



Spring 2026

Linc Charity Newsletter

To find out more about Linc visit linccharity.org

Hello and welcome to your first Linc Charity Newsletter of 2026!

Can you believe we've already zoomed past Easter? It feels like we were just unwrapping Christmas gifts a few weeks ago! We hope you had a fantastic break, however you spent it.

Since our last update, things have been busy behind the scenes. We've been on a major journey of discovery, and the result? Our brand-new 5-year roadmap!

This isn't just a plan we made in an office—it was built by you. To every patient, family member, and supporter who joined a focus group or filled out our survey:

Thank you. You've helped us shape a future that is bolder and brighter than ever before.

We've listened to your feedback, and now we're turning those big ideas into a reality. We are incredibly proud of this "Next Chapter," and we're confident these changes will make a massive, tangible difference to local blood cancer patients and their families.

But to make these ambitious plans happen, we need you by our side.

As a charity that relies entirely on fundraising and our local shops, every single pound is a building block for our future. Whether it's starting a regular gift of just £10 a

month or hosting a small event, you are the reason we can do what we do. Please contact Ellie to talk through all things fundraising ellie.watkins2@nhs.net

It truly is local people helping local people, and we think that's something pretty special.

Ready to see what's coming next? Read on below to discover all about our Next Chapter!

Big News: Luke Joins the Linc Team!

We are absolutely thrilled to officially welcome Luke as our brand-new Fundraising Officer! In many ways, Luke has been part of the Linc family for a long time. From his dedicated volunteering at our events and collections to his expert help with our 2024 rebrand and website design, he's been a vital part of our journey for a while.

Luke joins us with a deep understanding of the Linc mission and is already bursting with fresh, exciting ideas to help raise the vital funds we need. We feel incredibly lucky to have his passion and talent on board full-time!

Welcome to the team, Luke—we can't wait to see the amazing things you'll achieve!

CEO, Lou Neal



Luke meeting our Patron PJ Crook

Launching our new Chapter

On 25th March, more than 100 guests joined us at Patch to celebrate the launch of our New Chapter—an ambitious five-year strategic plan. The evening was a fantastic showcase of everything Linc does, from our incredible charity shops, Re-Loved retail range and volunteer opportunities to our community fundraising and challenge events.

The New Chapter was built on a foundation of deep research. Between September and November, we held focus groups with patients and clinicians, followed by a large-scale community survey. These insights have shaped a bold roadmap for the next five years, which includes:

- ✿ **Enhancing our wellbeing support programme outside of clinical environments through peer-to-peer programmes, new support groups, and the launch of a dedicated Linc Counselling Service.**
- ✿ **Providing a sanctuary away from the ward by utilising Patch as a welcoming, supportive space for patients outside of the hospital setting.**
- ✿ **Boosting financial support for those who need it most by expanding our Linc Fund.**
- ✿ **Sustaining medical progress by continuing our commitment to long-term funding for vital haematology clinical trials.**
- ✿ **Transforming clinical environments through a dedicated programme to improve haematology spaces at both Gloucester Royal and Cheltenham General Hospitals.**
- ✿ **Removing barriers to care by identifying and solving regional accessibility challenges, such as transport and parking issues.**
- ✿ **Raising our profile to ensure that every person who needs our help knows exactly how and where to find us.**

Scan the QR code to read our full Strategy Document



The Cotswold Snowball: A Night We'll Never Forget

Held at Ingleside House in Cirencester on Saturday 29 November, the event welcomed 160 guests for a memorable evening. A huge thanks to the LLB team and to our patrons and hosts Jackie & Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen for making it such a success.

We were honoured to welcome Black Sabbath legend Tony Iommi and his wife Maria alongside our patrons PJ and Richard Crook, and to hear from our inspiring guest speaker and former patient Tom Coote.

The evening's success was made possible by all our generous donors and sponsors, from the silent and live auctions, raffle and the gifting of welcome drinks. The wonderful entertainment kept the dance floor full and the guests got to dance the night away.

To everyone who attended, donated, supported and celebrated, we are extremely grateful. It was a truly magical evening which raised an incredible **£34,000**.



Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen



Paul, wife Sandie and Keith

Paul Baker: Living Life to the Full in my 70th Year

I was diagnosed with myelofibrosis in October 2018, with a prognosis of 90 months. After a family discussion we decided that I would finish work and focus on spending my remaining years with my family. My wife Sandie and I also decided that we would spend our time exploring the world and making memories together whilst we still could. To celebrate my 70th year, we visited Falmouth, travelled the Mediterranean and finally to Finland for an amazing snow hotel experience.

We finished off this milestone year by having a birthday bash at The Brewery in Gloucester Quays and raising money for Linc. With thanks to all who came and donated, we raised the amazing sum of **£1704.18**. My family and close friends have all bought into my desire to live life to the full and support me in everything that Sandie and I are doing. Life is for living and not a moment is to be wasted.

Celebrating Five Years: Tom Coote's Cricket Day Success

On Sunday 10th August, Tom Coote marked an incredible milestone—five years in remission—by hosting a special Cricket Day in support of Linc. The event brought together friends, family and the local community, raising a fantastic **£4,032** for the charity.

This achievement reflects not only Tom's personal journey but also the generosity and commitment of everyone involved.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tom Coote, his family, Hatherley and Reddings CC, DKMS UK, EWT CC, and our dedicated Linc volunteers for making the day such a success. Their support ensured a memorable event and a meaningful contribution to our work.



Tom (middle) with family and friends



Outstanding £9,300 raised at Cheltenham Triathlon!

The Cheltenham Triathlon on Sunday 14th September proved to be a remarkable day of community spirit and support for Linc, raising an outstanding **£9,300**. Delivered in partnership with The Lido Cheltenham, the event brought together participants, volunteers and supporters for a memorable occasion.

Our dedicated volunteers were instrumental in the day's success, including hosting a cake stall that raised **£700**.

We extend our sincere thanks to our Charity Partners who helped make the day a huge success — Decathlon UK, House of Atlas, Porch House Clinic, and TBS Solicitors — as well as our participants and dedicated volunteers. We are incredibly grateful for the energy everyone brought to the day, ensuring Linc can continue to provide essential support to those that need it.



London Vitality 10K: The Griffin Trio!

On Sunday 28th September, Team Griffin took on the London Vitality 10K in support of Linc, raising a fantastic £780. This marks an incredible 15 years of James, Nicky and Henry taking on the challenge, highlighting their longstanding dedication to the charity.

Their commitment is deeply personal. James, a Healthcare Worker on Rendcomb Ward, and Nicky, a Band 6 Nurse with the AHOU team, see first-hand the impact of Linc's work. As James shared:

"Linc is a wonderful Gloucestershire-based charity that provides amazing support for patients we look after."

We extend our sincere thanks to Team Griffin for their continued generosity and loyalty to Linc!



Charity Partner Spotlight: Corinthian Wealth Management

Corinthian Wealth Management have been a valued Charity Partner, raising over **£5,500** in support of Linc through a wide range of initiatives. Their team supported key events including the Golf Day and Snowball, entered participants into the Cheltenham Triathlon and Firewalk, and organised their own fundraising activities such as a Darts Social and Gold Cup Sweepstake with clients.

They also took part in a Charity Challenge Day, collecting 30 tins from local businesses, and led a Donation Drive contributing over 45 bags to our charity shops.

Their dedication and enthusiasm reflect a genuine commitment to making a meaningful impact. Thank you to the CWM Team!

Rocking for a Cause: The Ruff Diamonds Raise £1,600 for Linc

On Friday 21st November, six-piece rock band The Ruff Diamonds played a charity gig at Hartpury Village Hall in aid of Linc. The gig was a sell-out, and the dance floor was full all evening. Lead singer Dave Page has been receiving treatment in the Edward Jenner Unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital for over a year now. We are delighted to report that the total raised was £1,600. Thank you to the café at Hartpury Produce Market for its kind donation to the total. Great teamwork!



Featuring: Dave, Ed, Phil, Andy, & Nigel

Eden & Hive Quiz Night Raises £1,600 for Linc

On Thursday 27 November, the amazing owners of local beauty salon Eden & Hive put on a fantastic Quiz Night, and together they raised an incredible **£1,600**. Linc is especially close to their hearts; they both wanted to give back to say thank you for the treatment both their parents received. A huge thank you to both Evie and Honi for their hard work in arranging this event.



Bonfire Quiz Night Raises £1,480 for Linc

Our bonfire-themed Charity Quiz went off with a bang at Gloucester Brewery in November, and we are thrilled to have raised **£1,480**.

A huge thank you to our Linc Charity Partners, John Morgan Partnership, Digitel and Peninsula, for sponsoring and helping to organise this fantastic evening. Thanks also go to Gloucester Brewery for gifting us the space and supplying brilliant prizes, Jonny from JMP for being the Quiz Master, Pip and the Bad Seed for their live performances, and finally to everyone who came along, took part and generously bid in our live auction. Your support makes a real difference.



We love that you enjoy reading our newsletter. However, did you know that sending paper copies to our supporters costs us over **£1** per person?

We're keen to ensure our precious resources are used to support our patients, while also fulfilling our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint.

The easiest way to stay in touch is to scan the QR code to register to receive our emails. If you haven't yet registered an email address with us, you may receive a call from one of our lovely volunteers to ensure we have your most up-to-date contact details.

Alternatively, you can drop us a line at ghn-tr.linccharity@nhs.net or call us on **01452 930155**.



A Fond Farewell to Our Linc Charity Lunch Club

We held our final Linc Charity Lunch Club at The Queens Hotel in December. A big thank you to our wonderful guests who have supported this event over many years, and to all the local restaurants, pubs and hotels who have kindly hosted us.

If you would like to arrange a Lunch Club of your own, we would love to hear from you—just drop us an email at ghn-tr.linccharity@nhs.net

Love charity shops?



We need you

Can you spare a few hours to help a great cause? Our charity shops in Cheltenham are looking for friendly, enthusiastic volunteers to join our team. Every hour you give helps to raise vital funds for Linc.

What you'll be doing

- Serving customers with a smile
- Sorting and preparing donated items for sale
- Creating eye-catching window displays
- Keeping our shops tidy and organized

Why volunteer with us?

- Enjoy a 25% discount on most items in our shops
- Become part of a friendly and welcoming team
- Learn new skills to boost your CV
- Flexible hours can be arranged to fit around your schedule



Get involved! Pop into one of our shops for a chat and speak to a member of our team.

Winchcombe Street Shop 28 Winchcombe St, Cheltenham, GL52 2LX Call: 01242 462260

Bath Road Shop 218 Bath Road, Cheltenham, GL52 7ND Call: 01242 262112

Visit: linccharity.org/charity-shops



Dates for your 2026 diary

Get involved in our up-and-coming events throughout the year

- * Wednesday 13th May - Linc Mindfulness Quiz Night
- * Thursday 11th June - JMP & Rose Charity Shoot Day
- * Friday 12th June - Golf Day
- * Sunday 6th September - HONC (Hell of the North Cotswolds)
- * Sunday 14th September - Cheltenham Triathlon
- * Sunday 20th September - Cheltenham Half Marathon
- * Friday 25th September - Wing Walk
- * Abseil Incoming - Watch this space!

If you've been thinking about taking on a challenge event or organising a charity fundraiser, we'd love to hear your ideas. Please email ellie.watkins2@nhs.net to get in touch.