



Claire House
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

NOVEMBER 2023

VOLUNTEER NEWS



HELLO AND WELCOME

Hello!

November is here and if you're anything like me, as soon as that Bonfire night is over... it's all down hill (or up) to Christmas! The Christmas songs are on, the house starts getting decorated (only inside though, I'm a bit embarrassed to put my lights out that early, and, you know, energy crisis and all that...) but its my favorite time of year, so why wait!

So there's lots of Christmas related topics in this edition of the newsletter, so I'd like to firstly apologies if you don't even think about Christmas until 1st December... or later.... However there's also some key information about the volunteer survey and our winter campaign! So please do keep reading!

As you know over the last month our lovely Jess Murray has been in Australia an I've been taking over her role whilst she was away. I'd just like to say a huge thank you to everyone I've spoken to over the last month, it's been lovely hearing form you and understanding what your volunteering role is like. Please don't stop giving me feedback. I'm always on the end of the phone, or email, and I love hearing about what's working well, or what we can improve on, so please keep sharing your thoughts.

It's November 1st
We're officially allowed to talk about
Christmas 🎄



YOUR ANNUAL VOLUNTEER SURVEY

By now you should have all received your annual volunteer survey! Many thanks to those who have already filled it in. This year there are two ways to complete the survey. Using the link in the letter or completing the paper copy (also included in the letter). You can send it back to us in the freepost address (meaning you don't have to include a stamp), or hand it in to your line manager who will make sure it gets back to us.

The survey will run until 15th December, so you have plenty of time to fill it in. But with the chaos of Christmas, if you want to get it off your list (and get on to the nice list), we'd really appreciate you completing them early!

Wow, who knew I could even make this part of the newsletter about Christmas too 😊



FORGET TEA AND CHATTER

We're all about **FIZZ AND CRACKERS!!!** Our final Tea and Chatter event is having a make over and next month will be all about the Nosecco (Prosecco with no alcohol) and festive cheer.

Join us in our Liverpool site on Friday 15th December 1 – 2:30pm. If you'd like to bring a friend you are more than welcome too. Also, if you struggle to get to Liverpool but really want to come, do let us know, we can try to arrange a car share for you so no one misses out. To RSVP contact Lucy.Reynolds@clairehouse.org.uk



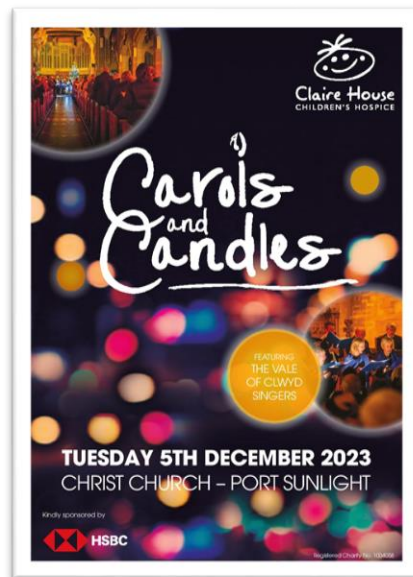
CAROLS AND CANDLES

Our much loved Carols and Candles event returns on Tuesday 5th December at Christ Church Port Sunlight. Doors open at 6:15pm for a 6:30pm start. Tickets are just £10 pp and include a hot drink and a mince pie.

It's a wonderful way to start the festivities whilst listening to the Vale Clwyd Singers perform a selection of seasonal classics by candlelight and enjoy a variety of festive readings.

Tickets are available here and all are welcome:

<https://www.clairehouse.org.uk/events/carols-and-candles-2023/>



A SNEAK PEAK FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our Christmas Campaign launches on Monday and we wanted to give our volunteers a sneak peak! This year the campaign will launch on TV, Radio and Social Media. It features three of our wonderful Claire House families who share their story.

Our incredible families will tell you how the hospice supports them through some of the toughest times of their lives, whilst helping them to create magical memories. And how your Christmas gift can make Claire House part of the story for more families with seriously ill children.

You can watch the video here: www.clairehouse.org.uk/santa



You might even spot that our Claire Bear has had a little make over too!

POSITIVE NEWS

This month's story couldn't be more obscure.

There are some people who will say that for home defense, you're better off having a dog. Well, it turns out almost every cat has a unique DNA mutation detectable in their hair, and it's offering CSI detectives an almost sure-fire way to put criminals at the scene of their crimes or their homes, provided there was a cat there.

While any perpetrator will take pains to not leave any of his own DNA behind, it's unlikely that a burglar rummaging through your home possessions will be able to avoid every last strand of cat hair.

So there you have it. But remember a cat is for life, not just for home security!

Until next time, look after yourself.

Amy x

