

The Ladybird news BULLETIN

Grace Kelly
Childhood
Cancer Trust
Registered Charity Number 1167783

Issue 3 | Winter/Spring 2025

Registered Charity Number 1167783



SCAN ME



Because the children of today all deserve a tomorrow.

HELLO!

Happy New Year from us all here at the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust!

We hope you had a restful Christmas spent with loved ones and plenty of festive treats.

This issue, we bring you another selection of inspirational fundraising tales, the launch of two new booklets for children and of course a warm invite to our Charity Ball - **The Greatest Show**.

January always prompts new goals, so make sure you check out our volunteering opportunities and our Worcester City Run advert if you are looking for a new challenge in 2025.

My favourite piece in this issue is our Corporate Challenge feature, which showcases the dedication and fabulous creativity behind the corporates who are taking part in this year's challenge to raise funds for the Trust.

Wishing you all the very best for 2025.

**Best wishes,
Sophie Blount, Editor**

Contents



Page 3	Meet Our Team & Making a Difference
Page 4	Latest News
Page 5	A Day in the Life of...
Page 6	Named Funds & Hall of Fame
Page 7	Community Events
Page 8	Family Support Fun
Page 9	Corporate Challenge
Page 10	Seasonal Feature
Page 11	Podcast: Young Me vs the Big C
Page 12	Our Events & Contact Us



Meet our team...

Sophie, Communications Officer



How long have you worked for the Trust?

I joined the Trust in July 2023 and I haven't looked back since! It's been a very busy time for the Charity since I joined so the past 18 months have flown by.

What does your role involve?

My role is very diverse. Some days I can be creating content for social media and interacting with followers online, and the next day I could be at one of our family tennis sessions getting hit by tennis balls whilst I try to capture the fun and laughter of the afternoon. I spend a lot of time at my computer writing about the work that we do and the wonderful families that we support, which I find incredibly humbling.

I also work closely with the fundraising team to help promote events and campaigns so that we can raise funds to continue being here for families when they need us most.

What do you enjoy most about working for the Trust?

The best part about my role is that I get to share the stories of so many inspirational individuals; whether that be the families we work with or members of the community who choose to do amazing things to help raise money for the Charity. One of my highlights this year was accompanying two of our families down to London for Global's Make Some Noise campaign. I felt so proud of Hunnie and Emilia as they were interviewed by Amanda Holden and Toby Tarrant.

What are you most excited for this year?

This year I am super excited about our Greatest Show Charity Ball which is taking place in March at the DRPG Studios. It will be a fabulous evening of magic and celebration shared amongst our families and supporters. We also have some new campaigns in the pipeline which I am excited to share with you all as the year progresses, alongside hosting more podcast episodes for Young Me vs the Big C - there's just so much to look forward to!

WHERE YOUR DONATIONS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

IN 2024 YOU HELPED US TO:



**DISPERSE
300,000**

Awareness Cards

**AWARD
£115,000**

towards Research
Projects

**PROVIDE
32**

Ladybird Support
Bags

We Made Some Noise...

Back in the Summer, we were approached by **Global's Make Some Noise** (GMSN) to feature across their annual fundraising campaign which runs throughout October. The Global Media Charity, provides grants for small charities across the UK each year, and as a previous beneficiary of the fund, they wanted to showcase how their grant had impacted the children and families we support.

Three of our families contributed to multiple radio appearances, with Hunnie and Emilia taking an exciting trip down to London to meet Toby Tarrant and Amanda Holden!

Live on **Heart Breakfast**, Hunnie spoke with Amanda about her ongoing treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia & how the **Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust** has supported her sisters and mum through her recent relapse.

Along a rain drenched River Wey, Emilia, Dad James & Family Support Worker Sam met up with **Radio X** presenter Toby Tarrant to discuss Emilia's treatment journey and how our AV1 Robot had kept Emilia in touch with her friends at school during long periods of isolation. For Global's Make Some Noise week Toby pedalled along the River Wey on Tallulah Sparkle Party (a unicorn shaped pedalo) to help raise over £250k for small charities like ours.

We are so unbelievably proud of Ewan, Emilia and Hunnie whose media appearances helped to raise £3,789,512 for GMSN, whilst also raising awareness of childhood cancer amongst a national audience.



New Booklets for Children Available

Each year, we send out a family support survey seeking feedback and ideas from the families we support on how we can improve and develop our service.

Last year, one of the ideas we received was to publish booklets for siblings. Our CEO Dr Jen Kelly, has spent the last 12 months bringing this suggestion to print, and we are happy to announce that our new **'My sister has cancer'** and **'My brother has cancer'** booklets are now available to children for when they need that reassuring and informative explanation.

The booklets are available digitally on our website, you can request one from your Family Support Worker directly, or you can order printed copies via our website.



Scan the QR code to access the booklets digitally

www.gkcct.org/information-and-support/family-support/our-information-resources/order-publications/



A day in the life of a...

Charity Fundraiser

As a Charity Fundraiser, I can honestly say that my days are filled with variety and a strong sense of purpose. I really love waking up each morning not knowing what brilliant new fundraising ideas will develop or what excellent new connections I will make with our community and corporate supporters! My days are usually filled with great conversations, managing our fundraising events, and supporting our volunteers.

The Charity needs to raise £700,000 per year to maintain our current services and with no government funding, we solely rely on the kindness and generosity of our supporters.

A typical day for me would begin in our office at Upton Snodsbury, with a nice cup of tea on my desk, where I check my emails, track the latest ticket sale figures for our fundraising events, and check through all the lovely donations that came in overnight via our webpage. Then, I may have a meeting with a potential corporate partner where I would present to the company either in person or via Teams to share our story and give them insight into how they can directly impact our oncology families.

I could be designing a fundraising campaign to raise more vital funds, sourcing prizes for our live auction at The Greatest Show Charity Ball in March, packing up orders of Christmas cards, key rings, and jute bags from our online shop, or delivering charity collection cans and pop-up banners to a local business that would like to fundraise for us.

The heart of fundraising lies in building relationships and making meaningful connections. Whether it's collaborating with local schools for awareness campaigns or engaging with enthusiastic volunteers eager to make a difference, I am constantly inspired by the dedication and passion of those I work with.

Our events are a testament to community spirit. From gala dinners to charity runs, each event is an opportunity to bring people together for a common cause. It's incredibly rewarding to witness the generosity and support from individuals and organisations alike.

Of course, the role comes with its challenges; meeting annual fundraising targets requires strategic planning and creativity. I work very closely with our Communications Officer to ensure we have carefully designed marketing collateral and strategies to maximise our success. But these challenges are what make the job exciting and fulfilling.

Being a Charity Fundraiser is not just a job; it's a calling. Every day presents an opportunity to touch lives and make a difference. It's a privilege to be part of a journey that brings hope and support to families facing childhood cancer, and I am grateful for every moment.

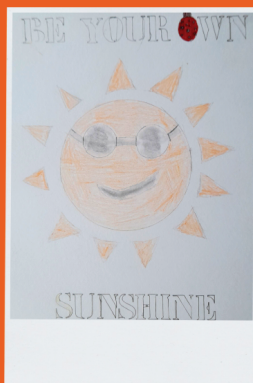
Abbie _x

If you have a fundraising idea, or would like to find out how your business can get involved with our work, please email fundraising@gkcct.org



Hall of fame

Throughout September, we invited children to submit an entry for our first ever art and design competition! The brief was to design a card that could be sent to oncology children or their siblings to brighten their day. The only rule was that their artwork must incorporate our Charity Mascot, Dotty the Ladybird. We received so many beautiful and thoughtful designs, but after a public vote via social media, these three were selected as the winning entries. Thank you to everyone who entered, and congratulations to the winners of our first competition.



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. Children who have gone through their own difficult journey can help others in a similar situation.

Your fundraising 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

Could YOU volunteer?



As a very small team working to achieve BIG things, we have a number of volunteering positions currently available at the Trust.

If you have skills or experience in **administration, fundraising or marketing**, we'd love to hear from you!

Email: fundraising@gkcct.org or call 01905 885777 for more information or to express an interest

Because the children of today all deserve a tomorrow.

In the community...

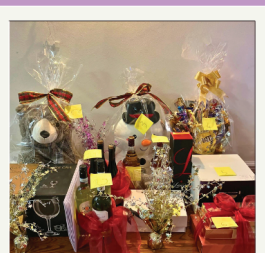
Birthday Ball

On the 16th November, Cheryl hosted her 40th Birthday Ball, raising an impressive **£1412.45** for the families we support and awareness work.

Cheryl said:

"I wanted a big posh ball for my 40th birthday, but minus the presents so instead, I asked people to donate to my chosen charity. I chose the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust for a number of reasons:

- 1, I have 3 children myself.**
- 2, I wanted to support a local charity.**
- 3, My son went to school with a little girl who sadly passed away 4 years ago. I know the family, and how the Grace Kelly charity supported them."**



Lakes in a Day

Craig Webb has raised **£920** for the Trust by running 53 miles in an Ultra Marathon from the top of the Lake District to the bottom in October last year.

He knew about our work because his son goes to school with one of the children we support.

Craig said:

"It was the toughest thing I have ever done and it took me 4 weeks to recover." - what a HERO!

Craig also said: **"Keep up the hard work and I hope this helps as many people as possible."**

Thank you so much Craig for choosing to support young families facing childhood cancer.



Challenge The Wild

Emilia's dad James is going to be walking across the D Day Beaches in June this year to fundraise for The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust. James said: **"I couldn't think of a better cause after the help and support we received as a family when Emilia went through her diagnosis of Aplastic Anaemia. The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust made a real difference for us as a family."**

James will be walking over 80km as part of a group honouring the sacrifice made 81 years ago on D Day. The battlefield expedition is being organised by Challenge The Wild and James will be joined by Ant Middleton (Channel 4's SAS: Who Dares Wins), Andrew Jenkins (BBC's The Traitors), Fia Tarrant (Heart Radio) and Toby Tarrant (Radio X).



James' daughter Emilia was supported by The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust whilst undergoing treatment for Aplastic Anaemia, and had a Stem Cell Transplant in September 2023. Emilia, Dad James, Mum Steph and sister Ellie all had various forms of support from GKCCT whilst going through this difficult time. As a family they took the decision early on to share Emilia's story and help other families by also raising awareness and funds for various charities including GKCCT.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge and will take with me the pride in supporting such a wonderful charity and one that is so close to our hearts."

- James Mackay



Scan the QR code to support James' challenge

Family Support **fun!**

Throughout the festive period, our Family Support team were out and about with our oncology children and their siblings spreading festive cheer through crafts, Christmas parties and of course a special visit from Santa!

Family Support Worker Sam said:

"It's been an honour to spread festive joy alongside our families this Christmas & we wish them all a peaceful time with loved ones."



Are you looking for a new challenge and focus for 2025?

Why not sign up to the 2025 Worcester City Run in aid of the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust?

Join a community of inspiring individuals who achieve personal milestones by taking part in the popular city run.

✉ Email fundraising@gkcct.org to sign up!

REGISTER NOW





Our corporates have made a fantastic start to this year's **Corporate Challenge!** The five contenders which includes Ballards LLP, Painters Law, Matcon, Lucart Hygiene and Custom Heat are competing to raise the most funds by March this year.

Lucart Hygiene have hosted a number of fundraisers including:

- A Tuck shop for all staff in the canteen during breaks
- A bake-off competition, which was very competitive
- Christmas Jumpers

Jonny Wilks, Managing Director said:

"We have also called upon some local companies to donate prizes for raffles which is ongoing and this month I will be washing employees' cars for a small fee - can't wait! We have also created a dedicated Microsoft Teams chat area where staff share ideas and feedback also which is working really well."

Chanal Griffiths, Partner & Head of Property at **Painters Law** said:

"At Painters Law LLP, we believe in giving back and fostering a spirit of collaboration, not only within our firm but also across the broader business community. This challenge allows us to channel our resources, energy, and commitment into creating tangible change for those in need.

Our team are excited to contribute for a second year running through various activities, including hosting quiz nights, a firm-wide step challenge, an inflatable run and knitting ladybirds. These initiatives align with our values of service, community involvement and leadership.

Although the challenge is a great opportunity to have some fun, we know that our relationship with the Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust allows us to make a difference together."

We can't wait to see what creative fundraising 2025 brings for our corporates!



CHRISTMAS 2024

December delivered lots of festive fun here at the Trust, alongside acts of kindness and support that meant so much to our staff and the families we work with each day. From a toy collection organised by **The Works** in Droitwich, Christmas Jumper Day, our annual Cathedral tree designed by **Worcester 6th Form College** students and of course, our famous Treecycle Campaign this month. Thank you for making it another magical time and for your continued generosity.



THE GREATEST SHOW

March 22nd 2025 **BOOK NOW**

Tickets

Individual Ball Ticket £75.00

Bookable for groups of up to 9 guests

Each ticket includes:

- Welcome drink on arrival
- Three course meal
- Tea & coffee
- Live music & entertainment

Table for Ten Ticket £700 - this ticket includes:

- A private table for ten guests
- Welcome drink on arrival
- A delicious three-course meal
- Tea & coffee
- Live music & entertainment



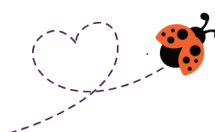
BOOK HERE

Scan here to book
your tickets today!



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.

In this special episode of Young Me vs the Big C, we speak with Frank's Mum, Emma about the named fund she set up in memory of her son to support other young families facing childhood cancer across the local area.



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 printed 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.

SCAN ME



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

How you can help make a difference



The Greatest Show Charity Ball - Saturday 22nd March

We are thrilled to extend our invitation to you for "The Greatest Show" Charity Ball. This unforgettable evening will unite our supporters, families, friends, and loved ones for a night filled with extraordinary entertainment, delightful drinks, exquisite dining, dancing, and some exciting surprises throughout the evening.



Become a Regular Donor

Regular donations allow us to plan for the future whilst keeping administration costs to a minimum, meaning that your contribution goes even further in helping us to provide emotional and practical support to families facing childhood cancer.



Worcester City Run - Sunday 14th September

Join Team Ladybird for Worcester City Run 2025, we have 40 adult and 10 child spaces up for grabs.



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



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR