



Havens
Hospices

Fair Havens for Life – One Year On

Every gift

Every dig

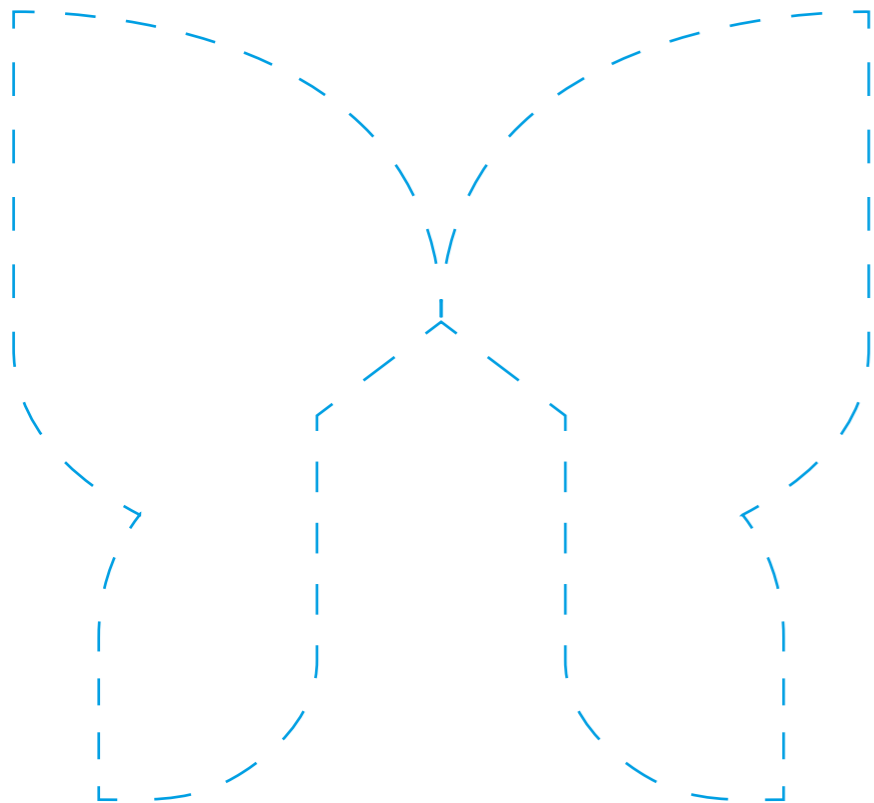
Every brick

Every one of us

Making every day count.



Fair Havens for Life – One Year On



On 9th March 2020, the first patient entered the new Fair Havens Hospice in Prittlewell. Although the actual construction took just 65 weeks, this project was more than a decade in the making.

It's thanks to supporters like you, that this patient – and hundreds after them – have been able to stay at the hospice. This may have been for respite, to control their symptoms and medication or support at the end of their life, families guided through the last weeks or days of their loved one's life.

It's been quite the journey. Coronavirus struck just two weeks after our doors opened, and although the hospice care has been continuing throughout the pandemic, we never had the chance for an official celebration.

This may come at a later date, but for now we're using this milestone as an opportunity to pay tribute – to the hospice, to the patients, and to you, the supporters who made it happen.





Our History

Fair Havens was founded in the early 1980's by a group of people who wanted to improve care for those at the end of their life. The original hospice, on Chalkwell Avenue, was two converted houses. Throughout the next three decades, Fair Havens cared for thousands of local people and supported countless family members. Despite improvements and modifications, the building was deemed no longer fit for purpose. We were turning away 11 patients every month because the right beds were not available for them so work began on finding a new home for Fair Havens.

Our vision was to create a larger, modern hospice in Southend that could care for twice as many patients, offer more treatments and support more families in a welcoming and therapeutic environment which contrasts with the stark, clinical atmosphere many people want to avoid at the end of their lives.

Timeline

May 2018
'Fair Havens for Life' appeal launched to raise remaining £2.5 million

August 2018
Planning permission granted for final layout, designed by LSI Architects

January 2019
Steel frame structure in place



October 2018
'Turning of the Sod' marks first dig at the site, Barnes Construction commence the project



March 2019
Original founder Daphne Hall MBE visits with Bournes Green Primary School



February 2020
Official handover from Barnes Construction to Havens Hospices and time capsule buried with messages from thousands of supporters



August 2019
'Topping Out' as final piece of the roof is put in place



2nd March 2020
Start tours, showing more than 1,000 supporters around the new building

9th March 2020
First patient stays at In Patient Unit

16th March 2020
Coronavirus pandemic forces lockdown, but Fair Havens stays open



"It was the amount of light within the room which struck me first. It's beautiful and airy, with plenty of space in which we can care for the patient which will make such a difference for them and their family."
Louise, Fair Havens Nurse

The difference a year can make

The pandemic has forced us to work in ways which we never thought was possible. We opened all our bedrooms immediately to help relieve pressure on our local NHS services. Our 'day hospice' area - known as the Hub - was leased to help Southend Hospital cope with the backlog of blood tests. We've reconfigured our Bistro to accommodate a mass-testing programme for all visitors, which means patients can see their loved ones.

Yet thanks to your donations we've still been able to:

- Care for 40% more patients
- Reduce the time between referral to admittance to around 24 hours
- Create special memories by organising weddings, hosting an art exhibition and creating an early Christmas for patients



Alan was supported by Fair Havens and its Hospice at Home Team. He spoke to us about the importance of the hospice before he died in spring 2020.

“ I used to drive past the new Fair Havens in Prittlewell as it was being built, and now I've stayed there I can see for myself what a nice place it is for patients and families. We need to keep this hospice. If people weren't still making donations, it wouldn't exist for people like me. ”



Many of our patients are unable to have a bath at home because their pain means it's difficult to get in and out of a standard bath.

Nursing Assistant Alexandra said,

“ This particular bath is a good alternative to taking a shower for our patients. It's easier to either sit up or lay down and it's possible to wear oxygen if the patient has difficulty breathing. The bubbles can be directed at the feet or back (or both!) and there's beautiful, calming lighting too. It even has a USB port so we can play music. It's a real treat for them and we're so grateful to have it as part of our new hospice. ”





Making Memories

Mark stayed at Fair Havens to help control pain and nausea caused by stage 4 oesophageal cancer. Because of regular testing and available PPE, his wife Marianne could visit.

66 There are no words to describe the difference Fair Havens has made during my stay here. I was in pain and had anxiety about visiting the hospice because of the myth that it's a place where you go to die. But everyone has put me at ease. 99

New Fair Havens – In Numbers

300^{m3}
of concrete in the foundations



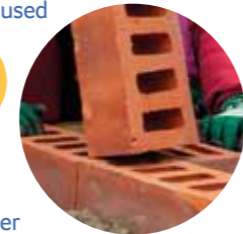
78 tonnes of steel frame



650^{m2} of carpet
Over 94,000 bricks were used



145 external windows and doors



60 rolls of wallpaper

Lighthouse Artwork Honours Heritage

One of the standout features of the hospice is the stained glass window within the Sanctuary, a place for thought, reflection or prayer. It was designed and created by artist Sarah Galloway as an acknowledgement to Vera and Ivan Heath who donated more than £4 million to start the project. Sadly, they have both since died but their legacy lives on.

The lighthouse symbols comes from a Bible passage, “Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens.” (Acts 27:8)

Sarah says, “Using the original lighthouse logo from when the charity was created in 1983, I developed the theme looking at light rays cast out by a lighthouse, in an abstract way.”



“It was a great honour to produce this for Fair Havens. It was a big responsibility because we had to acknowledge the charity’s history, but also interpret this to create a contemporary design. It is a shame that Ivan and Vera didn’t get to see this, but their kindness and generosity hopefully lives on through this art.”

Fair Havens for Life – Fundraising Heroes

Thousands of local people contributed to the creation of the new Fair Havens which will serve the population of Southend, Castle Point and Rochford for future generations.



The Essex Mark Master Masons donated more than £90,000 to purchase 17 specialist beds for the hospice.

Havens Hospices volunteer Bob Harvey initiated the donation, made via The Mark Benevolent Fund.

Local sports journalist Chris ran multiple marathons and football themed fundraisers, raising more than £25,000 for new Fair Havens.



Local MP James Duddridge ran the London Marathon to raise money for the project.

Former Havens Hospices Chaplain Jane Guest wrote a book which raised £1,200.



A group of Fair Havens Nurses did a charity skydive to support the hospice they'd soon be working in.

Staff at Olympus Keymed raised more than £74,000 to create the hospice's reception and furnish a wellbeing room.



From the Care Floor

Sharon Dines
Ward Sister

“What our Care Team has achieved is actually quite phenomenal. We were in a brand new building, still trying to work out where things were when the pandemic struck. There was a lot of fear. We all do infection control training but nothing quite prepares you for a virus which is unknown. The PPE guidance was changing regularly, but the staff were really resilient. They kept coming to work, looking after each other as well as the patients.”



Despite everything they've faced, I still see strength and hope in my team. In between the first two lockdowns in spring and summer, we could open the doors, welcome some visitors and the laughter came back. That really does inspire me to keep going because those days will come again.”



Louise McKay
Senior Nurse

“I was privileged enough to be involved in the design of the rooms and the layout, and having worked in such a difficult building, I just knew exactly what we needed.”



When I first came here, I was blown away with how well it's worked. The building is light, bright and clean, and the bedroom spaces are really, really lovely for the patients and their loves ones. They have space, can see out of the windows and even the beds and chairs can be wheeled out into the gardens.

I remember being quite emotional when we first saw the structure and footings, but actually walking in when it was completed – I just feel so honoured to work here.”



Protecting the future of local hospice care

If you've already made a donation towards the new Fair Havens, on behalf of the patients, families and nursing teams – thank you. Your gift, no matter what the size, has helped us get to where we are today – providing round-the-clock, frontline hospice care for those with complex or incurable conditions.

Our care remains free – we don't charge a penny to patients or their families for our specialist nursing care and support. But we need to ensure this continues, to protect the hospice for future generations. The Coronavirus pandemic affected our ability to raise money with the cancellation of all public events. We're now experiencing a 41% decrease against the income we'd planned from our fundraising activity and events.

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How can I help?

One of the easiest ways to support the charity is to set up a small, regular gift such as £3 a month and become a Havens Hospices 'Special Friend.' To do this, visit havenshospices.org.uk/donate or call **01702 220 310**.

A donation that will cost nothing during your lifetime is to pledge a gift in your Will to Havens Hospices. A legacy of any size will mean your gift will have a lasting effect for local people after you've died. Scan here for more details



Photography courtesy of Havens Hospices, Anna Lukala, Barnes Construction, Our Frontline, Echo Newspapers, Paul Tait

havenshospices.org.uk

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