

Press Release
March 2017



Another Milestone for Bluebell Wood

Five regulars from the Milestone Pub at Crystal Peaks are planning to walk the Pennine Journey, one of Wainwright's Walks in aid of Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice.

The 247 mile journey from Settle follows the route through Middleton-in-Teesdale to Housesteads following Hadrians Wall for 21 miles before returning to Settle via Appelby and Ingleton, this will take 18 days to complete and is scheduled to start next June.

John Tunstall, Karl Seery, Alan Johnson, Andy Wragg, Kay Lavin and Ellis Kennedy came up with the idea after the pub which was recently one of Bluebell Wood's Purple Pubs had been fundraising for the hospice. They decided to name the event Another Milestone for Bluebell Wood as this event follows on a long tradition of fundraising for Bluebell Wood at the pub.

John Tunstall said "Once we decided to do the walk we then wanted to do it for a charity so we chose Bluebell Wood. It made us all the more determined once we had been to the hospice. It's our way of helping Bluebell Wood and I hope that the local community will really get behind the event.

Bluebell Wood, based in North Anston, has a highly specialised care team, offering care and support to children with complex medical needs and a shortened life expectancy.

Gail Parkin, fundraiser at Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice, said: " It's wonderful that this group of friends have come forward and are willing to do this for the hospice, I've met them all and they certainly have the determination to complete the walk and we want to thank them for all the time and effort they are investing in this project.

"It costs £4m a year to keep our doors open and we receive less than 10% government funding. Every penny raised makes a huge positive difference."

Fellow walker Andy Wragg said " If anyone out there would like to join us on the walk or even just for a section of it they would be very welcome to join us. Andy added if anyone out there feels they can support us by way of sponsorship we would be delighted to hear from you, we have had an awful lot of interest in this event.

For more information about Bluebell Wood or to sign up to an event, visit www.bluebellwood.org

Ends

Notes to editors

- Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice offers care and support to children and young people with a shortened life expectancy, both in their own homes and at our hospice in North Anston.
- There are only 53 children's hospices in the country. We care for over 200 children from across South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire, North Nottinghamshire and parts of North Lincolnshire. In addition, we run 250 sessions a month for children and their families. These include play and music therapy, bereavement counselling, sibling support groups and a range of therapies.
- It costs over £4 million a year to provide this vital service to families in the region, and we receive less than 10% government funding.
- Our highly specialist care team look after children with a vast range of complex medical needs and we support the whole family on their life journey offering respite care, day care provision, community support, 24 hour urgent response and end of life treatment and care.