- Where it all happens!

Thanks to all the staff at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care and Daft as a Brush for making this outstanding achievement possible.

Again, many thanks,

Brian Burnie – Trustee.

For further information tel: (0191) 28 55 999 or visit www.daftasabrush.org.uk
CHAPLAINCY: SUPPORTING PEOPLE THROUGH DIS-EASE

The Chaplaincy Department consists of 4 whole time and 3 part time staff together with a team of volunteers who provide a 24 hour 7 day a week on call service.

Chaplaincy contributes to the Trust’s objective of providing “Healthcare at it’s very best – with a personal touch” by:

- Ensuring Religious, Spiritual and Cultural needs are taken seriously by all staff across the Trust to encourage and enhance the importance of wellbeing and dignity for all
- Providing specialist care
- Providing “safe space” (physically and emotionally) for patients/families/carers while they face the effects of illness, change and crisis on their lives and for staff as they support those patients/families/carers.

Much of this work is done in terms of informal contacts on the wards, in the corridors and in the Chaplaincy areas of the hospitals; however the department received an average of 350 specific patient referrals a month during the year.

In a similar way much of the staff support is delivered on the wards and in the corridors in an informal way; however the department followed up specific requests for more formal support on an average of 5 referrals a month.

The following extracts, from messages received from families, give an indication of the way in which our contribution to the multi-disciplinary work of the Trust has an impact on people’s lives and health:

Dear all, we wanted to say thank you for the excellently chosen words at the “Remembering Our Babies Service”. Losing our x was incredibly difficult but with the support from the RVI team it has been easier and having a “safe time” to think of x is so nice.

Just a note to say thank you so much for all your support, care, prayers and love for our family over the past seven weeks. We have really appreciated each conversation, wave, hug or cup of tea. It has been so good to know you are thinking of us and praying for us and x.

Sometimes the care given to me by you and others in the Chaplaincy team is the most precious care I could receive. That was certainly the case during periods of this admission, and for that I’m eternally grateful.

Just a note to say ”thank you” to all the Chaplains. Your support and kindness shown throughout a very difficult month for us was fantastic and very much appreciated.

The hugs or prayers or kind words at just the right time were a great comfort and source of strength for us.

We would like to say a special thanks to x for Baptising x and we are sorry to always call you out at various hours!

Thank you to x for sorting out the toys in the Chapel for the boys – they were very disappointed to be going back to our regular church!

More than anything we would like to say a heartfelt thank you for the support and care you gave us when x died; being with us at the bedside, doing the little service and organising the Chapel of Rest and looking after us after we had visited him there. It made everything that bit more bearable. The funeral director also commented on how efficient and organised it all was when he came to get x and that it was a pleasant change for him in comparison with other hospitals. We really do feel very looked after.

Sometimes the care given to me by you and others in the Chaplaincy team is the most precious care I could receive. That was certainly the case during periods of this admission, and for that I’m eternally grateful.

Sometimes the care given to me by you and others in the Chaplaincy team is the most precious care I could receive. That was certainly the case during periods of this admission, and for that I’m eternally grateful.

Just a note to say ”thank you” to all the Chaplains. Your support and kindness shown throughout a very difficult month for us was fantastic and very much appreciated.

The hugs or prayers or kind words at just the right time were a great comfort and source of strength for us.

We would like to say a special thanks to x for Baptising x and we are sorry to always call you out at various hours!

Thank you to x for sorting out the toys in the Chapel for the boys – they were very disappointed to be going back to our regular church!

More than anything we would like to say a heartfelt thank you for the support and care you gave us when x died; being with us at the bedside, doing the little service and organising the Chapel of Rest and looking after us after we had visited him there. It made everything that bit more bearable. The funeral director also commented on how efficient and organised it all was when he came to get x and that it was a pleasant change for him in comparison with other hospitals. We really do feel very looked after.

During April 2013, we learnt of the sudden death of the Reverend Canon Dr. Alan Maude in Spain. Alan was Chaplain and Head of Chaplaincy at the RVI and Co-Trust Lead for Chaplaincy in the Trust between 1975 and 2006. He was instrumental in establishing the high standard for Chaplaincy Care and a great friend and support of many – patients, families and staff alike.
Living Matters, Dying Matters

Making a difference to End of Life Care

Why does Dying Matter?

"How people die remains in the memory of those who live on"

Dame Cicely Saunders
Department of Health (July 2008)
End of Life Care Strategy London: DoH
2012 has seen lots of memorable events, including but not limited to the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee, London Olympics and the Paralympics. We can celebrate some amazing fundraising efforts for the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust’s two umbrella charities: Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Charity (Reg. Charity No. 1057213) and Newcastle Healthcare Charity (Reg. Charity No. 502473). In a time of uncertainty, and threats of a triple dip recession, the generosity of the public has not failed to falter.

We have seen patients, families, friends and staff complete challenges including: Tough Mudder (designed by the Special Forces), the Ha ha charity comedy walk, a charity download ‘Song for Eve’, bake sales, a Chinese banquet, a zip wire challenge, musical extravaganza events and lots more, all with the same goal – raising money to help future generations.

Although all healthcare services are funded from central government taxes and the Trust provides the highest level of quality care and service to its patients from the government funding it receives, there is always room to improve. The expansion and diversity in charitable work taking place and generosity of donations from the public has enabled us to go that bit further and enhance patient care and comforts, as well as specialist staff training and the funding of research projects to enable development of new technologies to improve patient care.

The number of charitable funds being administered by these charities is increasing year on year thanks to the generosity of patients; their families, friends and supporters, there are now approximately 700 charitable funds. These are spread across our hospitals, wards, specialties and departments, all supporting the work of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals.

Our Charitable Funds team is based at Cheviot Court at the Freeman Hospital. The small team consists of a Financial Accountant, with three accountancy staff, a Head of Fundraising and a Communications Assistant. In collaboration with Potts Print (UK) we facilitate a free service to create a brand identity which will be attractive to potential donors, foster and maintain their loyalty and ultimately increase charitable revenue.

This year we have created an online event registration form to download from our Charity Matters page on the Trust website www.newcastle-hospitals.org.uk. The form can be found in ‘Our Charitable Funds’ section, and is for anyone wishing to fundraise in aid of our charities. Anyone wishing to hold fundraising activities must register the event with us first to use the charity and hospital name.

If you require any help or advice with regard to fundraising, please contact Pauline Buglass, Head of Fundraising on 0191 213 7235 or email: pauline.buglass@nuth.nhs.uk.
Grandad raises £1,750 for The Great North Children’s Hospital

A grandad from Stanley in County Durham raised a massive £1,750 for the Great North Children’s Hospital at Newcastle’s RVI by completing the Bupa Great North Run in 2 hours, 16 minutes.

This was the first time that Ian Bainbridge had ever run the iconic North East half-marathon, after being inspired by his grand-daughter Emily Simpson, who was born last year with only one functioning hand.

Emily, with mum Emma and dad Lee, presented Ian’s cheque for £1,750 to Alison Power, Junior Sister, Children’s Outpatients department.

Ready For Home

A group of Stannington school children were given the chance to perform a very special song live at the 130th annual Hoppings Fair on Newcastle’s Town Moor.

A ‘Song for Eve’ is the collaboration between professional musicians Tony Grey and Leon Hughes with ‘Eve’s Army’ - a group of children from the Stannington community in Northumberland. The pop song was written to help raise awareness of the Newcastle Healthcare Charity’s ‘Ready for Home Rehabilitation Fund’.

Eve Anderson is a brave little girl who has ‘locked-in syndrome’ following a bleed in her brain. Her experience highlighted the need to raise funds to help her and children like her.

Eve spent two weeks in life-saving paediatric intensive care at the Great North Children’s Hospital, based at the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI), Newcastle, before being moved into paediatric neurology to undergo a course of radiotherapy – in total, Eve spent ten months in hospital before being discharged.

Eve’s family were faced with a range of expensive and complex needs, which are important to aid recovery and encourage social contact. Her condition highlighted a gap in the transition between being in an acute hospital setting, and being back in the community.

As a result, the ‘Ready for Home Rehabilitation Fund’ has been set up by the Newcastle Healthcare Charity (Reg Charity No 502473) to bridge the gap between hospital and home for Eve and any children in the North East with similar needs to her in the future.
The Ha Ha Hadrian’s Wall Comedy Walk was completed, walking the full length of the wall over six days, whilst putting on a comedy show every night along the way. Pat Monahan, winner of ITV’s ‘Show Me The Funny’ acted as a star guest to compere some of the shows.

Nic decided to organise the challenge because his best friend’s two-year-old son, Harry Readman, was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease.

Nic says:

“The treatment and support given to him and to my friend and his partner by the staff at the Great North Children’s Hospital at the RVI was truly amazing and I just wanted to say thank you by trying to raise as much as possible for this fantastic charity.”

The walk saw the team of comedians start the 84-mile journey, from the west coast at Bowness On Solway, Cumbria and finish at the east coast in Wallsend, Tyneside. Each night, they put on a comedy gig to increase the funds raised for the specialist unit.

The Children and Young People’s Kidney Fund supports the Paediatric Nephrology Unit, based at the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI), Newcastle.

The Children and Young People’s Kidney Fund supports the Paediatric Nephrology Unit, based at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle. The unit looks after families from all over the region, from Berwick in the north, Whitehaven in the west, down to North Yorkshire in the south. It covers a population of approximately 3.2 million.

The facilities include a 7-station dedicated Children’s Haemodialysis Unit, an in-patient ward and facilities. Its services include haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, transplantation, acute dialysis, plasma exchange and home support.
CHARITY CHINESE BANQUET RAISES OVER £13,000 FOR HEART UNIT

A charity Chinese banquet was held for the third year, at the Palace Garden restaurant in Newcastle. A cheque was presented for £13,026.37 by proprietors Peter and Ann Cheng to Freeman Hospital Consultant Cardiologist, Dr Azfar Zaman. The money raised was donated to the Cardio Education and Research Fund.

Consultant Cardiologist, Dr Azfar Zaman explained:

“We are so grateful to Peter and Ann Cheng for once again hosting this event to raise money for our Cardio Education and Research Fund at the Freeman. Through their generosity and that of those who have come along to their fundraising evenings, bought raffle tickets, bid for auction prizes or simply made donations, we have been able to purchase equipment which allows us to measure the ‘stickiness’ of patients’ blood. This is important as, in patients who have had a coronary stent or heart valve fitted, blood that is too thick can cause clots to develop and block the stent or valve.

The equipment has also been used for research purposes in patients with diabetes and has led to scientific publications and an invited lecture at the Royal College of Physicians.

Charitable donations and fundraising are so important to us as they allow us to provide that little bit extra in terms of funding local research and keeping pace with continual developments in medical equipment and treatment.”

The fundraiser was organised by Barry Speker of Samuel Phillips Law Firm and has taken the running total to over £30,000. More than two hundred guests attended the event including both the Chairman and Chief Executive of Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Kingsley Smith and Sir Leonard Fenwick.

Barry Speker, Senior Partner with Samuel Phillips Law Firm said:

“We are delighted to be able to support this fantastic cause again. It is a sobering thought that many of us, or those close to us, may well need the expertise of the Cardio Unit at Freeman Hospital at some time in our lives. The more we can raise, the greater the benefit for this wonderful regional facility.”

The Freeman Hospital’s Cardiology Unit specialises in the treatment of patients with coronary heart disease, rhythm disturbances, heart failure, valvular heart disease and diseases of the heart muscle. The unit is the largest centre in the UK both for coronary angioplasty (a procedure used to unblock or widen a blood vessel) and for providing treatment for patients with heart attacks, with the fastest treatment times in the country.
Oesophageal and Gastric cancer is the fifth commonest cause of cancer deaths in the UK. The northern region of England, together with Scotland, has the highest incidences of these cancers in Europe.

Charity Zip Wire - Baltic to Newcastle Quayside
Professor Michael Griffin, OBE, Begins His Descent

Fundraisers including staff and patients from the Northern Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Unit (NOGCU), at the Royal Victoria Infirmary took part in a thrilling zip wire from the top of the Baltic Centre to the Newcastle Quayside. The event was aimed to raise both money and awareness of Oesophageal (gullet) and Stomach cancer.

Travelling at speeds of up to 25mph for over 900ft gave a unique view of the Quayside and an opportunity for many to conquer their fear of heights. Large numbers of friends and families turned out to show their support for the event as well as helping with the fundraising.

All the money raised will help fund the NOGCU’s ‘Oesophagoose’ campaign. The North East has some of the highest rates of Oesophageal and Stomach cancer in the country. Early detection and treatment makes a huge difference to the chances of patients being cured. ‘Oesophagoose’ aims to raise awareness of these cancers by alerting people to the common symptoms, and encouraging them to seek medical advice.

The zip wire followed on from a very successful annual awareness campaign. Central to the campaign was our goose mascot who could be seen dancing and posing for photographs along the Quayside in support of the event.

Speaking after completing the zip wire himself, Consultant Surgeon Professor Michael Griffin, OBE, from the NOGCU said:

“As well as being a fantastic experience for everyone taking part, we are on course to raise over £10,000 from this event. It is incredible to see the effort that so many people have made to raise money for the ‘Oesophagoose’ campaign, and I am particularly pleased to see so many of our patients and their families here today. This money will help make a real difference to patient care here in the North East.”

OBE Awarded to North East Cancer Specialist

Pioneering cancer specialist Michael Griffin, Professor of Gastrointestinal Surgery, Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI) has received the Royal seal of approval and been awarded an OBE.

Professor Griffin, has been performing complex surgery for over 20 years, saving countless lives, and also played a pivotal role in the creation of the Northern Oesophago Gastric Cancer Unit at Newcastle’s RVI.

Professor Griffin, plays an active role in raising money for the Northern Oesophago Gastric Cancer Fund, based at the RVI. He recently took part in a zip wire challenge, along with patients and staff from the unit to help raise both funds and awareness of the cancer.
THOUSANDS of pounds has been raised for a cancer unit which supported a man through his treatment.

Terry Wood held a fundraising night at the Cullercoats Crescent Club in aid of the Northern Oesophageal Gastric Cancer unit at Newcastle’s RVI.

And at The Sportsman in Preston Village, he presented a cheque for £5,415 to surgeon Nick Hayes and members of the cancer team.

Terry, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2010 undergoing surgery last March, wanted to do something to say thanks to the team and help future cancer patients.

Around 200 people attended the fundraising night which included a live band, raffle and auction officiated by Featonby.

Terry said: “I want to thank everyone for their kind support and contributions for the raffle and auction prizes.”

Graham Watson, a patient of Professor Griffin, raised £6,000 for the Northern Oesophageal Gastric Cancer Fund, at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Graham and around 50 colleagues from SCS completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge.
The First Annual<br>Midsummer Charity Ball<br><br>A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAME<br><br>In aid of the DREAME Fund<br>Supporting Integrated Critical Care at Freeman Hospital<br><br>The Assembly Rooms, Newcastle<br><br>Tickets £47.50<br><br>Drinks reception<br>Delicious 3 course meal with wine<br>Amazing live music<br>Incredible prize draw and more.....
The nominated charity this year was the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. Barry Speker OBE, senior partner of Samuel Phillips Law Firm, welcomed the medical staff and other personnel of the Trust to the event, and Dr Alistair Gascoigne expressed his appreciation.

In addition, Professor Ruth Plummer, director of the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre, thanked the firm for the donation and spoke to the guests about the excellent work made possible by the enormous funds raised by the Foundation in establishing a Research Institute at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at Newcastle’s Freeman Hospital.

Entertainment at the event was provided by soprano Rachel Dyson, who features regularly at The Sage, Gateshead.
Jim had been awaiting a lung transplant operation at the Freeman when he sadly lost his battle with lung disease. Being so far away from home meant that Pamela and the couple’s two young boys, then aged just two and five months, had to stay in Newcastle for a period of time.

Pamela said:

“I’m actually quite overwhelmed with how things have turned out with the fundraising. When I started arranging ‘Jim’s Walk’ I had no idea I would get the level of support I’ve had. My initial thought was it would be a nice way to mark my husband’s first anniversary and say a little thank you for the care we all had at the Freeman Hospital. There is a fantastic transplant team there and the care we received from them was amazing. I was, and still am, overwhelmed at the kindness shown to my family. They organised a flat for me and the children and told me that in order to take care of Jim, they needed to take care of us too as they knew we were his priority.”

She continued saying:

“I would not have expected this level of care anywhere and I just want to raise awareness of the fantastic work they do there and at the same time, hope to encourage more people to sign up for organ donation too.”

The Institute of Transplantation at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, which opened its doors in 2011 is a purpose-built facility that brings together all aspects of transplantation under one roof. The Freeman Hospital has performed more heart and lung transplants than anywhere else in the UK and is widely regarded as the premier lung transplant service in the country.

The Heart and Lung Transplant Patients Amenity Fund provides financial assistance for pre and post-transplant patients and their families who come to the Freeman for treatment. Many of our patients have to travel from all over the UK and Ireland, sometimes having to stay many months in Newcastle before or after their transplant. All money donated to the fund is used for the comfort of patients being treated at our Institute of Transplantation.
Best friends Rachel Spratt, Lucy McAdam, Amelia Robson and Ellen Noke, all aged 13, spent two days baking cakes and cookies for the sale. They decided to raise money for the charitable fund to say thank you to the hospital for the treatment received by Rachel’s mum, Wendy Spratt who was diagnosed with breast cancer.

The Breast Reconstruction Service is a specialist area of plastic and reconstructive surgery based at the RVI. The service is run by highly skilled breast surgeons and is available as part of the treatment for breast cancer following a full or partial mastectomy, or for patients with congenital breast problems.

Breast reconstruction is a complex process and the service offers the full range of reconstructive options from implants to free tissue transfer, which involves grafting tissue from another part of the body to help reconstruct the breast. The service uses a multi-disciplinary approach involving a wide range of experts; including breast, oncoplastic and plastic surgeons, radiologists, oncologists and breast nurse specialists.

Wendy praised the care she received whilst a patient at the RVI:

“From the day I was diagnosed, I received the very best care from all the healthcare professionals at the RVI. I cannot thank Mr Stewart Nicholson, Consultant Oncoplastic Surgeon and Dr Sunil Amonkar, Special Registrar, enough for the care, support and attention they showed to me prior to my surgery visits and during my stay following necessary surgery and of course subsequent outpatient appointments.”

Wendy went on to say:

“My special thanks must also go to Sue Keeton, Senior Breast Reconstruction Nurse and Clare Ure, Breast Reconstruction Specialist, as they both made a difficult journey manageable and were always there when I needed them. They made me feel safe, comfortable and nothing was ever too much trouble. They are without doubt ‘angels’ in my eyes.”

Seaton Burn Community College supplied the ingredients and the cookery teacher allowed the cookery classroom to remain open so that the girls could use the ovens for two days to do the baking.

Rachel commented:

“All the students were really supportive and we actually sold out of cakes in 10 minutes. It was so popular, we’re looking at doing it again.”

Receiving the cheque on behalf of the RVI’s Breast Reconstruction Service, Senior Breast Reconstruction Nurse, Sue Keeton said:

“We are so grateful to the girls and to everyone at Seaton Burn Community College for raising such a fantastic amount of money for our fund. Every donation we receive helps us to continue to provide the highest quality care and support to women coming into our clinics for breast reconstruction treatment, advice and support. Charitable funding helps us to go the extra mile and achieve things more quickly than would otherwise have been possible with mainstream funding alone.”
Pancreatic cancer is diagnosed in 6000 people in the UK annually and is the fourth most common cancer. Acinar Cell Cancer (ACC) of the pancreas however, is a very rare type of pancreatic cancer representing less than 1% of all pancreatic cancers. Only 10-25 cases per year are diagnosed in the UK.

Pete's Pancreas Project aims to raise vital funds and awareness about pancreatic cancer to support research into possible treatments for this particular type of cancer.

Commenting about the fundraising efforts of the Dowen family and their friends, Peter Dowen gives this message:

"Pete's Pancreas Project was set up by my children after I was diagnosed with a very rare form of pancreatic cancer, Acinar Cell Cancer (ACC).

Pete's Pancreas Project, in association with the research team at the specialist Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) surgical team at the Freeman Hospital Newcastle aim to:

- Set up a UK registry of ACC based at the Freeman Hospital
- Collect retrospective and prospective demographic, treatment and outcome data of patients with a diagnosis of ACC
- Facilitate the movement of histological tissue samples from other specialist centres to the Freeman Hospital.

The analysis that will then take place has never been done before and will provide important information for therapeutic agents in the treatment of ACC.

To date we have had huge support from family and friends and we aim to continue our fund raising efforts indefinitely. There have been a huge number of fund raising events so far and these have raised £70,000.

These examples give a flavour of what we have been doing and the amazing support we are receiving from everybody we know.

Thanks to everyone."  

Peter Dowen

"We are absolutely delighted to have been able to treat Peter Dowen and very strongly support the fantastic efforts that his family and friends are making to raise money for pancreatic cancer research at the Freeman Hospital. We encourage our patients to participate in clinical and scientific research and we have specific research interests in pancreatic cancer including finding out the causes, investigating new molecules and novel imaging techniques as well as participating in national and international trials of new treatments and tests. The Freeman treats patients with pancreatic disease from all over the North of England, from the Scottish Borders to North Yorkshire and from the Northumberland coast to West Cumberland, so the Coast to Coast charity cycle ride is a really appropriate fundraiser for research at the Freeman."

Richard Charnley

Peter Dowen’s Surgeon, Freeman Hospital
River Rats Race

MS sufferer Dave Redhead from Eaglescliffe and five local friends joined hundreds of other runners to take part in gruelling Stockton River Rat Race – a wet ‘n’ wild 10km running event.

Despite suffering from Multiple Sclerosis since the age of 24, Dave put together a team of friends, including Daniel Dowen to splash, kayak, jump and climb their way across a unique running course along the banks of the River Tees, linking together a series of water and shore based activities along the route.

Dave said before the race:

“Unfortunately I suffer from MS so it’s been quite tough doing the training for this race, but I know that with all the fantastic support we’re getting it’ll keep us going around the course. This is a brilliant cause and we want to raise awareness of this very rare form of pancreatic cancer and help other patients and their families who are faced with this diagnosis.”

Charity Ball

A charity ball took place at the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle to raise money for the Dowen Trust Fund based at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle.

In total, over 300 tickets were sold for the event, which was also attended by Peter Dowen’s surgeon, Consultant Surgeon, Richard Charnley and other representatives from the Freeman hospital, Newcastle. A staggering total of £16,400 was raised throughout the evening.

The event featured a charity auction of some fabulous prizes donated by family and friends, including a one week stay at a beach house in Oregon, a one week stay in a worldwide timeshare, a fortnight stay in a Swiss ski chalet including flights and much much more. Other prizes donated were also raffled off during the evening.

Tough Mudder Challenge

Peter’s sons Daniel and James Dowen persuaded 50 of their friends to compete in the first Tough Mudder event to be held in the UK.

Tough Mudder is a hardcore 12 mile obstacle course designed by British Special Forces to test your all round strength, stamina, mental grit and camaraderie. It is the premier adventure challenge event in the world.

Some of the challenges the participants faced included, swimming through ice, climbing hay bales, sprinting through live wires with up to 10,000 volts of electricity, whilst being faced with deep mud and hay bales, climbing snow and ice, running through fire and crossing a body of muddy water with just a rope above their heads and below to walk on. Only 78% of applicants complete each challenge.

Peter Dowen went along to support the event and says:

“I was truly humbled by how many people were prepared to put themselves through the pain barrier for me.”
Located in the Northern Centre for Cancer Care (NCCC) at Freeman Hospital, the outlet has gone from strength to strength, raising over £20,000 in the past year. Monies help the Charlie Bear for Cancer Care Charitable Fund enhance cancer care for patients in the North East and Cumbria.

Shop Manager, Michelle Charlton says:
“Word of mouth has really helped increase the shop’s clientele, and patients and families regularly visit our shop. The general feeling is that the Charlie Bear shop adds colour and a bit of joy, and pleasant banter to what is essentially a serious place. I personally source all products that we sell to ensure the quality is high and consistent across our range.”

Michelle, with the help of volunteers, offers a friendly, approachable service. With a range of modern jewellery and keepsakes available, to fashionable bags and headscarves, cards and books, the shop is perfect for last minute gifts or personal treats.

In Memory of Maggie – Courageous and Inspirational

Just two weeks before her death to terminal lung and brain cancer, blues singer Maggie Ross held a poignant farewell party, raising over £4,000 for Charlie Bear. Maggie has a lengthy musical career in a range of genres, including fronting her own blues band, The Maggie Ross Band.

In 1981 Maggie recorded a song ‘Come on In’ in aid of Charlie Bear to help raise the target of £1 Million for the purchase of a CT whole body scanner, the first in the North East to be sited at Newcastle General Hospital.

After being diagnosed with the terminal illness, Maggie found herself reunited with Charlie Bear when she was admitted to the Northern Centre for Cancer Care now based at Freeman Hospital.

An evening of music and entertainment was held by singers and bands which included an appearance by international recording artist Lorraine Crosby who famously featured on Meat Loaf’s 1993 number one single “I’d Do Anything for Love (But I Won’t Do That).”
Charlie Bear Chosen as Charity of the Year by Sintons

Staff at the Newcastle based law firm Sintons, presented a cheque for £7,400 to the Charlie Bear for Cancer Care fund. The money was used to support the introduction of Cyber Surgery at the Freeman Hospital’s Northern Centre for Cancer Care (NCCC).

Sintons Law Firm adopted Charlie Bear as their Charity of the Year 2012 and in addition to their normal fundraising and charitable donations, committed 80 days of staff time each year to provide hands on help in the local community.

As part of the firms fundraising activities, two brothers from Hebburn and Killingworth pledged to abstain from drinking alcohol for 10 weeks to raise money for the Charlie Bear for Cancer Care Cyber Surgery appeal. Peter and Garry Jennings who both work at Sintons raised over £500 with the support and generosity from family, friends and work colleagues.

Charlie Bear Golf Day – Crystal Anniversary

Now in its 15th year the Annual Charlie Bear Golf Day again took place at the Macdonald Linden Hall Golf and Country Club, Longhorsley, Northumberland.

Charlie Bear Patron, Mr Barry Speker OBE, Consultant with the Samuel Phillips Law Firm once again acted as main sponsor providing crystal ware as golfing prizes.

The day raised a fantastic £12,098.58 with the help of Golf Professional, Mr Chris Cole from the Beamish Park Golf Club. This brings the total raised over since 1998 to over £141,000.
The stereotactic radiotherapy surgery will be equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology (Varian’s TrueBeamTM STx with Novalis radiosurgery) and will be the first of its kind in the UK outside London. Its purchase has been made possible through a special collaboration between local hospital charities and the Trust.

Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) and stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR) technology is capable of delivering extremely high doses of radiation with pinpoint, multi-dimensional accuracy to malignant and benign tumours that are small and not amenable to treatment by surgery or conventional radiotherapy. Damage to surrounding tissue is minimal, vastly reducing the potential side effects and treatment is delivered in just a few short radiotherapy sessions.

The stereotactic radiotherapy surgery at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care will enable local cancer patients from the Scottish Borders to North Yorkshire and from the Northumberland coast to West Cumberland, a population of 3.1 million, to be treated more quickly and effectively than ever before.

In December 2011, Sir John Hall, a patron of Charlie Bear for Cancer Care (a fund dedicated to raising money for the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital) launched a £3 million appeal to bring this state of the art radiotherapy to the region. In less than one year, thanks to the overwhelming generosity and fundraising efforts of the North East public, the appeal had raised £200,000.
Now, in a special collaboration, the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation has made a massive £850,000 contribution to the appeal which, with a £1.8 million investment from the Trust and an additional contribution of £150,000 from the Newcastle Healthcare Charity, is the amount needed to finally secure the stereotactic radiotherapy surgery equipment for the Northern Centre for Cancer Care.

This huge charitable contribution is down to the incredible individual and group fundraising efforts of ordinary people whose generosity has brought cyber surgery to the region.

Sir Leonard Fenwick, Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust’s chief executive, said: “I am extremely proud to announce that stereotactic radiotherapy is coming to the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital. This is a truly collaborative approach with the charities working together with the Trust to ensure that the very best cancer treatment available anywhere will now be available on our doorstep in the hands of our world-renowned cancer specialists and leaders in clinical research. This gives us the best possible chance to beat cancer.”

Professor Ruth Plummer, Sir Bobby Robson's oncologist and a trustee of the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, said: “Sir Bobby launched this charity to make a genuine difference to other people fighting cancer and that’s just what we’ll do with this new equipment.

“It’s the largest contribution the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation has made to date and we feel certain Sir Bobby would back our decision. He would be very proud knowing the legacy he has left us through the charity is helping fund such important work – not only in helping treat people with cancer now but in the wider fight against the disease.

“It is a truly world-class facility which will work in tandem with the drug trials within the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre and new scanning made possible thanks to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation PET Tracer Production Unit.”

Sir John Hall, a patron of the Charlie Bear Cancer Appeal, and who has had his own experience of cancer, said: “When I launched the appeal in December last year, I had every faith that our wonderful, generous North East public would come up trumps and deliver this amazing technology for the Northern Centre for Cancer Care. This collaborative approach, however, was beyond my wildest dreams.

“Bringing stereotactic radiotherapy surgery to the North East means we will have the very best treatment in this region and it will save and prolong lives. This has changed the face of cancer treatment in the region but it is just the beginning. We now need to keep on raising more money to develop the service and make sure that we remain at the cutting edge of cancer treatment in this country.”

Sir John Hall and his wife Lady Mae present a cheque for £50,000 to ensure the North East and Cumbria remains at the forefront of cancer treatment in the UK.

Sir John Hall, a patron of Charlie Bear for Cancer Care, is keen to ensure the North East remains at the forefront of cancer treatment.

Accompanied by his wife Lady Mae, he presented a cheque for £50,000 to set the ball rolling on phase two of the Charlie Bear for Cancer Care stereotactic surgery fundraising appeal.

After the initial £3.2m was jointly raised to meet the cost of purchasing the cutting edge stereotactic radiotherapy equipment, a further £1m target has been set to ensure best use can be made of it.

Sir John made the cheque presentation at County Hall, Durham, to start the latest appeal, which has the backing of local authorities throughout the region and was initiated by Durham County Council.

Sir John Hall said: “The recent announcement that stereotactic surgery is coming to our region is absolutely fantastic and we should be incredibly proud.

“This will change the face of cancer treatment throughout the whole region.

“It has only been made possible by the amazing generosity of ordinary people across the North-East and Cumbria.

“It’s just the beginning of the fundraising story.

“We need to keep on raising more money to develop this wonderful cancer service and ensure we remain at the cutting edge of cancer treatment in the country.”

Stereotactic radiotherapy surgery at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care will enable local cancer patients from the Scottish Borders to North Yorkshire and from the Northumberland coast to West Cumberland, a population of 3.1 million, to be treated more quickly and effectively than ever before.

Dr Ian Pedley, praised peoples fundraising efforts in the North East for enabling the state-of-the-art treatment to be brought to the region – offering a curative radiotherapy service to patients.

He said: “The generosity of people across the North East, and various charity events and raising funds for the charities, has made this possible. We are talking about offering curative radiotherapy to patients who we are not able to cure either with surgery or conventional radiotherapy.”
The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation celebrated its fifth anniversary this year. The charitable fund my husband launched in March 2008 continues to go from strength to strength and we’re very proud of everything we’ve been able to achieve in that time.

Thanks to the incredible ongoing generosity of our supporters, and working in partnership with the NHS, Newcastle University and other charities, we’ve been able to make tremendous progress towards finding more effective ways to detect and treat cancer. It feels like, together, we’re achieving Bob’s strongly held ambitions to help other people faced with this terrible disease.

And there’s still so much more we have planned and that we can be doing in the future. Our medical trustees are always looking ahead to the next promising new treatments and equipment. I’m often astounded by the science involved. There’s so much expertise and determination out there to do something about cancer.

Bob called the Foundation his ‘last and greatest team’ and that’s just what it remains – a fantastic team effort with everyone pulling together. Everyone who has played their part, large or small, has made an important contribution and should be very proud of their efforts.

Thank you all.

The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation

celebrated its fifth anniversary this year. The charitable fund my husband launched in March 2008 continues to go from strength to strength and we’re very proud of everything we’ve been able to achieve in that time.

Five Years of Funding

Sir Bobby Robson launched the Foundation after a request for help from his oncologist Professor Ruth Plummer.

Professor Plummer was treating Sir Bobby as he faced cancer for the fifth - and what he knew would be the final time. She needed to raise £500,000 to equip a new cancer drug trials centre at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care and asked him if he knew anyone who might like to donate.

Sir Bobby responded by launching a charity to get the money she needed. He described it as ‘like being at the helm of a team again.’

The reaction to his appeal for help was incredible and just seven weeks after the Foundation launched Professor Plummer had the £500,000 she needed.

In February 2009, Sir Bobby officially opened the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre. He was very proud that the centre carried his name.

Sir Bobby said he would give up a year of his life to the charity. In fact he became so passionate about it that, despite being very ill, he spent his last 18 months doing all he could to raise funds to help others facing cancer. He said he hoped it would become his legacy.
Five Years of Funding (continued)

The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation aims to find more effective ways to detect and treat cancer - and to do so while directly helping patients currently fighting the disease. It also helps fund projects which enhance cancer patient care.

In the last five years, the Foundation has been able to:

- Equip the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care
- Fund three-year training posts for a specialist clinical trials nurse and doctor at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care
- Part-fund five years of the complementary therapy programme at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care
- Part-fund creation of a patient Quiet and Information Area at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care
- Fund a microscope for Leukaemia Research Cytogenetics Group at the Royal Victoria Infirmary
- Enhance a dedicated children’s waiting area at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care
- Contribute to the Teenage Cancer Unit at the Great North Children’s Hospital
- Jointly fund the PET Tracer Production Unit at Newcastle University
- Make the majority charitable contribution to ‘stereotactic’ radiotherapy at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care
- Jointly fund a region-wide cancer patient ambulance

The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation PET Tracer Production Unit

Lady Elsie was very proud to officially open the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation PET Tracer Production Unit at Newcastle University.

The unit, and the new equipment it houses, an Advanced Biomarker Technology ultra-compact cyclotron, was jointly funded by the University and the Foundation and is the first of its type in Europe and only the second in the world.

It will help with the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other serious diseases and its purchase was only possible thanks to a contribution of £625,000 from the Foundation.

Lady Elsie said: “I’m so pleased to see this new unit open and we’re all very proud that the University chose to name it after the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation. “We’ve been discussing this new equipment for such a long time and because it’s so special it’s taken a great deal of effort to purchase and install it.”

“To see all those discussions finally become a reality is just wonderful. I’m very grateful to the Foundation’s medical trustees and Newcastle University for their hard work in making this possible.”

“It’s truly humbling to think how much time and effort has gone into raising the £625,000 needed for this new equipment and I hope that everyone who has supported the charity in any way shares my feelings of pride and achievement.”

The Biomarker Generator works by creating radioactive tracers which are given to patients who subsequently undergo scans to provide information on cancer and other diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. The information collected helps doctors to understand the location of the disease in each patient, how serious it is, and the underlying processes and pathways that are causing the illness.

Professor Herbie Newell, Professor of Cancer Therapeutics at Newcastle University, explained: “The official opening of the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation PET Tracer Production Unit is a very significant occasion for cancer research and cancer patients. “Thanks to the funding received through the charity, we are now able to use a whole new screening technology to help us find out where cancers are in patients, how many there are and what they are.”

“PET scanning will be particularly beneficial for patients on clinical trials of new drugs and we’ll be working closely with the team at the Sir Bobby Robson Centre.”

“We’ll be able to establish much quicker than currently possible whether new drug treatments are working, and whether they are working in the way intended. It’s going to make a big difference.”

“This new generation of biomarker generators is cutting edge and we’re extremely grateful to everyone who has helped make its purchase possible by supporting the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.”
Tony ‘the Fridge’ Phoenix-Morrison

Tony is one of the Foundation’s most recognisable fundraisers and he has undertaken a number of punishing running challenges – all while carrying a fridge.

These have included running the route of the Great North Run with his fridge for 30 consecutive days and running around Newcastle’s Quayside for 24 hours.

Tony says: “I’m lucky because I know I can take my fridge off. But if you have cancer you can’t do that. It’s a burden you’re forced to carry and keep going.

“Cancer can beat you to your knees. My efforts are a tribute to all those people around the ambulance and the enthusiasm to see their ambulance in the school yard.”

The Daft as a Brush ambulances have been running since March 2011. Driven by a team of dedicated volunteers, they collect cancer patients from their homes and drop them off at the door of the Northern Centre for Cancer Care.

Lady Elsie says: “We were very pleased to be able to jointly fund this new ambulance.

“When you’re ill, the last thing you want to worry about is transport to and from the hospital for treatment and Daft as a Brush provide a hugely valuable service for cancer patients across the north east and Cumbria.

“We had a hard time picking a name from those thought up by the High Spen pupils. There were so many wonderful ideas. In the end, we chose Reach for the Stars because it seemed appropriate given everything we’ve been able to achieve through Bob’s Foundation.”

The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation contributed £7,500 to help fund the ambulance.

Junior Football Club

Winlaton Juniors Football Club organised a match day collection at St James’ Park and received a surprise thank you from South Shields’ singer Joe McElderry.

The club helped the Foundation again by distributing the souvenir programmes to guests at the Sir Bobby Robson – A Celebration event.

Sensational Fundraising:

The majority of money raised or donated to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation comes from relatively small events and fundraising activities. It is the sheer volume of this wonderful, and greatly valued, support that enables the charity to help fund pioneering work into cancer treatment and detection.

In the last year, there have also been some incredible high profile events organised by dedicated volunteers, which have generated headlines and captured the imagination and support of thousands.