

HOSPICE HISTORY: The History & Timeline of St Cuthbert's Hospice

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 and Georgina Smith and their family, along with three servants. John was the son of Anwick Smith. The family's association with Park House ended in 1853.

1861

The house was occupied by William and 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 to establish a hospice in Durham took place.

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

St Cuthbert's was registered as a charity.

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1988

22nd September

St Cuthbert's officially opened its doors as a day hospice, providing palliative care services for 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.

1989

10th April

St Cuthbert's Hospice was officially opened by the Duke and Duchess of York.

1992

We opened our first charity shop to help raise much needed income. We now have eight shops across the region.



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 24 hour care, seven days per week. It had 13 individual en-suite bedrooms, of which eight were open immediately for service.

2007

1st June

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- 2012

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.

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2012

The Hospice opened its dedicated Children's Bereavement Suite to support children and young people experiencing grief.

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.

2015

January

'Outstanding' status was awarded by the Care Quality Commission, another UK first for St Cuthbert's.

2015

The 'Everything in Place' campaign was launched. This ongoing community initiative aims to break the taboo that surrounds death and dying and encourage people to talk about physical, emotional, spiritual, and practical issues like care plans and wills.



2016

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

2017

The new Living Well Centre - St Cuthbert's new day care centre opened early in 2017. It has been designed to enable and encourage 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 that will help them enjoy a better quality of life.



2018

Celebrating 30 years - Three decades on and the Hospice has grown from strength to strength since opening its doors in 1988. Our community was so vital in helping to set up the Hospice and we remain incredibly grateful for their continued support and generosity.



2018

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

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2020

The Win Win Lottery was launched to help create a sustainable income stream and assist with our plans to grow Hospice services. The Lottery also allows us to give back to our community with the chance to win a prize.



2020

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



The Future

St Cuthbert's is a registered charity and our running costs each year total to over £2 million.

Although we receive a small proportion of funding from the NHS, we are still left needing to fundraise over £2 million each year to keep our care free of charge.

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.

Fundraise

Every year, people take on challenges in aid of St Cuthbert's Hospice. From running their very first 10K, to climbing towering peaks, and jumping from planes – there are plenty of adventurous events to choose from.

When you join Team St Cuthbert's and take on one of our exciting challenges, you will help us to provide our special kind of care and support to people in County Durham with life-limiting illnesses.

Donate

By donating to St Cuthbert's Hospice, your gift will help patients and their relatives to make every day count. We have cared for and supported around 1,000 local families free of charge this year.

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.