New Chief Executive takes the helm

A registered nurse and former hospice care director has been appointed Chief Executive of St Richard’s Hospice. June Patel, who joined St Richard’s as Care Director in 2011, has taken the helm from former Chief Executive Mark Jackson, who retired in May this year.

A background in nursing has given June an in depth understanding of the healthcare sector and she is passionate about providing and improving hospice care to patients, their loved ones and bereaved people across Worcestershire.

During her time at the hospice, June, who is from Droitwich, has helped shape a wide range of developments in patient and family care for those living with life-limiting illnesses in the county.

“I feel honoured and privileged to have been appointed the new Chief Executive of our wonderful hospice - a much loved charity that has grown over the last 33 years and which will continue to develop thanks to the dedicated board of governors, staff, volunteers and generous support and goodwill from our community,” said June.

“I have a real passion for local healthcare and I’m looking forward to building on the achievements which Mark has led over the last decade, putting our patients and their loved ones at the heart of all we do.”

June is a Registered Nurse (Adult) with a BSc (Hons) in Nursing and holds a Masters in Sociological Research in Healthcare having graduated from Warwick University.

Her previous appointments in the NHS include Managing Director/Executive Nurse of Shropshire Primary Care Trust, Director of Clinical Services and Nursing of South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust and Director of Nursing of Worcestershire Community and Mental Health Trust.

Outlining her priorities as Chief Executive, she said: “I want to ensure we continually consider the needs of our patients and continue to be very ambitious in terms of how we support them.

“We have to think about ways in which our services can be shaped slightly differently in order to support those people at different phases of their diagnosis.

“Our overall aim is to provide a wide spectrum of care to a whole range of different groups. We work really closely with other NHS and social care providers in Worcestershire to provide the best care for patients.

“The hospice isn’t just about supporting people towards the end of life. What we try to do every day with the patients is to help them and support them to live their lives to their best ability.”
Daughter praises ‘amazing’ hospice care

A loving daughter from Worcester has described the “amazing” care her mother received at St Richard’s Hospice.

Gillian Pat Barlow – who was known as Pat – was admitted to St Richard’s in June 2015, after being diagnosed with lung cancer earlier that year.

Mrs Barlow became so unwell her daughter, Anne Eyre, decided to contact St Richard’s and she was settled into the hospice’s In-patient Unit the next day.

Mrs Eyre, aged 42, said: “From the moment mum arrived at St Richard’s, waiting for her to die stopped being so agonising. She felt safe and secure.

“Mum knew that the hospice would look after and enable her to die with dignity and with her pain well-managed. She also knew that it would give us the time and space to make some memories, especially with her two grandsons.

“She told the staff at the hospice how she wanted to die. By doing this and being listened to, she was released from some of her fears and was able to find the strength to live again, to enjoy spending time with her family and friends instead of just waiting for the end.”

Mrs Barlow was 68 when she died after celebrating her last birthday at the hospice. After her death, Mrs Barlow’s daughter and grandchildren continued to be supported by St Richard’s.

“Perhaps I might have thought that returning to the hospice would be painful after Mum died there but it isn’t; the whole building is suffused with love, respect, positivity, understanding, compassion and comfort,” added Mrs Eyre.

“The hospice is like the best friend I can imagine having, always there and always noticing when I need them.”

Hundreds of people shared messages of what they hope to achieve before they die on a giant blackboard earlier this year.

During May, St Richard’s Hospice set up the four-sided board in Evesham and Worcester as part of Dying Matters Awareness Week – a national campaign highlighting the importance of talking about death, dying and bereavement.

More than 1,000 people engaged with the ‘Before I Die’ board, with many using chalk to write down their hopes, dreams and how they would like to be remembered.

Comments ranged from serious, emotional messages – such as ‘to make my parents proud’ – to light-hearted wishes, including ‘to eat pancakes in America’.

The aim was to create a friendly space for people to ask questions about end of life care issues, such as making a Will, planning a funeral or coping with bereavement.

Alice Spearing, St Richard’s Engagement Officer, organised the board with the hospice’s Family Support Team.

She said: “We were really pleased that we sparked interest among the community and it was great to have positive conversations around people’s wishes regarding death, dying and bereavement.”

For more information about Dying Matters visit www.dyingmatters.org

Get set to celebrate Hospice Care Week

This year’s Hospice Care Week is focussing on the theme ‘We are Hospice Care’.

To celebrate the annual campaign, which runs from Monday 9th October to Sunday 15th October, we are preparing a range of activities aimed at changing people’s perception of hospice care.

One of the best ways to discover what we are all about is to come and visit us at our next free open day on Sunday 15th October from 12 noon to 3pm.

Guests can discover more about our free care and support, meet hospice staff and take a tour of the hospice and gardens. There will also be the chance to learn about our volunteering opportunities and forthcoming fundraising activities, while enjoying tea and cake.

To book your place call Isobel Mathews on 01905 763963, email imathews@strichards.org.uk or visit www.strichardsopenafternoon.eventbrite.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you.

We provide care, love and respect
At St Richard’s we are passionate about continually improving the experience of patients, families, carers and bereaved people who use our services. Listening into Action (LIA) is a forum of people supported by the hospice who regularly meet to discuss ways in which our services can be improved further. If you would like to get involved as a member of LIA, please contact the health professional involved in your care and they will connect you with the group.

Men living with life-limiting illnesses had the chance to learn about hospice care at St Richard’s first Men’s Day. Guests were invited to tour the hospice and enjoy various activities including complementary therapy, a cookery and taster demonstration by hospice head chef Kevin Ratcliffe; sessions on relaxation, visualisation and managing your everyday life; wine tasting; card games and tricks by talented magicians; a music corner and T’ai Chi.

After lunch there was a talk by Jim O’Toole, the former CEO of Worcester Warriors.

Matt Jackson, Family Support Practitioner, said: “The event was aimed at giving men with a life-limiting illness the chance to come and visit the hospice, learn more about our care and to experience some of the wonderful activities we have to offer. “The day was enjoyable, full of laughter and focussed on patients living well with their illness.”

Feedback from the day included: “It was informative, entertaining and most enjoyable. I appreciated the welcoming atmosphere and look forward to joining Men’s Space sessions in the near future.”

St Richard’s runs a weekly patient group called Men’s Space, which offers men under the care of the hospice a place to relax and meet others facing similar situations.

First hospice Men’s Day a great success

At the end of the project the giraffes will be auctioned to raise funds for the free, on-going care offered by St Richard’s. The giraffes will be joined by at least 25 giraffe calf sculptures crafted by students and teachers in local schools. The smaller sculptures will also be displayed in the city centre during the trail.

Worcester Stands Tall is supported by presenting partners Worcestershire Ambassadors and CrownGate, education partner West Midland Safari Park and media partners Free Radio and Worcester News.

There is still time to sign up and sponsor a giraffe. To find out more or to discuss sponsorship opportunities call 01905 763963 and ask for Tricia Cavell, email enquiries@worcesterstandstall.org.uk or visit www.WorcesterStandsTall.co.uk

Follow Worcester Stands Tall at facebook.com/WorcesterStandsTall, Twitter.com/WorcStandsTall and Instagram.com/worcesterstands

Listening into Action

Giraffes set to stand tall in Worcester

The biggest public art event ever seen in Worcester will take the city by storm next year when majestic giraffes stand tall in our midst.

At least 25 beautifully decorated giraffe sculptures will be dotted around the city for 10 weeks in Summer 2018 for Worcester Stands Tall – a Wild in Art event brought to the city by St Richard’s Hospice.

Tricia Cavell, Fundraising Director at St Richard’s, said: “Worcester Stands Tall will be an amazing adventure and is hugely important to St Richard’s Hospice. “Not only will it inspire civic pride and conversation and give people an opportunity to get active on a free and fun day out, but we also hope to raise a significant sum towards the compassionate care and support we give to thousands of people each year.”

The sculptures are being funded by companies and individuals around the county and will be decorated by regional and national artists.

Members can take time out, do light gardening, enjoy visits, listen to guest speakers and share their experiences with others.

Men’s Space recently opened a new shed and greenhouse in the hospice gardens, where they are already busy growing vegetables.

To celebrate the new additions, there was a grand opening ceremony attended by Men’s Space members, staff and Tesco representatives who helped fund the greenhouse through the supermarket’s Bags of Help scheme.

All our services are provided free of charge
St Richard's Hospice has joined forces with other hospices across the country for The Big Get Together. We would love as many people as possible to take part in this campaign, which aims to bring people together and raise funds to support their local hospice. The Big Get Together is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your friends, family and colleagues at a fun event – while raising funds for, and awareness of, hospice care. Holding your own Big Get Together event is the ideal way to remember a special person on a special date, celebrating their life while enjoying the company of your friends and family. The best part is that you decide what sort of hospice-tality you offer: it could be a PJs, Popcorn and Pizza night, a barbecue or a just a chance for a natter! October is The Big Get Together month, with a focus on events and fundraising efforts during Hospice Care Week which runs from Monday 9th October to Sunday 15th October. However, you are welcome to hold a Get Together at any time, particularly if you have a special date in mind. All we ask is that you have fun and that your guests donate to the hospice to help us continue to provide our expert care and support to patients, loved ones and bereaved people across Worcestershire. For more information and to sign up, visit www.TheBigGetTogether.org.uk/strch. If you’re not able to host your own event, feel free to come along to our Big Get Together Breakfast or Lunch events hosted with Primrose Hospice and KEMP Hospice. For details see page 8.

Help the hospice with the Big Get Together

St Richard's Hospice has joined forces with other hospices across the country for the Big Get Together. We would love as many people as possible to take part in this campaign, which aims to bring people together and raise funds to support their local hospice.

The Big Get Together is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with your friends, family and colleagues at a fun event – while raising funds for, and awareness of, hospice care.

Holding your own Big Get Together event is the ideal way to remember a special person on a special date, celebrating their life while enjoying the company of your friends and family.

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All we ask is that you have fun and that your guests donate to the hospice to help us continue to provide our expert care and support to patients, loved ones and bereaved people across Worcestershire.

For more information and to sign up, visit www.TheBigGetTogether.org.uk/strch. If you’re not able to host your own event, feel free to come along to our Big Get Together Breakfast or Lunch events hosted with Primrose Hospice and KEMP Hospice. For details see page 8.

Activity weekend supports bereaved children

Children and adults attended a weekend of activities run by the St Richard’s Family Support team in May. Guests enjoyed a variety of activities including boating and a low ropes course at Aztec Adventure in Upton Warren. The group also spent time at the hospice in Wildwood Drive, Worcester, creating feelings jars, telling their story and decorating plant pots.

Social Worker Rebecka Sparks said: “The focus of the weekend was to improve family relationships, encourage talking about the loss of a loved one and develop coping strategies for the future.

“The weekend created a safe space for families to talk about their grief with other people who are going through a similar experience, and it also allowed them to have fun as a family and with other people.

“This combination of therapeutic and fun activities give families permission to have fun whilst also grieving for a loved one, something which can be quite difficult for families to acknowledge and accept.”

The weekend was funded by Children in Need.

Hundreds take part in Superhero Challenge

More than 600 Wonder Women, Supermen, Incredible Hulks, Spidermen, Batmen – and women – ran the St Richard’s Superhero Challenge at the sun-drenched University of Worcester Lakeside Campus, in Holt. Runners from across Worcestershire – and beyond – scaled inflatable obstacles, scrambled through flurries of foam and dropped down slides before triumphantly crossing the finish line to collect their well-deserved medals.

More than £40,000 was raised to support the hospice’s care.

Many of the participants ran in memory of a loved one cared for by St Richard’s, while dozens of touching tributes to friends and relatives were left on a ‘Superhero Gallery’ board during the day.

Runners enjoy the Superhero Challenge, photo Sebastian Stead

Your regular donation helps us plan for the future
This summer we celebrated the dedicated work of nearly 1,000 volunteers across the St Richard’s Hospice community. We hosted a special cheese and wine evening for our volunteers in appreciation of their hard work supporting patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families over the last year.

John Bawden, Chairman of Governors at St Richard’s, said: “On behalf of all the patients and their families that we care for, I would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who work so tirelessly in every area of the St Richard’s community. “Without them it would be extremely difficult to fund the services and provide the support we give.”

More than 900 active volunteers help support every aspect of St Richard’s life – from working in charity shops and fundraising to supporting patients in their own homes, hospice administration and bringing their life-skills to support the compassionate care the hospice provides.

Over the last financial year, volunteers gave up 141,830 hours of their time to help care for patients and families, saving the hospice £1,050,818.

A total of 28,609 of volunteers’ hours were given to patient services, saving the hospice £245,347.

Did you know we have a small team of St Richard’s Nurse Specialists who work from a base in our Malvern Link charity shop, so they can spend as much time as possible caring for patients in the town?

Dedicated volunteers have been presented with awards after tirelessly donating their time to St Richard’s Hospice. Volunteer drivers Mary and Mike Hammond, from Evesham, were presented with The Geoff Palmer Vocational Award 2017 from The Rotary Club of Worcester Severn after clocking up more than 80,000 miles for the hospice.

The couple began volunteering for St Richard’s in 2010 and between them have driven countless patients to sessions at the Day Hospice, appointments at the Snowdrop Centre, to carers meetings, family support groups clinics and home again.

Hana Reid, who also lives in Evesham, had more than 30-years of dedicated voluntary work honoured with a medal from the League of Mercy Foundation this July.

The former nurse was nominated by St Richard’s to receive the accolade – which is titled Badge of the Order of Mercy – and collected it at a special ceremony held at Mansion House in London.

She has volunteered at St Richard’s Hospice since its beginnings in the early 1980s and has given up her time in a whole range of roles including driving, bathing patients, sitting with patients in the In-patient unit, gardening and much more.

Meet our Malvern community nursing team

Did you know we have a small team of St Richard’s Nurse Specialists who work from a base in our Malvern Link charity shop, so they can spend as much time as possible caring for patients in the town?

Nurse Specialists Cheryline Fletcher (pictured) and Kate Smith, along with Senior Staff Nurse Becky Nendick, support patients and their loved ones in the Malvern area.

They offer expert advice on managing symptoms and work closely with the patient’s GP and other healthcare teams to ensure they receive high quality, co-ordinated care.

In the last year our Community Nursing Team supported more than 1,200 patients in Worcestershire, making an invaluable difference to a patient’s quality of life.

Join our team www.strichards.org.uk/careers
Write your Will during hospice campaign month

A month-long Will writing campaign led by St Richard’s Hospice is set to return this September.

During the hospice’s Write a Will Month campaign, a trio of Worcestershire solicitors’ firms will offer people the opportunity to write a simple Will for £95, or a double Will for £150 – with 100 per cent of the money donated to St Richard’s.

The firms taking part are Harrison Clark Rickerbys and Scaiff LLP Solicitors, in Worcester, and Kitcat and Co Solicitors, based in Malvern.

To contact Harrison Clark Rickerbys, based in Deansway, Worcester, call Rachael Wheeler on 01905 678554 or email rwheler@hrclaw.com

For Scaiff LLP, based in Foregate Street, Worcester, call Kimberley Gaffey on 01905 727700 or email kgaffey@scaiff.co.uk

And to reach Kitcat and Co Solicitors, in Avenue Road, Malvern, call David Kitcat on 01684 342173 or email dk@kitcat.legal

For further details call the Fundraising team on 01905 763963, or visit www.strichards.org.uk/event/writeawill/

Hospice shops grow and change

There have been exciting developments with a number of our wonderful hospice shops in recent months.

Our Upton shop (pictured) has undergone an expansion which was completed earlier this summer, just in time for the busy Upton Blues Festival weekend.

In just four days over the festival period, a tremendous £4,900 was taken by staff and volunteers, while 762 customers were served. A total of 495 items of ladies’ clothing and 102 items of men’s were sold, along with 268 books, 40 pairs of wellies and more than 30 straw hats.

Elsewhere in the county, work is underway to open our first charity shop in Kidderminster. The new shop will feature a large bookstore on the first floor, with the ground level dedicated to fashion.

It is hoped the shop will be ready for opening in September.

Stocks and shares

Do you have a few shares that would cost more to sell than they are worth? Then why not donate them? You can fill out a donation form and ShareGift will help you with the rest.

ShareGift specialise in collecting small holdings of shares until they have enough to sell and then they make charitable donations to suggested charities.

For a donation form please contact appeals@strichards.org.uk or call 01905 763963. Don’t forget to mention you are a supporter of St Richard’s Hospice when donating your shares.

Tell us your mailing preferences

From time to time we would like to keep in touch to keep you up to date with our hospice news, events and activities. Knowing your preferences means that we can be more cost effective with our communications and ensure that we contact you in the way that you wish to hear from us.

Please write to the Fundraising Administration department at St Richard’s Hospice, Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR5 2QT, call the team on 01905 763963, or email enquiries@strichards.org.uk
The most glamorous event in the hospice calendar is set to return this winter. Last year’s glittering Snowdrop Ball saw 300 guests enjoy a delicious dinner and dance the night away in support of St Richard’s. More than £26,000 was raised for the hospice.

This year’s party will be held at Sixways Stadium in Hindlip, near Worcester, on Saturday 25th November from 7.30pm. The Snowdrop Ball is sponsored by Britannia Bennetts of Malvern. Tickets are priced at £55. To reserve tickets or discuss other sponsorship packages please contact Ria Simons on 01905 763963 or email rsimons@strichards.org.uk

Lights of Love brings together thousands of people each year to remember and celebrate those most special to them. It’s a time to reflect upon the good times you shared together, especially around Christmas, whilst also helping to provide St Richard’s free specialist care and support.

This year, there will be five Lights of Love events offering you the chance to honour the special memories of your loved ones. Kindly sponsored by Andrew Grant.

The events will take place on:

- **Friday 3rd November**
  Worcester Cathedral
- **Tuesday 14th November**
  Sacred Heart Church, Droitwich
- **Thursday 30th November**
  Pershore Abbey
- **Tuesday 5th December**
  Great Malvern Priory, Malvern
- **Thursday 21st December**
  Carols in the Car Park, St Richard’s Hospice, Worcester

If you would like to dedicate a light, or make a donation, visit [www.strichards.org.uk/lightsoflove](http://www.strichards.org.uk/lightsoflove)

Get your glad rags on for Snowdrop Ball

The most glamorous event in the hospice calendar is set to return this winter. Last year’s glittering Snowdrop Ball saw 300 guests enjoy a delicious dinner and dance the night away in support of St Richard’s. More than £26,000 was raised for the hospice.

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Get into the Christmas spirit in opulent surroundings at the St Richard's Festive Lunch.

The event will be held at Stanbrook Abbey in Callow End, near Worcester, on Thursday 7th December, between 10.30am and 4pm. Guests will enjoy a three – course Christmas menu accompanied by tea, coffee, mince pies and a complimentary glass of wine in the Garden Pavilion. Before lunch, there will be the exclusive opportunity to do a spot of shopping in the Abbey’s Thompson Hall.

Tickets are priced at £35 per person. To reserve your table contact: Isobel Mathews on 01905 763963 or imathews@strichards.org.uk

The lunch is sponsored by Bodega Womenswear and Knight Frank.

Let us recycle your Christmas tree

Take the hassle out of your post-festive clear up and support St Richard’s Hospice at the same time in a special Christmas tree recycling scheme. We will send out teams of volunteers to collect trees around the county on January 12th, 13th and 14th – and in return will ask people to make a donation to support the hospice.

This year, we are calling for more volunteers to spare a few hours of their time to help us collect Christmas trees for recycling.

If you could volunteer to help, would like your tree collecting or if your business would like to get involved contact Jayne Sargeant on 01905 763963 or email jsargeant@strichards.org.uk

Calling all daredevil santas!

Have you always wanted to do a skydive? Or are you looking for a twist on an old favourite?

Then why not take part in our group tandem Santa Skydive day on Saturday 9th December and help raise funds for St Richard’s Hospice?

No experience is necessary as training – along with free Santa suits – will be provided on the day. Places are limited to 10 Santas, so register now to secure your place.

For more information call 01905 763963, email fundraising@strichards.org.uk or visit [www.strichards.org.uk/Santa-skydive](http://www.strichards.org.uk/Santa-skydive) for an application pack.

Pull on your best festive fancy dress and put your best foot forward for our Christmas 5K run, jog – or walk!

Our Yuletide Jog takes place on Sunday 3rd December at The Valley in Evesham from 10am.

Participants can get creative and dress in any costume they choose – and there will be prizes for the best-dressed runners on the day.

Contact Kelly Johns, Fundraiser, on 01905 763963 or email kjohns@strichards.org.uk for more information.
Forthcoming events

**September**
- **Sat 16th**  Worcester Concert Brass 35th Anniversary Concert, Nunnery Wood High School, Worcester, WR5 2LT, 7pm. Tickets £5.
  For tickets email bookings@worcesterconcertbrass.org.uk.
- **Thu 21st**  Autumn/Winter Fashion Show, The Bank House Hotel, Bransford, 6.30pm.
  Tickets £15 from www.strichards.org.uk/event/shifashionshow/ or call the Déjà Vu hospice shop on 01684 577890.
- **Sun 24th**  Norton Fun Run and 5k Walk, Join the Norton Community Trust Fun Run featuring a 5km/10km run along the quiet lanes of Norton, Worcestershire.
  Visit www.strichards.org.uk/norton-fun-run/

**October**
- **Tue 10th**  Big Get Together Corporate Breakfast, Chateau Impney, Droitwich, 8am.
  Tickets £35 per person or £300 for table of 10.
  Contact Alice Brunt on 01905 763963, email abrunt@strichards.org.uk or visit www.strichards.org.uk/event/bgtbreakfast/
- **Thu 12th**  Big Get Together Lunch, Chateau Impney, Droitwich, 1pm. Tickets £35 per person.
  Contact Alice Brunt on 01905 763963, email abrunt@strichards.org.uk or visit www.strichards.org.uk/event/bgtchapteauimpneylunch/
- **Sun 15th**  Open afternoon, St Richard’s Hospice, Worcester, WRR 2QT, 12pm. Free.
  Come along and learn more about the hospice’s free, specialist care.
  To book your place call Isobel Mathews on 01905 763963, email imathews@strichards.org.uk or visit www.strichardsopenafternoon.eventbrite.co.uk

**November**
- **Fri 3rd**  Lights of Love Service, Worcester Cathedral, 2.30pm and 6.30pm-7pm, Kindly supported by Great Witley Operatic Society. Tickets £8 in advance online or £10 on the door.
  To book tickets www.strichards.org.uk/event/lights-of-love-service/
- **Tue 14th**  Lights of Love Service, Sacred Heart Church, Droitwich 6pm, contact Emma Price on 01905 763963 or email eprice@strichards.org.uk
- **Thu 30th**  Lights of Love Service, Pershore Abbey, 2.15pm, contact Emma Price on 01905 763963 or email eprice@strichards.org.uk

**December**
- **Fri 1st**  Christmas concert with Worcester Concert Brass, St Peter’s Church, Worcester, WR5 3TZ, 7.30pm. For more information, contact Clare Daniel on 01905 763963 or email cdaniel@strichards.org.uk
- **Tue 5th**  Lights of Love Service, Great Malvern Priory, 6pm, contact Emma Price on 01905 763963 or email eprice@strichards.org.uk
- **Thu 21st**  Lights of Love Finale Carols in the Car Park, St Richard’s Hospice, Worcester, WRR 2QT, 6.30pm, contact Emma Price on 01905 763963 or email eprice@strichards.org.uk

We rely on donations to fund the majority of our care and greatly appreciate any gifts which help us to continue to support patients and their loved ones in the future.

If you would like to make a donation to St Richard’s Hospice, you can donate over the telephone with your credit/debit card by calling the Fundraising Department on 01905 763963.

Alternatively visit our website www.strichards.org.uk/donate-now/ to donate online, or you can send a cheque made payable to St Richard’s Hospice, Fundraising Department, Wildwood Drive, Worcester, WR5 2QT.

We would be grateful if you could fill in the donation form, available to download from our website, with the Gift Aid option and return it with your donation.

We support more than 3,000 patients, loved ones and bereaved people each year.