



# Chief Executive, Jayne Bessant, to move to St Ann's Hospice

At the start of April, we were sad to hear that our Chief Executive, Jayne Bessant, who joined the hospice in May 2007, was to leave at the end of June to become Chief Executive of our much larger neighbour, St Ann's Hospice, Manchester.

Jayne really wanted to send the following message to hospice supporters:

"I am taking this opportunity to say thank you to you all for the fantastic support you have given the hospice and myself personally over the last three years.

My decision to leave was a difficult one as I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at East Cheshire and learnt so much from so many.

When I started in 2007 there had been a period of change and my first task was to bring stability to the organisation and review the breadth of its operation. I have been fortunate in this undertaking by

having a new Chairman, Roger Payne, to work with and a committed Board of Trustees.

It has been undoubtedly a period where everyone has worked tirelessly to develop the organisation and make it the best it can be. So much positive change has been brought about by the fantastic work of all the staff and the volunteers. I feel privileged to have been part of this and feel sure the foundations are set for the hospice to go forward.

Last year we celebrated our 21st Birthday and that coincided with the completion of our new In-patient Unit and reception area. I am thrilled to know that although I won't be here in another year, the rest of the hospice facilities will be transformed and the whole building will be fit not only for today but for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, volunteers and supporters of East Cheshire Hospice for



East Cheshire Hospice:  
Fit for today and the future.

their commitment and enthusiasm; it has been my pleasure to work with you.

I wish you all the best for the future."

## Samia Smith to become hospice patron

Everyone at East Cheshire Hospice is delighted that Coronation Street star Samia Smith has agreed to become a patron of the hospice and join the select group of high-profile friends who use their position in the public eye to help raise awareness of the hospice and the service it provides for local people.

"We are really thrilled that Samia has agreed to help in this crucial way," said Phil Robertshaw, Fundraising and Communications Manager. "Samia has been a good friend to the hospice for some time now, helping with our Midnight Walk in 2009 and last month's Will Week. She shares our passion for the service and this really comes through in everything she does on our behalf."



Hospice patron Samia Smith:  
promoting our 2010 Will Week

Samia joined Coronation Street in 2000 and since then has been at the centre of a number of hard-hitting storylines as hairdresser Maria Connor. She has recently been on maternity leave but is now back on set filming her full-time return to the programme.

"East Cheshire Hospice is so very close to my heart and I was delighted to be

able to help in this way," said Samia. "My dad sadly passed away at the hospice and so I know first hand about the amazing care it provides and not only for the patient but for the family as well. Whilst he was there, we got so much help and support that I found I was no longer just his carer but once again able to be his daughter. In those last difficult weeks, that was so very important to us both and I really can't thank the hospice enough"

As a hospice patron, Samia joins existing supporters Ryan Giggs OBE, Terry Waite CBE and Lord Thomas of Macclesfield. "They all do a great job to keep the hospice in people's minds and we are really grateful to them for the tremendous difference they make" says Phil.

Why not hold an event to raise funds for East Cheshire Hospice?  
Ring 01625 433477 to find out how we can help.

## “An Audience with Terry Waite”: Tuesday, 8th June, Alderley Edge Golf Club



Patron of the hospice, Terry Waite CBE, has again agreed to speak at an evening where he will reflect upon his experience as both hostage negotiator and hostage and discuss the problem of hostage taking today.

Following the event we held in March last year, many people felt they could have listened to Terry for much longer. This is another opportunity to hear his fascinating story.

As a world-renowned public speaker, the hospice is very grateful to Terry for agreeing to give his time again



and hold another evening, which this time is sponsored by Pannone LLP.

Before Terry addresses the audience, representatives from Pannone's Trust Department will give a short presentation on their services, particularly the need and importance of Lasting Power of Attorney.

“An Audience with Terry Waite” is to be held at Alderley Edge Golf Club,

Brook Lane, Alderley Edge on Tuesday, 8th June from 5.30pm. Tickets, priced £20 including drinks and canapes all evening, are available from Carly Jones at Pannone on 0161 909 4197 or by email [carly.jones@pannone.com](mailto:carly.jones@pannone.com)

The full ticket price will be donated to the hospice.

**For more information, contact Fiona Reed on 01625 666991, email [fred@echospice.org.uk](mailto:fred@echospice.org.uk) or visit our website [www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk](http://www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk)**

## What a Will Week it was!

The response to the hospice's inaugural Will Week was just fantastic. From the moment we began to set up the scheme, we were delighted with the response from our supporters far and wide. We were also thrilled at the reaction of local solicitors who embraced the initiative and willingly gave their time to write standard Wills during Will Week without charging any fee at all. People having their Will written during this special week – and there were nearly 200 – instead made a donation to the hospice.

Our thanks go to every single person who took the trouble to make their appointment and go along to give their instructions to a solicitor and made their donation to the hospice.

The scheme could not have taken place without the support of all 26 solicitors' offices from across our referral area – from Poynton to Congleton and Buxton to Knutsford – who spent a week writing standard Wills for nothing. Everyone at the hospice – patients, their families and friends, our staff and volunteers – are sincerely grateful.

“We won't know exactly how much has been raised from the scheme yet,” says Major Relationships Manager, Fiona Reed, who organised the Week. “But we hope it will certainly be a few thousand pounds. It was truly a community working together for the common good.”

For anyone who didn't get round to taking part in Will Week this year, we plan to hold one again in 2011. If you want to get your affairs in order before that, a list of solicitors who support the hospice is on our website.



# East Cheshire Hospice News Review

Summer 2010

## Department of Health grant makes our dreams a reality



Our Day Care Centre: delivering great care but in a building that is working against us.

Everyone at East Cheshire Hospice is celebrating the amazing news that we are to receive a £550,000 Department of Health grant which, along with the recent receipt of a number of generous legacies, is enabling work to begin on a much needed building project to transform our Day Care Centre and build a new Out-patients annex.

East Cheshire Hospice is one of 123 hospices across the country to receive grants from a £40 million fund set up to help hospices deliver better quality care to patients and those important to them. This funding was committed as part of

the Department of Health's End of Life Care strategy which was launched in July 2008.

With places for up to 15 patients a day, our Day Care Centre was built 11 years ago and offers a range of services which help people suffering from life-limiting illnesses to live independently at home for as long as they wish and are able.

"However, several years ago, we recognised that the Centre was becoming unfit for purpose," comments Hospice Chief Executive, Jayne



Space is the single biggest issue

Bessant. "We consulted widely and developed exciting plans which would completely transform the area. But then in today's economic climate, it seemed that the costs of providing the facilities required were simply beyond us. This was doubly frustrating because, from the moment it was opened in January last year, we could all see the incredible difference our wonderful new annex made to patients in our In-patient Unit.

"However, this marvellous grant and some wonderful legacies have made our dreams a reality, enabling us to commence building work straightaway. We are all absolutely delighted."

See inside for more on our exciting building development plans.



The new Day Care Centre: transforming the service we offer.



**Serving:** Macclesfield | Wilmslow | Alderley Edge | Knutsford | Congleton | Poynton | Disley | Peak Park

East Cheshire Hospice Registered Charity Number 515104



# Transforming the service we offer: our exciting building development plans

As reported on the front page, East Cheshire Hospice has been celebrating a £550,000 grant from the Department of Health which, together with recent legacy income, has enabled us to commence an exciting building project which will transform our Day Care Centre and build a new Out-patient annex.

“Several years ago, we recognised that the Day Care Centre was becoming unfit for purpose,” comments hospice Chief Executive, Jayne Bessant. “As we all know, our society is continuing to age and people are developing increasingly complex needs. At the same time, there are many positive developments in the treatment of life-limiting illnesses. However, our existing Day Care Centre is severely restricting our ability to respond.

“Space is the biggest single issue, limiting the number of patients who can be seen and the activities that



Celebrating the news of our £550,000 grant. (Photo supplied courtesy of The Macclesfield Express)

can be offered, as well as reducing our ability to treat them in privacy and with the dignity they have every right to expect. Our Physiotherapy Team, for example, delivers its service in one small room which also doesn't have the full range of equipment which patients need to help them build their strength and range of movement.

“Our Day Care team is brilliant and does great work but increasingly we have become aware that our building is working against rather

than helping it.”

The plan is to fully refurbish the existing Day Care Centre and create a substantial Out-patient extension at the rear. When completed, the new facilities will include a fully equipped physiotherapy/rehabilitation gym, additional treatment rooms for a range of therapies, a private consultation room, a quiet/counselling room, a separate activities room, a bright and cheery dining room and a wonderful new garden area for patients to enjoy.

The project will also provide the hospice with a clinical training and meeting facility and much needed office space, enhancing our capacity and helping attract more volunteers across the organisation.

Construction work will hopefully begin in June and be completed before the end of March 2011.

“This exciting project will transform the service we offer,” says Jayne. “When completed, the building will support rather than hinder our team and so help us deliver even better care to our patients and those important to them; now and in the future.”



Our new Day Care Centre: a building which will support rather than hinder our team.

Next time you're in town, visit our hospice shops  
in **Macclesfield** (on Chestergate) and **Congleton** (in the Capitol Walk Shopping Centre)



The Big Event: summer fun for everyone

Tickets are now on sale for the East Cheshire Hospice Big Event, taking place from the 10th-13th June, on Victoria Road. Set to be one of Macclesfield's biggest summer events, these four days will attract people of all ages.

The Big Schools Sound concert on Thursday 10th will lift the roof and set the tempo for the weekend ahead. Friday night will see the hospice's annual Quiz Night taking place. The Quiz Night is a sellout every year and this year is no exception, with tickets already selling fast.

Saturday night has already got the town buzzing with excitement, with two local bands,

## Tickets on sale now for The Big Event

Dazed and Confused and the Screaming Beavers performing live, plus the screening of England's first game against the USA in the 2010 World Cup, live on a 10ft screen. A beer tent will be open throughout the evening. "We hope this will be a real family evening and children over 11 are welcome, accompanied by an adult," says Lara Rigby, Community & Events Fundraiser and organiser of The Big Event.

Sunday will see a change in tempo when we host one of Cheshire's largest bridge drives. The Big Bridge Drive will take place on Sunday afternoon between 1.00pm and 4.00pm and will be accompanied by a lovely afternoon tea.

Lara says, "The tickets are already selling like hot cakes for all four events and we haven't even really started advertising yet. It is a very



Our game gig: buzzing with excitement!

exciting time for the hospice and we hope The Big Event will become an annual fixture."

**For more information or to purchase tickets please visit [www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk](http://www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk) or phone Lara on 01625 433477.**

## Hospice car raffle: a record success

On Wednesday 31st March 2010, 30,000 tickets were put into the draw to win the East Cheshire Hospice annual Car Raffle. The lucky winner, ticket number 91085, who chose not to be identified, was overjoyed when she received the wonderful news.

The brand new Ford Ka was provided by Jimmy Jackson of Sidney Jackson and Son, Butley Lane, Macclesfield. Jimmy, who is a long-standing supporter of the hospice said, "I was honoured to be involved in such a fantastic raffle. To raise £30,000 is an amazing achievement." Since the draw,

Jimmy has again offered his support for another raffle due to take place later this financial year.

Hospice fundraiser, Phil Robertshaw, said, "We were really unsure if the raffle would be a success this year, with the economic climate as it is. However, it's actually turned out to be our most successful car raffle ever.

"We are really pleased that a local supporter has won the car and, when she came to collect it, her smile just couldn't have been any bigger."



Jimmy Jackson hands over the keys to the hospice

**East Cheshire Hospice would like to thank everyone who supported this year's raffle.**

## Gift Aid – a quick health check

Many supporters now kindly tick the Gift Aid box when sending donations to the hospice, enabling us to dramatically increase the value of their gift by claiming back from the government the income or capital gains tax they have already paid on that amount.

This is a wonderful way of helping. However, the regulations governing the process are very strict indeed and the penalties on the charity if we get it wrong are harsh.

To remain within the regulations, therefore, every so often we need to undertake a quick health check and remind all supporters who do allow us to reclaim tax under Gift Aid that they must be UK tax payers and that they must have paid sufficient income or capital gains tax in that tax year to cover the amount we will be reclaiming. It is also important for audit purposes that we have your current address details.

So please, if you have in the past authorised us to reclaim the tax you have paid on your

gifts and you have since changed your address or ceased to be a tax payer, do let us know by either emailing [jsneddon@echospice.org.uk](mailto:jsneddon@echospice.org.uk) or telephoning Jane Sneddon on 01625 433477. If you are unsure or have any questions at all about what you need to do, please do err on the side of caution and get in touch. We would be delighted to help in any way we can and so ensure we're all fully "Gift Aid Fit!"

**Thank you.**

You can make a gift to the hospice online at [www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk](http://www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk)  
Thank you for your support.

# Midnight Walk 2010



throughout the region to come along and take part."

A total of over £180,000 was raised from the 2008 and 2009 Walks but this moonlit event will be the biggest fundraiser in the hospice calendar. "With more walkers than ever before," says Lara, "this fun event promises to light up the streets with flashing bunny ears, luminous glo-sticks and its wonderful, unique atmosphere."

On Saturday 11th September, hospice supporters will once again snake through the streets of Macclesfield to raise vital funds for their local hospice.

With a brand new route and 1,500 places available, the 2010 East Cheshire Hospice Midnight Walk is set to be the biggest yet. Organiser Lara Rigby says, "In 2008 we had 500 walkers. In 2009 that doubled to 1,000 walkers and this year we are aiming for 1,500. The Walk is already a firm favourite amongst hospice supporters and so we're calling on everyone



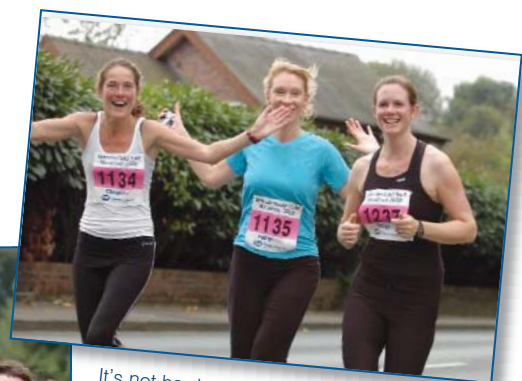
To secure your place in what is set to be one of the liveliest nights in our 2010 calendar, simply complete your online application form today at [www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk](http://www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk) or alternatively contact the fundraising department on 01625 433477. An early bird rate is available until 30th June.

# Keep on running!

We are really pleased that the hospice has been selected as charity partner in this year's Macclesfield Half Marathon which will take place on Sunday 26th September.

The "Macc Half" is a fun and well-established event in the region's running calendar and we do urge all supporters who like a challenge to sign up this year, dust off their running shoes and help raise funds for the hospice.

Visit [www.macc-half.k313.com](http://www.macc-half.k313.com) to register and find out more.



*It's not hard work ALL the way round!*

*Photos supplied courtesy of Bryan Dale*

Why not run for East Cheshire Hospice this September?

If you can spare a little time, join our friendly team of volunteers.  
To find out more, ring Lynette on 01625 610364