

React

GIVING DEPTH TO SHORT LIVES

Please pass this newsletter on to a friend to help even more children

Newsletter Summer 2025 Issue 60

www.reactcharity.org



The Necessity of Nutrition

When Cody did not cry nor take to feeding when born, his concerned paediatricians recommended genetic testing, where he was diagnosed with Prader-Willi Syndrome, a rare genetic illness that will affect all aspects of his development.

Cody's doctors declared they had never seen a case like it and because of the complexity, treatment they could offer was limited. In spite of many complex health issues, Cody has a warm, sunny nature and lights up any room with his smile and giggles.

Cody is fed by a feeding tube but keeping his weight to a healthy level remains a challenge. A fully blended diet was recommended by a dietician, but a high-power blender was required so as not to block feeding tubes. Cody's Mother, Leanne turned to React for assistance and we were delighted to step in with this essential need. *"Hearing React could help was overwhelming as the blender was so desperately needed to make Cody's feeds nutritionally acceptable whilst keeping him safe from blockages. We now feel as though we are actively contributing to his care by including Cody in family meals".*

Cody

A Helping Hand

William was just a toddler when he was taken to see a paediatrician for a minor checkup, and then his family's world closed in around them when the news of his illness was revealed.

At just two years old, William was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy a devastating illness which causes muscle weakness and the gradual erosion of physical abilities.

Now aged 15, William is a spirited young man and his sense of humour shines through despite the challenges he faces. His Mother Kelly explains, *"His illness only affects his body and it's heartbreaking that he understands how the condition will progress".*

William is a wheelchair user and unable to lift his arms to feed himself. To regain his independence, a robotic arm-support system was proposed which could enable him to eat and care for himself by helping William use his hands. The local authorities could not assist and as a last resort, an application was made to React. The news that their application was successful brought the whole family unbelievable relief: *"We were all in floods of tears knowing that there was finally some light at the end of the tunnel".*



William

CAN WE HELP?

Do you know a child who could benefit from React's help? For rapid, effective assistance our application form is available to download www.reactcharity.org or call 0208 940 2575 for friendly advice and support.

RAPID EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH POTENTIALLY TERMINAL ILLNESS

Singing for React Families

A beautiful chorus of vocals from the In Flagrante Choir rang through Mid-Surrey Golf Club to a packed out crowd at their annual winter concert, all in aid of React children.

Led by Musical Director Eamonn O'Dwyer, the choir sang a host of festive favourites, alongside pianist Tim who added a touch of improvisation to the accompaniment. It was truly a night to remember and the sell-out event raised a very impressive £2,050 for React.

We send a huge thanks to all the In Flagrante Choir for your hard work, talent and compassion in organising such a wonderful community event.



Going the extra mile for React families

This spring, Rob Harris took on the ultimate test of endurance and did so in support of our families - the iconic London Marathon.



React is a cause close to Rob's heart, with the keen runner having previously volunteered in the React office and even creating a promotional video to help raise awareness of our work. Now having reunited with React to represent the charity at this year's Marathon, Rob raised over £2,500 and we send our heartfelt thanks to him and all who donated to his magnificent effort.

If you are interested in taking on next year's London Marathon, we have a limited number of charity places available. Contact the team today on 020 8940 2575 to register your interest.

A Raffle for React

Our friends at KalVista Pharmaceuticals kindly chose React to benefit from their annual charity bottle raffle. Principal Scientist Laura gathered together donations from across the company's UK office, creating a treasure trove of wine, spirits, chocolate and even Pringles, for colleagues to win in exchange for a donation to React.

A much appreciated £580 was raised for React families and the charity sends its gratitude to all, and our congratulations to the lucky winners.



Masonic Giving

The Freemasons represent an ancient guild of like-minded individuals, dedicated to friendship and service to the community. React is privileged to have received the support of several Masonic Lodges over the past year, through generous donations that have been put to good use assisting our families.

React sends its sincere thanks to the kind members of Grosvenor Chapter 1257, Star of Stoneleigh Lodge 8244, Cyclist Lodge 2246, Porchway Chapter 4675, Manchester Masons and Richard, Earl of Shannon Lodge 8297 for their generous contributions. The charity also extends a special thanks to all Masons who chose to personally donate to React.

Little Bakers, Big Hearts

The pupils of Richard Coates Primary School showed their compassion and diligence earlier this academic year, by getting together to raise vital funds for React.

The difficult subject matter that comes hand-in-hand with React's work was handled admirably by pupils, who held multiple bake sales in aid of local children in Tyne and Wear.

An impressive £235.38 was raised by pupils from across the school and React sends its thanks to all, for their hard work and for funds raised towards React's work in the local community.



On Top of the World!

In a remarkable display of determination and adventurous spirit, Mr Aaron Lee, a finance professional, recently completed a challenging expedition to Everest Base Camp.

Embarking on the trek in the middle of winter, Aaron faced temperatures as low as -30°C. Despite the harsh conditions and gruelling physical demands, he successfully reached Everest Base Camp, which sits over 5,300 meters above sea level higher than the summit of Mont Blanc, the tallest mountain in Europe. Through his efforts Aaron raised £1,647 and his decision to support React added a profound purpose to his trek, transforming it from a personal challenge into a mission to help those in need.



Aaron said: "After carefully reviewing multiple charities, I chose React for its transparency and focus on immediate, practical impact, and I know that each donation will directly improve the lives of terminally ill children and their families."

Thank you, Aaron, and well done for this remarkable achievement.

React Holidays – Making more precious memories possible for our families

As an essential needs charity, React steps in to provide a lifeline for families caring for terminally ill children, easing the emotional and financial burden that comes with knowing your child will not reach adulthood.

A crucial pillar for the way React achieves this is through offering a week-long holiday to our families at one of our beautiful holiday sites across the UK. For years this service has helped families break gruelling care routines that come with caring for a gravely ill child and React is proud of our small role in enabling ever-cherished memories to be made. Thanks to the generosity of the Kentown Wizard Foundation, React is expanding its fleet which will allow us to make more precious memories possible.

One such family was Ava-Belle's, who were in real need of a break away: Having suffered brain injury around the time of birth, resulting in a diagnosis of Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy, Ava has variable muscle tone and finds it very hard to control her movements and communicate.



Poppy

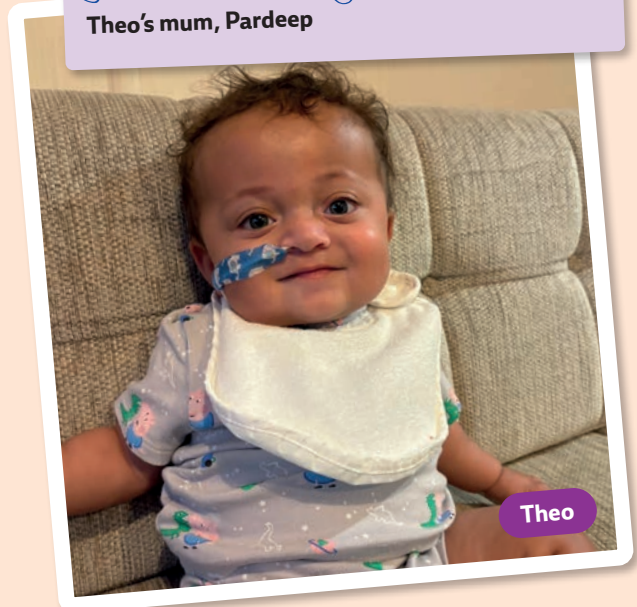
"Thank you for offering us this break! The beaches were amazing"
Poppy's mum, Amelie



Ava-Belle

"Just want to say a big thank you to you all. Theo celebrated his first birthday on the holiday. The kids really enjoyed their break, they deserved it so much as they spent much of the last 8 months in hospital. We really appreciate what you have given us in this lovely place"

Theo's mum, Pardeep



Theo



Hadiyyah

"Everything was so nice"
Hadiyyah's mum, Tania

Most would thankfully not understand the difficulties faced when caring for a child with a life-shortening illness, balancing not only the emotional turmoil but also the associated expenses. Upon receiving the family's application, React was delighted to provide a holiday in addition to a specialist chair so Ava could relax on the beach! Mum Michelle told us: "It was so nice to be in a beautiful place away from endless appointments and therapies. We had dedicated time to relax and have family fun. We created special memories which we will always treasure. Having Ava's supportive seating meant she could enjoy family meals, adventure walks and even trips to the beach. I hope other families reach out to React for support as everyone has been so wonderful and helpful. Thank you."

Your Gift is Urgently Needed

React is a unique charity responding to the needs of children in the UK who are living with potentially terminal illness. React will provide basic, essential aid and equipment that is unavailable from any other source. Whatever you can give will help. **Thank you.**

Please complete your name and address details below to enable us to reclaim the tax on your donation and keep you in touch with our work.

YOUR DETAILS

Your title and full name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____ Date _____

Please remove me from your database

YOUR GIFT TO REACT

Please accept my gift of

£500 £250 £100 £50 £25 Other £

I enclose a cheque made payable to REACT *OR* please debit my MasterCard / VISA / CAF Card / Debit Card (delete as appropriate)

Card number _____ (Security Number) _____

Start date ____/____/____ Expiry date ____/____/____

Signature _____ Date _____

If you would prefer to transfer directly to the charity bank account, please see React's bank details below.

MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE WITH A REGULAR GIFT!

By making a regular gift you will ensure more children live with comfort, dignity, and the opportunity to participate in life as fully as possible.

Please pay REACT £ _____ each month/year (delete as appropriate)

Starting on _____ until _____ further notice and debit my account number

Bank sort code

Name of account holder _____

Signature _____

To the Manager (bank name and address) _____

Postcode _____

Bank Details

Please pay REACT; Barclays Bank, George Street, Richmond, TW9 1JU; Account Number: 00886556; Sort Code: 20-72-33

MAKE YOUR DONATION TAX-FREE

REMEMBER TO GIFT AID YOUR DONATION!

I would like React to Gift Aid this donation and all donations I have made in the past four years. I am a UK tax payer and will tell you of any changes in my tax status or address. *giftaid it*

The Inland Revenue has asked us to remind you if you pay less Income Tax/ or Capital Gains Tax than the amount Gift Aid claimed on all your donations in that tax year, it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS OPPOSITE.

Summer 2025

Latest News

Remembering Jim Dunlop

Much loved member of the community and passionate React supporter Jim Dunlop, sadly passed away earlier this year and we pay tribute to the man who meant so much to so many. Jim and his wife Julia, regularly hosted fundraising 'Soup Days' for React, bringing people in the local community together to help our families which, in addition to their own generous giving, impacted on the lives of countless React children over the years. We send our heartfelt thanks to Julia and children Andrew and Lindsay, who asked that mourners donate to React in lieu of flowers. Jim's kind heart will be remembered by us all.

Fishing for React

A big shoutout goes to Clive and his fellow members of the Pike Anglers Club in Lincoln, for their annual 'Fish-In' held in March, which brought anglers from across Lincolnshire together in the hope of catching the biggest specimens of the day - whilst also raising as much as possible for React families. Thank you!

Tough Mudder Triumph

Congratulations to the brave colleagues of NSOA Roofing and Maintenance, who took on the infamous Tough Mudder obstacle course this May in aid of React families. We send our sincere gratitude to all for taking on this truly treacherous trial and making a real difference to the charity's work.

BlackRock

Thank you to our friends at BlackRock who continue to support React's work through generous regular donations and matched funding, which have totaled £1,355 over the past year. Your kindness and compassion is deeply appreciated by the React Team.

Knutsford Methodist Church

React sends its thanks to Knutsford Methodist Church attendee Nigel, who kindly nominated React to receive a generous donation from his employer, Viatrix UK. Nigel discovered React's work through the church, to whom we send a big thank you for raising awareness of the charity's work to its congregation.

Ashford Manor Golf Club

Current Ladies Captain at Ashford Manor Golf Club, Jo, chose React as her 2025 Captains' Charity and has already been busy organizing fundraising events in aid of our families, with three carried out in April alone! Thank you Jo and all at the club, for choosing to support us in this way.



Donate online today
www.reactcharity.org



Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with potentially Terminal illness

Registered charity no. 802440 (UK) SC038067 (Scotland)

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566 Chiswick High Road,
London, W4 5YA

Tel: 020 8940 2575

Email: react@reactcharity.org

Website: www.reactcharity.org



React provides urgent basic essential aid to families whose child has been diagnosed with a terminal or life-threatening illness. Donations will be used to maintain or improve a child's quality of life in the weeks, months or years left ahead. Thank you.