

Making a difference

How Sunninghill Trust supports Thames Hospice

At Sunninghill Trust, we believe that everyone deserves to live with dignity, comfort and peace, especially during life's most challenging moments. That's why we are proud to support Thames Hospice, a lifeline for patients and their families navigating end-of-life care. With kindness at the heart of everything they do, Thames Hospice ensures that no one faces their journey alone, providing unwavering support, expert medical care, and a compassionate hand to hold.



**The
Sunninghill Trust**
Supporting Lives, One Grant at a Time

Offering a helping hand

The last four years have been challenging for Thames Hospice. In the wake of the pandemic and moving to their new site, they face increased demand for care, when there was a national shortage of nursing staff. Cost of living increases since 2022 have additionally added significantly to the cost of delivering care. As our local population ages, the need for care is projected to increase by 9% over the next 5 years, and 12% by 2040.

To help ease the financial burden and ensure their compassionate care touches as many lives as possible, Sunninghill Trust is pleased to have given Thames Hospice a £10,000 grant.

In response to this grant, Thames Hospice says that “We remain optimistic that we can build the sustainable services that will enable us to meet the needs of our local community, including the communities of Sunninghill and Ascot. We are very grateful to supporters like the Sunninghill Trust, who are critical to the care we can provide for local people”.

Supporting personalised, compassionate care

Every individual’s journey is unique, and Thames Hospice understands that. Their dedicated team listens with care, helping patients and their families create personalised care plans that honour their wishes. From managing symptoms and easing pain to offering guidance and emotional support, their mission is to bring comfort when it’s needed most.

With our support, Thames Hospice was able to care for **155 patients and their families** in Sunninghill and Ascot in 2024, both at the Hospice and in their own homes. Their approach goes beyond medical care - it’s about creating moments of peace, offering a reassuring presence, and helping families find strength in each other. By answering the ‘what if’ questions and empowering patients with choices, Thames Hospice helps bring a sense of control, safety and dignity during an incredibly difficult time.

The impact of Thames Hospice’s services

Between April 2023 and March 2024, Thames Hospice provided compassionate care to **2,938 adults and children** through a range of essential services:

- **Hospice at Home:** Many people wish to spend their final days in the familiarity of home, surrounded by loved ones. Thames Hospice’s dedicated team of doctors, nurses and healthcare assistants make this possible. Their 24-hour advice line offered guidance to **18,000 callers**, while nurses made **6,172 home visits**, and their Virtual Ward cared for **114 patients** with acute medical needs.
- **Inpatient services:** Sometimes, more intensive care is required. **322 patients** received round-the-clock medical support in a warm and compassionate environment, ensuring both they and their families could make the most of their time together.
- **Outpatient services:** Living with a life-limiting illness can be overwhelming, but early intervention and ongoing support can make all the difference. Thames Hospice provided **2,846 days of care**, including over **1,000 physiotherapy** and **1,200 complementary therapy sessions**, helping patients maintain their independence and quality of life for as long as possible.
- **Pastoral care and counselling:** Grief and loss can feel isolating, but no one should have to navigate them alone. In the period, Thames Hospice provided **3,275 pastoral care sessions**, **4,793 counselling sessions** for bereaved adults, and **1,672 support sessions** for bereaved children and young people, helping them find hope and healing.



The people helped



Fiona's story

Fiona, 56, was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2022. Since then, she was regularly supported by the Outpatient and Hospice at Home teams to help her stay as well as possible. This summer, Fiona needed to be admitted to the inpatient unit for a time to help ease her pain and manage the severe symptoms associated with her condition. She returned home under the care of the Hospice at Home team and died peacefully surrounded by her family.

Fiona explained the difference the Hospice made: *“In my mind, a hospice was a place where people go to die. I had to force myself to attend an outpatient session and have never looked back! It is so friendly. I have been helped by counselling and complementary therapy services. I’m a really happy person when I’m at the Hospice. It’s the lightness and brightness that I just love.”*



Herby and Kirsty's story

Herby was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2022 and had several hospital admissions in the following months. At first, his wife Kirsty cared for him as home, but as the cancer progressed, she found it increasingly difficult to cope. His behaviour changed and he gained weight because of his medication, which was very worrying for the family.

Herby and Kirsty were supported by the Hospice at Home teams, with regular visits from a nurse with supervision from one of the specialty doctors. However, when it became clear that it was not a safe environment for Herby, he joined the inpatient unit. Kirsty says:

“When we arrived at Thames Hospice, I could tell he was in good hands. The staff made up a bed for me and in the evenings, I would often sit in the nurses’ station and chat. They comforted me - it was like being with friends. Herby had so wanted to be at home and thanks to the Hospice at Home Team, he was able to be there for as long as possible. But in the end, this was the best place for him, and for me. I could be with him and the grandchildren could visit – they jumped into bed with him for a cuddle.”

Herby passed in January 2024. The Hospice has continued to support Kirsty with bereavement counselling.

A compassionate future

We are honoured to stand alongside Thames Hospice in their mission to bring comfort, dignity and care. As we look to the future, we remain committed to ensuring that no family must face end-of-life care without support, and that every patient is met with kindness, respect and the highest standard of care.

To learn more about Thames Hospice's services or how you can support their mission, click [here](#).