

Manchester Donkeys visit Trinity Hospice

Both the adults and children at Trinity Hospice, based in Bispham, Blackpool were treated to a visit from not just one Donkey Sanctuary donkey, but two!

17 year old Molly and her son Rusty, who is 8 are from the Elisabeth Svendsen Trust for Children and Donkeys and had travelled all the way from Abbey Hey in Manchester for the visit. The EST Trust specialises in providing donkey therapy to children with special needs and disabilities.

Molly and Rusty's arrival was highly anticipated by the children at Brian House Children's Hospice and some of their families had even come along for a chance to meet the donkey duo. The children had the opportunity to meet the pair and touch, stroke and cuddle them. The donkeys were then led into the hospice gardens where the children all took turns to lead Molly and Rusty round, even the children in wheelchairs.



'The visit was a wonderful experience for everyone involved and seeing the joy on the children's faces was a real pleasure, some of the children just couldn't get enough of stroking them' says Sue Pelling, Playworker at Brian House Children's Hospice.

The donkeys then made their way to Day Therapy, stopping to visit patients in their rooms as they passed the in-patient unit, some of them even making their own way out of their rooms to meet and stroke the pair.

Brian House Children's Hospice and Day Therapy are only a part of the family of services offered at Trinity Hospice. They also have an inpatient unit, the clinical nurse specialist team, lymphoedema service, complementary therapy, the learning and research centre and the Linden Centre for bereavement advice and counselling.

Day Therapy Unit Sister Sue Binns says 'The visit was a wonderful success, one of our day patients even decided to sketch a very curious Molly during the visit, it was truly a pleasure to have them here.'

