

The Ladybird^{news} BULLETIN

Grace Kelly
Childhood
Cancer Trust

Issue 2 | Autumn/Winter 2024

Registered Charity Number 1167783



Because the children of today all deserve a tomorrow.

HELLO!

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Welcome to a special edition of the Ladybird News Bulletin. September is **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month** so we've gone gold with this issue to unite in raising awareness of children facing cancer.

There are plenty of ideas throughout the bulletin on how you can get involved with the awareness month and beyond.

1 in 450 children in the UK will be diagnosed with cancer before their 15th birthday so we continue to work tirelessly to support those children and their families.

We'd love for you to get involved by joining our **Go Spotty for Dotty** campaign throughout the month of September which you can read more about on page 5.

You can discover and purchase some beautiful awareness month wax melts and find details of our Charity Ball which is taking place in March 2025 at the iconic DRPG Studios.

My favourite feature in this issue is a heart touching poem written by one of the children that we currently support.

**Best wishes,
Sophie Blount, Editor**



**Grace Kelly
Childhood
Cancer Trust**

Meet our team...

Kerry, Office & Project Manager



How long have you worked for the Trust?

I joined the Trust in May 2024 but it already feels like I have been here longer than that! Everyone has been so welcoming, and I am thoroughly enjoying being a part of the team.

What does your role involve?

I am mostly behind the scenes making sure the Charity runs smoothly and the team have everything they need to support our families. It is my responsibility to look after our beautiful offices in Upton Snodsbury, making sure it runs efficiently and is a safe, enjoyable, and welcoming space for both my colleagues and our visitors.

No two days are ever the same and I love the variety this role brings. I can be processing payroll one day, developing marketing campaigns and events to engage supporters the next or liaising with schools to utilise our AV1 robots in the classroom. I have even been roped into wearing our mascot costume a couple of times...!

What do you enjoy most about working for the Trust?

I work alongside a team of passionate colleagues who go above and beyond every single day and I find that truly inspiring and it makes working alongside them a real pleasure.

The highlight of my time here so far though, has to be our Family Fun Day. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all our wonderful families. It was a great day, with lots of fun and laughter!

What are you most excited for this Autumn/Winter?

The planning has already started for our 2025 Charity Ball. Although it isn't taking place until 22 March 2025, I love this stage of the planning process and bringing together everyone's ideas. We recently visited the DRPG Studios and can't wait to tell you more about our exciting plans for The Greatest Show.

WHERE YOUR DONATIONS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE...



652

Hospital & home visits



94

Financial support
grants given out



68

Families currently
receiving active support



BETWEEN 2023-2024

Awareness Month

September is **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (CCAM)** and we will be raising awareness of childhood cancer across social media and in the local community through our campaign **Go Spotty for Dotty** and by going **Gold** in unison with other organisations and charities.

Childhood cancer is still thought to be rare, but **11 children and young people are diagnosed every day in the UK.**

The **Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust** are on a mission to ensure that that research into rare cancers receives funding to help improve outcomes for the children of tomorrow.

Educating individuals about the impact childhood cancer has on the diagnosed child and their families is also a key focus throughout September. We work tirelessly to ensure every family who receives a diagnosis feels supported throughout their journey; whether that be financially, practically or emotionally. We are wholly dependent on support from the general public to be able to offer this support across Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.



Help us raise awareness by tagging:

#ChildhoodCancerAwareness #CCAM #GoSpottyForDotty

Hug @ Home Hamper

A couple of months ago, one of the children that we support received unexpected news. Due to additional treatment needs she could no longer go away on holiday as planned.

Our Family Support Team put their heads together to find a way to brighten this little girl's summer and as a result, the **Hug @ Home Hamper** was created.

Family Support Worker Sam collated lots of fun summer toys and accessories including items such as a sandpit (which was kindly donated), sun hat, bucket and spade, ice lolly moulds plus much more!

Upon delivery, Sam was greeted with a very happy, beaming smile. This hamper was made possible by the generosity of you, our supporters so thank you.



Our Awareness Film:

After reaching over **1.5 MILLION readers** with our awareness cards to increase early diagnosis of childhood cancers; last year we transformed the cards into an animated awareness film to maximise reach and education.

The film was kindly gifted by local animator **Philippe Ingels of WAKSTER Ltd.** to support us in our mission of raising worldwide awareness of the signs and symptoms of childhood cancer via digital platforms.

Throughout the month of September, we will be resharing the film which features little Daisy, across our social media platforms, so please do help spread the message and information by sharing on your own profiles and accounts.

Since last year's release, the film has appeared in GP surgery waiting rooms and reached international audiences thanks to the support of our followers.

You can help raise awareness of the signs and symptoms by sharing the film on social media.

Earlier diagnosis can achieve better outcomes for children.

Childhood Cancer Signs & Symptoms



Disturbances in vision

Altered or double vision or a new squint
Worsening headaches, loss of balance, or
a white appearance in eyes



WATCH NOW

How to get involved...



#GoSpottyForDotty

Meet **Dotty**!

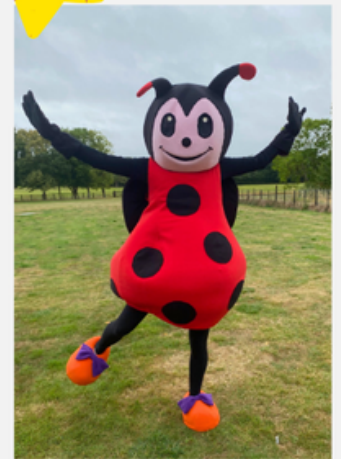
She is our much loved mascot of the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust and this September, Dotty is asking people in their workplaces, clubs and schools to:

Go Spotty for Dotty!

This involves wearing something spotty for a day in September to help raise awareness of childhood cancer amongst the local community.

In her latest podcast appearance, Dotty explains to children (and adults!) why it is important to raise awareness and how you can also help raise money for children facing cancer, by going spotty for Dotty.

Dotty would also love to receive and share photos of your spotty outfits and fun, so be sure to send them into Ladybird HQ so Dotty and the team can share them across social media throughout September.



Dotty

Competition Time!

We are in need of some gift cards to send out to our children and families to brighten up their day or to let them know that they are in our thoughts.

Throughout September and October we are inviting children to send in their own card designs to be in with a chance of winning a special Ladybird prize.

There are no design rules other than:

- your design must feature **Dotty** in some way

The winning designs will be selected by a vote on social media and will go on to be professionally printed.

You can email designs into:

[contact @gkcct.org](mailto:contact@gkcct.org) or post them to:

The Piggery, Cowsden Hall Farm,
Cowsden, Upton Snodsbury,
Worcestershire,
WR7 4NZ

Competition deadline:

31/10/24

Remember to include your contact details when submitting your design!

Good Luck

Draw your design here or on a separate piece of paper



A day in the life of a...

Family Support Worker

Being a Family Support Worker is full of variety, no day is ever the same, and most days consist of glue dots, crayons, lots of laughter and smiles and sometimes the odd tear.

The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust provide support across the 3 counties, this means I travel around visiting, meeting a sheep on the road in Lydney, or sometimes admiring the amazing views of the Malvern Hills. When I'm not on the road, I am based at our office in Upton Snodsbury with the rest of Team Ladybird. My desk is decorated with personal drawings from the children I support. From here I plan my diary, create personalised activities, complete admin duties and keep in touch with the whole team.

On one day, I could be visiting a sibling in school, providing emotional support when they can sometimes feel alone; reminding them how special they are. I may visit a family at home providing tailored crafts and games to bring joy to their day or I may be holding a poorly child's hand in hospital; creating a distraction and bringing fun and laughter to their hospital bed. And for those children I am unable to visit in person, I make time for them over video calls, playing games such as 'Would you rather' or quizzes.

I am also there for parents/carers to lean on, whether that be in person, a phone call or text messages. Families make me feel so welcome and receiving 'first day at school' photos or pictures of their day trips and even their DIY projects has become the norm for me.

Another part of my role is regular contact with staff at the local hospitals including Gloucester and Bristol Children's Hospitals. This can be to discuss a referral for a newly diagnosed child, planning ongoing support or developing new ideas and service options. We provide every child diagnosed with cancer in the 3 counties with a Ladybird Bag which contains essential emergency supplies for the family to use during their hospital stay. We deliver these bags to the hospitals and ensure stock levels are kept up to date. For those children that require extra long stays, we hand pick items to make their stay more homely and deliver their 'Blossom Box' to their home or hospital.

Alongside hospitals, we communicate with other charities and agencies to unite in providing the best ongoing support for families, building up long-lasting partnerships and always on the lookout for new collaborations.

Behind the scenes, we are always busy planning events to help bring families together and celebrate national holidays.

I love being a Family Support Worker, it gives me the opportunity to meet so many amazing people and to make a difference to their lives when they are facing challenging situations. Dressing up as a butterfly or having numerous face glitter tattoos is always an added bonus to the role.

Sam_x

If you have been supported by one of our Family Support Workers and you would like to share how they have made a difference to you and your family, please email contact@gkcct.org



Ladybirdheroes

The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust has special named funds called the **Ladybird Hero Funds** (previously known as Ladybird Legend Funds) which are a way to honour a child by raising money for the Trust in their name. This way children who have gone through their own difficult journey can help other children in a similar situation.

Your page is set up allowing you to visibly see the donations received and the difference your support is making. It can also be a comfort to see how your child is helping others.

Please do **get in touch** if you have any questions about our Ladybird Hero Funds, we are here to support you every step of the way.



Edward's Fund



#Be
More
Frank

visit our website for more details

www.gkcct.org

Hall of fame

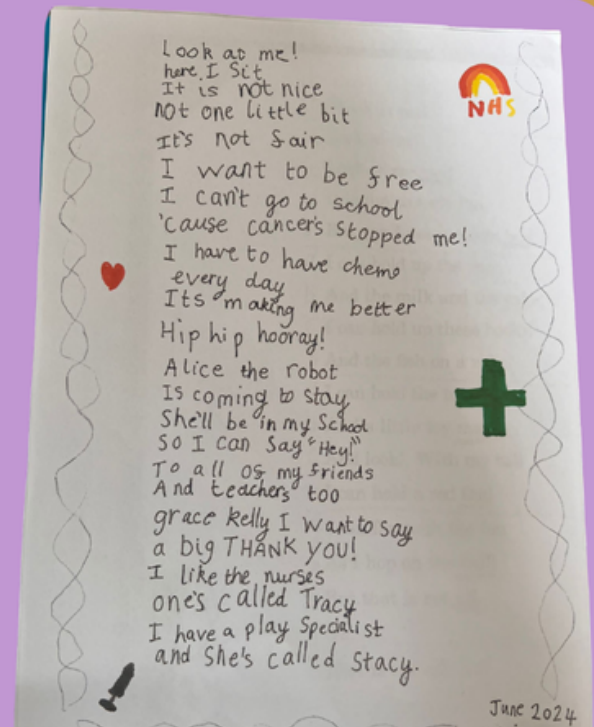
★ In June, we received a very heart touching poem from one of the children we support. Daisy wrote this poem explaining the impact childhood cancer has had on her life but also to acknowledge and thank the support staff that have been there for her along her journey so far.

Daisy, you are a **super star** and we hope you feel better soon x



Daisy

To make a contribution to our Hall of Fame,
email sophieblount@gkcct.org



9th-12th January 2025

Christmas Treecycling

Collecting & recycling real Christmas trees
across Worcestershire & Herefordshire



For more information or to get involved visit www.gkcct.org
01905 885777 | contact@gkcct.org



Scan me



In the community...

Skydivers

In July, we had 3 fabulous individuals jump out of a plane to help raise funds for the work that we do with oncology families. Bob Morris along with Ben and Darcey Lloyd absolutely loved the experience! If you would like to take part in an organised skydive, please email fundraising@gkcct.org for more details!



Sponsored Bike Ride

During our Family Fun Day in August, we were presented with a cheque for £3,214 which was raised by **Stourport Chunky Monkeys**. In July the group organised a sponsored ride all the way to Aberystwyth in aid of the Trust.

An absolutely amazing fundraising effort with a very special family link. It was so special to announce the final total amount raised at our Family Fun Day, as donations like this will enable us to continue supporting all families affected by childhood cancer across Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire for as long as they need our support.

Thank you to all who sponsored the bike ride and of course, the fabulous Stourport Chunky Monkeys for choosing to fundraise for the Trust.



Worcester City Run

Running spaces for Team Ladybird are now all booked up for this year's 10k and half marathon, but you can still join us on **Sunday 15th September** at our stand in the heart of the event.

We have multiple children running in support of the Trust, so it would be lovely to have as many supporters at the start and finish line to support and cheer them on. It's expected to be a big day of celebrations as the run celebrates its 10th Anniversary in the city.

We will be offering face glitter and plenty of fun in the runner's village so make sure you pop down and say hello!



SCAN ME



Sterling Mix & Mingle

We are excited to announce that we will be attending the next Worcestershire Mix & Mingle event hosted by the **Sterling Network Groups**.

Join us on Thursday 26th September between 6pm-8:30pm at **Piston Distillery**. Book your ticket via the link below:

www.sterlingnetworks.co.uk/mix-and-mingle-worcester



Family Support **Fun!**

On Thursday 15th August we hosted another successful Family Fun Day in our gardens at Ladybird HQ. Team Ladybird welcomed around 40 oncology children, their siblings and parents to enjoy an afternoon of sports, glitter, crafts, ice creams and refreshments plus much more! The event was hosted by one of our child ambassadors, Ewan who did a fantastic job of introducing each part of the day alongside running a playlist of catchy tunes.

Children AND parents were invited to take part in a selection of traditional sports day activities, with the sack races proving most popular (and entertaining!!) Delta Sports also hosted activities such as archery and football, uniting children who had met for the first time that day.

Children & Young People Oncology Nurse Specialist, Dawn Forbes provided Whinny's Horse Box for a selection of delicious refreshments (we enjoyed the salted caramel frappe the most) which were enjoyed throughout the group picnic; prompting families to make new friendships and for others to catch up.

Inside the marquee, which was kindly provided by the Marquee Company of Worcestershire, Neath's Nails were kept busy painting nails and creating beautiful henna tattoos alongside face painting and glitter art. Families could capture their day in the 'Selfie Shack' photo booth followed by a special visit from our very own Dotty.

Sarah Tarry, Family Support Lead said:

"What a fabulous day! The smiles on the children's faces were priceless and it was so lovely to see so many of our families in one place to share happy times together."



Corporate Challenge

How does it work?

We supply you with £50, then using your business skills and expertise, you and your team grow that £50 into a fantastic donation to the Trust!

It really is easy to get involved. Simply sign your business up as soon as possible to give yourself plenty of time to plan your activities and fundraising.

Monday 2nd September – Registrations open

September to March – Fundraising activities & photo/promo opportunities



Email fundraising@gkcct.org to sign up!



Emilia's Story

Emilia was diagnosed with aplastic anaemia in May 2023, at just 5 years old. Although not cancerous, her diagnosis required a stem cell transplant and a course of chemotherapy. A suitable stem cell donor was needed so the family had to rely on finding a suitable match through the donor register.

Eventually a German donor was matched and Emilia had to undergo a 1 week course of chemotherapy in preparation for the transplant. 7 weeks of complete hospital isolation followed the procedure with a further 21 weeks of isolating at home apart from weekly routine hospital visits.

During and post-treatment, Emilia and her family, including her older sister, have received a combination of remote and in-person emotional support sessions from our Family Support Workers. We were able to gift her a 'thinking of you' package to help brighten up her hospital stay.

After several health setbacks during the 21 weeks of home isolation, Emilia is now feeling much better and has returned to school and her dance classes, enjoying being reunited with her friends and competing in dance competitions with her big sister.

Since feeling much better, Emilia has gone onto record a radio interview with Global's Make Some Noise ahead of this year's campaign and is lined up to be interviewed on a unicorn pedalo in October, which she (and Dad) are very much looking forward to!



To help support more children like Emilia, visit our website by scanning the QR code



LadybirdLOVES



In February, we launched a new campaign 'Ladybird Loves'. It inspires members of the community to use their hobby, talent or skills to help raise money for the oncology families we support. It can run for as long or short as they wish and can involve as many or few people as they want. This issue we bring you our second Ladybird Loves.



Wild About Wax are selling these exclusive wax melts between June and September to help raise awareness of childhood cancer and with 50% of every sale being donated to the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust.

Visit their website to support this independent producer and help raise much needed funds and awareness for children facing cancer.

<https://wildaboutwaxco-uk.myshopify.com/products/awareness-boxes-raising-money-for-childhood-cancer-june-sept>

@wild_about_wax_co



Share your Ladybird Loves



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are thrilled to announce the theme of our Charity Ball taking place on Saturday 22nd March will be:

THE GREATEST SHOW

This memorable evening will bring together a spectacular array of fabulous entertainment, dancing, drinks and fine dining, all set within the impressive DRPG Studios in Hartlebury.

If your company is interested in supporting this year, we have the following sponsorship packages available:

HEADLINE SPONSORS £5,000 | ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR £3,000

WELCOME DRINKS SPONSOR £2,000 | PHOTO BOOTH SPONSOR £1,000

To discuss any of The Greatest Show Charity Ball sponsorship package opportunities above in more detail please contact the fundraising team on **01905 885777** or email **contact@gkcct.org**



Tilly's Head Shave

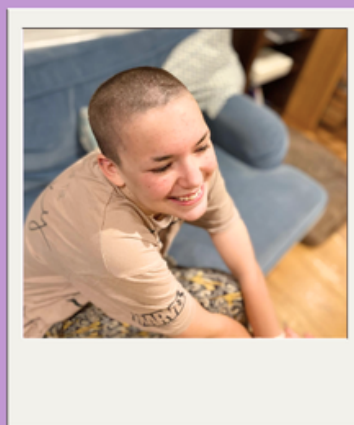
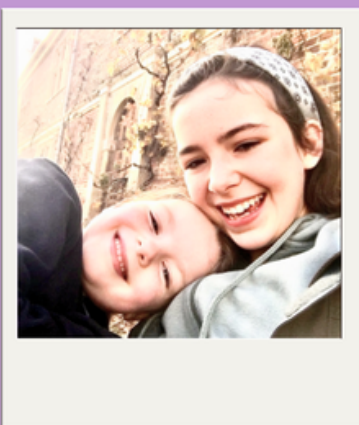


Let us introduce you to Tilly! On Monday 22nd of July, Tilly had her hair chopped and underwent a buzz cut in solidarity with her younger cousin, 8 year old Daisy.

Daisy is currently undergoing treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia and lost her hair as a side effect of the aggressive treatment. Tilly wanted her younger cousin to feel supported; so just a week shy of her 16th birthday Tilly donated her hair to The Little Princess Trust whilst also raising money for the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust who have provided support to Daisy during her treatment.

Tilly absolutely smashed her fundraising target, raising a total of **£1850 PLUS** Gift Aid!

What a super star ★ Thank you Tilly x



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

If you are passionate about helping people, are keen to get involved in your local community, and want to help families facing childhood cancer, we think you would enjoy being part of our volunteer network.

You'll be joining our friendly, welcoming team, giving you opportunities to develop and share your knowledge and experience, all while helping to make a genuine impact on the families we support.

We welcome everyone to get involved and join us, no matter your background, experience, or circumstances. We have a variety of ways to get involved and have something suitable for everyone. No matter how much or how little time you have, the kindness and time dedicated from our volunteers **really does make a difference.**

If you would like more information or to express an interest in volunteering with us, please get in touch by emailing contact@gkcct.org or by phoning **01905 885777**.



Our AV1 Robots

AV1 robots for children with cancer

If a child has been diagnosed with cancer, they often need hospital stays and time away from school. This can lead to a child feeling isolated and falling behind with their learning, but we are able to help.

The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust is pleased to be able to offer the use of a device called an AV1 robot that can help children remain connected with their friends and teachers.

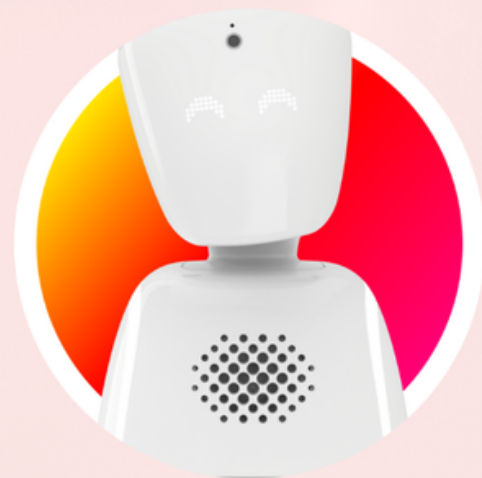
These amazing devices have been shown to be very beneficial (educationally and socially) for children who are unable to attend school.

How does an AV1 Robot help?

By giving children who are unable to attend school a 'window' to their friends and the outside world, an AV1 helps them bridge the gap between their hospital bed and their classroom.

Children are able to 'look into the classroom' through a tablet device (that we can provide) and actively participate in class by changing their robot's expression, speaking or even 'putting their hand up.'

"The AV1 really helped Gabby feel like a part of the class again after so long away. Her classmates loved it too, I think it took away some of the fear for them of what she was going through. Even just being able to answer her name on the robot was lovely for her."



Privacy and safeguarding

Great lengths have been taken to make sure that AV1 is safe and secure in the classroom, for the teacher, the student using it and the students in class. A number of devices are already in use by the Department of Education nationally.

For more information visit www.gkcct.org
01905 885777 | contact@gkcct.org

Our Publications for Children

If your child or someone your child knows has been diagnosed with cancer or needs other medical treatment, our publications are designed to provide a simple explanation of what is happening to them. They have been written by medics and peer-reviewed by experts.

These publications are intended to supplement the advice given by your child's medical team.

Written specifically for children, our booklets are simple, non-daunting, colourful and designed to be quick to read. They are suitable for children of all ages as they can form a basis for discussion.

They can be downloaded from our website and paper copies can be ordered free of charge. They may also be stocked on your hospital ward.

Explaining cancer to children



The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust is proud to be a certified member of The PIF TICK (Trusted Information Creator), the only UK-wide quality accreditation mark for print and online health information.



You can access our publications online or order print copies by scanning the QR code

SCAN ME



We have had a busy few months producing our brand new podcast 'Young Me vs. the Big C'. Inspired by Radio 5's 'You, Me and the Big C', we hope to help children process their diagnosis by hosting a range of episodes which will cover different aspects of having cancer as a child.

It has been truly inspiring to hear stories from children directly affected by childhood cancer; and they all find a way to highlight the positives from their experience.

In the fourth episode, we are joined by 11-year old Sophie who tells us about her experiences as a sibling when her younger brother Toby was diagnosed with cancer 2 years ago.



If you have been affected by childhood cancer and would like to be a guest on **Young Me vs. the Big C** to share your experiences, then email:

 contact@gkcct.org

 **SUBSCRIBE**

How to donate

Here at the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust we do not receive any statutory funding which is why your support is so valuable. Our Family Support Service for oncology families spans across Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Herefordshire but we also support families further afield with our financial support grants and awareness publications.

You can donate online via our website: www.gkcct.org

If you would like to donate by cheque, please make it payable to:

Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust

and post to:
The Piggery, Cowsden Hall Farm,
Cowsden, Upton Snodsbury,
Worcestershire,
WR7 4NZ

thank you

Access support

If you or someone you know is facing childhood cancer and have not yet engaged with our family support team, you can make contact with our **Family Support Service** by emailing support@gkcct.org or by phoning 01905 885777.

We also publish and distribute free publications to ensure adults and children have helpful and digestible **information** about childhood cancer and what to expect upon receiving a diagnosis. You can order our print publications via our website or view them online digitally.

www.gkcct.org



Stay in touch

There is always plenty of news and events here at Ladybird HQ. To make sure you are in the know, join our digital mailing list.

Each month we will send you an email update of the latest news, events and stories from the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust.

Scan the QR code below to **subscribe** to our mailing list.



If you would like to receive a regular copy of our **printed** quarterly News Bulletin, then please email contact@gkcct.org to register.

Get involved with our 2024-2025 events, campaigns & challenges...



Corporate Challenge

Our Corporate Challenge is back for 2024-25 and registrations officially open on Monday 2nd September. Using your business expertise and employees, turn £50 into as much as you can for oncology children and their families.



Treecycle

We will be back in January 2025 with our fabulous team of volunteers, collecting your unwanted Christmas trees from **Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th January**.



Charity Ball - The Greatest Show

Our annual Charity Ball will be taking place on **Saturday 22nd March 2025**. Keep an eye on our social media channels in the coming weeks for further details and ticket release.



Registered Charity Number 1167783

For more information visit www.gkcct.org
01905 885777 | contact@gkcct.org

The Piggery, Cowsden Hall Farm, Cowsden,
Upton Snodsbury, Worcestershire WR7 4NZ



SCAN ME



To get involved with our events or fundraisers

