



Thank You!



In this edition we are saying both a heartfelt thank you and reluctant farewell to two very special members of Team SCT

Claudette Watson joined The Sick Children's Trust in 1999 as Finance Manager. Just one year later she took up the position of Chief Executive, a role she has been in

ever since. Whilst taking on the day-to-day management of the charity, Claudette has also inspired an ever-growing team to carry out their work with the same dedication as our founders.

"In my time with The Sick Children's Trust I have worked with so many families who have been thrown into unimaginable trauma. It is in these times of stress and strain that I have seen for myself the real difference we make, by providing support to families when they need us the most. More than 30 years on we still hold true the values of our founders and I am incredibly proud to have been part of their legacy. As I say farewell after 16 happy years, I know I am leaving the company in the very capable hands of a team who are just as committed to our work as I am."

We are enormously grateful for Claudette's enthusiasm and devotion over the past 16 years and although sad to see her leave, we would like to wish her all the very best for the future!

Looking ahead, we are pleased to welcome Jane Featherstone as our new Chief Executive. Jane has been with the organisation since 2006 and very much shares Claudette's vision for the charity.

We are also sorry to say goodbye to our fantastic chairman, Stephen Catlin who is stepping down from his role after 16 years. Stephen has worked tirelessly to support the organisation and we are so appreciative for his dedication to The Sick Children's Trust's cause.

"I must admit I was a little

daunted when I was first asked to take on the role of Chairman at The SCT 16 years ago, but I have received so much back from it that I consider it one of the best decisions I have ever made. The charity provides such a vital service to family members at a time of their lives when they need it the most and I am extremely proud to have been associated with such a worthwhile cause."

Taking on the role of Chairman going forwards is Paul Jardine who we are very excited to have on board. Paul has been involved with the charity for many years and is looking forward to sharing his considerable expertise with The Sick Children's Trust team.

Farewell Claudette and Stephen and from all of us at The Sick Children's Trust, **THANK YOU!**

Scott House has made our lives easier

My son Lewis has had numerous problems since he was small. When he was just 14 months old he had meningococcal septicaemia and spent four months in our local hospital. Later he had a hernia operation and was then diagnosed with suspected asthma which actually turned out to be a heart problem. He was referred to the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle and put on a regular dose of Beta Blockers.

At the age of 10, Lewis collapsed at school which resulted in him being fitted with a pacemaker and at the tender age of 12 he was placed on the waiting list for a heart transplant. Just 14 months later Lewis received a heart and after three weeks in hospital he was able to come home. Unfortunately his body rejected the new heart and just months after being fitted with a device called the L Vad in 2014, Lewis once again found himself back in hospital suffering kidney and heart failure. He has now received a second heart transplant and is currently receiving dialysis every day. He has been through so much but still manages to be cheerful and positive about his recovery.

It was when we arrived for his latest hospital

treatment that we were given the great news that we would be able to stay in the brand new Sick Children's Trust 'Home from Home' accommodation, Scott House. It was just a short walk away from the wards and being able to stay here has made such a difference to our lives.

One of the best and most simple pleasures has been having access to the washing line outside - I love to watch the laundry blowing in the wind. I have made some great friends while staying here who really understand what I'm going through. A group of us even went shopping at Asda at 2am on Black Friday as we were having trouble sleeping! I have spent a couple of nights at home but when I'm not here, Lewis's older sister Jessica comes to stay which is brilliant as it means he always has company.

"The other morning I had a cough and couldn't



sleep," explains Lewis, "so I called Mum at 3am and she came straight over to sit with me - I couldn't have done that if she was at home. It's great to know she's close by and I have even been able to join her at Scott House for my tea."

So thank you to The Sick Children's Trust for having us as one of the first families through the doors of Scott House - it really has made our lives so much easier and for that we are truly grateful.

Sharon Linton, Lewis's Mum

Supper Club

On Wednesday 25 March over 110 guests attended our second annual **Supper Club** event, which took place within the beautiful country townhouse setting of 30 Pavilion Road in Knightsbridge.

Guests were treated to a champagne reception kindly donated by Taittinger, followed by a gourmet three course meal with fine wines donated by Bordeaux Index and an exciting, edge-of-the-seat live auction with Sotheby's Auctioneer Oliver Barker.

Guests bid on a variety of silent auction auction lots throughout the night and the evening finished with a fantastic live performance from five-piece band BEAT, who treated guests to an unforgettable set.

The event raised an amazing **£112,800** which will go a huge way to supporting our vital work.

A big thank you to everyone who attended the event, to our Gold Sponsor **JLT Specialty** and also our cocktail sponsor **Abstract Securities** - we couldn't do it without you!



 Supper
Club



Calling all choc-a-holics!



The Big Chocolate
Tea Party

We're super excited that our **Big Chocolate Tea Party** campaign is back – taking place throughout May 2015, have you set your date yet?

Who doesn't love a chocolate treat and a cuppa with friends, especially if it's for a good cause? By throwing a chocolate-themed tea party with family and friends or organising a chocolate-cake-bake-off at work, and raising just £28, you could provide a room in a Sick Children's Trust 'Home from Home' for a whole family for one night.

Last year thousands of people took part raising over **£47,000** for The Sick Children's Trust and this year will be the biggest Chocolate Tea Party ever as we aim to raise **£100,000**. This amount would provide over 3,570 nights' accommodation or pay for one of our 'Homes from Home' for a whole year which would just be amazing!

WIN! Simply by taking part you could win a fabulous chocolate-tea weekend for two in Paris! The prize includes a pair of Premium Leisure Eurostar tickets, two nights' hotel accommodation including breakfast in a five star Paris hotel plus a pair of tickets to the Salon Du Chocolat. [Terms & conditions apply.](#)

To receive your free **party pack** full of essential items to help plan your Big Chocolate Tea Party or Chocolate-Cake-Bake-Off email chocolate@sickchildrenstrust.org

We are very proud that The Big Chocolate Tea Party 2015 is sponsored by:



For the latest Big Chocolate Tea Party news find us on:
Facebook: [bigchocolateparty](#) Twitter: [@BigChocTeaParty](#)

Upcoming Events

Runs

Morrisons Junior and Mini Great North Run

Saturday 12 September 2015

2014 saw over 6,000 young runners hit the pavements of Newcastle Gateshead Quayside for the UK's biggest children's running event. This fantastic event returns for 2015 and offers courses for ages 3-16, covering 1.5km and 4km routes.

For more information please contact tess@sickchildrenstrust.org or visit www.greatrun.org to register.

Royal Parks Half Marathon
Sunday 11 October 2015

This famous 13.1 mile run takes you through four of London's Royal Parks including Hyde Park and Green Park. Registration fee is £35 and minimum sponsorship is £350.

To apply for a place contact Zoe on **020 7283 4854** or email zoe@sickchildrenstrust.org

Volunteering Opportunities

Virgin Money London Marathon

Sunday 26 April 2015

We are lucky enough to have nine Team SCT runners confirmed for this year's event and we would love your help to cheer them on round the course.

If you would like to join our team of cheerers on the day please contact Zoe at zoe@sickchildrenstrust.org or on **020 7283 4854**.

Bupa London 10,000
Monday 25 May 2015

This is a unique way to see the sights of London, following a similar route to the London 2012 Olympic Marathon, just a little shorter!

Entries are now closed for this year but to register your interest for 2016 or to join our team of cheerers on the day, contact **Zoe**.

Special Events

All Out for Cricket in The City

Monday 7 September

We hope you will join us for our popular cricket event taking place in the heart of the City. The Sick Children's Trust team, featuring some very special guests, will once again take on the renowned Authors Cricket Club at the exclusive Honourable Artillery Company in Moorgate, London.

After the last wicket, guests will have the option of attending a champagne reception and evening gala dinner featuring a Q&A with some of our cricketing stars.

For more information and to book, please visit www.sickchildrenstrust.org or contact rosie@sickchildrenstrust.org

Fab Fundraiser

Fab young fundraiser raises thousands for The Sick Children's Trust!

Laura Powell, 10, from Doncaster who is currently undergoing cancer treatment has raised a phenomenal **£8,000** as a thank you to The Sick Children's Trust for supporting her family as she underwent lifesaving surgery last year.



Laura was rushed to Sheffield Children's Hospital last November to be treated for Medulloblastoma, a brain tumour which affects the central nervous system. Her parents, Annette and Mark, stayed at Treetop House throughout her treatment which provided them with direct lift access to the hospital within minutes, rather than having to travel 20 miles to be by her side.

Without Treetop House, Laura's Dad would have had to drive home to Doncaster every night as only one

parent could stay overnight in the hospital accommodation. *"Having my parents there by my side every day was absolutely fantastic; it really helped me stay positive when I was feeling quite poorly."*

Laura decided to hold a **Bake me Better** bake sale and coffee morning in her local community hall to raise funds with incredible results. Proud mum Annette adds *"The amount Laura has raised from the coffee morning is absolutely incredible and we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along and made a donation and to Adam Peters from HSBC for a very generous matched donation of £2,500."*

What Laura and her family have achieved is amazing especially at a time when she is going through so much. It costs us **£28** per night to provide accommodation for one family so the money raised will make a huge difference to the other families we support.

Thank you so much Laura, you're a real star!

Super Supporters



A huge Sick Children's Trust thank you goes to **Margaret Appleton** whose daughter and son-in-law stayed at Chestnut House last year while one of their twin girls was poorly. Sadly Alice lost her battle for life on 20 February 2014 but since then Margaret has thrown herself into fundraising for us. Together with the support of **Bedford Rugby Followers Association** who made us their Charity of the Year, and in particular **Neil and Louise Thomas**, a champagne and stew evening was organised which raised over **£1,350**. Thanks for your continued support Margaret, we really are very grateful!

Over the past few months, our amazing supporters have been nominating us as their chosen charity for the **Waitrose Community Matters** scheme. Each month every Waitrose branch donates **£1,000**

(**£500** in convenience branches) between three local good causes chosen by the public. The charities and community groups are selected by nominations from customers and Waitrose employees and so far have helped us raise

over **£20,000** in total. A big thank you to everyone for making this possible.

Over the festive season, our 'Home from Home' in Leeds, **Eckersley House**, raised a fantastic **£1,450** by selling some very special Christmas themed goodies. Our fantastic volunteers went knitting crazy and made over 2,000 miniature stockings filled with sweet treats. With generous

donations of over **£200** worth of sweets from **Seacroft Co-op** in Leeds, and amazing support from local businesses including three branches of **Amigos**, Eckersley House managed to almost double the amount raised in 2013.

Thank you to everyone who supported us or purchased a stocking!

It is an exciting year for The Sick Children's Trust in terms of corporate support too and we are thrilled to announce we have been named as **QBE's Charity of the Year 2015**. Several employees nominated the charity, having previously stayed in one of our 'Homes from Home', and

now plans are up and running we hope this will be their most successful fundraising year to date. A big thank you to all at **QBE** for making this possible, we can't wait for a jam-packed year full of fun fundraising.

We would also like to welcome the support of a new partnership with **ERA Home Security** whose employees and various affiliate sites around the UK voted to support us. With lots of exciting fundraising ideas and challenges in the calendar, we look forward to helping them hit their **£10,000** fundraising target!

In December we

encountered some very special festive elves who delivered some lovely presents for our families spending Christmas away from home. A huge thank you to **CBRE Management Services Ltd** and those at **95 Gresham Street**, **88 Wood Street** and **40 Portman Square** who generously donated over 130 presents to families staying in our London houses. Your generosity certainly put smiles on lots of little faces!

We were delighted to be supported by **The Swaps Ball** last October. It was a huge success raising over **£128,000** - enough to keep one of our 'Homes from Home' open for 16 months. We would like to send a big thank you to the wonderful committee and generous guests who donated on the night.

Donation Form

Please make a donation and help us raise the funds needed to keep our network of 10 'Homes from Home' open. It costs £28 to keep a family together for one night.

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to The Sick Children's Trust.

Please complete:

Title Name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Tel(daytime)

Mobile

Email

Please send this form (along with your cheque) to The Sick Children's Trust, Head Office: Lower Ground Floor, 88 Leadenhall Street, London, EC3A 3BP.

To make a donation using your credit card, please call our head office and make a donation over the phone on 020 7283 4854 or visit www.sickchildrenstrust.org click the donate button and fill in the simple form.

If you are a UK taxpayer we can claim 25p from the Government for every £1 you donate at no cost to you. Just tick the box on the left.

Please treat all gifts of money that I have made in the last four years and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations. I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the Charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the Charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

The details you provide may be used to keep you informed about The Sick Children's Trust. If you do not want to receive information such as news updates, mailings or event information please tick the box. The Sick Children's Trust will never share your details with any other organisations.

Thanks for your support!

Charity Registration Number: 284416

Celebrity Support

Last year's Christmas Carol Service, at St Marylebone Parish Church, was another sell-out success. Our fabulous celebrity guests generously gave their time to help us raise a record **£11,280!** Britain's Got Talent soprano Charlotte Jaconelli performed two moving solos while special readings from Zoë Wanamaker, Sarah Alexander, Christine Hamilton and Sam Bailey, got everyone in the Christmas spirit. We were also joined by Claire O'Brien who shared her family's experience with us and Cissy Adamou who read for us. A big Sick Children's Trust thank you to our guests and supporters for making the evening so successful.



In October, we welcomed some of the North East's finest – Ant and Dec and Alan Shearer – to officially open Scott House, our newest 'Home from Home' in Newcastle. The cheeky duo and footballing legend met our families and supporters, taking a real shine to baby Lucy who had recently received a lifesaving heart transplant, and helped to raise vital awareness of our support.

House News

As we mention above, October 2014 saw the opening of our tenth 'Home from Home' in Newcastle. It was a special day for all concerned to finally have family accommodation on site at the Freeman Hospital to support families of children receiving care on the Cardiac Unit.

Scott House has 19 bedrooms all with en-suite facilities, communal areas, and a self-contained flat to accommodate families and patients following heart transplant surgery. The house, managed by Andrew Leadbitter and assistants Christine Legg and Jennie Doig, is proving to be a great success and since opening has accommodated over 120 families.

In other house news, **Guilford Street House** will be celebrating its 25th birthday in June and is in the process of having lovely new bathrooms fitted. **Treetop House** is celebrating being 14 this month while **Acorn House** will be celebrating 15 years in October. **Treetop House** has also been undergoing some refurbishment and has new vanity units and wardrobes in the bedrooms together with new lounge furniture. The bedrooms at **Stevenson House** have been refurbished over the past few months and corporate volunteers have very kindly painted the hall and stairways throughout.



Since December, our house staff have been wearing lovely new branded uniform tops. Modelled here by our Scott House team, we hope you'll agree that they look very smart indeed!

Staff News

Our staff are at the heart of our work and it's due to their incredible efforts that we are able to help so many families every year. Together with the appointments of Andrew, Christine and Jennie at Scott House we also welcome House Assistants Abi Abdelaal at Acorn House, Fiona Allen at Eckersley House, Jemma Horne and Vicki White at Crawford House, while Tess Milligan joins as Regional Fundraiser on maternity cover in the North East. In Head Office we welcome Rachel Lisby as Finance Manager, Maria Cereceda as Finance and Admin Assistant, Hannah Jones as Marketing Manager and Amy Melody as PR Officer, while James Nicoll takes on the new role of Fundraising Assistant.