



**The Sick  
Children's  
Trust**

We're here, so families can be together

Spring/Summer 2024

# Newsletter

## Jude's Story

**Chestnut  
House  
'made  
everything  
so much  
easier'**

### Home to Home Challenge

Choose your event  
to raise vital funds

### Afternoon Tea and Dance

Anton Du Beke  
lights up Park Lane

# Welcome

Welcome to our Spring/Summer newsletter, which shows how, thanks to the tireless efforts of our wonderful fundraisers, our 'Homes from Home' support families at the most challenging of times.

In this edition you can read about how the success of events such as our festive Snowflake Ball in Newcastle and the Afternoon Tea and Dance event, featuring our fabulous ambassador Anton Du Beke, play a vital role in ensuring that we can continue supporting families.



Chestnut House supporting the family of baby Jude Eddleston (pictured), who needed specialist treatment in Cambridge after being born six weeks premature.

If you feel inspired by what you read and would like to donate, simply scan the QR code on the back page or visit [sickchildrenstrust.org/donate](https://sickchildrenstrust.org/donate). Every donation helps us keep families with a sick child in hospital together. Thanks for reading!

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us on social



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[thesickchildrenstrust](https://thesickchildrenstrust.org)



[TheSCT](https://TheSCT.org)

# Luca's Story

Luca was born via caesarean section on 20 June 2023 and spent his first eight days at Chesterfield hospital due to constant sickness. It was clear that something was very wrong.

We were transferred to Sheffield Children's Hospital where Luca was diagnosed with Hirschsprung's Disease, a rare condition present at birth because of missing nerve cells in the muscles of the colon.

We hadn't even considered where we would stay, with the hospital being a 40–60-minute drive from our Chesterfield home. Thankfully, we were given a room at Magnolia House, a 'Home from Home' run by The Sick Children's Trust.

I honestly don't know what we would have done without Magnolia House. Our homely room had three beds, meaning my three-year-old daughter Isabelle could stay and meet her baby brother. The playroom gave Isabelle a bit of normality when she needed a break from the intense hospital environment. She loved it in there.

We were only expecting to be there for a week, but numerous complications meant we stayed for 15 days. Luca returns to Sheffield twice a month for check-ups. Although his journey is ongoing, the doctors are so happy with his progress.

It's amazing that places like Magnolia House exist, you never hear of a charity like this until you really need them.

Rebecca Heath, Luca's mum



Read more about  
Luca's story

[sickchildrenstrust.org/  
family-stories](https://sickchildrenstrust.org/family-stories)

Join our

# HOME TO HOME CHALLENGE



## Your choice - your challenge

Every day many of the families staying in one of our 'Homes from Home' have to travel long distances to be close to their seriously sick child in hospitals across the country.

Choose your challenge:

- 📍 Cycle 370 miles
- 📍 Run 100 miles
- 📍 Walk 50 miles
- 📍 Swim 25 miles
- 📍 Toddle 5 miles

and help us keep families together.

For more information and to register for our Home to Home Challenge visit

[sickchildrenstrust.org/home-to-home](https://sickchildrenstrust.org/home-to-home)

Scan the

QR code:



June  
2024

## Alfie Joey

We are thrilled to welcome multi-talented entertainer Alfie Joey as our newest ambassador.

As well as hosting BBC Radio Newcastle's flagship breakfast show between 2009 and 2022, Alfie is a renowned podcaster, artist, comedian, actor and impressionist. In 2016 he appeared on Britain's Got Talent as one half of The Mimic Men alongside fellow impressionist Cal Halbert, a performance watched by over 10 million people on prime-time TV and has more than three million views on YouTube.



As an ambassador Alfie will continue raising our profile in the north-east at fundraising events and as part of the Toon Council, a collective of prominent people from the world of sport, business and entertainment who raise funds for and awareness of the charity. Speaking about his new role, Alfie said:



I'm so, so proud to become an ambassador. When I was asked to do it, I said yes without hesitation. When I first came across the charity eight years ago it was clear to me just how vital the 'Homes from Home' are to those families who need them. I could see where every single penny being raised was going, and it blew me away. After visiting the Scott House and Crawford House 'Homes from Home' in Newcastle, that was it for me – I was all in. I love this charity and everything it stands for.



# Afternoon Tea and Dance



A sell-out audience of 400 were treated to an afternoon of glitz, glamour and sparkles as our wonderful ambassador Anton Du Beke lit up the InterContinental Hotel in London's exclusive Park Lane in February.



The Sick Children's Trust's Afternoon Tea and Dance with Anton Du Beke event saw the Strictly Come Dancing star and acclaimed King of the Ballroom take to the dance floor alongside fellow professional Rosie Ward, with performances from some of the country's finest young dancers leaving the audience spellbound.



Hosted by another of our amazing ambassadors, broadcaster and journalist Alice Beer, the event proved a big success, raising over £71,000 for our 'Homes from Home'. The money raised will go towards ensuring that our ten 'Homes from Home' can continue supporting families with a seriously ill child in hospital.

In addition to Anton and Rosie, the audience were treated to dazzling dance performances from England's leading Latin formation team, Dance Envy, with KLA Dance and rising stars Tom Longhurst and Isabelle Carlick also showcasing their exceptional talents. There was also music from jazz swing artist Russell Jones and identical twin sopranos Classical Reflection, with the sisters singing immediately after family speakers Caroline and Lee Thomas shared their story about how The Sick Children's Trust came to their aid when son Alfie was being treated in hospital.

A huge thank you to Anton Du Beke, Alice Beer, family speakers Caroline and Lee Thomas and everyone who performed on the day, for making it such a special occasion for everyone who attended. Big thanks also to our sponsors Westfield Specialty, InterContinental London Park Lane and ATC for making this wonderful event possible.

*All images courtesy of 'The Photography Squad'*



## Jude's Story

**A**rriving six weeks early in Chelmsford, Essex, baby Jude Eddleston needed immediate life-saving treatment before being placed on a ventilator and transferred to The Rosie Hospital in Cambridge. Dad James explains how Chestnut House helped at the most difficult of times.



I'll always remember the moment Jude was born. He cried for around five seconds and then fell silent. Moments later, one of the medical staff shouted 'code blue', immediately giving him oxygen before putting a tube through his nose into his lungs and taking him away. It was terrifying.



With his lungs not working, Jude needed to be transferred to Cambridge, over an hour away from Chelmsford where my wife Faith needed to stay while she recovered from her caesarean section. Faith was inconsolable when she saw him in the transport incubator, with wires and tubes connected to his tiny body.

Jude was taken by ambulance to The Rosie Hospital. I followed by car, arriving just after him. He had cannulas in both hands, feet, and belly button as well as lots of wires and tubes. It was upsetting to see.

Soon after arriving, a nurse explained that I had a room at Chestnut House, a 'Home from Home' run by The Sick Children's Trust, just two floors below the NICU.

It was amazing; beyond all expectations. As well as a comfy bed, my room had a bathroom and a direct telephone line to the ward, meaning the medical staff could reach me even when resting.

“Having that room at Chestnut House was crucial for us”

There was a communal kitchen and dining space as well as washing machines, all at no cost.

Having that room at Chestnut House was crucial for us, especially with Jude needing his mum's milk to help his recovery. I would frequently drive over to Chelmsford to see Faith, then take milk back to Cambridge. It was exhausting, but with Jude improving, it was worth it.

Faith was discharged from Chelmsford three days after Jude's dramatic arrival. However, as she was still in considerable pain, she would spend her days with Jude in Cambridge before returning to sleep at home, aiding her own recovery while also staying close to our daughter Maeve.

To our huge relief, Jude made amazing progress, eventually being weaned off the machines that were supporting him before being transferred back to Chelmsford, where he would spend a further four days before coming home.

He's doing brilliantly, now. He keeps us up at night, but we wouldn't change it for the world.

James Eddleston, Jude's dad



# ★ Super Supporters ★

**Our wonderful supporters help to keep thousands of families together every year, just minutes from their child's hospital bedside and we can't thank them enough. Here is a glimpse of what our Super Supporters have been up to recently.**



Rebecca Wright and her family and friends organised a coffee morning to raise funds to support Eckersley House and this amazing donation of items for families staying at our Leeds 'Home from Home'.

Catherine and Garry Dowdle walked 250 miles from Manchester to London along the canal network, taking 19 days and raising over £10,500 for us and Great Ormond Street Hospital. We supported them at Guilford Street House in 1993 when son Charlie was being treated at GOSH.



Shurron Rosales and her family wanted to help by cooking some tasty meals for the families staying at Stevenson House, the 'Home from Home' that supported her while son Koan was in hospital.

The team at Scott House had a visit from Oscar Dixon who dropped off an incredible donation of £400 which he raised with his family at their fundraising night. We supported Oscar's parents at our 'Home from Home' while he was receiving treatment at the Freeman Hospital.



Daniel Peck raised £3,698 by completing the '496 Challenge', running an astonishing 496km in December. Daniel started with a 1km run on the first day of the month, increasing the running distance by one km each day throughout the month, finishing with a gruelling 31km run on New Year's Eve.



We're thrilled to announce an incredible three-year grant of £108,839 from Leeds Hospital Charity to support Eckersley House. Leeds Hospital Charity have been wonderful supporters of Eckersley House since 1993 and we can't thank them enough for their support.



**Please head to [sickchildrenstrust.org/fundraise/run-your-own](https://sickchildrenstrust.org/fundraise/run-your-own) to register your activity and one of our friendly team will be in touch.**





## Corporate Partnerships

**W**e need your help to secure donations and help us partner with national and local businesses so we can continue to support families when they really need us. Whether you work for a local or national business, by nominating The Sick Children's Trust, you could help us be your company's chosen charity.



Last year, a mum who we supported at our Acorn House 'Home from Home' nominated us for her company's Charity of the Year programme. Paul Taylor, Partner at Fox Williams says:

“We are delighted to be supporting this fantastic charity, our employees are so enjoying working with all the team at The Sick Children's Trust. We've had some rewarding volunteering days and seen first-hand the impact our fundraising is making to the many families they support. The charity has clearly captured the hearts and minds of staff and by the end of the partnership we hope to fund a warm and comfortable family room for two years.”

**We'd love to help you to put The Sick Children's Trust forward to your company so please email us at [corporate@sickchildrenstrust.org](mailto:corporate@sickchildrenstrust.org) and we can give you all the information and support you need.**



## A December to Remember

**D**ecember is always an important fundraising time for us and thanks to your incredible generosity, 2023 was particularly special.

It started with our brilliant 'Big Give' campaign which raised £37,394. The donations made to our appeal were match-funded by our champions The Reed Foundation, raising enough for a family to stay with us for 935 nights.

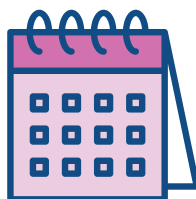
Our wonderful 'Together at Christmas' and Snowflake Ball events were held in December. Hosted at the majestic St Marylebone Parish Church in London, 'Together at Christmas' raised over £16,000 thanks to performances and readings from Christina Johnston, the London Show Choir, The Toffee Bear Choir, Tim Downie, Emilia Fox, Jenni Falconer, and Alice Beer. The Snowflake Ball allowed everyone to get into the Christmas spirit, with a glitzy event at the Newcastle's Crowne Plaza Hotel raising more than £30,000.

We also marked the 20th anniversary of Stevenson House, our wonderful 'Home from Home' at The Royal London Hospital. Coming together over tea, cake and fizz, we raised a glass to everyone Stevenson House has supported down the years.

A big thank you to all attendees and to event sponsors Balderton Capital and Paragon Customer Communications. A special thanks to Ian Bridges, Lee and Caroline Thomas, and Lucinda Eason for kindly sharing stories about how our 'Homes from Home' supported them.



# Events Calendar



Help raise vital funds for our 'Homes from Home' by taking part in or by joining us at one of our events. To find out how to register for these and more, visit [sickchildrenstrust.org/events](https://sickchildrenstrust.org/events) or email [fundraising@sickchildrenstrust.org](mailto:fundraising@sickchildrenstrust.org)



## Skydive Weekend – 11-12 May 2024

Soar 10,000 feet above the ground, at speeds of up to 120mph in a tandem skydive. Embark on the adventure of a lifetime, while also raising money to help support families with a seriously ill child in hospital.

## Home to Home Challenge – 1-30 June 2024

Our brand new challenge is here – this June challenge yourself by choosing to either: Cycle 370 miles, Run 100 miles, Walk 50 miles, Swim 25 miles or Toddle 5 miles and help us keep families together. Learn more here: [sickchildrenstrust.org/home-to-home](https://sickchildrenstrust.org/home-to-home)



## Clay Pigeon Shoot - 12 June 2024

Join us for a fantastic day of shooting, fine dining and fundraising at our Clay Pigeon Shoot, at the beautiful Swinton Estate in North Yorkshire.

## Golf Day hosted by Anton Du Beke – 26 June 2024

Back by popular demand. For the second year running, our golf day will be taking place at the stunning Bocket Hall Estate in Hertfordshire, hosted by Anton, who is a golfing enthusiast and Ambassador for The Sick Children's Trust. Enjoy 18 holes of golf followed by a gourmet BBQ.



## Dog Jog Virtual Challenge

Get fit, spend time with family and have fun with your four-legged friend. You can do 5km or any distance you like to raise vital funds for us. Complete your challenge whichever way suits you best – whether that's a brisk walk, a jog, or a run. It's your challenge so do it your way!

## Tough Mudder – Nationwide, throughout the year

Take part in the toughest and most fun challenge – The Tough Mudder UK, designed to test you mentally and physically! Join us for this obstacle course with at least 12 obstacles and 3-5 miles. First date is May 18-19, taking place in West London.




## The Great North Run – 8 September 2024

Famous for its amazing atmosphere, the Great North Run is the world's biggest and best half marathon. Join 60,000 determined and dedicated runners on the iconic course and raise vital funds for our 'Homes from Home' in the process.

Register on our website now and we'll send you the fundraising materials you need as well as provide you with support, hints, and tips to ensure your fundraising is as successful as possible.





**Help  
us to continue supporting  
families in our 'Homes from Home' by  
becoming a Friend of The Sick Children's  
Trust. Please scan the QR code below.**

**£5** will help to pay for the cleaning of our  
'Homes from Home' ensuring a safe  
environment for families.



**£10** will help us provide pillows, duvets  
and sheets so parents can have a  
comfortable night sleep.



**£15** will go towards paying for our 'Homes  
from Home' front line staff, so they can  
support families when they need it most.



**Any amount** that you can give will be  
truly appreciated and will go a long way  
to supporting us to keep our 'Homes from  
Home' open.



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[sickchildrenstrust.org](http://sickchildrenstrust.org)

Registered Charity Number: 284416



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**FUNDRAISING  
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