



The Hospital  
Saturday Fund®

## Charity Newsletter

ISSUE 18 – UNITED KINGDOM  
MAY 2025



# Helping Your Community Since 1873

**£2.27 Million Donated in 2024**

In donations and grants to medically-associated charities for care and research, hospices and hospitals across the UK, Republic of Ireland, and Malta. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

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## Dogs for Autism

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Founded in 2019, Dogs for Autism’s mission is to have a positive impact on the lives of autistic individuals and their families. Their overall aim is to empower autistic people to realise their individual potential, improve their access to their chosen communities, and enhance their emotional and physical wellbeing.

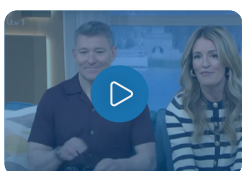
Following the receipt of a grant in 2024, we are pleased to report on the impact it has had: “At Dogs for Autism, we were delighted to receive a grant of £10,000 to provide aftercare and support to 10 of our autistic partners and their assistance dogs for a year. This grant has enabled us to provide support from our autism liaison team with any autism-related issues, including liaising with the school, university, or work. It has also provided six-monthly visits from the training team to ensure the success of the

partnership and to train any new taskwork needed, as well as 24-hour backup support from our team.

This has been especially important for two young boys, who, with the support of our autism liaison team and their aftercare trainers, have successfully integrated their assistance dogs into their school lives. The mother of one of the boys, Peter, who is partnered with Coco, told us:

“Parents evening...something I was dreading! Came out so proud – Peter is smashing this year, putting everything into all of his classes and trying his absolute hardest. He has achieved more this year than the last seven years in school. Every one of his 12 teachers commented on the positive impact that Coco has had – they all said he is more confident and forthcoming.”

Not only that, with the help of their assistance dogs, both boys had the confidence to appear on ITV’s *This Morning*, talking about how their dogs have changed their lives!



**Watch Thomas and Megan**



**Watch Peter and Coco**

# The Cancer Support Centre

Established in 2001, The Cancer Support Centre provides essential support to individuals diagnosed with cancer across the West Midlands and beyond. The charity recognises that the effects of cancer are not purely physical, often impacting the emotional and psychological well-being of patients, as well as their families and carers.

The centre offers a comprehensive range of complementary therapies, including reflexology, aromatherapy, acupuncture, scar tissue release, and counselling. In addition to one-to-one support, the Centre facilitates group activities such as yoga, walking groups, and cancer-specific peer support sessions, creating opportunities for shared experiences and community connection. Educational workshops on nutrition, relaxation, and breathing techniques empower individuals to take greater control of their health and well-being. A recently introduced bereavement support group also provides a safe space for families coping with loss.

The Cancer Support Centre was awarded a £10,000 grant to support increasing the opening times of the centre. The initiative reflects the Centre's holistic and inclusive approach to care, addressing the needs of individuals, and their families facing complex health conditions.

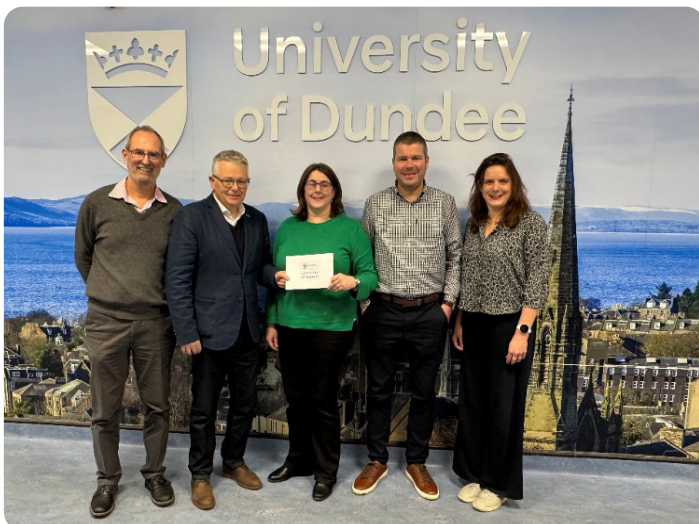


Lynn Richards-Cole, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund, presented a £10,000 grant to Brian Davies, Fundraiser, Jackie, Centre Manager, and Trevor Saaid, Chair of the Board of Trustees, The Cancer Support Centre.

To find out more visit their website: [www.suttoncancersupport.org](http://www.suttoncancersupport.org)



# University of Dundee



Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive, The Hospital Saturday Fund, with Warren Vale, Senior Account Executive, HSF Health Plan, presented a £10,000 grant towards the Medical Elective Grant to Jon Dowell, Trustee, Katy Daniels, Electives Lead, University of Dundee, and Amy Earnshaw, CEO, Fair Trade Electives Charity.

To find out more visit their website: [www.dundee.ac.uk](http://www.dundee.ac.uk)



The University of Dundee ranks first in Scotland and second in the UK for medicine, earning a global reputation for excellence in teaching and research. Committed to advancing healthcare education, its mission is to "transform lives locally and globally."

The University's Responsible Electives Programme, launched in 2012, was designed to ensure that student placements in lower-resourced healthcare settings are ethically conducted and mutually beneficial. This initiative was developed in response to concerns about poorly structured placements that could inadvertently place additional strain on host healthcare systems.

Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive of The Hospital Saturday Fund, and Warren Vale, Senior Account Executive, HSF Health Plan, visited the University of Dundee to present a £10,000 grant in support of the university's Responsible Electives Programme. This funding will enable 13 medical students to gain life-changing experiences, enhance their clinical skills, and explore global healthcare systems.

# SpecialEffect

SpecialEffect is a UK-based charity dedicated to improving accessibility in gaming for people with physical disabilities. Founded in 2007 and based in Charlbury, Oxfordshire, the charity specialises in Eye Control Technology and other adaptive gaming solutions, helping individuals enjoy video games regardless of their physical limitations.

StarGaze is an assistive communication system designed for individuals of all ages across the UK with various disabilities, including those who are completely paralysed and can only move their eyes. The system enables users to communicate by simply looking at a computer screen, where they can eye-type words or select icons to express their needs.

SpecialEffect received a £10,000 grant, which enabled them to purchase two complete eye-gaze systems, along with all necessary peripherals. These systems can be reused, allowing multiple people with complete or partial paralysis to communicate by simply moving their eyes.



John Greenwood, Chair, The Hospital Saturday Fund and Blessing Dada, Marketing Manager, HSF Health Plan, presented £10,000 grant to Liam Lawler, Partnerships Co-ordinator, Alison Hilborne, Supporter Care, Mark Saville, Communications Support, Maddy Meeson, Events Fundraiser, Gillian Taylor, Senior Occupational Therapist at SpecialEffect.

To find out more visit their website: [www.specialeffect.org.uk](http://www.specialeffect.org.uk)



# WheelPower



Andy Gilbert, GMC Member and Ana Vega, EA to the Group Chief Executive, The Hospital Saturday Fund, presenting a £10,000 grant to Martin Mc Elthatt, CEO, WheelPower.

To find out more visit their website: [www.wheelpower.org.uk](http://www.wheelpower.org.uk)



WheelPower, also known as the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, is a national charity committed to enabling disabled people to engage in sports and lead active lives. Founded by the late Professor Sir Ludwig Guttman, WheelPower is based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement. For over 75 years, it has been a driving force in wheelchair sports.

WheelPower offers a wide range of sports and activities, from archery and athletics to wheelchair basketball and rugby. The charity also organises events such as the Inter Spinal Unit Games and National Junior Games, which have been hosted at Stoke Mandeville for over 30 years. These events cater to individuals at all levels, from first-timers to Paralympic medallists, promoting inclusion and participation in sport.

WheelPower were awarded a grant of £10,000 to help fund eight new Physical Activity Advisors. This funding will enable the charity to support newly disabled individuals in becoming more active, enhancing their physical and mental well-being, improving fitness, and experiencing the many benefits of regular exercise.

# Individual Grants Updates

Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy (FSHD) is a genetic neuromuscular condition that leads to progressive muscle weakness affecting the face, head, trunk, and both upper and lower limbs.

HSF awarded a £2,000 grant towards the purchase of a MOTOMed LOOP LA Arm/Leg motorised device, which enables movement of the arms and legs while seated in a wheelchair. This equipment will help promote mobility, independence, and well-being, and we are proud to be part of making that possible.

*"I was absolutely over the moon when I received the grant approval from The Hospital Saturday Fund! I really can't put into words how much this means to me. Having FSH Muscular Dystrophy is exhausting both physically and mentally, and as there are currently no treatments available, it is so important to keep as physically active as possible. Now I just pop my music on loud, pedal away, and afterwards I use the arm function. I can feel the physical benefits straight away - my arms and legs feel warmer and less achy, my heart rate is elevated, and feel so much happier and content knowing I'm doing something to help myself. Thank you so much and keep up the great work."*



New MOTOMed LOOP LA Arm/Leg motorised device.



A mobility scooter is life-changing for someone who was previously housebound.

With a history of falls, alongside conditions such as COPD, sciatica, arthritis, hypertension, liver disease, and heart disease, using public transport had become increasingly challenging and risky for this individual. Thanks to a £695 grant towards a mobility scooter, he has regained the independence he so deeply craved, enabling him to safely reconnect with the community he loves, as you'll see below.

*"First of all, I'd like to say thank you ever so much for the money you gave to me regarding the mobility scooter. It has changed my life in the sense of, it's given me my own independence to do things that I couldn't do before. I can go shopping, I can go and visit and see my grandchildren at school, walk alongside them, basically just go into a restaurant with my partner. I can go to my GP, my dentist. And it also gave me a bit of freedom, where I can catch up with some friends from work, which we do once every two weeks. I can have a chat and two of them have got a mobility scooter too, so we go into Wetherspoons. I wasn't able to do that before, it's too much walking. And now I can go there and it's in a little cul-de-sac place. You stay in your scooter or you can get out and have a meal, you know, orangeade or something. But the best thing about it is that you can talk to each other, and we can sit there for hours. We get in there about one o'clock, all of a sudden, it's five o'clock. It's been heaven sent to me, so once again I'd like to thank you very much. It's really changed my life."*

## About Us

The Hospital Saturday Fund (HSF) is a UK charity that was founded in 1873 by pioneers in social and philanthropic work to help people afford medical care. In recent times, the Fund has 'tailored' its benefits and these are now offered through HSF Health Plan, one of the leading health cash plans in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Profits from the trading company, HSF Health Plan, are channelled into the 'parent' charity, The Hospital Saturday Fund, to enable charity donations to be made. In 2025 The Hospital Saturday Fund will give £2.3 million in donations and grants to medically-associated charities, hospices, and hospitals across the UK, Republic of Ireland, and Malta. Assistance will also be given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused financial difficulties.

## Meet the Charity Team

<b>Paul Jackson</b> Group Chief Executive	<b>Dee Wright</b> Charity & Events Manager	<b>Ana Vega</b> EA to the Group Chief Executive	<b>Michelle Fletcher</b> Senior Charity Coordinator	<b>Nikki Mahoney</b> Charity Administrator	<b>Jenny Summerfield</b> Charity Administrator	<b>Gemma Coombs</b> Charity Administrator	<b>Joanna Moore</b> Boards Administrator
							

## Grant Information

### Application Deadlines and Grant Amounts

The Hospital Saturday Fund has two grant categories:

- Standard grants of up to £2,000 or €3,000 or
- Large grants to up to £10,000 or €13,500 (please note this is the maximum sum that HSF will grant).

Large grant applications should be towards specific projects, research or equipment rather than running costs. Organisations may make one application for a meeting and can apply for a standard or a large grant. The Grant Making Committee (GMC) meets quarterly.

For how to apply, see The Hospital Saturday Fund's website for criteria and link to the online application form:  
[www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org](http://www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org)

### Applications should be submitted online by close of business on the following dates:

#### GMC 22 January 2025

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 3 January 2025

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 2 December 2024

#### GMC 7 May 2025

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 9 April 2025

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 12 March 2025

#### GMC 5 August 2025

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 9 July 2025

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 11 June 2025

#### GMC 11 November 2025

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 14 October 2025

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 16 September 2025

#### GMC January 2026 (all dates for 2026 meetings TBC in December 2025)

**Standard Grants** of £2,000 or €3,000 – deadline 5 January 2026

**Large Grants** of up to max £10,000 or €13,500 – deadline 2 December 2025