



Spring Newsletter 2021



Jessie May
Children's Hospice at Home

Welcome to the new and improved Jessie May newsletter!

It's a great pleasure to welcome you to this first edition of our 'new look' newsletter.

It's been a really tough time for the children and families we support but hopefully we are beginning to see 'light at the end of the tunnel'. Thank you all for your patience and resilience. Despite all of the many challenges of the last year Jessie May is still going strong and doing our very best to maintain our service. We have had to adapt and change many of the ways in which we have been used to working. For now we have developed an interim offer to families, which prioritises those unable to attend school and we are in the process of planning some of our summer holiday activities, all being well.

Like many charities fundraising has become extremely difficult with some traditional areas of activity just not possible due to the ongoing social restrictions. As things open up, we will be relaunching our Caring at Work scheme and launching



a summer funding appeal in addition to other initiatives.

We are now in a phase of 'reset', and have developed our Reset & Recovery Plan to take us through the next 12 to 18 months, and will set us up for our next five year strategy. If you would like to receive a copy of this please email info@jessiemay.org.uk.

But for now, please sit back, make yourself a drink and enjoy this first edition of your 'new look' newsletter.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Roys".

Chris Roys, Chief Executive

*We will be sending these twice a year, and they are available to view on our website if you would like to share with family and friends.

Helen's Story from the Frontline

In February 2020, Bereavement Team Leader, Helen Williams came out of a Purple Group meeting with absolutely no idea that it would be the last one for a very long time.

“When we came out of that meeting in February, we had no clue that things would spiral as they did. We’d already pencilled in a date for May, and that one didn’t happen. Then July came, and went. We suddenly realised that we’d have to adapt the group and change the way we worked.”

Helen sat down with the Clinical Psychologist who supports the Jessie May nurses and they **discussed the best way forward.**

“I wasn’t sure at first whether it was appropriate to take the Purple Group into the ‘virtual’ world, but these parents would go months and months without that support they’ve grown to rely on if we didn’t.”



In September 2020, Helen and Shirley held the very first online Purple Group meeting, not knowing how it would be received.

“The thing that’s been the most pleasant surprise of all is that it’s given us the opportunity to meet parents that wouldn’t normally attend the group. We’ve had a few new parents attend, and even a couple of Dads were able to join since they’re now working from home!”

Since then, the Bereavement Team have held 3 virtual meetings to date, all with various degrees of success.

“In our recent meeting we had 6 attend, which doesn’t sound many, but for us was a fantastic turn out! We’re able to discuss with them how they feel about the changes in social restrictions lifting – and just give them an opportunity to share their feelings on the situation!”

Looking ahead, it is difficult to tell whether these meetings are going to remain virtual, go back to face-to-face or be a mixture of the two.

“We’ve pencilled in the next meeting, with restrictions lifting once again, to ease back in to things and meet at a local park. Parents can have a little more freedom, bring the family and have a socially distanced ‘walk and talk’ session – weather permitting of course!”



Leave a legacy

The children Jessie May support will all leave their priceless mark on the world, and there's a very special way that you can leave your mark too – **by including a gift to Jessie May in your will.**

Chris and Philippa Purrington, established Jessie May following the death of their daughter Jessica May when she was just 4 ½ months old, allowing her to leave her legacy to the terminally ill children and families of the South West. Their dedication and commitment in launching the children's hospice at home service 27 years ago, has meant that hundreds of families across the South West have been given a light in the dark while facing the realities of caring for a child with a terminal illness.

We know that including a gift to Jessie May in your will is a big decision and we understand that you will want to provide for your loved ones first. If you have any questions, or would like more information about the care and support that your gift would provide, please contact us on **0117 9582174** or email fundraising@jessiemay.org.uk.

You brought 'Jessie Joy' to families last Christmas...

Our Christmas 2020 campaign focused on the gorgeous **McArthur family**; Archie, Laura and Al. We raised around **£2,500 over the 2-month appeal** and would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who supported and donated during this time.

We would also like to especially thank Laura and Al for their openness and honesty, sharing Archie's story with us, and they sent you this little message of thanks:

"Thank you to everyone who followed our story over the Christmas period, and to everyone who donated to the appeal. The money raised is going to go a long way in helping Jessie May to continue to support families, like ours, as well as those who are in need of help." – Laura McArthur, Jessie May Trustee and Mum

Keep your eyes peeled to our website and social channels this summer for the launch of our **Summer Campaign** alongside Together for Short Lives during 'Children's Hospice Week'.



Lifelites bring 'magic' to Jessie May children through tech donation

In February, Jessie May received a donation of 'magical technology' from **Lifelites**. The donation now means that each of our specialist Jessie May nurses are now fully equipped with a new iPad, stocked full of sensory play apps and educational games that the children can enjoy. When Jessie May nurse, Lois, comes to visit, Noah can't wait for her to crack out her brand new iPad. He just loves all of the different animal games that he can play!



HappySelf supports mental wellbeing of Jessie May children

At the beginning of the year, mental-health business, **HappySelf Journal**, donated 50 of the 6-12 year old journals to send out to children and siblings that Jessie May support.

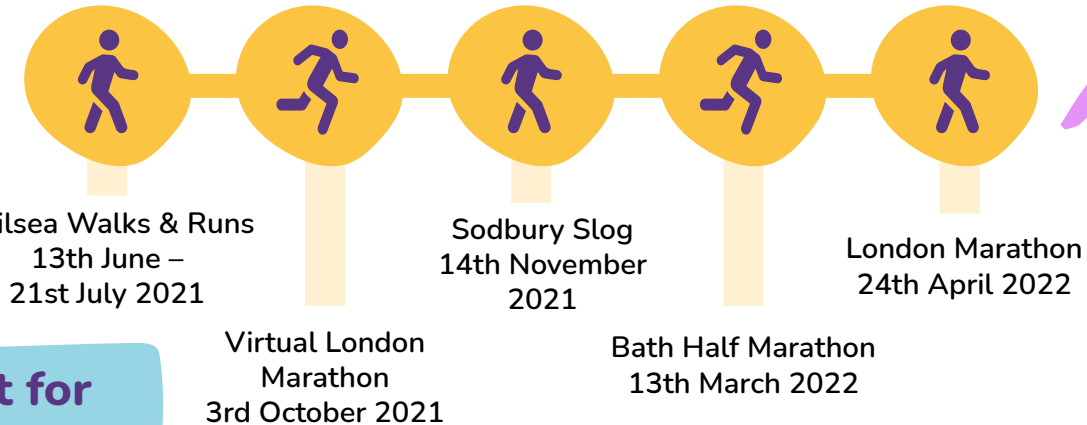
Charlotte, aged 5, is the older sister of Jessie May child, Finley. When their Jessie May nurse comes to see her brother, she gets a visitor too – and back in February had a special present just for her!

She jumped at the chance to crack out her bright colourful felt-tips, and set to work on completing some of the fun activities her new journal had in store.



Take part in an event...

To find out more about any of our upcoming events, visit jessiemay.org.uk/events or get in touch with our Fundraising Team.



Collect for Jessie May

If you've got an upcoming fundraising event planned – then we've got just the thing for you! We've recently launched our first-ever cardboard collection boxes, and you can request them now. Just contact our Fundraising Team by email: fundraising@jessiemay.org.uk, or phone: **0117 9582174** and we will get one sent out to you in the post.

Gracie's Story

At a few week's old, Gracie was diagnosed with focal epilepsy, chromosome duplication and visual impairment. Now six, Gracie is fully dependant for all her care needs and mobility, and as she can suffer from multiple seizures during the day she needs constant monitoring and reassurance. Since she turned a year old, Gracie has been receiving support from Jessie May nurses. However, in March 2020 everything changed in an instant when the whole of the UK were gripped in the midst of a global pandemic.

With school's closing, the entire family; Mum, Grace and her 2 older sisters and brother, found themselves confined to the house 24/7. Kayley had to juggle ensuring Gracie was taken care of, with home schooling her other children. Jessie May were able to offer phone and text support during the first lockdown, which gradually increased to some doorstep visits – giving Mum a chance to talk and offer a friendly face.

As we adjusted in line with changing guidelines, this increased to visits back in the home, with Jessie May nurses in full PPE. Gracie has had frequent admissions to hospital over the winter and is still unable to return to school due to her medical needs. Jessie May nurses are visiting twice a month until she can go back, with visits giving Kayley the time she needs to focus on Gracie's siblings without feeling completely overwhelmed.

“Without Jessie May, I would feel very lost and alone. Thank you to everyone who supports Jessie May, you're helping to support a team of people who bring us sunshine on a rainy day. It's not just about respite – it's about not having to face my child's suffering alone.” - Kayley, Gracie's Mum



How your donation can make a difference...

£25

could buy a memory box or a memory bear for families to remember their child

£40

could buy a 3D hand sculpture of a child's hand for parents to keep forever

£65

could buy one hour of Jessie May care and support

Your Details

Name:

Address:

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Please tick if you would like to receive the newsletter via email in future, and hear about the latest news, events and updates from Jessie May:

I wish to be contacted by:

I do not wish to be contacted by:

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SMS ☐

Post ☐

Phone ☐

I would like to make a single donation of:

£10 ☐

£20 ☐

£50 ☐

Other £

Gift Aid: ☐

I enclose a cheque payable to 'The Jessie May Trust' ☐

Please debit my Visa/MasterCard/Maestro/Deltacard ☐

Card number:

Valid From:

Expiry Date:

Issue Number:

Security Number:

Last 3 digits on back of card

If I have ticked the box headed 'Gift Aid' I confirm that I am a UK Income or Capital Gains taxpayer. I have read this statement and want Jessie May to reclaim tax on the donations detailed below, given on the date shown. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax/or Capital Gains tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have

Please send your completed donation forms to: Jessie May, 35 Old School House, Kingswood Estate, Britannia Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8DB.



Stay in touch

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www.jessiemail.org.uk



Jessie May
Children's Hospice at Home



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