

# Royal Surrey Supporter

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**Celebrating 25 years of St Luke's Cancer Centre at  
Royal Surrey**

February marked 25 years since Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh officially opened St Luke's Cancer Centre at Royal Surrey, on 21 February 1997.

Before becoming part of Royal Surrey, St Luke's was a standalone general hospital with its origins stemming back to an 1838 workhouse.

Today, Royal Surrey is a regional referral cancer treatment centre, serving a population of 3 million across the South East of England and accepting referrals across England for specialist radiotherapy. In 2021, Royal Surrey supported more than 8,500 cancer patients.

Royal Surrey delivers more than 30,000 chemotherapy sessions each year and its treatment protocols are followed by many of the leading cancer centres across the UK. It has specialist capabilities to diagnose, treat and care for more types of cancer than most general hospitals.



## A heartfelt 'thank you' from our Chief Executive

“I’m incredibly proud of the service we provide our cancer patients and am grateful to our staff who put their patients at the heart of everything they do and strive to provide the best patient care every day.

“Our patients have some of the best outcomes in the country because of their dedication and care, and because we have invested in our cancer teams, technology and stayed at the forefront of research innovations.”

“A heartfelt thank you to all our staff who support our cancer patients and service.”

*Chief Executive Louise Stead*



**Cancer treatment now has a more holistic focus**

“Cancer care is very different from 25 years ago and our treatment has become more advanced and consequently complex to deliver. Our approach to cancer care has changed too. We now have a more holistic focus so we don’t just treat patients for cancer, we care for the psychological effect of the condition on our patients and their families.

“Our cancer services have expanded and evolved to meet the needs of these changes.”

*Chief of Service for Oncology Sharadah Essapen*

[Read more about St Luke's 25 years.](#)



## Timeline of St Luke's Cancer Centre

Did you know that the origins of St Luke's Cancer Centre are rooted in an 1838 workhouse?

Or that Royal Surrey's innovative approach to cancer care was shared by the original St Luke's, which in 1967 installed the UK's first Betatron electron therapy unit to deliver the most up-to-date treatment at the time.

[Read our timeline of St Luke's to discover more.](#)



## 25 colleagues and patients share their stories

St Luke's is the hub of our cancer service and the care we deliver today is a team effort involving people and departments from all around the hospital.

As part of our celebrations to mark 25 years since the official opening of St Luke's Cancer Centre at Royal Surrey, we've asked 25 current and former staff and patients to tell their stories about our cancer care.

Find out more about our cancer service [through the words of these amazing people.](#)



## **The Fountain Centre an integral part of cancer care**

The Fountain Centre is a small, independent charity that works closely with Royal Surrey to provide emotional support and complementary therapies and information to our cancer patients and their families. Anne Pike, Head of the Fountain Centre, reflects on how far it has come since it first launched in 1998.

"Soon after the opening of the new St Luke's Cancer Centre, some ambitious volunteers hatched a grand plan to help cancer patients in a different way. They saw that patients did not just need chemotherapy and radiotherapy, they needed counselling, advice, a relaxation space and somewhere to share their feelings.

"The Fountain Centre started life in 1996 in a porta cabin in the grounds of the old St Luke's Cancer Hospital site in Guildford. After a lot of hard work, in 1998 the Fountain Centre opened its doors in St Luke's Cancer Centre.

In 2001 the Fountain Centre became a registered charity.

"Today, an amazing team of over 100 volunteers are based at the centre offering information, complementary therapies, psychological support and a much-needed wig service. They also offer a variety of groups, which are offered both online and face-to-face. Today this small independent charity receives over 100 cancer patient referrals a month".

[Read more about the Fountain Centre here.](#)

Support our charity



## From abseiling to online auctions - Royal Surrey Charity supports St Luke's throughout 2022

Royal Surrey Charity is running a number of exciting events for St Luke's throughout the coming year from running events, abseiling Guildford

Cathedral, Skydiving to online auctions.

You can take part as an individual, or create a team with your friends, family and colleagues. Find out more on our [event pages](#).

You can also support St Luke's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary appeal and [making a donation](#) here.