

## Mark Drummond

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**From:** WHITTON, Julie (ROYAL DEVON UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST) [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 July 2022 07:47  
**To:** Mark Drummond  
**Subject:** Funding towards our North Devon District Hospital bereavement suite

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Hello Mark, with regard to our discussion on the phone on Monday 11 July, I would be very grateful if the ICCM (North Devon Crematorium) Metals Recycling Scheme members could consider supporting our North Devon District Hospital Bereavement Suite.

657 people sadly passed away North Devon District Hospital and South Molton Community Hospital in 2021 and the team in the bereavement suite offer support to those families, which includes offering advice and guidance sensitively to relatives and friends to help them through the forthcoming days and weeks of their bereavement offering practical and consolation support at both North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple and South Molton Community Hospital.

The bereavement team need to refurbish the family and staff rooms which includes redecoration, furniture, soft furnishings, crockery and utensils, literature and signage, and they also want to access additional bereavement courses to enable them to support the family as best as they can "over and above" that which the NHS can provide

Bereavement can be a very distressing time in the lives of families and friends and it is important that we help the families come to terms with their loss in a quiet, comfortable and caring surrounding, away from the busy activities on the wards with a friendly face and a cup of tea.

The team also offer wide support and information answering any questions the family may have on arranging the funeral, the medical examiner service, post mortem examinations, tissue donation, hospital chaplaincy and pastoral care, registering the death, how to let people know about the death, stopping junk mail to the recently deceased, probate and legal advice and so much more. The department also provides an autopsy service for North Devon District Hospital and HM Coroner (Exeter and Greater Devon) and services as the public mortuary for North Devon.

Over and Above is an NHS charity and was set up to support Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust. On 1 April 2022 Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust merged to become the **Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**. Over and Above will support Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – **Northern Services** (which covers exactly the same area as we were before the merge and the funds will continue to fund our patients, their families and our staff in North Devon).

This support room and the courses will offer the relatives, their families and our staff the help they need when they need it most. I hope you will be able to support our application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes, Julie

Julie Whitton  
Senior Charity Officer

[REDACTED] *Charity supporting the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust*  
[REDACTED] High Park, Barnstaple, EX31 4JB

# Childrens Holiday Foundation North Devon

Holidays of a lifetime for  
children with life threatening  
illness or severe disability



Dr R Buckland MBE FRCS MRCGP



Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter and for all your previous support. I enclose a copy of our information sheet about our charity and we clearly do not have a primary focus on bereavement support although we are local to North Devon, however we do provide a lot of support to families who have had to support children with life threatening illness and also children with major disabilities and we are proud to have helped over two hundred children and families in gaining confidence and going forward in life.

The holidays of a lifetime to Florida make a big difference to these children and we hope to be able to continue taking groups of children now that the pandemic is behind us and it is once more safe to travel.

Over the last thirty years we have taken several children who have sadly not survived their illness and on those occasions we have tried to support the family where possible. Fortunately with improving treatment the vast majority of cancer cases in children now survive. We are all volunteers in our charity so any donations are used on the holidays.

I shall always be very grateful to the support we received from Mervyn Langmead as I am aware that he was a great believer in the benefits of what we do and it was he that originally nominated our charity.

I would therefore be grateful if you could consider us as a possible nominee for another award. I would be very happy to come and do a presentation on our work if this would help our case

Yours Sincerely



Robin Buckland



## CHILDRENS HOLIDAY FOUNDATION NORTH DEVON

Holidays of a lifetime for children with life threatening illnesses or severe disability

Dr Robin Buckland MBE FRCS MRCP

Registered Charity No. 1045928

### **What is the Children`s Holiday Foundation?**

We are a registered North Devon charity and our aim is to provide holidays of a life time to Florida for children with serious illness or major disabilities.

### **What is a holiday of a life time ?**

The children are accompanied by voluntary adult helpers on a two week holiday to Florida to visit the many exciting theme parks. These include the Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Disney Hollywood, Sea World, Universal Studios, Islands of Adventure, Busch Gardens and Gatorland. We also take the children to Discovery Cove where they swim with the dolphins and this is always a memorable experience. They also spend time relaxing and having fun in the hotel swimming pool, shopping and eating in the family restaurants. We try and look after each individual child`s needs and our aim is to try and make the holiday one of the best two weeks in their lives. A DVD is made of the whole holiday which allows the families to share their child`s experience with them when they return from the holiday. We also provide them with a photo book of their holiday

### **How do we find our children?**

The children come from North Devon and on most occasions are nominated by Paediatricians, General Practitioners, specialist nurses and physiotherapists. We have so far taken 200 children on twenty five separate holidays since 1993. We are now planning the next holiday for 8 more local children in April 2023.

### **What sort of illness or disability do these children have ?**

We have taken children with the following illnesses and disabilities - leukaemia, brain tumours, cystic fibrosis, Crohn`s disease, diabetes, liver failure, kidney failure, other childhood cancers, muscular dystrophy, brittle bone disease, spina bifida, quadriplegia and cerebral palsy. Sadly, many of the children have more than one problem.

## How do our children benefit?

Firstly, the holiday gives them something to look forward to. Most of them have spent a lot of time in hospital having medical or surgical treatment and often they have had to travel long distances to specialist units. We all need something in life to look forward to and many of the parents tell us that the very thought of the holiday often gives their child a huge lift which can in itself help to improve their physical and mental health.

The holidays give them very happy memories of a holiday of a lifetime which often is in direct contrast to the more unpleasant memories associated with their illness or disability. Human nature often allows us to bury the more unpleasant memories in life and hang on to the more happy memories.

The holidays are a great moral booster. The children often come back with a more positive attitude towards coping with their illness which can spark an improvement in their physical and mental health.

Children with serious illness or handicaps often feel detached and isolated. Sharing in the group experience and meeting with other children with similar illness or disability often helps them to come to terms with their own problems and gives them new confidence to cope with the major hurdles that many of them will have to face up to in the future.

The holidays also benefit the family. Caring for an ill or disabled child can be a tremendous financial, emotional and psychological burden. The holiday gives the family a break allowing parents to spend extra time with other siblings. Often the separation from the family can help the child to become more independent and self-confident. The feedback from the families has always been very positive and invariably we are told that the holiday has injected new confidence into their child.

Both my voluntary helpers and I have been privileged to experience these wonderful holidays with so many very special and courageous children.