

Inspire magazine

Sharing stories from your local hospice charity | Autumn 2023



90-Year-Old Thelma reaches great heights to support the Hospice.

Read about how Thelma abseiled 100 metres down the Spinnaker Tower to help raise valuable funds and increase awareness of the amazing work we do, as well as all the ways your support makes a real difference ...

Inspire Magazine

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Inspire, the supporter magazine for Woking & Sam Beare Hospice. Inspire was launched five years ago so we could share with you how your help makes a real difference to the lives of our patients, carers, and families.

In this edition, we share the amazing achievement of 90-year-old Thelma Forbes who abseiled down the Spinnaker Tower to show her support for the Hospice. We are in awe of her taking on such a challenge for us despite her nerves kicking in as the big day approached. Not only did Thelma raise an impressive amount of funds for the Hospice, she also caught the attention of the media to help raise valuable awareness of the importance of palliative and end of life care.

Since becoming the new CEO of the Hospice, I have been overwhelmed by the commitment of our staff and volunteers. Thank you for all your support which enables us to continue to provide the outstanding level of care that we so passionately believe in.

MINICE

Siân Wicks

CEO of Woking & Sam Beare Hospice

Don't forget to giftaid it









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Introducing **Our New CEO**

In June, we welcomed our new CEO. Siân Wicks LLM RGN, to the Hospice.

Siân is an experienced Chief Executive, Non-Executive Director, and previous Chief Nurse with almost 40 years of experience. She has a record of providing strategic direction working in health and social care across the NHS and the Independent and Charity Sectors. Most recently, Siân was the CEO of Haven House Children's Hospice. She is also currently the Chairman of the Board for Achieving for Children (AFC) LTD.

Siân Comments: "I am thrilled and delighted to be leading Woking & Sam Beare Hospice and Wellbeing Care, and to be part of the North West Surrey Alliance which is united in its vision in breaking down organisational boundaries to deliver the best and most sustainable outcomes for the local community. I am looking forward to working in collaboration with all our partners to lead the way in delivering palliative and end of life care to people who have advanced lifelimiting illnesses living in North West Surrey."



Siân has enjoyed getting to know staff and volunteers over the last few months, especially gaining an understanding of how the charity operates, the care we give, and the integral role that everyone plays. She has also met with a number of key stakeholders such as Dr Ben Spencer MP for Runnymede and Weybridge who visited the Hospice on Thursday 10th August.



90-Year-Old Thelma **Reaches Great Heights** to Support the Hospice

Sometimes you meet people in life that make such an impression on you that you never forget them. This is how we, at the Hospice, feel about Thelma Forbes. Her zest for life is contagious.



Celebrating her 90th birthday in August. Thelma truly made her mark in life as she abseiled down the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth to raise money for the Hospice. Having already completed a skydive for us at the age of 75 years, she felt more than ready for this next challenge.

"I just want to give a little back in the world," says Thelma. "I did a skydive when I was 75 and I thought it was time to do something else!"

Originally planning to abseil down the i360 in Brighton, the weather decided that it wasn't meant to be as high winds struck the coast. The last minute cancellation didn't deter Thelma though, as being the lovely force of nature that she is, she found an alternative immediately and prepared to abseil

at the new location -Spinnaker Tower.

As she began the 100-metre descent down Portsmouth's iconic landmark, not a trace of fear could be seen on Thelma's face despite the enormity of the drop below her.

"When I first started the abseil on the Spinnaker, I was overconfident and thought it was really quite easy until the wind picked up and I was being blown off course - a case of pride before a fall. However, having just returned from the dentist. I think I'd prefer to do an abseil any day!" says Thelma.

Thelma's friends and family are so proud of her, as her daughter Janine comments:

"Mum is the most determined person I know. You may think she is a meek and mild little old lady, but I can tell you. underneath her disguise is a will of iron. Once she has set her sights on something, nothing can stop her. Phrases like 'she is a one off' or 'unique' spring to mind. But on a personal note, she is quite simply the heart of our family and her generosity towards others is truly inspiring. Goodness knows what she will do for her 91st birthday."

adds: "My mum is the most inspirational person I know. Although she would no doubt dispute that, as she is also very humble. She has fears like evervone else, but unlike most of us. she sets out to conquer her fears and raise money for great causes at the same time."

As if a skydive and an abseil aren't impressive enough, Thelma is now considering zooming along a zip wire at 100 miles/hr and wing walking as her next challenges. In the meantime, she will be going to get her very first tattoo with her granddaughter!

Thelma's amazing achievement caught the attention of the media as she appeared on Channel 5 News. That's TV News. Radio Five Live. Greatest Hits Radio and BBC Online, as well as featuring in various newspapers. Like so many of us, the cost of living crisis has greatly affected the Hospice and we rely more than ever on people like Thelma that believe so much in the care that we provide to help generate much needed funds for patient care. The lengths that she is prepared to go to in order to help raise funds is iust incredible and we are very grateful to her and all those who support us.



If you would like to show your support, you can still donate on Thelma's JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/page/ thelma-forbes-1686651418269

Volunteer Spotlight John Pryce and Brian White

Volunteers join our team for a number of reasons such as a desire to give a little something back in life, an opportunity to connect with other people, or a chance to give themselves a new challenge. One reason that we hear more than anything, however, is due to their first-hand experience of the support the Hospice brought them whilst caring for a loved one.

The Hospice couldn't achieve the level of care that it does without the support of our amazing volunteers. Many of whom choose to give their time so that other families in the future can feel the

comfort that they felt when the Hospice staff were there for them.

John Pryce's wife, Estella, died in October 2018. After being diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Estella reached a stage where she needed the support of the Hospice.

"She was wonderfully looked after during those final days. I was very impressed with the Hospice," **says John.**

A year later, John started his journey volunteering with us. Every Monday, he would arrive at the Chertsey Hospice Shop and turn his hand to whatever needed doing. When this shop closed, John then went

to volunteer at the Sam Beare Bookshop in Weybridge.

John adds: "My real love is books and so I am like a kid in a sweetshop. There are so many books on every subject you can imagine. It's exciting to see how much has been made each day, especially when some highvalue items are sold. The only problem is, I'm running out of bookshelf space at home."

Before retirement. John was a civil engineer and project managed a number of large builds. In 2006, John and his family suffered the loss of his 31-year-old son. Choosing to find strength in his heartbreak, with the help of friends and family, he set up the Tom ap Rhys Pryce Memorial Trust - a charity that offers opportunities to children from deprived areas to help them to achieve their potential. This altruism shines through John as can be seen with his willingness to get involved in other areas of fundraising.

John is testament to the fact that volunteers can come from all walks of life.



John and Brian are both absolute stars and are invaluable. We are very lucky and privileged to have such wonderful volunteers and we could not do what we do without them.

Lisa Austin, Head of HR and Volunteer Services, adds:

"The value that we place on our volunteers should never be underestimated. They are an integral part of what makes our Hospice the success that it is. On behalf of all of us here at the Hospice – THANK YOU."

Another one of our fabulous volunteers donates his time every Thursday to our Clinical Admin Team.

Brian White first volunteered for the Hospice back in 2007 after experiencing the valuable support of another Hospice when they cared for his mum. Appreciating the grief counselling that they were able to offer him, Brian wanted to show his support for palliative care by volunteering at his local Hospice here in Woking.

It's a lovely place to volunteer.
So many people have the preconception that working in a Hospice would be depressing but they couldn't be more wrong. Knowing that my work supports the professionals and caregivers gives me immense satisfaction," says Brian.

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Would you like to volunteer for us?

Visit wsbh.org.uk/volunteer to find out more.

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A Patient's Perspective

Here, Stephen Anisman, shares his own unique experience of our care and why he is so passionate about inspiring other people with Motor Neurone Disease:



In March 2023, I was visited at home by the Hospice's Community Care Team. I'd probably spent the last two years in denial, and despite my best efforts to avoid reality, I could no longer cope at home alone.

I have Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and initially I was reluctant to be admitted to the Hospice. But I knew that for my own safety the time had come to accept help, and so I was transferred to Room 10 on the In-Patient Unit [IPU] at Woking Hospice. Everyone was so warm and welcoming, and I immediately felt at ease.

Due to my MND, I was not able to verbally communicate with staff and so I used my phone. This allowed staff to see my personality shine through and enjoy my great sense of humour. Everyone at the Hospice was patient and accepted this method of communicating, for which I am very grateful.

I spent two months at the Hospice before I was discharged to a suitable care home. During my time at the Hospice, I got to know and became very fond of many members of staff.

I would like to thank everyone at the Hospice for their superb care, advice, and social visits. I'm worried if I listed everyone by name, I'd forget someone.

Stephen has a passion for taking photos and over the years has built up a great personal collection of beautiful sunsets, planes and birds. He is passionate about inspiring other patients with MND and raise awareness that their condition should not stop them from doing what they love. For this reason, one of Stephen's breathtaking sunsets is now on display in the front entrance of the Hospice and up on the IPU for everyone to enjoy and be inspired by. The caption reads 'Helping to make your life the most precious it can be until your last sunset'.



Travel Adventures of Sam Beare the Bear

Since making their debut appearance at our Dragon Boat Races and Family Fun Day in May, Sam Beare the Bear has certainly been living life to the full!

Our #BeareTravel encouraged our bears' forever homes to post photos of the adventures that Sam Beare has been having. From climbing mountains in the
Lake District, to sunbathing
with a cocktail by the sea,
Sam has been living their best
life. Travelling in style, Sam's
been on buses, trains and
even planes and has already
visited over seven different
countries, one of which
they sent a lovely postcard
to the Hospice from.











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A Day in the Life of Our Receptionists



Pauline, Lucy, and Lindsay could be like ships in the night as they alternate their shifts on the Hospice that they have developed in spite of this, however, is a true representation of the ethos of the Hospice. Very rarely crossing paths, they started communicating by leaving notes for each other in the diary. This then led to a WhatsApp group between the three of them, where they often chat and support

Usually the first point of contact for patients and families, our Receptionists do far more than anyone would day sees them handing over from the security guards and checking who is currently in the Hospice as well as new patients they might expect in that day. They then set up the Reception and Garden Café area to ensure a welcoming environment. What happens after this is ever evolving, and no one day is ever the same.

"Our main role is to support the families," says Lindsay. "It means a lot to see the weight lift off their shoulders when they realise that they're in good hands and there is nothing to be scared of."

As receptionists, Lindsay, Pauline and Lucy are in the unique position that they get to see the whole circle of a family's journey. When a patient and family first arrive at the Hospice, they greet them and take them up to the In-Patient Unit [IPU] where staff then help the patient to settle in. When the family Pauline or Lucy are always there for them to have a chat

"We enjoy getting to know all the families as they spend time at the Hospice and that if they return for counselling or to access other support services," says Pauline.

All three of our Receptionists Hospice Team as soon as they came for their interviews. Lucy joined four years ago, initially as a Hostess, Pauline almost a year and a half ago, and Lindsay almost a year ago. They immediately felt the the Hospice and had no doubt that they wanted to be a part of that. Their own natural day-to-day interactions with families and staff alike.

"Being part of the Hospice Team is so much more than

just coming to work. It's a impact and being there to support patients and their families," says Lucy.

"Working at the Hospice puts things into perspective," says Pauline. "I love working here."

experience," says Lindsay. "You really feel like you're helping someone and

In their time at the Hospice. Lindsay, Pauline, and Lucy have witnessed so many precious moments. They

adore the fact that pets are welcomed in and fondly recall a dog called Echo bringing in say thank you for all the treats when he came to visit. They love the fact that families can visit whenever they want to. day or night.

Other cherished moments have been facilitating the live streaming of a wedding into a patient's room, and a choir singing their hearts out up on the ward when one of their members was here.

Hearing Lindsay, Pauline and Lucy talk about their roles Hospice truly captures the comfort, support, and warmth that is so integral to what



If you would like to join our incredible team, visit our website for all our current vacancies wsbh.org.uk/joinourteam

Upcoming Events in 2023 What's On?



Follow in the footsteps of our brave Hospice staff who are going beyond the call of duty to raise funds by jumping out of a plane this October! Join them in this exhilirating experience on a date that suits you.

VARIOUS DATES



25 **SEPT** to 27 **OCT**

A Will is important no matter what age vou are if you have any kind of assets. Find out more about our free will writing service at www.wsbh.org.uk



Join The Health and Wellbeing Charitable Golf Trust (HWCGT) at Swinley Forest.

24

OCT

DEC



11 **NOV**

A fantastic night with some incredible fundraising! Join us at our black tie event of the year at The Oatlands Hotel in Weybridge.



26 **NOV**

St Andrew's Anglican Church in Goldsworth Park, 4pm-5pm.



Join us at our next business breakfast and have a chance to meet other like-minded businesses from your local area in a friendly, relaxed environment. Location tbc.



A non-religious service, led by celebrant Mary Morgan, will be held at the Hospice 5pm-6pm.



Join us for a wreath making workshop led by Rosie Orr, one of Surrev's top floral designers. Choose from an afternoon or an evening workshop where you will learn how to create a traditional mossbased wreath decorated with gorgeous foliage and accessories. Take your creation home with you to enjoy over the festive season.

28 NOV • 2PM & 7PM



DEC

DEC

8 to

10

JAN

St Dunstan's Catholic Church, 3.30pm-4.30pm. This service will be live streamed for anyone who is unable to attend.



Join us for some mulled wine and Christmas music as you stroll around our festive stalls.



ALL DFC

Organise your festive challenge this December. Make your antlers and then, run, skip, scooter, or do an activity of your choice.



2 DEC

Join us on a candle lit walk around Goldsworth Park Lake as we reflect on our loved ones who are no longer with us.



Collections will be made on 8th, 9th, & 10th January. To book your slot, please register on our website.



FEB

At the Lightbox in Woking, an exhibition displaying the work of a collection of fabulous artists from Surrey with all proceeds going to the Hospice.

For more information about any of our events contact the team at events@wsbh.org.uk or visit our website at wsbh.org.uk/Events23.

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Hospice Retail News Every Purchase helps a Patient ...

Since the Spring 2023 issue of Inspire, a lot has happened in our Retail Division and so here we share some news and updates regarding our charity shops from across North West Surrey.

Muddy Stilettos Award Winner Two Years Running

Winning an award once is impressive but winning it for the second year in a row confirms just how deserving we are. We are therefore delighted to share that our Weybridge bookshop has won the Muddy Stilettos Award again this year for 'The Best Bookshop in Surrey'.

"The award is a credit to our wonderful team of staff and volunteers who work so hard to make our bookshop so special" Mel Sibley, Community Hub Manager at Weybridge Books



Brand New Bookshop in Egham

The success of our Bookshop in Weybridge has paved the way to the opening of a brand new bookshop in Egham. Or more accurately, we have relocated what was a small shop at 69 High Street, Egham, to The White House at 55 High Street, Egham.

Decorated with the trademark wooden interior of the Weybridge shop, The White House is an absolute treat for any book lover. They also have a varied vinyl collection for all the retro music lovers out there.

We were delighted to host

our first author event on 16th September as local author, Kerry Gibb, signed copies of her 'It's A Kid's Life' series and 'The Elephant Squad for children and 'Kayla's Girls' for the mums. Children were welcomed in to chat to Kerry and create their own bookmarks.

"We look forward to holding many more future events to support local authors, artists, and musicians. I can't wait to see the journey of this new bookshop as it becomes the heart of the community," says Anya Hollis, Community Hub Manager at Egham Books.



A Welcome Return of Our Woking Shop

Sustainability is key in our current climate, and we are proud to play our part in this as we find homes for pre-loved goods whilst raising valuable funds for the Hospice. So after the disappointment of the closure of our Woking shop due to flooding back in November 2022, we are thrilled to see it back at its best after reopening its doors to the public with its official opening on 9th September. It was lovely to see so many people come along to show their support and we'd like to thank Deputy Mayor, Cllr Louise Morales and Former Mayor, Cllr Will Forster, for joining us and to First Dance Studio for their fantastic performance.

Denise Scott, Woking Shop Manager, comments: "It is great to be back. And I would like to extend a massive thank you to the team behind the scenes who have worked so hard to get the shop looking so fantastic. Do drop in and see us as we have lots of promotions planned from now up until Christmas."

A New Permanent Fixture in Knaphill

Following the success of the Knaphill pop-up shop last year, we were delighted when a new opportunity presented itself just a few doors down. Our charity shops are so much more than just a place to buy pre-loved goods, they really are the essence of our towns and villages.



Sarah Cameron, Manager of Knaphill Shop, adds: "Knaphill village is a very diverse one and we pride ourselves in catering for everyone, whatever walk of life our customers come from. We are very community driven and treat all our customers as friends, ensuring they always get a warm welcome. Some customers just pop in for a chat and to pass the time of day and if they leave with a smile on their face, we are happy too."



Donations

We are very grateful to all of you that so generously donated your preloved goods for sale in one of our shops. However, there are times when we are not able to accept donations due to storage areas becoming too full [and so becoming a potential safety hazard] or when we are short staffed. There are also items that we are unable to accept as we cannot sell or recycle them.

For more information about how best to donate please visit our website: wsbh.org.uk/donations2023

Riding from London to Paris to Remember Ruth

When Ruth McMillan was diagnosed with liver cancer whilst visiting her daughter in Canada, it was a shock to all her family and friends and also her colleagues at Menzies LLP. They remember her wonderful personality shining through as she stayed positive throughout. Forced to fly home from Canada in an air ambulance, the hilarity with which she recounted the tale of 'flying in a private jet' had her colleagues laughing despite the seriousness of what had occurred.

The warmth with which Ruth's colleagues speak about her show how loved she was at Menzies LLP.

"She was more than just a colleague, she was a friend," says her colleague Sara Every.

Wishing to do something in Ruth's memory, Salvador Amico (Partner at Menzies LLP, Woking) decided to challenge himself to ride from London to Paris – an impressive 290km.

Salvador found a love of cycling back in 2017, when a friend asked him to join him on this very same bike ride. A daunting challenge for anyone, let alone someone who was new to cycling. His very first training ride saw him tackling the beautiful but arduous Surrey Hills before later going on to complete the London to Paris bike ride twice. One of these very hills was to become a significant moment in his life when he started to experience chest

pain whilst ascending it.

Following a heart operation to save his life, Salvador was unsure whether he would be able to achieve such a challenge again. But it was Ruth and how the Hospice cared for her that gave him the motivation to try.

"The Hospice gave Ruth the love that she needed at the end of her life," says Salvador.

"So many people at our office have had, or will have, a connection to the Hospice at some point in their lives. It's my pleasure to support them with all the great work they do."



Salvador returned to Staples Lane where his chest pain had started, knowing that this was his 'Mount Everest.' He knew that if he could overcome the psychological barrier of making it up that same hill, he could make it to Paris.

As part of the Ocean Cycling Club. Salvador set out in clear blue skies on 8th June amidst the camaraderie of his fellow riders. As soon as they embarked on French soil, they were met with the respect and enthusiasm of the locals as they cheered them on their way. Salvador kept his WhatsApp group of Ruth's friends and colleagues updated as he pushed through, remembering Ruth's positivity. There was encouragement and laughter amongst the cyclists the entire way, making every kilometre seem achievable - despite getting lost at one point which added to the huge distance they already

had ahead.

As the sight of the Eiffel Tower appeared in the distance, the relief was immense. Knowing that he had achieved this in memory of Ruth whilst raising such valuable money for the Hospice was an amazing feeling.

"Ruth kept smiling until the end when she spent her last few days in the care of Woking & Sam Beare Hospice," says Salvador. "Her story highlighted what an incredibly important role the Hospice plays in our community. Ruth was just such a lovely. lovely lady, and I was determined to do something to ensure she wasn't forgotten."

Salvador raised a total of £2,500 for the Hospice. This is the equivalent of 131 hours

of care for a patient in our In-Patient Unit. People like Salvador who go above and beyond to fundraise for the Hospice are the reason we are able to continue giving such great care to those who

need it. We cannot thank Salvador and all those that fundraise for us enough.

MENZIES BRIGHTER THINKING

Would you take on a Challenge of a lifetime in aid of the Hospice? Visit wsbh.org/uk/challenge and we will support you every step of the way



Remembering and celebrating the lives of our loved ones

As the festive period approaches, it is a time when many of us reflect and remember a loved one that we have lost.

Hollie was only 29 years old when she came to the Hospice with terminal cancer. Recently, her husband Rodian bravely shared his memories of their final Christmas together at the Hospice and how all the staff enabled them to have a special day.

Rodian reflects: "I realised that Hollie was special from the first moment I saw her. Her ability to be fiercely independent and headstrong coupled with an empathy like no other I'd ever seen. made her truly unique and wonderful to be around.

In December 2022. Hollie was admitted to the Hospice. We were overwhelmed by how lovely the staff all were as they helped us through the toughest time of our lives. I spent Christmas Day with Hollie in her room at the Hospice. The staff decorated it with fairy lights and couldn't have done more to make us feel welcome and supported.

I believe you're faced with choices in life. You make your own decisions, but alongside this we all have a path leading us to where we are meant to be and I'm so thankful that mine led me to Hollie. One of the last things she said to me was 'don't be sad'. I know that she would have wanted me to share our story. Through all the sadness, you can't help but feel her warmth and positivity that stayed with her right until the end."

There are so many from our communities that value the opportunity to come together to remember a loved one who is no longer here. For this reason, the Hospice hosts a series of remembrance services in the lead up to Christmas.

This year, we will be having a Light up a Life [LUAL] service at St Andrew's Church on Sunday 26th November from 4pm and one at St. Dunstan's **Catholic Church on Sunday** 3rd December from 3:30pm. There will also be a nonreligious LUAL service held at Woking Hospice on Friday 1st December from 5pm. This one will be outside in a marquee so please wrap up warm. For the full details please see the events section on pages 12-13.

The services are all free to attend but you will need to register to let us know that you will be coming as space is limited, particularly at the Woking Hospice service. Please visit our website for full details at wsbh.org. uk/lual or you can call our Supporter Care Team on **01483 881752** who will be happy to help you.

Memory Tree

On the 1st December we will switch on the lights on our Memory Tree which is located in the Garden Cafe at the Hospice. The tree is decorated with memory stars, each with their own special dedication.

If you would like to add a star, they will be available in the cafe throughout December, they can be downloaded wsbh.org.uk/lual, or contact our Supporter Care Team who will be happy to post one out to you





Winter **Raffle**

1ST PRIZE £2,000

2nd PRIZE £500

3rd PRIZE £250

4th PRIZE £150

PLUS AN EARLY BIRD PRIZE OF £100

Winter raffle will be launched on 16th October

Draw date 14th December last entries to be received by 12th December

Tickets available online via QR code or at **wsbh.org.uk/raffle**

Paper tickets available by request from the Raffles team on 01483 742856 and also will be available to purchase at selected WSBH shops.

LAST YEAR'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE SAW PROCEEDS OF OVER £31.000



Christmas Tree Collection

Collections will be made on 8th, 9th, and 10th January. To book your slot and for the full details, visit our website wsbh.org.uk/treecollection

Our hugely popular Christmas Tree Collection service will be back in January 2024

No one enjoys a car full of pine needles so in exchange for a donation to the Hospice our Team of Hospice Elves will collect your real tree from outside your property and recycle it for you in line with our passion for sustainability.

No needles in the car, no queuing for the tip and feel good about supporting your local community charity.

The pesky needles will be a distant memory in exchange for a donation to your local Hospice.



Art Exhibition 'Inspiration for Life'

The Hospice are delighted to announce the launch of their very first art event – 'Inspiration for Life.' Taking place over a two-week period at The Lightbox in Woking, an exhibition will display the work of a collection of fabulous artists from the huge pool of local talent that Surrey has.

We welcome applications from artists who would be able to donate an original piece of art. Submissions for the uplifting theme of 'Inspiration for Life' will be considered by a selection panel of a professional artist, a gallery professional, and Hospice Trustees.

The exhibition is a chance for local artists to gain some high profile exposure whilst raising valuable funds for the Hospice.

"We would love to hear from professional artists, talented amateurs, and young artists alike who are all keen to showcase their talent," says Felicity Edwards, Events Manager.

There will be a VIP private viewing of the exhibition on 13th February, and it will be open to the public from 14th February to the 25th February.

If you are an artist who would like to submit a work of art for consideration, please scan the QR code or go to wsbh.org.uk/art



The deadline for submissions is 20th December.





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Thanks to the generosity from a number of local Solicitors and Businesses offering their time and expertise for free, we are able to provide to you and your loved ones the opportunity to have a standard Will written or updated during this time frame.

For more information about writing or updating a Will or leaving a gift in your Will, please contact a member of the team, or visit the website.

τ 01483 742773 ε wills@wsbh.org.uk wsbh.org.uk/wills

