

# Dame Hannahs Winter News 2024



# Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of our Dame Hannahs News. We are delighted to be able to share our news and developments with you. Over the last few months everyone at Dame Hannahs has been busier than ever, living their lives to the full and making the most of all the activities and adventures which Louisa our new Activities Co-ordinator has been organising.

In our last edition, we shared an update on our successful grant applications, which have enabled the completion of phases one and two of our bungalow refurbishment project. These completed phases, much to the delight of our residents, has created additional space for new residential placements which add to the Dame Hannahs community.

We are currently progressing plans in three main areas of the site. Phase three of the bungalow project to renovate Blachford is underway. There have been many improvements to The Mews. In our main building several of the rooms are being modernised which allows us to continue to develop and grow our services into the future.

Our fundraising team supported by their volunteers continue to be busier than ever holding a wide range of activities and events as well as attending a multitude of local shows, meetings and community ventures to spread the word on Dame Hannahs. It is great to see all of their hard work coming to fruition.



**New Trustee** Since our last edition we have welcomed a further new Trustee to the Dame Hannahs board. Nicola joins us bringing her skill set which completes the variety of experiences and qualities wanted for a strong and robust leadership and governance of Dame Hannahs.



**Nicola Kelly** has over 30 years of dedicated service in nursing and brings a wealth of experience and commitment to enhancing care quality as part of the Dame Hannahs Trustee team. Her career has included roles as the Executive Director for Somerset Care Ltd and the Head of Quality Assurance for the Care Quality Commission (CQC), where she consistently demonstrated her expertise in driving quality management and ensuring the highest standards of care.

Nicola's career is characterised by her unwavering dedication to listening to and understanding the needs of both people and their families and care providers. She firmly believes that the best care comes from valuing and incorporating the perspectives of those who are directly impacted. This ethos has guided her work and contributed to significant improvements in care delivery and people's satisfaction across multiple organisations.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Nicola has a deeply personal connection to her work. As the parent of an autistic daughter, she has first hand experience navigating the challenges that come with transitioning from child to adult services. This personal journey has fuelled her passion for advocating for comprehensive and compassionate care solutions that truly meet the needs of individuals and families.

*"I am delighted to join Dame Hannahs and bring both my professional insights and personal perspectives as a Trustee. I am honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to Dame Hannahs continued success in providing exceptional care and support to those who need it most"*

## Dame Hannahs Fundraisers



**Derek Cheesbrough**, a local supporter, raised £130 at the Bude Jazz Festival. Derek sold some of his own jazz books and recordings and donated the proceeds.

**10X Fitness** have been continuing their fundraising efforts for Dame Hannahs as their chosen charity of

the year. Louise and Kev have been holding a variety of events and general fundraisers all year and have raised a staggering £5,000 to date. Their most recent fundraiser was a Quiz Night where Daniel and Debbie from our fundraising team were eager entries and had great fun helping them with their endeavours.



**South Brent Women Together** organised a fantastic Worn but Wonderful Fashion Show recently and raised an amazing £842. The event took place at South Brent Village Hall and featured a group of ladies modelling a

variety of preloved clothes that had all been donated to Dame Hannahs. The models included two young adults from Dame Hannahs, Bex and Hannah (pictured), who were the stars of the show. They both drove their wheelchairs along the catwalk so beautifully and confidently. In the interval guests enjoyed a musical performance by the South Brent Women Together choir as well as delicious cakes.



**Exeter Inflatable 5K** A team from Dame Hannahs Mews called the Mews Misfits took part in this fun but challenging event and raised £700. They all agreed it was hard work but they had a great time! And it was lovely to see a group of staff coming together to fundraise for the young people they support.

**Isla's Danceathon** Before she left Dame Hannahs, our former Activities Coordinator Isla took on one more 24 hour Danceathon and raised £655. All our staff and young adults really enjoyed joining in this fun fundraising challenge.



**Dame Hannahs Skydivers** Four of our very brave managers are taking on a skydive in the Spring. They will be jumping out of a plane in order to raise as much money as possible for the lovely young people they work with everyday.





## Corporate Volunteers - Aggregate Industries



Everyone at Dame Hannahs would like to say a massive thank you to all the volunteers from Aggregate Industries who worked so hard painting rooms in our main building. Three teams helped to transform the new family room and the medical room, which was a huge help.

Head of Maintenance, David Henderson, said "I just wanted to say a big thank you to all the volunteers from Aggregate Industries. The work they have done has been a really good standard and helped me no end. What lovely people as well, it was an absolute pleasure having them here. The family room they painted will soon become a hub for the young adults, their families and their care staff to meet and spend time, and the smaller medical room will be fitted out like a nurse's room at the doctors where external medical professionals can have a clinical space to work from when they are here. It has been brilliant to have local businesses support us and be part of the continuing improvements being made".

Marta Maculewicz from Aggregate said "Volunteering at Dame Hannahs was an eye opening and heartwarming experience. Debbie from Dame Hannahs Fundraising team melted my stone cold heart by sharing stories about all the young adults they are helping every day. People working there are passionate, with a massive smile on their faces at all times, despite challenges and difficulties that they are facing daily. It was an absolute honour to be able to help them on that day and I wish that we could do it more often as a company".

Robyn Watterson from Aggregate said "What an amazing and insightful day it was volunteering at Dame Hannahs. The care and understanding by everyone that works there is something that can only be admired. Seeing what these people do every day and meeting the young adults living there was honestly life changing. I am so happy that we could help, even in a small way. I hope that Aggregate Industries and Dame Hannahs can continue working together, as it is such a worthy cause".



## Staff Recruitment

Local Ivybridge girl Honesty joined Dame Hannahs recently and is loving her job. She started as a Support Worker in May and is working with our young adults in Arthur bungalow.

Honesty was brought up in Ivybridge so was always aware of Dame Hannahs. Having moved away to Plymouth for several years she has recently moved back to Ivybridge with her partner. Living in the Ivybridge and South Hams area makes working at Dame Hannahs so easy and accessible.

Honesty said "I have really loved my first few months at Dame Hannahs particularly engaging with and getting to know the young adults in Arthur. I love how people-centred it is here and I am really enjoying being hands on and getting involved with all aspects of their lives. The induction was really helpful as well as the period of shadowing staff. There is so much to learn but I am really enjoying it."

**For information on job opportunities at Dame Hannahs visit our website**

## New Resident

Now that phases one and two of the Bungalow refurbishments have been completed, we have been able to start welcoming new residents to fill the spaces that this work has achieved. Over the last year a further four residents have joined us as residential placements. One of our newer residents is Millie.

Millie lives in Marchesi bungalow. She is 22 years old and has Cerebral Palsy. Before joining Dame Hannahs Millie went to Vance House school in Exeter until the aged of 12 and then on to Bidwell Brook. Aged 19 she started attending Hollacombe Day Centre in Paignton five days a week but it then became apparent that she would really benefit from a residential place.

She has always lived at home with her mum Gina supported by an excellent care team. However for the two years leading up to Millie joining Dame Hannahs Gina was encouraged by her family to look for a residential place for Millie. Gina wanted to keep Millie home as long as possible and when looking elsewhere could only find old people's homes. She then reached out to her care team and the care manager told her there was a place at Dame Hannahs. Millie settled in very quickly and very well. Gina knew Daisy Wilson, who has been at Dame Hannahs for many years, and her mum Rosie and felt reassured by them that Millie was in the right place. Gina lives locally in Blackawton so she is able to visit Millie three times a week. She loves chatting to all the staff and making a fuss of all the young adults in Marchesi and sometimes she takes Millie out for a walk or a drive.



Millie is a very happy, bright and sociable person with a wicked sense of humour. She is very loving and always wants a hug. She loves to go on walks and outings as well as drawing and colouring. She has a favourite storybook in which she loves watching her mum fill in her name in the story. She also loves listening to and watching music videos and enjoys music sessions and cinema nights at Dame Hannahs.

Mum Gina said: "It is really reassuring to know that Millie is happy and settled in case anything should happen to me. Until recently she was a real Mummy's girl but she has now grown more independent and is happy to try anything. There is now a big gap in my life and I am trying to work out what work to do. For the past 20 years I have worked as a nursery assistant in the local village school and before having children I worked in the Civil Service. My 24 year old son Josh lives with me and has an amazing relationship with Millie. He has always been a huge help to me and Millie idolises him."



## Retail Growth



At Dame Hannahs we love our Charity Shops and we are continuing to look for new premises. We currently have eight charity shops as well as a central distribution warehouse. Each location is continually transforming your preloved items into much needed funds to help us continue our work. This is only achieved with the help and support we get from our fantastic volunteers. We currently have 105 retail volunteers across our sites. Some are able to give us a couple of hours a week and others a few days, but no matter how much time someone is able to give, the difference they make is enormous. In the last six months they have helped transform your goods into £235,000 – what an achievement! Our next new store will be in Tavistock with an opening date to be confirmed. Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates.

## Summer Fundraising

**Yealmpton Show** The Dame Hannahs cake stand at the Yealmpton Show raised £598 and was awarded a Special Prize. Visitors flocked to the show in the glorious sunshine and were very tempted by all the delicious cakes. Show judge and former MP Gary Streeter presented the Special Prize to the team, who were also delighted to welcome their new MP Rebecca Smith to the stand. The Dame



Hannahs team received the award as the judges said that “the positivity and pure enthusiasm that radiates from your team is one of our highlights of the show”.

**Kingsbridge Show** We were delighted that our Refreshment Tent at the Kingsbridge Show raised an amazing £1346. A big thank you to the show committee and everyone who came to enjoy our delicious homemade cakes. A special thank you to our wonderful team of volunteers for all their help and hard work.



**Talks on the work of Dame Hannahs** Over the summer we have had the privilege of visiting a variety of WI's, Probus Clubs and other groups who have been fascinated by the work we do here at Dame Hannahs. These talks generated a further £395 in donations. Thank you to all of you who attended.



**Bucket Collections** We held a variety of bucket collections over the summer at Tesco and Morrisons. Their support in allowing us there for the day raised £413 from their generous shoppers. This is a real opportunity for our young adults and staff at Dame Hannahs to get involved.



## Graduation Ceremony



Families and friends gathered at Dame Hannahs for a graduation ceremony. Seven young adults celebrated the completion of their NCFE Entry Level 2 Certificate in Personal and Social Development. This opportunity arose due to a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund for AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) users to access the course. AAC is a range of strategies and tools to help people who struggle with speech to communicate as effectively as possible in as many situations as possible. The Dame Hannahs adults used a variety of communicative approaches and resources to facilitate their communication and learning. These included their voice, their high and low tech communication aids, objects, photos, familiar symbols and facial expressions.

Over the last two years the students have studied eight different modules and achieved 14 credits in total in order to pass. The modules, which were externally marked, were 'Community Action, Dealing with problems in daily life, Developing Self, Environmental Awareness, Healthy Living, Making the most of leisure time, Managing social relationships, Rights and Responsibilities'. Our Speech and Language therapists, Rebecca and Baukje, said "We are delighted to see these young adults achieve their qualification. They have used a variety of communication methods to learn and show their understanding across a range of topics. It was lovely to see how proud they were of themselves as they should be!"

## Activities

Our young adults are very lucky to be able to access activities led by outside providers. They currently enjoy tennis, football, yoga and dance, music therapy and Moo Music on site. And one of our young ladies loves her weekly sessions at Riding for the Disabled in South Brent.



## Fundraising Events

**Cream Tea** In the summer we hosted our annual Cream Tea fundraiser at our site in Ivybridge. This event proved as popular as ever and raised a wonderful £993. Guests enjoyed a fascinating talk by Royal enthusiast Meg de Blank about Eleanor of Aquitaine followed by a delicious cream tea. Longstanding supporters Marian and Trevor Vanstone raised a further £300 from their stall selling preserves and woollen jumpers. Members of the Dame Hannahs Ivybridge Supporter Group kindly baked hundreds of scones and ran the Raffle while Dame Hannahs resident Andrew Green did a great job welcoming all the guests.



**Bingo Night** We recently hosted our first ever Bingo Night at Dame Hannahs which raised a wonderful £347. It was lovely to welcome new visitors as well as old friends. Everyone had great fun and enjoyed the delicious homemade cakes and raffle at halftime. The evening was such a success that we are planning our next Bingo Night on Friday 29th November at 7pm.

**Autumn Lunch** We were delighted to welcome 100 guests to our annual Autumn Lunch which raised an amazing £1740. Everyone had a wonderful time and were really well looked after by the staff at the Boringdon Park Golf Club. Our guests enjoyed a delicious lunch as well as the chance to buy beautiful gifts from our stall holders. A special thank you to Becks Pearson from Devonshire Land Girls for a brilliant talk which was fascinating and very entertaining. Marian and Trevor Vanstone raised a further £371 from their stall.



### Come Help Us Fundraise!

Over the coming months we have a variety of events and functions which you can attend

Christmas Fayre – Dame Hannahs, Ivybridge – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 10am-4pm

Prize Bingo – Dame Hannahs, Ivybridge – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 7pm

Spring Luncheon – Elfordleigh Hotel – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March

Cream Tea Event – Dame Hannahs, Ivybridge – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Plymouth Inflatable 5K – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May

If you would like any information on fundraising challenges and our events please contact our fundraising team on 01752 898135 or email [supportus@discoverhannahs.org](mailto:supportus@discoverhannahs.org)  
You can also follow us on Facebook @discoverhannahs for regular updates.

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