



*Ellen's
Gift of Hope*



Five Year Impact Report



Registered Charity No. 1192108

ellensgiftofhope.org

Welcome

Trustees Foreword

We are delighted to share our Impact Report, covering the first five years of Ellen's Gift of Hope.

Firstly, we wish to recognise the huge financial contribution made at Ellen's funeral and JustGiving, over £7,500 was received within two weeks which is phenomenal.

Ellen's Charity was founded on November 1st 2020 with the aim to help disabled children in Northumberland, North Tyneside and Newcastle upon Tyne.

We had a challenging start with Covid impacting live fundraising,, but since then Ellen's Angels have delivered a host of unique events.

Thanks to the generous support from our community, fundraisers and a substantial contribution from corporate donors, we have raised an incredible **£127,519!**

Individual & Community Grants have provided families with specialist equipment, respite, hospital care, bereavement services as well as activities for vulnerable and disabled children.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us with time, funds and friendship since 2019.

*Delyth, Graham & Abbey Raffell
Trustees, Ellen's Gift of Hope*



*Photo: Trustees
Graham, Abbey &
Delyth Raffell with
Angel Ellen (far right)*

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*Photo: Ellen at her
Uncle Stephen's
Wedding August 2017*

Meet Ellen

About Ellen

A month after her 16th birthday, on 27th October 2019, Ellen suffered a catastrophic brain injury brought on by a severe allergic reaction to something she ate an hour earlier.

Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening condition and combined with her underlying asthma, led to a cardiac arrest and a lack of oxygen to her brain. Despite the sustained efforts of the paramedics and hospital staff, Ellen didn't recover.

After five days on PICU, Ellen left us peacefully at 2am on October 31st 2019.



Photo: Ellen in August 2017

Caring

Ellen was incredibly kind and caring and her last act was to donate her organs to help others. Her gifts have brought a new lease of life to the recipients.

Reflecting the compassionate spirit in which Ellen led her life, Ellen's Gift of Hope aims to make life a little easier for families facing the daily challenges of raising a child with disabilities and/or life-limiting conditions.



*Photo:
Ellen's Last Selfie
27th October 2019*

Music

Ellen was a dedicated musician, picking up her first acoustic guitar at Bede Primary and continued to practice daily, later progressing to an electric guitar. Her Tutor, Mr Watt, paid homage to Ellen at a moving memorial where he played his beautiful arrangement of 'Blackbird'.

Music was an important part of Ellen's life and we were honoured for her to be chosen as a winner of Radio 2's 21st Century Folk Competition as an inspirational person. She had a song written for her by the talented musician Thea Gilmore. Her song 'She Speaks In Colours' has reached almost 500,000 streams!

Jesse Terry, an American singer /songwriter, visited the UK to pay tribute to Ellen with his song 'Stargazer', at a special evening performance for her charity.



Photo: Ellen playing her first guitar at Bede Primary School

Space

Ellen had an incredible passion for space and met Canadian Astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield at Life Science Centre, Newcastle which inspired her ambition to become a Space Scientist.

Ellen was looking forward to work experience at Life Space Zone and starting her Space Engineering Course at Loughborough College

Although Ellen was unable to fulfil her potential in this field, she did make it into orbit on a voyage that took her ashes to space!



Photo:
Ellen at The National
Space Centre June 2015

Every child deserves to be helped

Without your support we simply would not be able to help the most vulnerable children in society, those who are disabled and with life-limiting conditions

Our fundraisers are dedicated local volunteers, who work as a team to deliver a program of fun, unique and exciting events.

We also receive funds from sponsored events, one-off fundraisers, as well as individual and corporate donations.



*Photo:
Great North Run Sept 2022
Gillian & Michael Rennie, Ian
McGuigan and Harry Geddes
(right to left) Delyth Raffell,
Trustee (centre kneeling)*

fundraising

Great North Run

Our incredible runners have completed the GNR for two years in 2022 & 2023. Each runner was given a free charity place and raised funds for Ellen's Gift of Hope through sponsorship. **Book your place for GNR 2026 with us now!**



*Photos: Charity runners from 2022-23
Michael, Gillian, Ian, Harry, Paul,
Rosemary, Emily & James*



Vintage Afternoon Tea

Our wartime themed afternoon tea was such fun with song and dance, a hat box raffle, vintage car and scrumptious treats



Blyth Goes To War!

Every May, WWII is recreated with the British and German armies taking part in a beach front reenactment & demonstrations of firearms, tanks, vehicles & motorbikes as well as stalls including our charity Tombola



*Left: Wartime 'Evacuees'
Right: Ellen on a WWII
Motorbike at Blyth Battery*

Great Gatsby Casino Night

Mobsters & Molls, Flappers & Dapper Gents donned their best 1920s outfits & headed for our Casino to try their luck at Black Jack, Roulette and Wheel of Fortune. Brilliantly entertaining!



Denise & Gordon Ishida
Mel & Pat Armstrong



Ellen's Angels



Halloween

Hauntingly good nights with food cooked in cauldrons, blood-curdling cocktails, spooktastic games, best costumes prizes & a ridiculously huge raffle!

Photos: Top Right: Ellen's Angels & Black Jack Players
Bottom Right: Stafford & Courtney Families at Quiz

Crimbo Quiz

Our Christmas Quiz is festive fun with mulled wine, mince pies, raffle prizes & winner's trophy 🏆



Emily Martin & Sam
Clark - Raffle Winners



Easter & King's Coronation

Ridley Park is host to our annual Easter event in March and in May 2023 the King's Coronation celebrations. When the sun's shining it brings out the crowds and we're always the busiest stall!



Photo: Steve, Delyth & Graham on a Petal Drop for Ellen



Photo: Steve & Tina Pattinson take flight!



Fly High for Ellen

Steve Hornsby kindly 'donated' his plane as 1st prize in a raffle and again for our fundraiser "Fly High for Ellen" in both cases the winners got to fly the plane!



Photo: Jesse Terry, Delyth & Guests at Stargazer Event



Below: Jesse & Alan Fish perform the song



Stargazer

An incredible evening with musician Jesse Terry who came over from USA to perform for Ellen's fundraiser, named after his song 'Stargazer'.

Another star of the night was Scott Robinson, our amazing Auctioneer who helped to raise over £3,700!!

Fun Fact: the video for this song was filmed at Bamburgh Castle.

fundraising

Piercing Party

Our first event after lockdown!
We took over Blyth Body Piercing for the day and Rob Gilbertson kindly donated all the proceeds from every piercing. Together with our raffle, we raised £1300!



Bonkaz Bingo!

One of the craziest nights I've ever had, with dancing on the chairs, a roller skating bloke, a 7ft dinosaur & a lot of alcohol!
All this chaos brought in £1800



Photo: Mandy Campbell,
Hautlieu School



Ellen's Lucky Stars

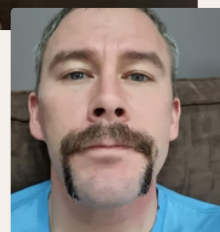
During 2021/22 we ran online events. Ellen's Godmother is a teacher at Hautlieu School in Jersey and she ran Ellen's Lucky Stars cash draw raising £1334 and we ran it in Blyth raising £776 – an incredible total of £2,110



fundraising by others

November

Huge thanks to Scott Robinson (3rd from left) for arranging his moustache growing competition every year in aid of EGOH Charity raising a grand total of £1,128



Family & Friends

Ellen's 8 year old cousin Eva & her friend made friendship bracelets £90

Ellen's school friends raised £305 with a sponsored walk



Lena Saroy & Serena Chahal

In Loving Memory

We would like to thank everyone who gave so generously at Ellen's funeral. At other friend's funerals, huge thanks go to Rosemary, Pat and Sharon for kindly offering to collect donations for Ellen's Gift of Hope in lieu of flowers ❤️



Adam Rennie



Mel Armstrong



Ross Longley

St. Bede Ladies Fellowship

The ladies kindly ran all sorts of events including a space-themed quiz raising £1300, presented to our charity at St. Bede's Vicarage.

Photos: Right: St.Bede's Ladies Fellowship with Fathers Ian Flintoft & Sion Hughes Carew



Thanks to all our fundraisers

Southside Rangers F.C. £50
Thorntree Care Home £147
Ladies Fit2B (Jean Knott) £300
Samantha Turner Prize Raffle £378
Nationwide (Deanne Meggison) £175
Body Shop Pamper Day £70
Long Marsten CE School Fun Run (Isabelle & Nancy Year 5) £105

Right: Abbie Taylor and Oscar



Abbie Taylor, Newbiggin

Abbie organised and ran a Raffle and Tombola at the Newbiggin Maritime Centre in thanks for receiving a specialist pushchair her son, Oscar. What a day Abbie and her Auntie had, raising £901

Corporate Donors

Lifelong Financial Planning

We're extremely grateful for the kind support from Colin & Pat Wilson who have generously donated £3,250 to our charity since 2021.



Paypal & Easyfundraising

Did you know you can donate to Ellen's Gift of Hope with Paypal Giving as you shop online or sign up with Easyfundraising where donating is free!



Mason Partners Solicitors

Freedom for Kids loaned an X-Rover Specialist Buggy to Chris, a lawyer who has Motor Neurone Disease, so he could compete as an assisted athlete in the Liverpool and London Marathons. His company kindly donated £1000. The X-Rover was lent to other disabled athletes too, like The Mighty Fin (inset) to help them fundraising for their charity events

Freedom for Kids Ltd

FFK have supported our families by donating specialist equipment for free. They've also given a substantial cash donation to cover future fundraising costs, admin/staff and grants.



5 Ways YOU Can Help

Donate / Monthly Subscription

We appreciate all donations and if you would be happy to set up a monthly standing order for even a small amount – every penny really does matter.

Ask us for a Monthly Subs Form.



Host an Event

Why not have a bake sale, host a pamper party, run a raffle, coffee morning, set up a car wash for the day – put the fun in fundraising!



Do you have an idea?

If you would like to fundraise for us, please get in touch as we can provide leaflets for your event.

e: delyth@ellensgiftofhope.org



Sponsored Activities

Apply for the Great North Run, organise a fun run or bike ride. Get your thrills with a sky dive, abseil, mountain trek or walk, just a few ideas for you to ask family, friends and colleagues to sponsor you.

Ask us for a Sponsorship Form or download off our website.



Tombola & Raffle

You can run your own raffle or tombola or donate prizes to us to fundraise at our regular events.

More ways to Help

Corporate Sponsors

We are always looking for partnerships with local companies who may be willing to donate or sponsor events

- Monetary Donations
- Auction / Raffle Prizes
- Sponsor one of our fundraisers
- Run a sponsored company event



Matched Funding

If your employer runs a matched fundraising scheme then they may **DOUBLE** any funds **YOU** raise. Companies include; Morrisons, Asda, Sainsbury's Co-op, Barclays, Natwest, Sky, Halifax, BT and many more!

Volunteer as an Ellen's Angel

Join our merry band of helpers who make the magic happen!

- Bring your ideas & enthusiasm
- Volunteer at an event
- Help organise and run events
- Collect donations, tombola & raffle prizes
- Run your own fundraiser for our charity



Easyfundraising...it's free!

Did you know you can donate to Ellen's Gift of Hope as you shop online & it won't cost you a penny! Register & nominate our charity at www.easyfundraising.co.uk

Every child deserves to live better

Our Community Grants allow us to reach and fund projects impacting a group of vulnerable children, and Collaboration Grants are where we work with other Charities to support families in our local area

Great North Children's Hospital

Our first Community Grant is for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit which cared for Ellen & Abbey when they were born two months prematurely, and again in Ellen's final five days. The staff are dedicated professionals who gave us 16 precious years with Ellen

This grant is to enable PICU to continue the incredible work of saving children's lives and caring for those who may not recover

A grant was also give to provide help with Bereavement Services



Photo:

Dr Rachel Agbeko, Consultant Paediatric Intensivist (centre), Delyth & Graham Raffell, Mum/Dad, Co-Founders and Trustees, Ellen's Gift of Hope

Community Grants

Little Miracles

We were pleased to present this wonderful group a Hobbycraft Gift Basket and £250 Voucher for to buy craft items for their after school club for disabled children



Photo: Little Miracles, Cramlington

RVI Child Bereavement Service

This important service provides free bereavement counselling for families who have lost a child at the RVI. They're there to support you through the grieving process. Personal experience helped us understand the vital need for this.

"We've bought soft furnishings & pictures to make the counselling room a warmer and more relaxed space. Documentation for parents and staff has been updated and the service is now called 'The Beacon' as this offers light and a way forward. A piece of local art in the room symbolises this idea."

Our Community Grant of £500 paid for refurbishment of the family room and leaflets to raise awareness of their bereavement services at The Great North Children's Hospital (formerly RVI)



Collaboration Grants

DREAM HOLIDAYS
GRANTING HOLIDAYS AND WISHES FOR CHILDREN WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS



**Cystic Fibrosis
Dream Holidays**



Two families from Blyth who have children with Cystic Fibrosis had holidays funded by our charity.

One family spent a week at Haggerston Castle in Aug '24 had an amazing time (photo). Our second family have chosen a week in a beautiful cottage in Maybrook, Yorkshire in Aug '25

The Rigg & Furrow Project

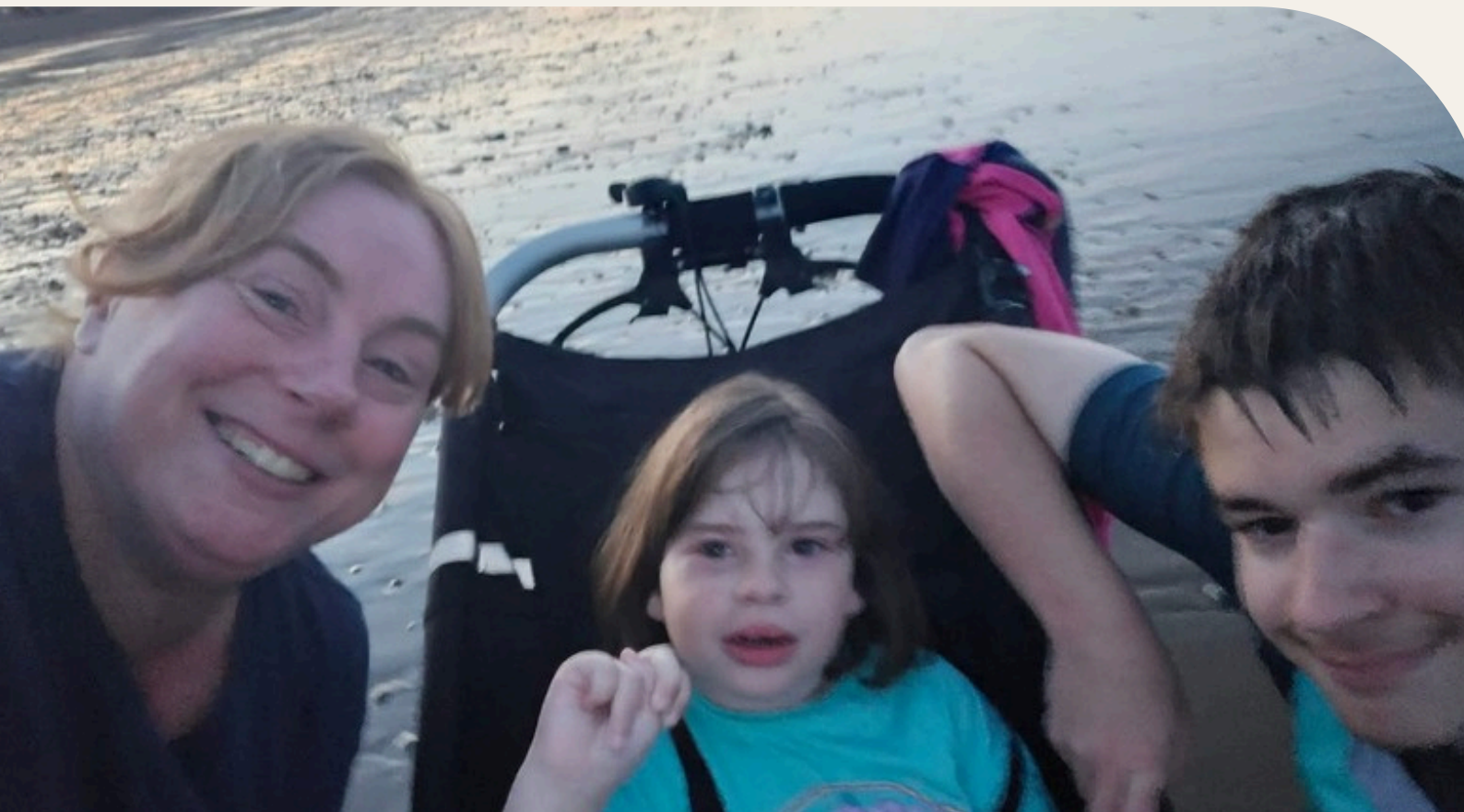
The Rigg & Furrow Project digs into the Northumbrian soil searching for stories from our history and ideas about sustainability that help ensure we take care of the land.



We helped fund this project in collaboration with Hand of Charity to bring vulnerable & disadvantaged students together with artists, musicians, farmers and scientists to create a performance they shared with their peers at Capheaton Hall

Every child deserves to *explore*

Most of us take going out as routine but when you're disabled this can be an enormous challenge. Our equipment grants help to pay for specialist pushchairs, trikes, bike trailers and medical equipment



our families

Abbie & Oscar, Newbiggin-by-the sea

"The special tomato jogger buggy has made such a difference to us, we can now take part in the local Park Run on a Saturday together as a family, Oliver loves to be outdoors and enjoys being part of the event as much as I do!"



Emma & Isabelle, North Shields

11 year old Isabelle has Microcephaly, Epilepsy, Ataxia, ADHD & Learning Disabilities. She has an unsteady walk and needs a wheelchair and her Epilepsy affects her daily life and she will not be able to live independently.

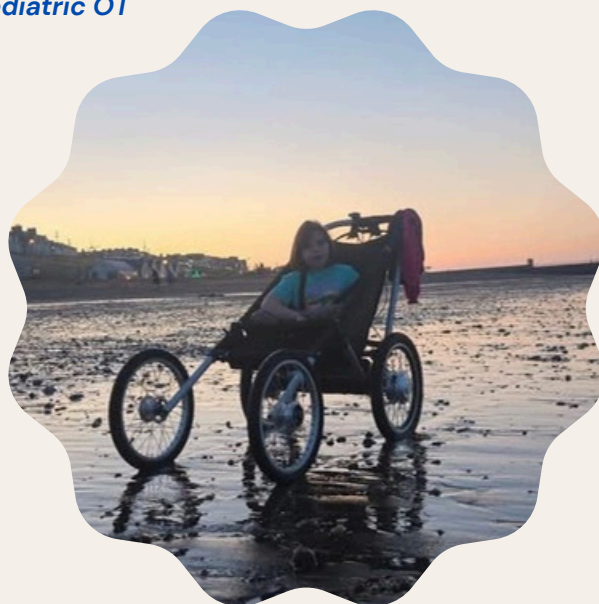
"Izzie is a delightful, happy, smiley girl and loves social interaction and knowing what's going on around her."

Katy, Senior Paediatric OT

Abby and Esme, Hexham

What fun Esme has been having since we funded an all-terrain pushchair. Esme is 8 years old and has left Hemiplegia, Epilepsy and Autism. She loves the great outdoors and has been exploring Northumberland.

"The pushchair has made days out much easier and has allowed us to do things we weren't able to do before such as go to the beach"



out & about



Andrea and Ashton, Seaton Burn

Ashton is 3 years old and is non-verbal, has Global Development Delay and is Autistic. His health visitor also expressed concerns about his spatial awareness, vestibular balance and co-ordination which makes walking difficult. The KFN Explorer is a fabulous 4-wheel buggy that tackles all terrain!

"I'll be able to take him on many more walks in forests, woods etc – he loves nature and trees"

Lauren and Isabella, Ashington

Isabella is 8 years old and has Autism, ADHD, PICA and Learning Disabilities. We funded a Phoenix Pushchair so she can go outside without becoming overwhelmed, as she has no concept of safety. Being able to access outdoor activities safely is beneficial for her health and well-being.



Rebecca and Freddie, Amble

Freddie was developing as a typical child until 14 months old when suddenly he lost all his speech and ability to learn skills. Now 5 years old, he is non-verbal, awaiting an Autism assessment, has Arfid and complex needs. He gets overwhelmed and anxious outside, however his new all-terrain buggy gives him a safe space in which to explore the world.



enjoying



Rachel, Leon and Maddison, Newcastle

Siblings Leon, 7, and his sister, Maddison, 6 are both Autistic and have additional needs. The family were unable to go out together as they did not have suitable transport. We provided two specialist strollers with connectors so Rachel now has a double buggy.

Megan and Sophia, Ashington

Whilst Sophia has a wheelchair, this does not allow her access to many places as it can be cumbersome. This gorgeous green Kool Stride is super light and can be used for off road activities and jogging.



Jo and Roan Lily, Cramlington

Roan is 6 years old and she is non-verbal Autistic and has a sleep pattern disorder and is prone to absent seizures. She is triggered by fast moving objects and loud noises and is overwhelmed by sensory overload. She now has a Special Tomato Jogger to get her out and about in safety and comfort.



freedom

Carlie and Quinn, Cramlington

This nippy little Special Tomato EIO Buggy is a life-saver for Quinn, 4 years old, who has Global Development Delay and surgery for Hip Dysplasia and is under assessment for Autism. She can't walk very far and has no danger awareness and so relies on a pushchair for school and daily life.



Emma and Blake, Cramlington

Blake is 7 and has Autism, Arfid and a rare genetic condition. He has difficulty in communicating and understanding. The provision of a Kool Stride Pushchair allows the family to all get out together.

Thailia, Georgia and Layla, Morpeth

Georgia, 6, and Layla, 4, are Autistic and it's important for them socially to access their local community, have new experiences and not to be disadvantaged due to their additional needs.

"Ellen's Gift of Hope has been amazing with me and my girls! They've changed our lives for the better with the pushchairs they granted us. We're able to go on long walks, attend shops and they have a safe space in overwhelming environments...the list can go on. We've been very lucky and we couldn't be more grateful! Thank you massively to your amazing charity."

Thailia Marshall



Every child deserves to be a star

Ellen's Little Star Lifetime Award was introduced in 2025 and is a £5000 Grant given out to a child who requires longer term care. Maximum of one award per year

From the bottom of our hearts we would like to say thank you to Ellen's Gift of Hope for always thinking of Sophia, for their kindness and for everything they have done for us all as a family. What an amazing charity!

Megan Killington



Ellen's Little Star

Sophia Welsh 2025

Sophia is a 10 year old little girl who has faced life battle after life battle since she was born. She's a full time wheelchair user with a range of complex health needs including intestinal failure requiring TPN nutrition via a central line into her heart each night for 12 hours. She has a VA shunt due to her hydrocephalus, an ileostomy stoma, an unsafe swallow, congenital heart disease and epilepsy.



Sophia requires 24 hours / 7 days a week care, it never stops. Cared for by her parents and full time staff to ensure she is always kept as safe as she can be. Despite her complex health needs she has an absolute love of life, nothing gets her down for long. She's unable to walk but can talk in her own way to her familiar adults. She's so much fun, has so much character and really lights up any room she enters.



Ellen's gift of hope have been phenomenal with Sophia, there kindness just blows us all away. They've made such a difference in Sophia's life and no amount of thank-yous will ever be enough to say how grateful we are to Delyth, Graham and their charity.

They've helped fund specialist equipment such as a special needs trike which Sophia absolutely loves to go on. Nothing beats seeing her smiley face on her 'big girls' bike! Supporting us financially with hospital stays and gifting Sophia 'Ellen's Little Star' Award which we are forever thankful for.

Every charity needs a few helping hands

We're incredibly lucky to have a merry band of volunteers we call 'Ellen's Angels' who run the charity stall, sell raffle tickets, decorate rooms, prepare food, and generally make all our events the success they are!



Ellen's Angels

Come rain or shine, Ellen's Angels are working both behind the scenes and out front to ensure everything runs smoothly so our guests and visitors have a fun time.



If you would like to help out, either by volunteering for one of our events or becoming a permanent Ellen's Angel Volunteer, please visit our website or Facebook page and get in touch.

Huge Thanks go to Karen Norris who kindly bought our charity gazebo which we use for events (3rd from left)



With Special Thanks to:

Rosemary Rennie
Wendy McGuigan
Karen Norris
Sharon Stafford (Alice)
Sharon Stafford
Deborah Charlton
Dawn Robinson
Alison McGuigan
Declan Baharini
Karl Mercer
Cleo Gregory
Abbey Raffell
Olive Clarke
and all the volunteers
from Blyth Rugby Club

Every child deserves to be *remembered*

Our daughter will never be forgotten and her legacy is Ellen's Gift of Hope charity. However, we also want to recognise achievement and remember her in special memorial services



remembrance

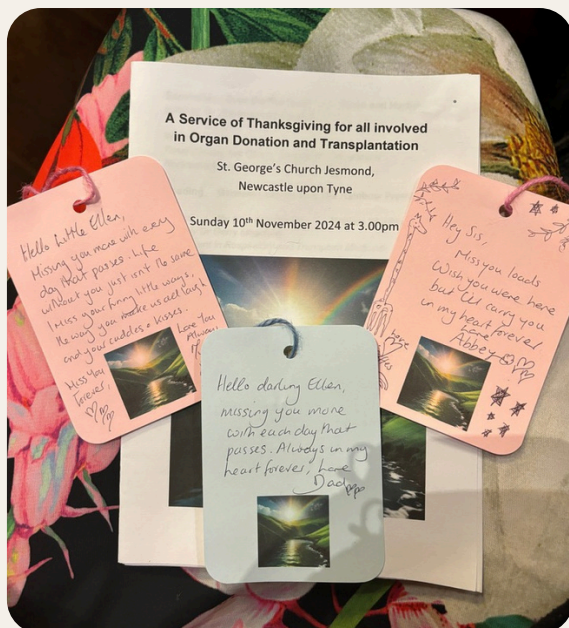


Order of St. John for Organ Donation

Awarded to Ellen for her kind gift of organ donation. Ellen helped two kidney transplant patients and two people with corneas. Unfortunately her other organs were damaged or unmatched.

RVI Memorial Service Organ Donors & Recipients

Annual remembrance service bringing together people to share the story of their experience.



RVI Memorial Service PICU Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

Annual service for the parents of children who have sadly died at The Great North Children's Hospital (also known as the RVI). Special memories are held in books, poems are read out, we light candles and hang a message to our child on the memory tree.

Ellen's Science Award

school stars

Aylsha Harris, Year 11 – 2022

Our inaugural winner, Aylsha, is an outstanding physics and maths student who laps up cutting edge ideas on quantum mechanics and cosmology. Aylsha went on to Edinburgh University to study Theoretical Physics and we're sure she will have a stellar career

Ayisha Bayram, Year 11 – 2023

Our second gifted student, Ayisha, has set a course to study medicine and hopes to become a Doctor. Since receiving this award she established a private tutoring service for students who need help with maths, English & science.



Amy Thompson, Year 10 – 2024

Amy has had an outstanding year and her passion for physics led her to join the satellite project ran by Prof. Robert Wickes of Northumbria University, where she excelled at coding the satellite. Her work experience was at the Space Technology Dept.



Bede Academy

Isobel Rochester Year 10, 2025

Now in its 4th year, we celebrate Isabel, an outstanding student who has her sights set on a career as a Vet. Ellen would approve as she loved animals and begged us for a dog, even preparing a PowerPoint presentation on hypoallergenic breeds! We wish Isabel all the best for her GCSE's in 2026.



We're so pleased to recognise young women's achievements and encourage them to explore a career in the sciences...so far our winners have covered physics, medicine, space and veterinary care – you go girls!!

Ellen's Tree of Hope

Blossom Tree Planted 2022

In remembrance of Ellen, a student at Bede Primary & Secondary School, this Blossom Tree was planted at the entrance to the school.

The tree has had pale pink blossoms every year since April 2023



Ellen in the press

Ellen's Gift of Hope Charity launch in the Sunday Sun. The Evening Chronicle reported her inquest and Guinness World Record. She has also appeared in The Journal and Sunday Times

Ellen has been featured in many newspapers and magazines even from before she was born!



Ellen on the radio

Claire Louise - Koast Radio

Delyth had a lovely afternoon chatting with Claire about Ellen and seeing what happens behind the scenes of a radio station!



Anna Foster - BBC Radio Newcastle

This was Delyth's 2nd appearance on Anna's show and they've become good friends. Anna is wonderfully supportive and has offered a return visit when 'She Speaks In Colours' memoir is due to be published



Ellen On TV

BBC Look North

Launch of Ellen's Gift of Hope charity in Jan 2021 after her inquest held in Newcastle, where the Coroner concluded her death was due to an Anaphylactic reaction to food she had eaten



Tyne Tees

Taking part in a campaign on Anaphylaxis, the cause of Ellen's death. BeatAnaphylaxis 'Ellen's Story' launch in April 2023 showcased a series of short films to raise awareness of this life-threatening condition among health professionals, educational institutions and parents

The One Show

We could hardly believe it when BBC's The One Show got in touch to feature Ellen as one of the winners of Radio 2's 21st Century Folk Competition. It was very exciting having a film crew at home! Ellen's song, 'She Speaks In Colours' was written & performed by musician Thea Gilmore and released Jan 2023



She Speaks In Colours The Song

Back in March 2022, purely by chance, I heard about the 21st Century Folk project on Radio 2. They were looking for inspirational people to create a time-capsule of life in the North East through song.

Ellen was kind and compassionate, a real people-person – she was drawn to them and they to her. A determined child with a zest for life and learning... and she always wanted to help people less fortunate. She was an inspirational young woman, so I entered her and she won! We were matched with the incredible Thea Gilmore.



It was thrilling to meet Thea at our home and tell her about Ellen. The One Show sent a camera crew to film us which was nerve-wracking! We also went to Radio 2 in London and Thea and I did an interview with Jeremy Vine.

Thea performed her song 'She Speaks In Colours' for the first time at Woodhorn Colliery just before Christmas in 2022. So beautiful and poignant, that day will be forever engraved on my heart.

Singer/Songwriter: Thea Gilmore

Released: January 2023

Executive Producer: Delyth Raffell

She Speaks In Colours The Book



It was the stars in the logo that led me to The Writing Coach, perhaps Ellen was showing me the way. It's certainly been an interesting and enlightening journey so far.



The last 18 months has been spent writing the first draft and it'll take a while to transform it into a fully fledged memoir. Covering three generations of women living in the same house, it spans 50 years and explores motherhood, childhood and loss.

It's a story I had to write, for Ellen.



Jacqui Lofthouse (centre) Founder, The Writing Coach

Credit: David Lewis Cartoons



Jon Magidsohn is my writing coach for the book. He's a writer, musician and the author of the memoir *Immortal Highway*.



All Profits
go to Ellen's
Charity

STOP PRESS!!
She Speaks In Colours
Memoir by D. Raffell
Publication 2027

Be first to get a copy!
Register your interest:
ellensgiftofhope.org



Largest Gathering of People Dressed as Stars

We set ourselves a HUGE challenge at the start of 2024 as this was the year Ellen would have turned 21 in Sept and it was her 5th Anniversary in October

We planned to SET a new World Record and had to follow strict rules and gather at least 250 people



After many months of preparation & perspiration, the day finally arrived. The weather held and as our ushers, counters and witnesses testified, an incredible 451 people dressed as silver & gold stars

Photo: Success! Community dressed as stars celebrate Ellen's 21st Birthday and 5th Anniversary together with Aileen Barras, Mayor and Ian Lavery M.P. (centre)





The record attempt was covered by the local newspapers and radio and the local community turned out in droves for this world first.

Photo: Aileen Barras, Mayor of Blyth



Photo: Bethany Lilico, 15, performing on stage. Chris Norris & Anna Mulvey School of Dancing also provided music & dance shows throughout the day

Guinness ★ ★ World Record



Crowds of star-wearing participants are gathered and organised into colours then led into the GWR Arena to be counted and verified by the officials

Huge thanks to Blyth Rugby Club and Leading Link for providing officials and volunteers who made the day a resounding success

September 29th 2025

Guinness World Record



Photo: Cleo & Joey
(GWR Witness)



Photo: Officially Guinness
World Record Holders!



Photos: Karl & Declan
(Super Star Makers)



Photo: Jill Heslop & Slimming World Members



Photo: Star Leaders – Blyth Rugby Club



Photo: Alison, Wendy & Ian McGuigan

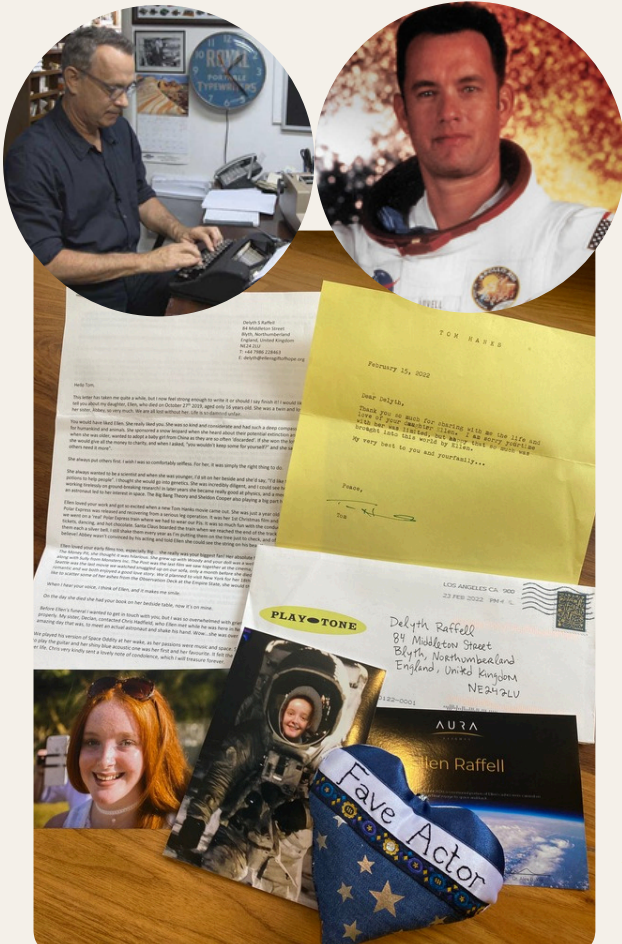


Stars in her eyes



Tom Hanks

OMG! Tom Hanks replied to my letter. I told him all about Ellen, how she loved his movies, music and space, our 'Tom Hanks Tour' in New York & our plan to scatter ashes from The Empire State as the last film we watched together on the sofa was 'Sleepless in Seattle'.



Top right: Tom Hanks in Apollo 13

Helen Sharman CMG, OBE

What an incredible honour it was to meet Helen at Life Science Centre where Ellen was due to do her work experience in their new Space Zone. The management arranged a private meeting and it was lovely to share stories of her space travels and Ellen.



Photo: Ellen meets Chris at Life

Chris Hadfield

Ellen met Astronaut Chris Hadfield at Life, Newcastle in 2015 which sparked her desire to study space engineering. Ellen was to go to Loughborough's unique Space Academy for 16-18 year old students. He kindly sent us a lovely letter of condolence.



Photos: Ellen visits Space Academy & at Life



Behind the scenes!

King's Coronation & Flying High

Making Knitted Angels



Halloween set up took 9 hours!!



Meeting of minds for GWR



Chatting with Jeremy Vine



Prep: Afternoon Tea & Mulled Wine



Clearing up...it's a handful!

Right & Below : King's
Coronation, Vintage
Afternoon Tea, Easter
& Stargazer



Filming for BeatAnaphylaxis,
Video & Photography GWR



Guinness World
Record



Coffee Break!



Karl at GWR

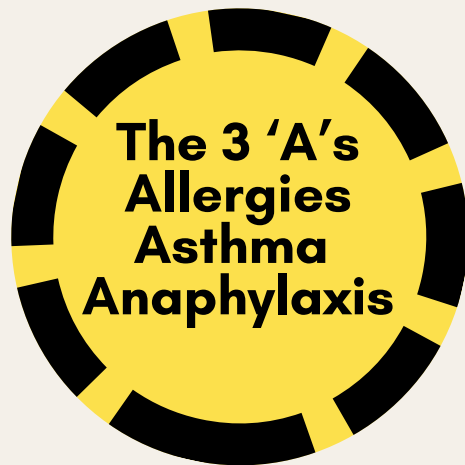


Halloween



Vintage Car
Collection





Raising Awareness



Dr Andrew Bright (centre)



Dr Andrew Bright, Consultant Paediatrician

We were contacted after Ellen's Inquest and honoured to take part in the BeatAnaphylaxis Project which educates health and educational professionals, and provides parents with resources to enhance the lives of children and young people living with asthma, allergies and life-threatening anaphylaxis.



Tanya & Nadim Ednan-Laperouse OBE

Natasha's parents work tirelessly on research & campaigns to prevent the loss of life through allergies. In June 2019 they founded NARF.



Natasha was just 15 in 2016 when she tragically died on a plane after eating a baguette that did not list all the ingredients. On Oct 1st 2021 Natasha's Law changed food labelling for packaged foods.

RVI Paediatric Asthma Prevention Trial (PAPA)

This trial has been awarded a grant from National Health Institute of Research and is trialing a tablet of house dust mite in infants, over a period of a 3 years, to prevent asthma and in so doing lower the risk to infants, children and young people. Delyth Raffell has been appointed as one of two Patient Public Involvement (PPI) Members.



Raising Awareness

The goal is to raise awareness about organ donation, encourage people to register their decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register, and talk to their families about their wishes.

2 Minutes to Save a Life

Yes! It only takes two mins to register for organ donation
www.organdonation.nhs.uk



Freeman Children's Heart Transplant Trial

Louise Kenny is a heart surgeon at the Freeman Hospital who wants to increase opportunities for child heart donation and transplantation across the UK.

A new type of technology has been developed which will allow recovery of children's hearts for donation which previously wasn't an option.

This has allowed Louise and her colleagues to perform four heart recoveries from child donors and four heart transplants in small children that would otherwise never have been possible.

As part of a research trial, it's important and helpful to have a non-medical, lay person as one of the trial designers and panellists. We would love to have a family involved who can directly tell us how we should be doing this from their own experience.

We want to know that we are talking about it in the right way. Your input would make sure that we're undertaking this important research with the utmost care of the families.

Louise Kenny

Sharon from the Organ Donation team at the RVI recommended Louise contact Delyth who now represents parents on the trial as PPIE (Patient & Public Involvement & Engagement).

Ellen's heart was filled to the brim with love, compassion, and kindness – someone deserved to have her heart and now, with your research and pioneering transplants, you will make that possible for so many parents whose children would otherwise die.

Delyth Raffell

Photo: Left to right – Sharon Mitchinson – Lead Nurse–Organ Donation (Northern), Louise Kenny – Consultant Paediatric and Adult Congenital Cardiothoracic and Transplant Surgeon and Delyth Raffell, PPIE



Five year review



Well, it's been an interesting and challenging five years since we founded Ellen's charity in Nov 2020 and overall it has been a success.

Whilst the Covid Pandemic limited our fundraising to begin with, we still managed to do online activities and in June 2021 had our first live event.

We have run a host of fun and entertaining events over the period which have all been well-attended.

Together with corporate donations, we have raised over **£127,500** which will ensure the longevity of the charity.

We focused on fundraising for the first two years, and have given out four community grants to local organisations that will benefit many families.

Applications for individual grants were opened in 2023 and we have helped **26 disabled children** with specialist equipment and respite.

We have adopted a model of growing organically so we can gradually build funds and are not overwhelmed with applications. We have given out a total of **£28,875** in grants.

Delyth Raffell, Co-Founder & Trustee

Guinness World Record

A truly incredible once in a lifetime event that celebrated Ellen's 21st Birthday and 5th Anniversary. We are now Official World Record Holders!

Raising Awareness

We are immensely proud to support organisations raising awareness of Anaphylaxis, Asthma and Allergies. Delyth is PPI Lead on two research trials.

Stargazer

Hugely successful event with guest appearance by Jesse Terry & Viv Fish. Our first Charity Auction had everyone whipped into a fundraising frenzy.

Community Engagement

We are immensely grateful for the kindness and generosity of friends and people within our community who have given time, effort and funds to our charity.



"Raising a child with disabilities is three times more expensive and often requires specialist equipment and treatments. It's physically, emotionally and financially demanding for parents. We're here to help."

Delyth Raffell, Co-Founder & Trustee

31

Grants Given
(Individual/mmunity)

£127,519

Fundraising Total (as at July 2025)

30

Number of Events



Top Events

Details

Outcome

Great North Run

EGOH Applied for
GNR Charity Places
for 2022 and 2023

- 14 Runners
- Funds Raised £5,340

Guinness World Record

GWR Official
Record Achieved
29th Sept 2024

Focus on raising
community
awareness

- 451 People Gathered as Stars
- Radio Interviews with BBC Newcastle, Koast and Hits
- Event covered in Evening Chronicle and Sunday Sun

Christmas Quiz

Annual event ran in
2023 and 2024,
planned for 2025

- Sold out with 120 Guests
- Average Funds Raised £1500

Finances

INCOME

Fundraising Events	£28,834
Fundraising Others	£6,277
Cash Donations	£24,446
Corporate Donors	£64,850
Merchandise	£3,112

<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	£127,519
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EXPENSES

Fundraising Events	£6,497
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OVERHEADS

Insurance	£255
Lottery Licence	£60
Administration	£38

TOTAL EXPENSES	£6,850
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Funding summary



26

Individual
Children

£25,624

Grants
Given

£985

Average
Grant

£3,250

Community
Grants

Five year future plans



Looking ahead to the next 5 years, we are focusing on a few annual events and encouraging others to fundraise.

She Speaks In Colours, the memoir, will be the key piece of work with the aim to have this completed by Sept 2027. Any writer's profits from the book will be donated to Ellen's Charity.

We are looking to introduce a Summer Quiz from 2026 & continue with our very popular Christmas Quiz. However, we will now try and source raffle prizes from local organisations & individuals.

Over the next few years we would like to encourage others to fundraise on the charity's behalf. With this in mind, we will take up five Charity places for the Great North Run in 2026 and hope to recruit members of running clubs.

Whilst taking a break from larger scale activities over the next two years, from 2028 we plan to run one main event towards the end of the year and smaller events in Spring and Summer. Our hope is that with support from external fundraisers we will raise around £10k p.a.

Delyth Raffell – Co-Founder & Trustee

2026 Planned Activities

Asthma & Child Heart Transplant Trials
She Speaks In Colours Memoir Draft
New Summer Quiz / Christmas Quiz
Update EGOH Website

2027 Highlights

Publication of She Speaks In Colours
Book Tour to promote the memoir
Readings & signings to be arranged
Social Media Engagement

2028 Potential Events

Sing-a-long-a-Sound of Music
Angel Christmas Tree
George's Woofs & Wags Walk
Planning for EllenFest

2029 10th Anniversary

EllenFest – Music & Book Festival
celebrates her 10th Anniversary
Bands, Solo Artists, Choirs, DJ, Authors
Children's area, Food vans, Fairground



We'd like to thank all *donors & supporters*



Ellen's Angels Volunteers
Blyth Rugby Club & Members
Bede Academy (Mr A Thelwell)
St. Bede's Church & Ladies Fellowship
Leading Link – Chris Johnson and
all the volunteers (GWR)
Karen Norris (Angel & Gazebo)
Steve Hornsby (Pilot)
Colin & Pat Wilson (Lifelong Planning)
Sandra Raffell
Our Great North Runners
Bethany Lilico (Musician)
Chris Norris (Musician)
Mulvay Dance Academy (GWR)
Twice Brewed Inn (Stargazer Auction)

All the people who have run
events on behalf of our charity,
we appreciate your support.

Everyone who has donated time,
cash, tombola and raffle prizes
to make our events a success!

Thank You

Useful organisations

Help & Guidance



Contacts, Resources & Registration

Natasha Allergy and Research Foundation (NARF)
www.narf.org.uk

BeatAnaphylaxis
www.beatanaphylaxis.co.uk

BeatAsthma
www.beatasthma.co.uk/

Asthma + Lung UK
www.asthmaandlung.org.uk

Organ Donation
www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Give Blood
www.blood.co.uk

Newcastle Hospitals Charity
www.nuth.charity@nhs.net

Child Bereavement Support, RVI Newcastle
Tel: 0191 282 4348

Tributes to Angel Ellen



"I am so very sorry to hear of Ellen's death. It is beyond tragic for such a life of promise to be cut short. I can only be thankful to have met Ellen, shaken her hand, and shared in the inspiration that the exploration of ideas and the universe can bring. My deepest sympathy and thoughts to Ellen's loving family and friends. I'll think of her often as I raise my eyes to the stars. Chris"

Colonel Chris A. Hadfield, Astronaut

Thank you so much for sharing with me the life and love of your daughter Ellen. I am sorry your time with her was limited, but happy that so much was brought into this world by Ellen. My very best to you and your family... Peace, Tom

Tom Hanks, Actor

