

# Family Groups & Activities

## Play Group

Play, crafts, songs, and story time for our youngest children (under 5s)

Every Tuesday in Term Time

*"The staff always make sure we feel welcome. It's like a home from home, amazing place and amazing staff."*

## Family Stay & Play

For our children and families to get to know each other at the hospice.

Monthly (Saturdays, 1:30pm - 3pm\* Bookable places)  
6 July, 7 September,

## Derian Dads Bereavement Group

A safe place for bereaved dads to chat over a takeaway.

Monthly (Wednesdays, 7pm - 9:30pm)  
3 July, 31 July, 4 September  
Seaside Room



\* Please make sure to book with the Wellbeing and Play team

playandwellbeing@derianhouse.co.uk  
01257 233 300



## Mums at Derian

A supportive and creative group to meet mums who understand having a child or young person with a life-limiting condition.

Dates coming soon, visit [www.derianfamily.co.uk](http://www.derianfamily.co.uk)

## Friday Night Club

Young people play games, watch films, and make food together. These are split into two age groups.

Three times monthly (Invite only)

## Cornerstones

Support group for bereaved grandparents to meet up and share memories.

Monthly (Wednesdays, 10am - 12pm)  
17 July, 14 August, 18 September  
Seaside Room,

## Derian Dads

Meet with dads who understand having a child or young person with a life-limiting condition.

Monthly (Wednesdays, 7pm - 9:30pm)  
10 July, 11 September

## Family Day Care

Meet other Derian families and make friends during the school holidays.

Tuesdays, 10am-3pm\*  
Bookable places  
During school holidays

## School's Out

Like-minded youngsters can visit for a day filled with activities during school holidays.

Thursdays, 10am - 3pm\*  
During school holidays (Invite only)

## Youth Family Drop-In

Older children and young people who use our Lodge can spend quality time with their families.

Monthly (Saturdays, 1:30pm - 3pm\* Bookable places)  
29 June, 27 July, 28 September

## Crochet & Chat

Open to Derian families of all ages, past and present. Just turn up.

Monthly (Mondays, 10am - 12noon)  
15 July, 12 August, 9 September, 7 October, 4 November, 2 December

*"I love coming to Derian with my little girl - it brings us normality. We are treated amazingly and I can't thank you enough for that."*

## Derian Mums Bereavement Group

For bereaved mums to meet in a safe and welcoming space.

Monthly (Saturdays, 10am - 12pm)  
29 June, 27 July, 14 September  
Seaside Room

# Derian Family News

Summer 2024

derian house  
children's hospice

## Derian launches new website just for families

### A BRAND new website just for families at Derian House Children's Hospice is now live!

At the touch of a button, families can access detailed information about everything the hospice offers – including family activities, support groups and counselling, and how to access these services.

The creation of the new website follows the last family survey in which some families said they felt like they weren't sure of all of the services available to them. It was also designed for new families who may feel cautious about coming to the hospice and unsure of what to expect.



Families can use the site to take a virtual tour of the building, book the cinema, sensory room and free massages, or find out the latest dates of support groups for parents, siblings and grandparents.

Young people who use Derian House have created their own section on the website, where you can read their own descriptions of their favourite places in the hospice and what it's like to stay.

Visit [www.derianfamily.co.uk](http://www.derianfamily.co.uk) and let us know what you think!

*We'd love to hear your feedback and opinion. Please email: [rebecca.feeley@derianhouse.co.uk](mailto:rebecca.feeley@derianhouse.co.uk)*

## Complementary Therapy

Take some time out to relax by booking a massage, reflexology, or aromatherapy session with our complementary therapist.

Please contact Denise: [denise.doe@derianhouse.co.uk](mailto:denise.doe@derianhouse.co.uk)

## Say hello to Natalie and Ionie

TWO new people have joined the team at Derian – and their job is to make sure your voice is heard.

Natalie and Ionie will form our brand new family engagement team, and will dedicate their time to ensuring that everything we do at Derian has families at the heart of the decision.

The pair, who both have extensive experience in family engagement roles, will make sure all of our families are consulted with and involved every step of the way.

They will be responsible for making sure we offer fair access to all families, and services that work for families.

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SAY HELLO YOU CAN EMAIL*

[natalie.schofield@derianhouse.co.uk](mailto:natalie.schofield@derianhouse.co.uk)

[ionie.calderbank@derianhouse.co.uk](mailto:ionie.calderbank@derianhouse.co.uk)



## Text service

A number of families told us that our current text messaging isn't as good as it could be – and so we've taken action.

We are in the process of swapping to a new text messaging service which will mean that we have one dedicated number for Derian House, to ensure families can have a better service.

We use texts to send out dates for any last-minute overnight stays that come up, holiday lodge bookings and also to send reminders about different groups running at the hospice.

If you are not already receiving texts from Derian, then please send your name and contact details to [admin@derianhouse.co.uk](mailto:admin@derianhouse.co.uk) and we will add you to the list.

If you have recently changed your number then please drop us a line to let us know your updated details.

FIRE • GLASS • LEGO  
**WALK  
THIS  
WAY!**  
for Derian House

FAMILIES are invited to take a walk across 10ft of fire, glass or Lego in our brand new fundraiser – Walk This Way.

It's a journey of courage, self-discovery, and resilience... and it's free!

All you have to do is pledge raise a minimum of £50 per walk, per person.

Walk This Way will take place outside Derian House Children's Hospice in Astley Village on the evening of Friday, 20 September.

Derian mum Charlotte Metcalfe has chosen to brave a will brave a walk across 10 feet of hot coals.

## Derian Dynamos slide into victory...

OUR VERY own Derian Dynamos Harry, 12, Luke, 14, Felix, 13, and Jacob, 13, were awarded with a first place trophy in a kurling showdown at Bolton Arena this month, making them regional champions.

The Derian Dynamos played against seven teams from across the North West in the Panathlon kurling competition, organised by the Panathlon charity and Bolton Wanderers in the Community.

This is the team's second big win of the year, after taking home the first place trophy in the first round of the competition in April.

Kurling, adapted from curling which is traditionally played on ice, involves sliding weights towards a circular target and can be played in sports halls.

Harry, the youngest of the group, said: "It was lots of fun and nice to be able to join in. When we started winning I felt proud to be part of the Derian Dynamos."

Charlotte 43, whose daughter Bethany visits the hospice regularly, said: "I wanted to do something to give back to Derian House - to say thank you. I spotted the hospice's new fundraiser, Walk This Way, and decided on a whim that I would do the fire walk.

"I wanted to do something a bit different and push myself out of my comfort zone. I don't think it has really sunk in, I'm a bit nervous. But that bit of discomfort is nothing compared to what our children have to go through."

If you're interested in signing up for a fire, glass or Lego walk, contact: [Kerry.salmon@derianhouse.co.uk](mailto:Kerry.salmon@derianhouse.co.uk)

## derian on holiday

### Fancy a break?

Our holiday lodges have some availability for the end of the year – relax and enjoy a week's stay in either South Lakeland Leisure Village or Ribby Hall Village.

And don't worry if you've already had a Derian holiday this year – you can book again!

Available on select dates Autumn/Winter 2024, first come, first served so don't delay.



[holiday@derianhouse.co.uk](mailto:holiday@derianhouse.co.uk)

### Postcard from Jeffrey and mum

Last week Jeffrey and I headed off for a little holiday, just the two of us to Derian House's holiday lodge at South Lakeland Leisure Village. The holiday lodges are fitted with aids and all on one level so I knew that I wouldn't be reliant on any help with Jeffrey's needs.

**Monday:** My sister, niece and mum drove over for the night also which was a help as I can't physically lift or put together Jeffrey's new stroller. A late lunch and views of the lake when the weather fined up was lovely!

**Tuesday:** After struggling with seizures Jeffrey had a chilled day whilst they did their own thing before heading home. In the night Jeffrey dislodged his NG tube which frightened the life out of me. After whipping the tube out he was absolutely fine but I was up until 3am watching him sleep.

**Wednesday:** This morning was relaxed, we started off with a walk to put the recycling and rubbish in the designated area before going for lunch the restaurant closed for the day due to the Bank Holiday. On the way it started pouring so we waited the rain out before going back to the lodge for the afternoon. Jeffrey's dad Andy drove to see us after the work for tea. We found a lovely place to eat. When we walked in the landlady was amazing, taking us to a table with three menus laid out as she wanted Jeffrey to be included. Jeffrey loves soup and she made sure it was cooled to room temperature so as soon as it came out he could get stuck in. As we were finishing up she came over, knelt down and told us that our bill had been settled by one of her lovely locals who thought we deserved a treat! We couldn't believe it and safe to say I got teary, as did she. Such a lovely and kind

gesture. After we got back to the lodge Andy tucked Jeffrey into bed, had a brew, and was on his way as he was working in the morning.

**Thursday:** We were very lucky to get a visit from two of our favourite people - Jeffrey's God mum and her beautiful daughter! The weather had picked up and we enjoyed a walk around the lake, a visit to the mini beach and fed the ducks before getting some lunch. Both kiddiwinks were superstars whilst we enjoyed a catch up before we waved them off.

**Friday:** Andy came back up after work to spend the rest of the weekend with us which was lovely. He settled in before we went to see the lake and get some tea.

**Saturday:** Jeffrey had a rough morning so our trip to the zoo didn't happen, however we did manage a nice trip out to Bowness. The weather was so nice so we had a stroll before getting some lunch and having a look around before heading back to hunker down for the night before check out Sunday.

We are so grateful and thankful that we have access to an adapted lodge in such a beautiful location through Derian House. Even with Jeffrey struggling with seizures, the downtime was so needed. We made some lovely memories, had plenty of snuggles and he enjoyed his break. I was approached by a few people staying on site who asked about Batten Disease, including a couple of nurses and a doctor. We are very thankful to people who ask as awareness of this devastating disease is so very important.

From Sheryl and Jeffrey x