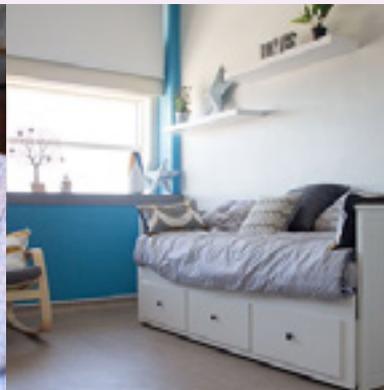


Abigail's

Annual Report 2018



Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that as a charity we maintain our core aims and make a difference to bereaved families throughout the country. In September we appointed Faye Hill as Head of Operations & Events, we hope that Faye will bring structure to the charity and drive us to the next level that we need to achieve greater things.

I am pleased to confirm that our financial position remains secure and that we are confident that the charity operates in an open and transparent manner with good governance at its core. This year Clare Runham stepped down as a trustee, we would like to thank her for all her hard work in the time she was with the charity.

We would like to say thank you to all those who have and continue to support us in so many ways.

Numerous events have been organised to continue to raise the profile of the charity and to fundraise, we would like to say thank you to all those who have and continue to support us in so many ways. The year has again seen supporters run marathons, skydive, cycle from London to Paris, and even a charity fishing match!

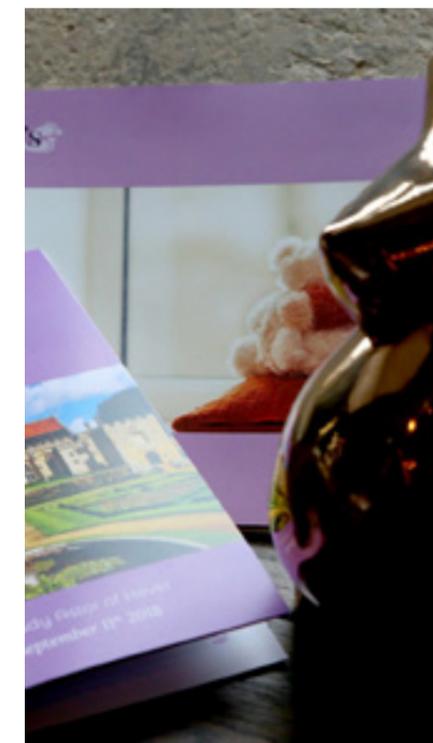
This year's patrons lunch took place at Penshurst Place & Gardens, hosted by our Patron Lady Astor of Hever with the The Viscount De L'Isle MBE and his wife Lady De L'Isle in attendance who kindly presented certificates of thanks to some of our amazing supporters.

Our lovely Vice President Sian Lloyd was this year's 'Guest under the spotlight' with Rob Smith from the BBC asking the questions. Sian had us in fits of laughter with arrange of subjects from the weather to the cheeky girls! Fellow Vice President Faryl Smith also joined. Award winning Sculptor Louise Giblin donated a beautiful bronze cast which helped raise over £3,000 on the day for the charity.



This year Abigail's has continued to provide Abi cold cots to various hospitals across the country.

This included the Noble Hospital in Isle of Man, Queens Hospital in Staffordshire, University Hospital in Durham, Wexham Park Hospital in Slough, Daisy Hill in Northern Island, Victoria Hospital in Scotland, Kettering Hospital in Northamptonshire, further demonstrating how much our reach has become in helping support hospitals with equipment.





Bereavement Suite at the Royal Sussex County Hospital

In June the Bereavement Suite at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton was opened.

The bereavement suite project was a collaborative project between Abigail's Footsteps, Oscars Wishes and the bereavement midwives at the hospital. We received a massive stroke of luck in the early stages of the project when an application into a national competition run by national construction company Novus was awarded first place in the South East which meant that the project we thought would take a year to fundraise for was completed within four weeks of the award being made which was far beyond everyone's expectations.



Abigail's

Charity Golf Day
2018

Cheryl Baker hosted yet another successful Charity Golf Day on behalf of Abigail's Footsteps at the Wrotham Heath Golf Club who kindly supported us for the fourth year in a row, fellow Vice President Craig Chalmers also attended and was supported by legendary boxer John Conteh and comedian Adger Brown. The day raised nearly £5,000 for the charity

The day raised nearly £5,000 for the charity





Jonathan Ansell and Katie Marshall

The biggest event and fundraiser for the year was 'A Night at Rochester Cathedral – Queen Tribute', ticket sales were a success, once again we were delighted to be supported by the community choir The Tuesdays Rockits and Rubies from Tenterden in Kent.



Dean Philip Hesketh with the Rockitmen

The highlight of the evening for many was the performance of Barcelona by soloists Katie Marshall and Jonathan Ansell which received a standing ovation and an encore, we ended the evening with a set from fat Freddy and The Rockitmen, who truly rocked the cathedral and had the audience dancing in the aisles. The evening raised over £6,000 which we shared with the cathedral towards their music endowments.

Key objective

Our key objective for next year is to further promote and provide funding for midwives to undertake specialist bereavement training although we will of course continue to help deliver crucial equipment to hospitals who have a need for it and to work with local groups to support the provision of much needed bereavement suites wherever possible. We will also be looking at funding for sibling counselling sessions working in conjunction with other local charities and Naomi Marston a specialist bereavement counsellor in Kent. We will also start work on a promotional film that we will release for the charity's 10th birthday in 2020.



Our sincerest gratitude to all of you for everything you do to make what we do possible.



Finally, and as ever there are many people I would like to thank for their support, hard work and dedication.

Our patron, vice presidents and trustees continue to give their valuable time, guidance and support. Our fundraisers, supporters and volunteers never fail to amaze and humble us with their quite extraordinary determination, devotion and commitment. Finally, to our sponsors and donors, both private and corporate for their continued goodwill, generosity of spirit, time and resources. Our sincerest gratitude to all of you for everything you do to make what we do possible.

Abigail's

