



Newsletter

Summer 2026 edition



Newsletter proudly sponsored by



Offsite
Excellence



evorahospice.org

CONNEX SUPPORTING EVORA HOSPICE



At Connex, we're really proud to support Evora Hospice and the incredible work they do within our local community. The care and compassion provided to patients and their families is something we greatly admire, and it's a privilege for us to be able to contribute in some way.

The Hospice plays such an important role, offering not only expert care but also comfort and support when it's needed most. Seeing the difference they make every day highlights just how vital their work is.

Our partnership with Evora Hospice means a lot to us. It reflects what Connex stands for – supporting meaningful causes and giving back to the communities around us. We're delighted to be involved and to help support the continuation of such an essential service.

We look forward to continuing our support and being part of the positive impact the Hospice makes across the region.

One Year of Evora

This year has been a defining one for Evora Hospice, as we moved from launching our new identity to truly living it. Our rebrand was about more than a new name — it was about clearly reflecting who we are today and the future we are building toward.

One year on, Evora Hospice is firmly established as the compassionate, trusted hospice we set out to be — a place where dignity, comfort and expert care remain at the heart of every interaction. Our values continue to guide us: treating every person with respect, delivering holistic, personal care, and ensuring families feel supported and never alone.



Over the past year, we have strengthened our services, improved access to support, and invested in our people and strategic direction. It has been a year of progress, learning and meaningful impact.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of those who stand with us. Our volunteers, donors, fundraisers, partners and wider community play a vital role in helping us deliver specialist palliative care to those who need it most.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on building on these strong foundations and continuing to make a difference for the people of Armagh, Down and Tyrone

Join the club

Evora Hospice warmly invites small businesses, sole traders, and entrepreneurs to join Club 365, an established and valued community of supporters helping fund our vital services.

For just £365 a year- that's only £1 a day, your business can join a powerful collective making a real difference in the lives of local people.

Club 365 offers an affordable and meaningful way for smaller organisations to show support and gain recognition as a valued community partner.

Membership includes a certificate and a visit from a Hospice team member for a photo opportunity, enabling you to share your support across social media, email and other channels.

Email partnerships@evorahospice.org for more information.

**Your business.
Your community.
One powerful pound a day.**



Recognising Outstanding Leadership at Evora

Our Community Services Manager, **Bernie Farrell**, was recently recognised at one of the most prestigious events in the nursing calendar — the RCN (Royal College of Nursing) Northern Ireland Awards. Bernie was nominated for the respected Team Manager Award, which celebrates exceptional leadership, compassion and commitment within nursing teams across the region.

Bernie attended the gala ceremony on Thursday 4th June, where she was announced as runner-up — an outstanding achievement in a category filled with inspiring leaders from across Northern Ireland. Reaching the final alone is a significant honour, and being named runner-up reflects the deep respect and admiration for Bernie's work. This recognition highlights the dedication, professionalism and heart Bernie brings to her role every day. Her leadership ensures that patients and families across Armagh, Down and Tyrone receive the highest standard of compassionate, person-centred care, and her commitment to supporting her team and strengthening services is felt throughout Evora.

Everyone at Evora Hospice Care is incredibly proud of Bernie's achievement and grateful for the hard work she puts into shaping and delivering exceptional community services.



MND Partnership



A strengthened partnership between Evora Hospice Care and the Motor Neurone Disease Association is enhancing support for people living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and their families across the Southern Trust area. Building on an initial counselling offer, the collaboration now provides holistic, wraparound care — including specialist counselling, nursing, social work, chaplaincy and therapies such as reflexology.

Combining the MND Association's expertise with Evora's 35-year legacy of palliative and wellbeing care across Armagh, Down and Tyrone creates a more connected and compassionate support pathway. From diagnosis onwards, individuals and families can access free counselling alongside practical, emotional and spiritual support — helping them navigate difficult conversations, plan for the future and cope with day-to-day life, ensuring no one feels alone.

Support also continues beyond end of life, with bereavement counselling and services available for families and carers, offering space to grieve, talk and adjust at their own pace.

With Grateful Hearts: Thank You to Our Volunteers

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation event was recently held at the Seagoe Hotel in Portadown, bringing together volunteers to celebrate their dedication and impact.

The event recognised the invaluable contributions made by individuals who give their time and energy to support others in the community.



The group heard that we all recognise that volunteering for Hospice is not always easy. It asks for compassion, patience, and sometimes emotional strength. But they all continue to show up with kindness, generosity, and occasionally with a very good sense of humour, which is just as important.

The programme included a presentation of volunteer impact statistics across the Hospice, highlighting the significant difference volunteers make.



Our Patient & Family Services Manager (Emily Murray) also informed the group of all services here in Evora.

Attendees also enjoyed a fun and engaging all-round quiz, hosted by quiz master genius Ajun Budda (Corporate Services Director). The event created a warm and welcoming atmosphere, offering volunteers an opportunity to connect, reflect, and celebrate their shared achievements.



Supporting Carers at Evora Hospice

Compassionate care, guidance, and wellbeing support is available for those caring for others.

Caring for someone at end of life can be both challenging and rewarding. At Evora Hospice, we support carers who are looking after someone with a serious, incurable illness, even if that person is not known to our Inpatient Unit. We are here to help you every step of the way with practical guidance, emotional support, and wellbeing services to support you in your role at home.



1-2-1 Support

Our team offers 1-2-1 support, giving you the opportunity to talk through your experiences, understand your role, and explore the impact caring may have on you. You can share your thoughts and feelings in a safe space and receive helpful advice, along with information on local services. You may meet with a Social Worker, Nurse, or Chaplain depending on your needs.

Counselling

Counselling is also available, providing a confidential space to talk openly, helping you understand your emotions and develop ways to cope.

Alternative Therapies

In addition, we offer alternative therapies including reflexology, which helps reduce stress and improve relaxation and sleep, either at our wellbeing centre or in your home. Art therapy provides a creative and supportive outlet to express emotions through guided activities—no artistic experience needed. Both therapies are offered as a course of up to six sessions in our wellbeing centre in Newry.

Group Work

We also offer group sessions where you can meet other carers, share experiences, and feel less alone. Dates and details are regularly updated on our website and Facebook page.

Who are our carer services for?

Anyone caring for someone with a serious, incurable illness. You do not need to be known to our Inpatient Unit to access support or make a referral.

Celebrating, Remembering, Supporting



Memory Tree

Our Hospice memory tree is a beautiful tribute to those who have sadly passed away, tucked away in our garden you will find a relaxing space where you can sit and remember your loved one. For as little as **£8.50 a month** or **£100 a year** you can place your leaf on our tree, by doing so you will be helping another family to benefit from Hospice care.



Wedding Favours

We offer a range of beautiful personalised Wedding Favours tailored to your special day. Whether you are looking individual place cards, something to keep the kids entertained, a keep sake pin or token, or something to honour your loved ones who sadly cannot be there, we have something special for everyone.



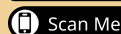
Home Box

Whether you are looking individual place cards, something to keep the kids entertained, a keep sake pin or token, or something to honour your loved ones who sadly cannot be there, we have something special for everyone.



Coffee Morning

Our Coffee Morning is back and every cup counts. Can you host a Coffee Morning in aid of your local Hospice? All you need is a kettle, some tasty treats and good company, with the Hospice Fundraising Team providing a fundraising pack to help ensure the event runs smoothly. Scan the QR code for more info.





GM MARKETING BACKS EVORA HOSPICE IN MEMORY OF COLLEAGUE

GM Marketing has chosen Evora Hospice as its Charity of the Year for 2026 in memory of much-loved colleague and friend, Brian Magennis.

Brian, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2020, faced his illness with the strength, grace and quiet determination that those who knew him will always remember. After initially overcoming the disease, Brian was later told it had returned. Once again, he met the diagnosis with courage.

In his final weeks, Brian and his loved ones were supported by the team at Evora Hospice whose care, compassion and dignity brought comfort during an incredibly difficult time.

Now, in Brian's memory, GM Marketing is dedicating a year of fundraising to the hospice, helping raise vital funds for the charity's work across the region.

Laimis Minelga, Junior Brand Manager at GM Marketing, said: "We are incredibly proud to support Evora Hospice as our Charity of the Year in memory of Brian.

"He was a hugely valued colleague and friend, and someone who meant a great deal to everyone at GM Marketing. The compassion and care Evora Hospice provided to Brian and his family in his final weeks brought comfort during the most difficult time, and this is our way of honouring that support."

GM Marketing's fundraising efforts are already well underway. The company's 12 Days of Christmas giveaway raised more than £3,000, with prizes donated by 16 different partners and brands. An internal 'Beat the January Blues' raffle raised a further £120, while six members of the GM Marketing team completed the SPAR Craic 10K on St Patrick's Day, raising more than £1,100.

GM



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Most recently, a GM Marketing team also took part in the Belfast Marathon Team Relay, raising £418 in less than two weeks. The team completed the relay in four hours and eight minutes.

Since selecting Evora Hospice, GM Marketing says it has gained a deeper understanding of the level of support required to keep hospice services running.

Laimis said: "One of the things that has really struck us is how genuinely supportive the Evora Hospice team has been. They care deeply for patients and families, but they also care about the businesses and individuals who support them.

"We were also shocked to learn that Evora Hospice must raise around 65% to 70% of its required income, approximately £4 million every year, through fundraising to maintain its services.

"That really brought home how important every fundraiser is. Every raffle, every run and every donation truly help support the care that families like Brian's received when they needed it most."

Win a Brand New Renault Clio 1.0

We are delighted to announce that we will be offering the chance to win a brand new Renault Clio 1.0 in this years car draw!

SCAN ME!



Tickets are just **£2** and we also have two runner up prizes of **£500** and **£250**. All proceeds will go towards helping us provide specialist palliative care.

To purchase a ticket, scan the QR code or visit our website.



Towpath Walk Success



Evora Hospice Care is delighted to announce the success of the 35th Annual Towpath Walk, which took place in Newry on Sunday 26 April 2026.

The event raised an outstanding **£10,648.57**

The much-loved community event, organised by dedicated long-standing Hospice volunteer Deborah Kennedy, welcomed participants from across the Southern Trust area who came together to complete the 6-mile walk along Newry Towpath.

Deborah Kennedy said:

"I would like to sincerely thank everyone who took part, donated, volunteered, and supported this year's Towpath Walk. Reaching the 35-year milestone is a fantastic achievement, and I am delighted that together we raised £10,648.57 for our local Hospice."



Evora Hospice Care extends its heartfelt thanks to Deborah for her outstanding commitment and dedication. The Annual Towpath Walk has now raised in excess of £369,500 for local Hospice services.

Fancy a challenge?

We are delighted to announce we have a range of challenge events coming up, including -

- Camino de Santiago
- Everest base camp
- Skydive
- Marathon Options

Milestone birthday coming up, chasing bucket list goals or simply fancy pushing yourself? Your next challenge starts here. Scan QR code for more details.

SCAN ME



Everest Base Camp Testimony



"If you're a person that loves rewarding challenge, this experience is the one for you. Over the course of 2 weeks myself and a fantastic group of individuals were pushed to every limit on our way to Everest Base Camp. Physical. Mental. Emotional. And not an ounce of regret do any of us have."

Katiebeth McVeigh (Everest participant 2025)

For more information, scan below

SCAN ME!



Sarah Makes History

We are delighted to recognise the outstanding achievement of Sarah Armstrong, who has generously supported Hospice care by choosing Evora Hospice as her chosen charity throughout her Seven Summits Challenge — a charity she describes as being “close to my heart”.



Sarah set out to complete the Seven Summits, the highest mountain on each continent, while raising awareness and support for Hospice services. Having now successfully completed this extraordinary challenge, she has officially become the youngest Irish woman ever to summit all seven peaks.

On 20th May 2026, Sarah reached the summit of Mount Everest, becoming the tenth Irish woman to achieve this remarkable feat. Since the first successful ascent in 1953, fewer than 8,000 people have stood atop the world's highest mountain.

Sarah's determination, resilience, and commitment to making a difference have been truly inspiring. Through her challenge, she has not only achieved a historic personal accomplishment but has also helped raise vital funds towards Hospice care.

Here Sarah is pictured receiving a civic award from Mayor, Cllr Philip Campbell, to recognise her incredible feat in reaching the summit of Mount Everest.





Midnight Memory Walk

We are delighted to invite you, your family, and friends to join us for our 18th Annual Midnight Memory Walk on Saturday, 26th September 2026. This special event brings our community together to remember and celebrate loved ones while supporting the vital work of our Hospice. We are incredibly grateful to McKeevers Chemists for their generous sponsorship of this year's walk. As a sponsored event, every step taken and every pound raised will help us continue providing compassionate care and support to patients and their families.

Participants are invited to dedicate a personal message in memory of a loved one for inclusion on our Memory Wall, creating a meaningful opportunity to reflect, remember, and honour those who hold a special place in our hearts.

For more fundraising on 028 3026 7711, please contact Aisling in our Fundraising Department. We look forward to welcoming you for what promises to be a memorable and meaningful evening.



**MCKEEVERS
CHEMISTS**

In their memory

Help others by donating to
Evora Hospice

Donate Today



Southern Area Hospice Services is a registered charity in N. Ireland. Reg. No. NC121006

In their Memory – Help Others

For many families, supporting Evora Hospice in memory of someone special is a meaningful way to honour a loved one while helping other local families receive compassionate care and support.

Over the years, we have been incredibly touched by the kindness of supporters who have chosen to remember family members, friends, and loved ones through donations, tribute pages, funeral collections, and remembrance events. Every act of remembrance helps Evora Hospice continue providing specialist palliative care, comfort, and emotional support to patients and families across our community.

Ways to donate in memory

- Make a one-off donation in memory
- Become a monthly supporter in their memory
- Create an online tribute page
- Request funeral donations in lieu of flowers
- Take part in remembrance events such as Light up a Life and Midnight Memory Walk
- Dedicate a leaf on the Evora Hospice Memory Tree located within the Hospice Gardens in Newry



To everyone who has supported Evora Hospice in memory of a loved one — thank you.

Your kindness helps ensure that every family who needs us can continue to receive comfort, dignity, and compassionate care.

Their memory truly lives on through every act of kindness.

Find out more from our Supporter Care Team at
supportercare@evorahospice.org

Not Just A Ticket

What if just £1 a week could make a real difference in your community — while also giving you the chance to win up to £5,000 every Friday?

By joining the Evora Hospice Lottery, you're not only entering an exciting weekly draw, you're helping provide compassionate care and support for local patients and families when they need it most.

Every ticket played helps generate reliable, regular income that supports the vital services provided by Evora Hospice.



Draws take place every Friday (or the next working day on Bank Holidays), with winners selected at random by computer.

How It Works

Joining the Evora Hospice Lottery is simple:

- Play for just £1 per week (£4.34 per month or £52 per year).
- Receive your own unique 5-digit lottery number
- Be automatically entered into the weekly Friday draw
- Have the chance to win prizes of up to £5,000

(Anyone aged 16 or over can join)

Simply sign up online at <https://evorahospice.org/get-involved/lottery/> or call **028 3026 7711** to join today.

SAVE THE DATE

Scan me!



Midnight Memory Walk

**Sat 26th
September**

**Sun 26th
October**

Dublin Marathon

Car winner announced

**Sat 7th
November**

**Wed 25th
November**

Light Up a Life Dungannon

Light Up a Life Craigavon

**Tues 8th
December**

**Thurs 10th
December**

Light Up a Life Newry

Tokyo Marathon 2027

**March
2027**

**Fri 12th March
2027**

Big Bucket 2027



evorahospice.org