



The Teesside Charity



# Bridging the Gap

Newsletter Summer 2022



# Get the ball rolling...

Come to the social event of the year - but reserve your seat now as they're selling fast!

## The Teesside Charity Annual Ball

Friday, October 7

Hardwick Hall Grand Marquee

Welcome drinks: 6.30pm

Carriages: 1am



Guests enjoy previous charity balls.

Buying a ticket for our annual ball is a way of combining a cracking night out with helping those most in need.

Dust off your dancing shoes because things are hotting up in anticipation of the best night on the charity social calendar - The Teesside Charity Annual Ball.

Our big event will take place this year in the Grand Marquee at the Hardwick Hall Hotel on Friday, October 7. Just as in previous years, it promises to be a memorable night of fantastic food, drink, live music, dancing, great company and fundraising.

There will also be a silent auction and a raffle - with a prize guaranteed!

As always, all funds raised will go to fantastic causes across the region, with every penny raised staying right here on Teesside.

Last year's tenth anniversary ball raised a whopping £60,000! Can we dig deep and do even better this year?!



## Support is already flooding in

Scores of wonderful businesses from across the region have already shown support for the ball, with the following businesses and individuals confirmed for tables and tickets - your generosity is appreciated!

Anderson Barrowcliffe, Azets, Mandale, Better, Barclays, Active Chartered Financial Planners, PD Ports, Erimus Insurance, Stark family, Knights PLC, Riverdale Healthcare, AV Dawson, Devereux Transport, Endeavour Partnership, John Livingstone Estates, Crystal Galleries, Caswells, RACZ Group, SDDE Group, Frances Connolly, PX, Key Wellbeing, Parker Barras, Marton Electrical, Paul Card Recruitment, InBond Ltd, Tees Business, Punch Robson, ITS Ltd, Steel River Consultants, Steel River Gin, Cornerstone Business Solutions, Mike Maguire, Razorblue, Sanderson Weatherall, Handelsbanken, Resolution, Milner Smeaton, FRP Advisory, AbacusBean, Middlesbrough College, Wilton Group, The Build Directory, Durata UK, Anthony Jones Properties, BA Joinery, Unity World, Square One Law and Spark Tees Valley

## Get your tickets now!

If you're interested in reserving a seat or table, contact [diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk](mailto:diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk) for more information. Tickets cost £990 per table of 10. Individual tickets cost £99. The ticket cost includes a three-course meal with wine.

Celebrating - From left, guests Helen Brown, Jamie Brown, Keith Stephenson and Jayne Stephenson.

## Chairman's column

# Your fellow Teessiders need you more than ever

You don't need me to tell you that these are challenging times.

On the back of the Covid pandemic has followed the war in Ukraine, rising energy prices and a cost-of-living crisis.

It would have been easy and perhaps understandable if, in the circumstances, you and your business tightened the financial belts a little and you took the view that you needed to reduce your charitable giving.

So, on behalf of my fellow Trustees, I want to say how grateful we are that you've stuck with us, stuck with the most vulnerable people on Teesside and stuck with that typical Teesside generosity!

The cost-of-living crisis is an inescapable daily news headline for all of us. For many of the most disadvantaged Teessiders, it is rather more real than that. It means them choosing between eating or heating, choosing not to eat to allow their children to eat, turning to food banks or, far worse, perhaps loan sharks.

That is where The Teesside Charity comes in - supporting the myriad of wonderful, community-focused local charities and groups run by big-hearted volunteers. The donations you make to our charity will - and do - make a real difference at the grass roots of our communities across Teesside.

And, quite simply, we couldn't do it without you.

Do spend a few moments during your coffee break to flick through the pages of our newsletter and see the difference you and people like you, businesses like yours, are making to the lives of your fellow Teessiders.



*The donations you make to our charity will - and do - make a real difference at the grass roots of our communities across Teesside.*

Without the support of our unique charity, so many more would struggle. You're making Teesside a better place to live, a better place to work, a better place to give.

Thank you - and please keep doing what you're doing.

**Lee Bramley**  
Chair of Trustees

## In the news ....

Annual golf day raises £5,700!



We are thrilled to announce that our annual golf day, held at Middlesbrough Golf Club on June 24, was a huge success and raised a wonderful £5,700.

Our thanks to all who took part in the tournament, to Matt O'Connor for his help with organising the event and to all the staff who worked so hard on the day.

A big thank you also to Wilton and PX Group for sponsoring holes and to Middlesbrough Golf Club, Anderson Barrowcliffe, Yarm Studio, Wilton Group and Barclays Doxford Park for the donation of prizes - the team at Doxford Park also matched the amount raised in the raffle.

Before the shotgun start, players were entertained by Dean Davis with a trick shot show, demonstrating some of the most astonishing acts of golfing genius ever to be seen, using clubs made from hoses, copper piping, hammers, fishing rods and other everyday household items.

Scores at the end of the day were as follows:

Best Team Score: Kev Neal, Dave Radford, Jonathan Willett and Emma Simkins - 104 points

Second: JH Mechanical - 103 points

Third: Cornerstone - 102 points

Best overall individual score: Mark Botha from JH Mechanical - 48 points

Nearest the Pin: Ian Storey from JH Mechanical

Longest Drive: Louis Bond from Wilton Group

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# The challenges all businesses must address in the post-pandemic landscape



Mark Topley, director, Purpose Driven Business Ltd.

For leaders in business with external funding, or those with shareholders, the annual letter from Blackrock president Larry Fink is eagerly awaited, explains Mark Topley, director of Purpose Driven Business Ltd and a man with 20 years' experience in leadership areas related to ESG, CSR and non-profits.

Fink oversees a company that manages an eye-watering \$6.84 trillion. He writes the yearly letter to the world's CEOs "to highlight the themes that I believe are vital to driving durable, long-term returns and to helping them reach their goals."

With an economically devastating global pandemic still large in the rear-view mirror, how would the 2022 letter change in light of the pandemic?

He wrote: "In today's globally interconnected world, a company must create value for and be valued by its *full range of stakeholders* in order to deliver long-term value for its shareholders."

This theme of value adds to that of 'purpose', which was a major part of the 2021 letter:

"Companies must be deliberate and committed to *embracing purpose* and *serving all stakeholders* – your shareholders, customers, employees and the communities where you operate. In doing so, your company will enjoy greater long-term prosperity, as will investors, workers, and society as a whole."

## What this means for business

The questions of purpose and value for all stakeholders are not restricted to companies that have investors. All companies must know:

**Purpose** - how do we articulate a purpose that goes beyond the simple delivery of a product or service to generate a return? What role do we play in the lives of all our stakeholders?

**Value** - how can we create value for our employees and the communities in which we work, recognising that in doing so, we will, in turn, create value for customers and investors?



## Working with The Teesside Charity

For companies who recognise the growing importance of purpose and value, working with The Teesside Charity has a number of benefits.

- Customers today look for an expression of your values, particularly for products or services where trust is a significant factor. What values are apparent in your operation that provide positive messages to communicate? Working with The Teesside Charity as part of a strategic partnership will ensure that you have a consistent stream of good news stories to share.
- Team engagement - in addition to fair pay and conditions, today's employees want to make a difference. In fact, 72 per cent of millennials said "a job where I can make an impact" was important to their happiness. Partnering with The Teesside Charity provides ample opportunity for teams to get engaged with fundraising for, and making a difference in, their own communities.
- Value for communities - while building a positive reputation among local people will increase sales and brand awareness, making an effort to serve the community also creates happier employees and more loyal customers. Making your commitment a strategic partnership rather than a one-off exercise will ensure that there is also a lasting impact on the community.

As Fink rightly points out, the companies that will do best in the post-pandemic landscape will be those able to recognise and respond strategically to the importance of purpose and value for all. Beyond simply maintaining a social licence to operate, your business can have a lasting and strategic impact in the region through a partnership with The Teesside Charity.

# Teesside University launches new Teesside Charity Scholarships to support more local students



Joining forces – from L to R: Teesside Charity manager Diane Williamson, Gavin Scotchbrook of Patrons Unity, Warren Harrison (dean, Teesside University International Business School), Teesside Charity Trustee Emily Bentley and Chrisina Jayne (dean, School of Computing, Engineering & Digital Technologies).

## New scholarships are being offered at Teesside University to support more students from our region, who may not traditionally consider university, to reach their full potential

Teesside University is working in partnership with The Teesside Charity on new scholarships, supporting students from the region who may face financial hardship during their studies.

The Teesside Charity Scholarships are specifically aimed at those who would be first generation in their family to attend university and will be linked to courses in business and computer science.

Working alongside Teesside University, The Teesside Charity has pledged £15,000 to support three undergraduate students entering onto courses within Teesside University's International Business School and the School of Computing, Engineering & Digital Technologies, with a scholarship to be awarded in 2022, another in 2023 and a third in 2024.

Through The Teesside Charity Scholarships, the successful students will benefit from financial support of £5,000 each, which will be distributed throughout their three-year course.

The scholarships aim to help local students achieve their goals by providing financial support as they work towards a higher education qualification, with The Teesside Charity keen to support students at the beginning of their professional journeys.

Emily Bentley, Trustee of the charity, said: "It's vitally important that students, particularly those who may not see university education as an option, are offered the opportunity to follow their dreams and achieve their goals."

"We are thrilled to be working with Teesside University to offer these scholarships and hope to make a significant positive impact on the lives of talented and ambitious students in our region."

Lauren Bradshaw, deputy director, Communications and Development at Teesside University, said: "The generosity and support of Patrons such as The Teesside Charity is vital in terms of helping more students to reach their full potential."

"At Teesside University, we offer innovative opportunities to a wide range of students and believe that everybody, no matter their background, should be able to achieve their ambitions."

"We are really excited to introduce The Teesside Charity Scholarships as part of our rapidly expanding scholarship portfolio and can't wait to welcome our first scholar in autumn 2022."

More about the Teesside Charity Scholarships can be found here [tees.ac.uk/sections/fulltime/scholarships\\_teesside\\_charity.cfm](https://tees.ac.uk/sections/fulltime/scholarships_teesside_charity.cfm)

Learn more about undergraduate scholarships at: [tees.ac.uk/sections/fulltime/scholarships.cfm](https://tees.ac.uk/sections/fulltime/scholarships.cfm)



# We can be heroes

We were thrilled to host a very special afternoon tea to pay tribute to seven years of our amazing Teesside Heroes



## DO YOU KNOW A TEESSIDE HERO?

If you know someone who is worthy of a Teesside Hero award, why not nominate them at [jenny.w@teessidecharity.org.uk](mailto:jenny.w@teessidecharity.org.uk). As well as a trophy, a donation of £1,000 will be made to the hero's local chosen charity.



Can you imagine a room full of the very best people on Teesside – those selfless, amazing folk who raise funds, give their time and do so much for others, all under one roof?

The Teesside Charity was moved and more than a little overwhelmed to experience exactly that recently when we celebrated seven years of our Teesside Hero Award.

To mark the occasion, we invited 70 recipients of the award from through the years, along with their guests and a handful of our Patrons, to a celebration afternoon tea.

As you can see from our pictures, a wonderful time was had by all, and it was worth the hard work it took our team to get everyone together when we discovered that each of our heroes is still doing their amazing work for their communities.

Thanks to everyone who came to what was a very special event, to our hosts at 131 The Venue in Middlesbrough, to Doug Moody for the photographs and to the Balloon Boutique for the arch and table decorations.



# A little goes a long way...

Your support, even in the smallest way, makes a huge difference to our vital work. Here are 10 ways you can help The Teesside Charity in a way that suits your budget

## 1 Become a Patron

Charity Patrons are local businesses and wealthy individuals who make an annual donation to the charity, enabling us to change lives on Teesside. But being a Patron isn't just about the donation – our Patrons get involved with funding application decisions, visit successful beneficiaries and present awards to our Teesside Heroes and Golden Giveaway winners. For more information or to arrange a meeting email [diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk](mailto:diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk)

## 2 Join the Infant Hercules Charity Club (IHCC)

This level of business membership of The Teesside Charity is perfect for successful but smaller businesses who can't commit to the sums involved with being a Patron, but who are keen to support our work on a corporate level. Membership of the IHCC costs £1,000 a year or £100 a month. Benefits include the opportunity to publicly show support, have your logo on our charity website, a Facebook article when you sign up, mentions on Twitter and invitations to exclusive quarterly business gatherings. For more information, contact Diane Williamson on: [diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk](mailto:diane.w@teessidecharity.org.uk)

## 3 Become a Centurion

The Teesside Centurions are part of our fundraising army, people who are prepared to help make a real difference to the area we live in by donating £19 each month. To sign up and do your bit for Teesside's most disadvantaged people, contact Jenny Williams on: [jenny.w@teessidecharity.org.uk](mailto:jenny.w@teessidecharity.org.uk)



Staff from our Patrons, SDDE Group, in training for the Great North Run.

## 4 Make a one-off donation

By simply clicking the 'Donate' button on the homepage of our website [teessidecharity.org.uk](http://teessidecharity.org.uk) you can make a one-off payment. There is no monetary limit – we are immensely grateful for all donations.

## 5 Attend an event

We have some wonderful events throughout the year, from ladies' lunches, our not to be missed annual ball, or for those daredevils amongst you how about a skydive. See p19 for our latest events.

## 6 Take part in a sponsored event

We do all the organisation of our sponsored events, you simply need to raise a minimum amount of money. From skydiving to half marathons, there is something for everyone. Keep an eye on our social media and see p19 for our upcoming events.

## 10 Follow us on social media

Follow us on social media, like and share our posts – it makes a huge difference in helping us spread the word about our wonderful charity.

**Facebook:** The Teesside Charity

**Twitter:** @teessidecharity

**LinkedIn:** The Teesside Charity

**Instagram:** @TeessideCharity

## 7 Organise your own event

Choose The Teesside Charity as your charity of the year and organise your own event, bake sale, raffle or sponsored walk. We can provide T-shirts, pens, a visit from The Teesside Charity mascot, social media event promotion, chosen charity logo, sponsor forms and support from the team.

## 8 Donate prizes for auctions and raffles

Raffles and auctions bring in much-needed funds. We accept hampers and bottles of alcohol, beauty vouchers, hotel stays – every donation is appreciated! Email Jenny Williams on: [jenny.w@teessidecharity.org.uk](mailto:jenny.w@teessidecharity.org.uk)

## 9 Nominate a Teesside Hero

Teesside Heroes not only get recognition for their amazing good deeds as unsung community champions, but they are given £1,000 to donate to their local charity of choice. Of course, we need to hear about them, so get sending their details to: [jenny.w@teessidecharity.org.uk](mailto:jenny.w@teessidecharity.org.uk)

## Meet our latest Teesside Heroes - amazing people doing amazing acts of charity

# Local Heroes

### TIM COULTER

Tim launched Hartlepool Headland Amateur Boxing Club in 1985 following the end of his own boxing career. He has since trained countless young people as they learn not only about the sport but about discipline, structure, routine and the benefits of health and exercise. Without access to the club, many of Hartlepool's youngsters would be at increased risk of social isolation, health issues or anti-social behaviour.



David Henderson of our Patrons PX Group presents Tim with his award and a £1,000 donation, which Tim donated to Hartlepool RNLI.

### KAREN WINSPEAR

Karen is a director of Senses community wellbeing centre in Skelton, a facility she set up after realising there was a lack of resources for families, children and people with disabilities.

Senses also offers every student from Brotton's KTS Academy upper school the chance to do work experience at the centre, understanding that the youngsters from this special education school require community inclusion.



Dale Smith of our Patrons SDDE Smith Group presents Karen with her award and a £1,000 donation, which she donated to Senses.

### BARBARA FISHPOOL, SUE PINDER AND ANNE PINDER

Three wonderful ladies have quietly made a huge impact in their Marske community, imparting their wisdom to the Beavers and Cubs of the 1st Marske and New Marske Scout Group.

With more than 120 years of scouting service between them, our trio have dedicated their lives to teaching skills as diverse as cooking, fire-making and archery.

James Dale from our Patrons Anderson Barrowcliff presented our heroes with their awards and a donation of £1,000, which they gave to the group.



Barbara, Sue and Anne proudly show off their awards.

### STACEY DUFFY

Stacey founded community project Recipe along with her late husband Laurie in 2013.

Recipe empowers individuals seeking recovery to achieve sustainable change in their lives by providing opportunities for them to develop their confidence, self-worth, friendships and social networks.

Recipe feeds 100 people every Friday night at the Community Church on Clifton Street, Middlesbrough, and Stacey and her wonderful volunteers offer friendship and support at recovery walks, camping weekends and Christmas parties.

Ste Winspear from our Patrons RacZ Group presented Stacey with her Teesside Hero award.



Stacey brandishes her award. She gave her £1,000 donation to Recipe.

### LEANNE NELLIS

Leanne set up the charity Maisie's Hope with husband Graham following the passing of their daughter, Maisie, at just four days old.

Despite her grief, Leanne raised almost £60,000 for the neonatal unit that cared for Maisie.

She also helped staff with their annual Remembrance service dedicated to families who have lost a child, before studying to become a neonatal nurse.

During Covid, Leanne took a placement on hospital wards with staffing issues, yet still graduated with a first-class honours degree in children's nursing from Teesside University. In October 2021, Leanne completed her first shift as a registered neonatal nurse on the same unit which showed such amazing levels of care to her and her family.



Leanne poses with her award and £1,000 donation to the Neonatal unit, alongside her husband, two daughters, colleagues and Ruth Conner from our Patrons Active Chartered Financial Planners.

### REV KATH DEAN

Kath has worked tirelessly for 15 years to help the children, young people and families of Grove Hill, many of whom are experiencing true poverty.

Her Genesis Project offers a safe space for people to meet and for children to socialise, free from the negative influences around them.

Kath instigated a weekly free lunch for parents, the vulnerable and lonely and each year, the project takes around 50 people on holiday to a retreat centre in the countryside.

During Covid, Kath and her team of volunteers provided takeaway meals and have since developed an ECO shop where people can buy the equivalent of a full week's shop for £3 and, in the half-term holidays, up to 150 parcels are delivered free to families in need.



Trustee Emily Bentley surprises Kath with her Teesside Hero award and a £1,000 donation, which she has given to the Genesis Project.



# Patrons take a bow

Our new Patrons explain why they have chosen to give us their support



"Supporting The Teesside Charity was an easy decision for us as it fits with SDDE Group's ethos of creating a better place to live, work and stay.

"We are based in Skelton and employ 250 people – the majority of whom are local to the area. Our company delivers services and projects which have an impact and it's important for us to give back, and to give back locally.

"A number of our team are currently in training for the Great North Run – raising money for The Teesside Charity, of course - and my dad and I had the privilege of attending a Teesside Heroes' afternoon tea, which was humbling.

"Presenting the Teesside Hero award to Karen Winspear at Senses in Skelton was also amazing. Not only was I impressed by what she's achieved, but the centre happens to be right opposite our offices!

"Becoming Patrons has made us, as a company and as a family, see how far there is to go and just how many organisations need our support. That we are having an impact really spurs us on to do our bit to make Teesside a better place."

**Dale Smith, founder and CEO, SDDE Group**

When Knights acquired leading Teesside law firm Archers at the end of last year, they took over the outgoing firm's patronage of our charity.

Partner Helen Lyne explained how important this decision was to her and her colleagues.

"The Teesside Charity has always been a cause close to our lawyers' hearts. It plays a pivotal part in the local community, ensuring that support is shared with the many worthy charities across Teesside.

"What is special about the charity is the extra value it offers to its Patrons through the many events offered, which provide invaluable networking opportunities, joining the dots between business and philanthropy."

On a personal level, Helen has been involved with our charity since 2013.

"I first got involved with the charity when president of the Tees Valley Law Society," she explains.

"Andy Preston (The Teesside Charity founder) came to see me, and I was impressed by what he had to say.

"This was in the early days when the charity was known as the Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation and

I'm really happy to have been a part of it ever since.

"There are so many wonderful events which I've had the privilege to be part of, many of which have become hallmark corporate events. I always really look forward to the annual ball, but the one event which really has my heart is the shoe box appeal.

"It's a chance to get out and deliver vital products to charities who can distribute it, and to form relationships with incredible people such as Brian and Stella at the Moses Project, with whom I've developed a particular bond.

"For individuals and businesses alike, supporting The Teesside Charity is a brilliant way of helping our region and maintaining status and connections."

**Helen Lyne, Knights**



"Causeway wanted to have a presence on Teesside and show our support for the people of the region, so becoming Patrons of The Teesside Charity was the perfect way to do this.

"I've only attended one meeting so far – shortlisting the good causes for the Golden Giveaway. I found the whole process moving and really humbling and it brought to mine and Causeway's attention just how much of an impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on people.

"The big increase in the use of food banks and the issue of digital poverty really opened our eyes and made us acutely aware that we need to do more. We look forward to being more actively involved in the coming months."

**Leisa Docherty, chief people officer, Causeway**



"Causeway have always had a strong presence in the North-East, particularly Teesside, and the opening of our new offices in One Centre Square really underpins this. We strive to be a local employer of choice and so The Teesside Charity was a natural fit for us as we continue to support the local area.

"I'm super passionate about education and supporting young people getting into careers in science and technology. The Teesside Charity works with and supports such a diverse range of organisations and individuals and I'm really looking forward to exploring how we can further support this.

"For me, the charity has no limits to the length and breadth of the people it supports. Everyone I've met that is associated with the charity has displayed endless amounts of passion and enthusiasm for their cause. I moved to Teesside approximately three years ago and I think this is the first local charity that I've seen with such a wide-ranging impact."

**Paul Gaukroger, HR business partner, Causeway**



"I've been an individual Patron of the Teesside Charity since it started, and through lockdown my brother Gavin and I decided that our company, Unity, should become members of The Infant Hercules Charity Club.

"We were part of a lot of initiatives involving the Digital Poverty Campaign, giving sim cards and equipment to Unity Academy in Middlesbrough. Recently we upgraded to become Patrons.

"From my point of view, Unity is a Teesside company and charity begins at home. I like the breadth of support that The Teesside Charity offers, supporting a wide range of different groups, organisations and individuals.

"Everyone is worthy of the charity's support, but what has really moved me recently is the help given to causes such as food banks. My wife and I often discuss how difficult it must be for young families, with the cost of living going through the roof. Being a Patron – company or individual – feels like you are doing something to help.

"There's also the opportunity to meet beneficiaries, to see where your money is going and to meet other Patrons at fantastic networking events."

**Simon Scotchbrook, CEO, Unity**



# HEARTS OF GOLD

## GOLDEN GIVEAWAY £25K

### A massive £25,000 pot was shared between some fabulous worthy causes in our hotly anticipated Golden Giveaway

In a joy-filled ceremony at the Riverside Stadium, 20 local organisations received a donation of at least £500, with our public poll winners taking home a whopping £5,000.

Representatives of our generous Patrons and Infant Hercules Club members - whose kind support and donations to our cause allowed the wonderful event to take place - were on hand to congratulate our worthy winners.

A big thank you to Kirsten Donkin of PD Ports, our Trustee Emily Bentley, Andrew Rowe from Azets, Hayley and Natalie from Knights, Mark Easby from Better, Ruth Conner of Active, Graham Morris of Causeway Technologies, Tracey Flanagan from Bulkhaul, our Trustee Alastair Beveridge of The Build Directory and the Forman family.



**£2,000**

#### Women's Street Watch Boro

Women's Street Watch Boro provides first aid and safe routes home to all people who use Middlesbrough pubs, clubs and bars. They can often be seen handing out water, foil drink covers to prevent spiking, sanitary products and flipflops to avoid damage done by walking barefoot on the streets.

*Bethany McLean and Jess Taylor receive their donation from Hayley and Natalie of Patrons Knights PLC.*



**£1,750**

#### Senses Wellbeing Centre CIC

Senses offers sensory play sessions to children and adults and exercise classes for vulnerable adults and SEN children. They work with special educational needs schools in Brotton and Redcar and this year will offer internships to students aged 19-25 from Prior Pursglove SEN provision. Our donation will provide subsidised exclusive sensory sessions for struggling families and adult seated chair classes.

*Graham Morris of our Patrons Causeway Technologies with Karen Winspear and Sue Jones of Senses.*



**£5,000**

#### Blue Light Babies

Set up seven years ago by Jo Owen, Thornaby-based Blue Light Babies has more than 6,000 crafters across the country who supply free items to hospitals and nursing homes on Teesside and to A&E departments throughout the country. They also assist with projects such as 'chemo duck' - cuddly toys which are given to children with a cancer diagnosis. Blue Light Babies make and provide unique outfits for the ducks which the children choose from after completing invasive treatments and investigations.

*Kirsten Donkin of our Patrons PD Ports is pictured with Jo Owen and colleagues Sandra Harvey and Gina Hill of Blue Light Babies.*



**£2,500**

#### Don War Museum and Hub

The Don War Memorial Museum's rooms and walls are crammed with evocative military memorabilia and poignant tributes to our brave current and ex-servicemen and women. The Thornaby-based Hub is also a haven for vulnerable adults, providing breakfast clubs, regimental reunions and free veterans' Sunday lunches.

*Tracey Flanagan from Patrons Bulkhaul meets Don War Museum founder Julie Cooper.*



*Golden great - all the winners at the Riverside with our Patrons.*

**£1,500**

#### New Life Day Care and Family Centre

Offering inclusive childcare for those aged six weeks to 11 years, New Life caters for boys and girls with profound complex needs, providing an inspiring, stimulating and challenging learning environment and a safe, happy place for all children to develop, learn and play freely.

**£1,500**

#### Seaton Carew Community and Sports Club

SCCSC provides a range of free activities for the local community, holiday programmes for eight-to-10-year-olds and free family events with live music. The club aims to relieve social isolation and will spend its windfall on more activities and events for the community.

**£1,500**

#### Friends of Redcar Cemetery

This volunteer-run community group has looked after Redcar Cemetery for 18 years, with members sweeping, cleaning, preserving benches and restoring headstones. Our donation will aid the group's new project - a children's area with a Peter Rabbit theme.

**£1,000**

#### MAIN - Taking Autism Personally, The Big League CIC, Footprints in the Community

MAIN was founded in 2002 to provide short breaks for children with autism in Middlesbrough, and now supports people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities. The Big League CIC assists and supports the communities of Hartlepool to improve their lives, with a focus on poverty and opportunities for education, training, employment and voluntary roles, while Footprints in the Community provides a range of services including a food bank, a café and an art space to support people living in the Redcar and Cleveland area with the aim of reducing poverty and isolation and improving health and wellbeing.

**£500**

#### Footsteps Youth Wellbeing, Eaglescliffe, Coatham House, Redcar, Preloved Toys for the Community, Eston, Still Parents Teesside and Middlesbrough's Streets Ahead For Information

Footsteps Youth Wellbeing is a health centre for young people aged 11 to 19 which provides confidential advice and treatment for a range of problems. From Redcar, we honoured Coatham House, a charity working with the homeless and providing supported housing, resettlement, social letting plus training and volunteering opportunities for young people.

Preloved Toys for the Community, a not-for-profit organisation, offers toys, furniture and food to underprivileged families in Teesside, while over in Middlesbrough, Still Parents Teesside is a baby loss charity created by three bereaved parents who wanted to provide support to others. Streets Ahead For Information gives emotional and social support and assistance with food, bills and money to local people.



# A helping hand

Funds raised or donated by our kind Patrons and supporters are quickly given out to good causes across Teesside. Here are some of the fantastic groups and charities we've had the pleasure of supporting over the last few months



Smiles - Ken Devereux (left) with Stephen Picton at Fibro Connect.

## £3,305 to FIBRO CONNECT

**Visited by: Ken Devereux of our Patrons Devereux Transport and Distribution**

Thanks to your support, The Teesside Charity was able to help a very special Hartlepool man. Stephen Picton, a taxi driver for 24 years, was diagnosed with fibromyalgia, which changed his life.

Stephen told us: "I loved every minute of my job until the pain of driving became unbearable and my doctor advised me to stop. I also had a job as a community project co-ordinator for Poolie Time Exchange in Hartlepool, and once again lost this job due to time off with flare-ups."

Stephen spiralled into severe depression, leading to a stint in a mental health unit. Learning to come to terms with what was happening to him, he realised he didn't have anyone to talk to or relate to, so he decided to set up a page on Facebook called Fibro-Connect-TS.

Within weeks the group had 400 members talking to each other across Teesside. A support group in Hartlepool soon followed and Fibro-Connect-TS was born. Stephen has invested the money the charity gave him to help create a website and print banners, T-shirts and flyers. It also covered six months' rent for his support group meeting place.

Following our visit, Steven told us: "I have now spent the remaining money as promised and our meeting place is now safe until December 1. Thank you so much, each and every one of you. We simply would not be on this journey now with over 200 people walking through our doors without you all. Word is getting around Teesside about our group and our Facebook group has nearly 700 members, each chatting and gaining support. Fibro-connect-TS has saved 11 souls since January 2022. I am so proud I have stopped those individuals taking that dark path I did. From the bottom of my heart, God bless you all."



## £500 to Sprouts Community Food Charity

**Visited by: Helen Wilson of our Patrons Anderson Barrowcliff**

When Sprouts decided to launch a project called The Casserole Club, offering service users ways of making nutritious meals using very little electricity, we were happy to donate £500. This matched the £500 already raised by Sprouts. Thanks to your kind donations, the Casserole Club was able to hand out 40 slow cookers and recipes, and offer cooking workshops to those most in need.

Taking aim - Bill Scott plays with kids on his visit to Autism Parents Together.



## £5,000 to Autism Parents Together

**Visited by: our Trustee Bill Scott OBE**

Bill has never been one to turn down a challenge - and though he declined to wear green tights and leather boots, we knew he'd still love the outdoorsy activities that Autism Parents Together - Tees Valley had in mind for him during his March visit.

As you can see from our pictures, Bill was full of smiles, joining in with bow and arrow making, toasting marshmallows and other fun, parent-supported activities - much to the joy of his new young friends!

Autism Parents Together, based in Ingleby Barwick, were the big winners of our Golden Giveaway in December 2021, taking home a fantastic £5,000 prize, which they used to arrange socially inclusive activities for autistic children and young people.

Co-founders Nicola Bean and Karen Clayton were incredibly thankful to you, our supporters. And thanks to your amazing generosity, groups like Autism Parents Together can thrive and provide much needed support for autistic children and their families across the region.



## £2,000 each to four Teesside hospices

**Visited by: Mike Racz of our Patrons Racz Group**

Each year, thanks to your generous donations, The Teesside Charity is able to give £2,000 to four incredible hospices across our region - the Teesside Hospice in Middlesbrough, Zoe's Place Children's Hospice in Normanby, Butterwick Hospice in Stockton and Hartlepool's Alice House Hospice, vital organisations that rely on the generosity of people like you to continue their amazing work.



## £500 to The Chris Cave Foundation's Jubilee Party

**Visited by: Andrew Rowe of our Patrons Azets**

The Chris Cave Foundation is based in Redcar and does an amazing job of educating young people against knife and other violent crime. The charitable foundation had already raised £500 to ensure that the residents and children of their community enjoyed a street party for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. However, when further promised funding didn't materialise, we stepped in to match fund them with a further £500 - and a brilliant day was had by all!



# The chosen one

We'd like to say a huge thanks to the companies who have chosen us as their preferred charity. Your support really does mean the world to us.



## NATWEST MIDDLESBROUGH

NatWest Middlesbrough have been busy raising money in branch and have raised £560 so far. Mark Easby of our Patrons Better went along to meet Nikki Gough and David Lindberg, CEO of retail banking at NatWest, and the team to receive the money on The Teesside Charity's behalf.

The team at NatWest have said they would like the money to go towards our bed poverty appeal and are currently trying to raise enough to enable them to pay for 10 single beds.

What a wonderful gesture from you all!

Mark Easby of our Patrons Better (left) with David Lindberg and Nikki Gough of NatWest.

## Thank you, Vitality Stokesley!

We are over the moon to be named as Vitality Dental Care's chosen charity of the year.

As a commitment to The Teesside Charity's cause, the private practice based in Stokesley is aiming to raise £1,000 a year for us, which is a really fantastic gesture!

"As a practice, we are committing to supporting the Teesside Charity for the next one to two years, and most likely beyond this," said Vitality spokesperson Ben Smith.

"At this stage, the support will principally be in the form of funding and raising awareness through our social media and other channels, beginning with a fundraising raffle."

Thanks so much to all at Vitality Dental – we really do appreciate your support.



The fabulous team at Vitality, Stokesley.

Our Chosen Charity



**The Teesside Charity**

**WE'D LOVE TO BE YOUR CHOSEN CHARITY**

Having The Teesside Charity as recipient of your fundraising endeavours helps us more than you could imagine – and we'd love more of you to be involved.

Your event doesn't have to be huge – you may choose to do an office raffle, an inhouse cake bake, a coffee morning at home for your friends, a family car boot sale or sponsored walk. At the other end of the scale, your company may be considering supporting a charity at an awards ceremony or large event.

Any money raised is gratefully received, and every single penny goes to those most in need on Teesside.

**For more information on how to help, please contact**  
**mandy.s@teessidecharity.org.uk**

# A place in the sun



Home from home – one of our caravans at Reighton Sands.

We all need a break from the stresses of life, and we are thrilled that our caravans in Reighton Sands will do just that this year – with 183 families enjoying a well-earned break...

## SABRINA'S STORY

"I suffer with my mental health and I've been very depressed lately, so when I found out that The Teesside Charity had chosen me and my two children – Rebecca, five and Liam two – to go for a holiday to the caravan at Reighton Sands, I'm not ashamed to say I cried. it was a dream come true.

"I have no family in Middlesbrough and came here in 2015 from Grenada, fleeing domestic abuse.

"While I have very little, I have love in my heart and I'm so proud of my children. Rebecca is a very loving and intelligent girl who is doing really well at school, and Liam loves people – he loves to chat and is such a caring boy.

"My kids are my world and I always try to make sure the children never go without, but it's tough being a single mum. A holiday was definitely out of my reach.

"Thanks to you we have made the most amazing memories – I can't thank you enough.

"The holiday was wonderful. None of us had ever been to a beach and it was brilliant! The look on the children's faces was priceless.



"We swam in the pool and enjoyed the entertainment in the evening. You even gave us a shopping voucher so we didn't have to worry about spending money.

"I have come back from the break stronger and more determined than ever to get my life moving.

"I want to be independent, I want to work and above all, I want my children to be proud of me. This is just the boost I needed. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

## SAM'S STORY

"It was Newport School who put me and my children Grace, seven, and Alby, 10, forward for the trip to the caravan.

"It was our first ever holiday as a family and we were over the moon, especially when I found out that my mam could come too!

"We went from Monday to Friday and we made the best memories. We swam, we laughed, we were able to take a real break from the stresses of life and it was amazing.

"The best thing about the break was the bonding time. When you are getting children ready for school, doing housework and making sure your kids are fed and OK, there's very little time to just sit and have fun together – and that's what this break gave us.

"Mam and I were able to bond again too, especially when Grace and Alby realised there were some children from their school there who they really enjoyed playing with.

"Thank you so much to everyone who made this happen for us – the kids loved it and maybe one day we will be able to do it again. It's been the highlight of the year for us all."



# Fundraising

Thanks to people who took part in some fab events which have raised thousands for our charity

## FEBRUARY

### NIGHT OF HILARITY

**Raised: £2,500**

"It's the end of Plan B, lets party!" – that was comedienne Shonette Bason-Wood's war cry as she took to the stage at her unique and hilarious Happiness Injection Comedy Fundraiser – an event which raised £2,500 for The Teesside Charity and left our 100 guests clutching their sides with laughter!

Former teacher Shonette was, indeed, a tonic. Acknowledging that most of us have suffered from loneliness or isolation since Covid struck, she encouraged guests at the stunning Whinstone View near Great Ayton to sing, dance, play crazy bingo, indulge in 'pass the parcel' and generally mingle with one another – albeit while dressed in silver foil capes and 'playing' blow up saxophones!

A fab raffle with some prizes raised a further £750 which we donated to Shonette's special cause – her very own Spread the Happiness charity, which she set up to support families living below the poverty line through the provision of hampers.

## MAY

### LADIES' LUNCH

**GISBOROUGH HALL**  
**Raised: £4,500**

A big thank you to all the lovely ladies who attended our Ladies' Lunch at Gisborough Hall in May, with a particular shout out to guest speakers Chloe Clover and Lou Tonner from Middlesbrough's Wander Films for telling us all about their amazing business and personal journey. Also to the wonderful Caroline Theobald who hosted the lunch and to Pat from CAUSE Foundation for highlighting the issue of bed poverty and telling us how we can help.



From left: Lou, Clover and Charlotte from Wander Films.

## APRIL

### THE LITTLE TEES SLEEPOUT

**Raised: £16,500**

What an amazing effort by representatives of our generous Patrons and Infant Hercules Club members – 15 of whom gave up their beds for the night to raise money to help the most vulnerable Teessiders.

Braving freezing temperatures at AV Dawson's Port of Middlesbrough HQ as part of our first Little Tees Sleepout, the gutsy men and women were allowed sleeping bags, mats and warm clothes, while Mandy and Diane from our team supplied them with hot drinks throughout the night and Brian Jones of Stockton's The Moses Project reminded everyone what they were doing the sleepout for.

The funds raised will be used to help The Moses Project and other local causes who support those suffering homelessness or addiction.

A big well done once again to:  
Andrew Rowe of Azets UK  
Alisdair Beveridge of The Build Directory  
Charlie Nettle of AV Dawson Limited  
Bev Goodall of AbacusBean  
Ben Lowes & Ben Warburton of Crystal Galleries



Little Tees Sleepout attendees.

Jess Wilkinson of Active Chartered Financial Planners  
Jenny Logan & Chloe Citro of Bulkhaul  
Richard Ayton of InBond  
Michael Shuker & Jean Pierre Van Ziel of Square One Law  
Niall Bradley of Anderson Barrowcliff  
Dave Allan of Tees Business  
Matthew Telling of Middlesbrough College

## MARCH

### SKYDIVE

**Raised: £4,500**



Skydive – Dave Radford, who jumped as Peppa Pig, is aged 71 and raised £2,500!!

A brave group of our supporters leapt from 10,000ft, achieving speeds of 120mph when they completed a charity skydive to raise money for us.

Dave Radford, Tracey Cuthbertson from Meldrum Construction, Andrew Peacock, Stephen Bowes, Tony Whitehead, Shona Borwell and Gemma Lowes from our patrons Azets UK and Craig Feeney from our Patrons The Endeavour Partnership were all amazing, helping us to continue to support so many local community groups and charities across Teesside.

# Dates for your diary

Why not get involved with some of the wonderful charity events we have taking place over the coming months...



### Skydive

**Date: September 3**  
**Time: 8am – 12pm**

Imagine sitting at the edge of an open doorway in an aircraft flying at 10,000ft, the noise of the engines and the wind ringing in your ears with only the outline of distant fields below.

Now imagine leaning forward out of that doorway and letting go, falling forward into the blue sky, skydiving down through the air as you start free-falling up to 120mph!

Well, imagine no more! We have secured five places to skydive at the Durham Parachute Centre in Shotton Colliery on Saturday, September 3 from 8am.

There is a £50 entry fee and we ask participants to raise £395 in sponsorship – are you brave enough to sign up?

### Great North Run

**Date: September 11**

Want to take part in the world's biggest half marathon? We have guaranteed places available!

Entry fee is £60, and we ask runners to raise £300 in sponsorship.

All who take part will receive a running vest and there will be a space in the charity village where runners can receive a well-deserved massage and refreshments.



### Big Teesside Sleepout

**Date: October 14**  
**Time: 8pm – 6am**

Just one night away from your warm bed means you can do something amazing – raise money and awareness for the ongoing issue of homelessness and poverty on Teesside.

We promise you a night that will change your perceptions of the homeless forever. Simply bring along warm clothes, a sleeping bag and pillow and we'll provide access to hot drinks and toilets throughout the night.

The money raised will also help us to stock local food banks, provide children's presents for the Salvation Army Toy Appeal and support homeless initiatives on Teesside.

There is a £10 entry fee for the sleepout which will go towards food parcels at a local food bank, providing vital assistance for fellow Teessiders in crisis.

### Ladies' Lunch

**Date: December 1**  
**Time: 11am**

Members of Teesside's female business community are in for another treat when we hold our next Ladies' Lunch at Hardwick Hall Hotel on Thursday, December 1.

Tickets are £37.50 per person, which includes a welcome drinks reception from 11am, time to browse the many gift stalls and a two-course lunch with wine, followed by our guest speaker Laura Ashurst from Living With Hope.

Laura teaches mindfulness and mindfulness meditation and is passionate about its benefits for mental wellbeing. It has helped her enormously to live with the uncertainty around her future that secondary breast cancer presents.

For more information on our charity events, please email [mandy.s@teessidecharity.org.uk](mailto:mandy.s@teessidecharity.org.uk) call 01642 686018 or visit our website [teessidecharity.org.uk/events](http://teessidecharity.org.uk/events)



# Our Patrons

The generosity and commitment of The Teesside Charity's Trustees and Patrons is helping to shine a spotlight on Teesside for all the right reasons – from willingness to give, to the strength of our private sector and the area's ambitions for a more positive future. Thank you to every one of them.



## OUR TRUSTEES

Lee Bramley, Emily Bentley, Alisdair Beveridge, Ian Gordon, Karl Pemberton, Harriet Spalding, Ian Stark, Andrew Rowe, Bill Scott OBE, Sarah Hale.