

HOSPICE HISTORY

Visitors often ask us the history of our building and when St Cuthbert's Hospice first started providing care. We hope this document helps to answer some of the common questions we get asked, as well as sharing some of our milestone moments throughout the years.

1839

Elvet Moor Cottage was owned by Ann Maria Greenwell, and sub-let to Anwick Smith of Langley Grove, later known as Elvet Cottage in 1843.



1851

The house was occupied by John & Georgina Smith, their family and three servants. John was the son of Anwick Smith. The family's association ended in 1853.

1861

The building was occupied by William & Mary Robson, their five daughters and two servants. The Robson's had a thriving upholstery and cabinet making business in Durham City.



1881

Census shows that the building had been renamed to **Park House**, and a number of structural changes had taken place. The property was by now occupied by Charles and Teresa Bell.

1960

Park House was used as the studios for Radio Durham, one of the first BBC local radio stations. Sunderland born journalist Kate Adie began her career at Radio Durham.



1982

12th December

The first steering group meeting took place to establish a hospice in Durham.

1987

28th December

Following the £150,000 purchase from Durham County Council Park House, was registered as a company under the name of St Cuthbert's Hospice.

1988

28th January

On 28th January St Cuthbert's Hospice was registered as a charity. It officially opened its doors as a day hospice on 22nd September. Initially providing care services just two days per week. A 'Sister's Report' recorded a 'quiet start' that day, but noted that by the 28th four guests were already attending regularly.

1992

We opened our first charity shop to help raise much needed income. Volunteers remain a vital part of our charity shops helping to sort donations, price items, create window displays and serve customers on the till.



1999

A successful bid to the National Lottery Charities Board enabled the extension of Park House to provide more staff offices and treatment rooms.



2006

The Hospice opened a £3.2m In-Patient Unit to provide specialised care 24 hours, seven days per week. Thirteen individual en-suite bedrooms were created, of which eight were open immediately for service.

2007

The Countess of Wessex officially opened the new Unit and a patients' garden.

2008

The Hospice opened 'Park House Café', located on the ground floor. Staffed entirely by volunteers, it has flourished, and continues to welcome all visitors and is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm every weekday.



2010-12

Grants from charitable trusts and local donations enabled the landscaping of the Hospice's grounds. The changes included private patio spaces for each bedroom, ramps and walkways into the gardens allowing patients to explore the gardens, whether on foot, in a wheelchair or in their bed.

2012

The Hospice opened its dedicated Children's Bereavement Suite to support children and young people experiencing grief. Today our Jigsaw service provides counselling for children and young people who have experienced grief, loss and bereavement. This may be because of life-limiting illnesses and palliative care, or unexpected or sudden death.

2014

St Cuthbert's became the first hospice in the UK to appoint a specialist dementia Admiral Nurse to raise awareness of this life-limiting illness and help people in the community identify dementia and access help. Today our dementia services also include Namaste Care which aims to promote improved quality of life for people in the later stages of dementia.

2015

St Cuthbert's was the first hospice in the UK to be awarded 'Outstanding' status by the Care Quality Commission.

'Everything in Place' was launched in 2015. This community initiative aims to break the taboos that surround death and dying and encourage people to talk about physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of death. Practical issues like care plans, power of attorney and wills are also covered. The project is delivered as an online or face-to-face course.

2016

The Bridge Project - a generous legacy donation, further grants and local donations financed the vital addition of extra day care therapy rooms, an extended Hospice entrance, reception, Café refurbishment and additional office space. The project bridged the Hospice's past, present and future.

2017

The new Living Well Centre opened early in 2017. Designed to enable more adults than before to access day care at the right time for them, and to benefit from a greater variety of tailored treatments and activities to help them enjoy a better quality of life.



2018

Celebrating 30 years - Three decades on and the Hospice has grown from strength to strength. Our community was so vital in helping to set up the Hospice and we remain incredibly grateful for their continued support and generosity.



The appointment of our first Palliative Care Consultant confirmed our status as a specialist palliative care unit able to support patients with complex needs.

2020

The Win Win Lottery was launched to help create an additional sustainable regular income allowing us to better plan our future. The Lottery also means we can give back to our community with the chance for players to win a prize by becoming a member.



Caring during a pandemic. We faced the single most difficult time in our history and the affects are still very much felt today. But with the support of people and businesses in our community we were able to continue caring and weather the storm.



2022

A National Lottery Community Fund grant helped us to create the community outreach project. This is an extension of our Hospice services into the community of Chester-le-Street. Providing space for people to come together, share their experiences and access support.

2023

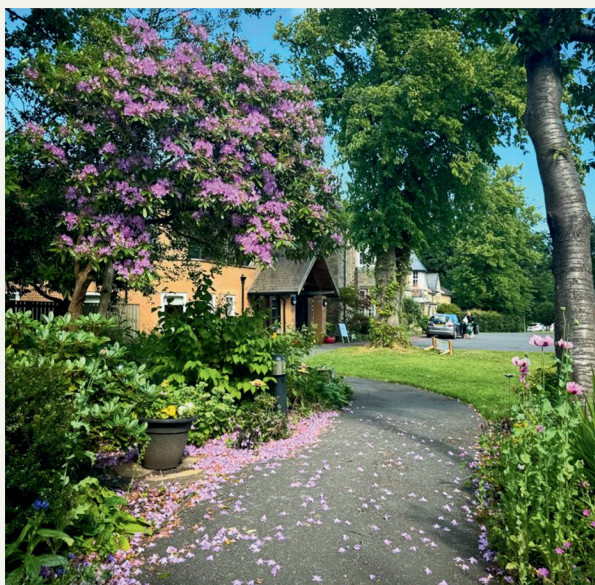
Prince Bishops Charity Shop opens. Initially a temporary 'Pop Up Shop' the store remains open today, and has fast become a must visit venue for bargain hunters hoping to pick up a designer item for less. We now have nine charity shops, including a Furniture Shop in Meadowfield.



The Future

St Cuthbert's is a registered charity. Although we receive a small proportion of funding from the NHS, we must fundraise over £2 million each year to keep our care free of charge.

We are so grateful to benefit from your kindness, be it the time you spare to volunteer, the donations that you so generously make, the events that you take part in or simply by sharing news of our care with those you know. If you would like to be part of St Cuthbert's future, there are a number of ways you can kindly support us and help us to keep caring for the local Durham community.



Volunteer

People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some it offers the chance to give something back to the community or make a difference to the people around them. For others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge.

We are always glad to hear from people interested in joining the now 400 plus volunteer team.

Fundraise

When you join Team St Cuthbert's and fundraise for us you will be helping to provide compassionate care and support to people in County Durham with life-limiting illnesses.

From sponsored walks to ultra-marathons; bake sales to golf days; coffee mornings to a car boot sales. Whatever you choose to do we'll be cheering you on and read to help you every step of the way.

Donate

However much you can spare, every penny really will make a difference to someone's life in your community. We want to help make every day count, and with your help we can.

Scan to donate:



St Cuthbert's Hospice



Park House Road, Durham, DH1 3QF
0191 386 1170
hello@stcuthbertshospice.com
www.stcuthbertshospice.com

St Cuthbert's Hospice, Durham is registered by the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Charity Number: 519767 VAT Number 997305770.