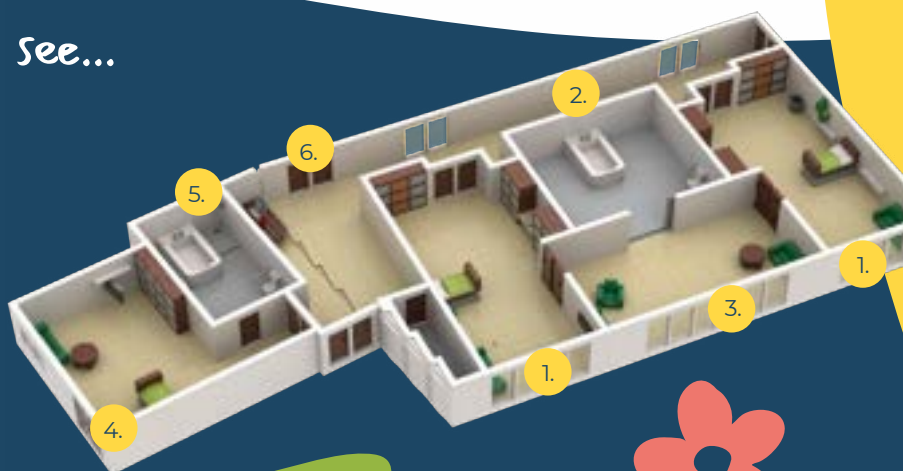
Both Win, and her late sister, were teachers, so her trustees thought that they would have liked their money to be used to help children and young people from across the region.



## Take a peek inside and you'll see...

1. Two new bedrooms – designed to meet the needs of our young adults
2. Shared accessible bathroom
3. Living space for entertaining friends
4. Carer bedroom – for a carer who could sleep overnight (just as they would in an independent living environment)
5. Wet room/accessible shower
6. Separate 'front door' for more independence (perfect for late night returns from the cinema or pub!)

**Plus there'll be a new covered walkway to link to our current Young Adults Lounge – with a 'café culture', trendy space in the garden area between the two (not shown on lego model)**



# Why do we need new Young Adults Accommodation?

## 1. To better meet the needs of young adults in an age-appropriate space.

20 years ago, our service was designed for children aged approximately 3 – 18 years. However, incredible medical advances mean that many more children with life threatening conditions are living into their 20s (and beyond). We are now registered to take young adults up to the age of 25. Understandably, they would like more bespoke accommodation that meets their needs.

## 2. To help our young people explore the possibility of independent living.

The idea of living away from home can be very scary for our young adults – and even more worrying for their parents. But it's something that is important for them to think about and explore the idea.

## 3. To free up existing beds and reduce waiting lists.

A child who comes for their first short break is likely to continue using our service potentially until they are 25. And every year there are more children who need our support. We currently have a waiting list and there are no other services locally which could meet these children's needs. These extra beds will increase our capacity allowing us to provide short breaks to more children and families.



## A lasting legacy

It's thanks to kind gifts left to us, by supporters like Win, in their Wills that we have been able to offer hospice care to North East adults, young people and children for over 35 years, as well as develop and grow our services. Currently, St Oswald's Hospice is funded for a full day each week, thanks to these very special gifts.

We recently launched a video highlighting Gifts in Wills as a special, but rarely spoken about way to make a difference to a charity you care about. Our video features real hospice supporters who volunteered to share their reasons for including St Oswald's Hospice in their Will, including Dawn, one of our volunteers. You can watch by visiting [www.stoswaldsuk.org/free-wills-for-charity](http://www.stoswaldsuk.org/free-wills-for-charity)

### Dawn said...

*"I've supported St Oswald's for a long time and have been volunteering on the Lymphedema Unit since 2019. I have personal connections to the Hospice as I lost my Mother when she was only 49 years old and after that experience I wanted to give something back.*

*I love my volunteering role as it's a hands-on way of physically helping those in need of care. However, I also know in the back of my mind that when I'm no longer around to do all those things in person, that the money I've gifted in my Will carries on my legacy and continues supporting St Oswald's into the future. It's a satisfying feeling knowing that my gift to the Hospice is going to be used to benefit others when I'm no longer here."*



## Peace of mind for you and your loved ones

June is **Make a Will Month** at St Oswald's Hospice, an opportunity to have a reduced cost Will made by a trusted local solicitor who will gift back your fee to the hospice, just like Dawn's solicitor did. We've enclosed a leaflet with details of this, along with our year-round free Will services, offering online telephone and face to face Wills.

There is no obligation to leave anything to the hospice when using any of these services, but once you have made sure that your loved ones are taken care of, the option is there if you wish.

# Welcome to a Summer of Celebration!

## The flock is coming!

Next month will see a flock of 45 big and 70 little sheep hit the streets, parks and public buildings of Newcastle as part of St Oswald's Hospice's third art trail. This time, the star of the show is Shaun the Sheep, a television star, Oscar winner, mischief-maker and all round icon.

Everyone is invited to get involved with the feel-good event of the summer and spend quality time with your favourite people, while out and about enjoying our beautiful city.

The fun begins on **Wednesday 19th July and the trail will run for 10 weeks.** There will be a dedicated app to download and paper maps available online and from our trail HQ at Newcastle Civic Centre. Get prepared now by following Shaun on the Tyne on social media and visit the website for the latest news at [www.shaunonthetyne.co.uk](http://www.shaunonthetyne.co.uk), where you can also sign up to our mailing list.



## Greetings that give back

Celebrate a special occasion with a St Oswald's Hospice e-card – a sustainable, convenient way to send a personal message, while giving back to the hospice!

With an array of designs to choose from, you can send an appropriate greeting at the click of a mouse, for a donation to St Oswald's Hospice. We have cards for all occasions! Visit [www.stoswaldsuk.org/st-oswalds-e-cards](http://www.stoswaldsuk.org/st-oswalds-e-cards)

## Happy Birthday to us!

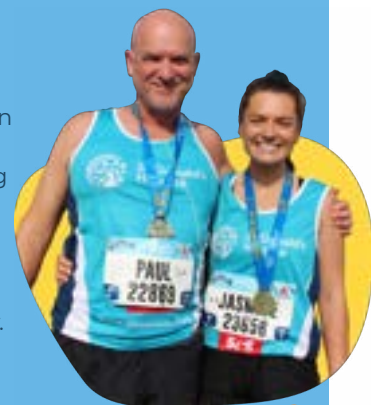
This month, we mark a very special occasion – the 20th Birthday of our Children's Service! We couldn't let the occasion pass by without a party of course, so there was much celebration and even more cake! We'll bring you photos and news from the day in your next newsletter.



## Great North FUN!

Have you or your child got a place in the Great North Run and would like to join our dream team? Or still looking to secure a place and want to make a difference? As part of Team St Oswald's, we'll supply a running vest and support you all the way.

Sign up now at [www.stoswaldsuk.org/great-north-run](http://www.stoswaldsuk.org/great-north-run)



Are you celebrating anything special this year? If you are planning an event or special occasion and would like to raise funds for St Oswald's Hospice as part of it, our team can supply posters, collections cans, bunting and much more. If you are selling tickets to the public, we can even help promote it by including the event in our email newsletters! Email [supportercare@stoswaldsuk.org](mailto:supportercare@stoswaldsuk.org) for more information.

Share your news and stories with us at [enquiries@stoswaldsuk.org](mailto:enquiries@stoswaldsuk.org)

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