



Birmingham
Hospice

DRAGON BOAT RACES EVENT GUIDE



Friday 26 & Saturday 27 June 2026

Brindleyplace, Birmingham

A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you for signing up to the Dragon Boat Race and supporting Birmingham Hospice.

Birmingham Hospice provides specialist end of life care for people living with a terminal illness and for their families. This year, **we need to raise £7.2 million from voluntary donations** so local people can receive the vital care and support they need.

We believe people from all communities should have access to the compassionate care and expert support they need; whenever and wherever they need it. This would not be possible without your incredible fundraising efforts.



We hope that you're looking forward to taking part in **Birmingham Hospice's Dragon Boat Race**, proudly supported by Brindleyplace.

This guide contains all the information you need about the event and support with fundraising.

As we gear up for the big day, the Birmingham Hospice Events Team will keep in touch with exciting updates and top tips for raising sponsorship.

We are here to support you every step of the way. You can contact us anytime using the details below – we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you again for making a splash and supporting Birmingham Hospice. We are so grateful for your support and can't wait to see you at the Dragon Boat Race!

Best wishes

Sam & Sabrina
Dragon Boat Event Team

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EVENT INFORMATION

Event information

Event Date: **Friday 26 June or Saturday 27 June 2026**

Event Address: **Brindley Place Canal, Birmingham**

What's in store at the Dragon Boat Race?

9am Event Village opens

Make your way towards the Sealife Centre where you will see our Birmingham Hospice registration tent. Once you've signed in, make the most of our vibrant new location and grab a coffee or a snack in Brindleyplace. A number of hospitality outlets will be offering discounts across the weekend - keep an eye on event details we send you for more information!

10am The Dragon Boat Race begins!

Before you take to the water on your chosen race day your team will receive a full health and safety briefing from our event partners, Race the Dragon and you will have the opportunity of a practice run.

Each team will take part in a minimum of three races paddling 175m in the heart of Birmingham's best known water highway. The race takes up to a minute and half to complete which may sound short and sweet but is likely to be more fast and furious!

4pm- 4.30pm (approx) The grand finale!

The fastest teams will battle it out in the grand finale where only one (each day) will be crowned Birmingham Hospice's 2026 Dragon Boat Race Champion!

What is Dragon Boat Racing?

Dragon boat racing is a fun and energetic watersport where teams, of between 7 and 11, paddle together in long, colourful boats decorated with dragon heads and tails. It's a fantastic team-building activity that combines teamwork, rhythm, and friendly competition.

You will be racing in 9m boats, with a minimum of 6 paddlers + 1 drummer / maximum 10 paddlers + 1 drummer.

Health and safety

Race the Dragon will give a full on and off-the-water briefing session before racing begins. We take every step to put on a fun and safe event, but we cannot accept any liability for any injury, or loss or damage to property during this event.

If you have any health issues or are pregnant, we advise you consult your doctor before signing up to the event. For safety reasons all paddlers must be at least 120cm tall. Drummers must be at least 12 years old and paddlers must be at least 16. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a guardian.

EVENT INFORMATION

Photography and Videography

Please be aware that there will be photographers and videographers at the event and any photos or videos may be used in future marketing materials and promotional activities. If you'd prefer NOT to have your photo taken, please email events@birminghamhospice.org.uk before the event, or advise one of our event volunteers on the day. We'll ensure that this is communicated to our staff and may ask you to wear a lanyard so you're easily identifiable.

FAQ's

How do I get to the event?

The Dragon Boat Race takes place on the famous canal network in Brindleyplace and is easily accessible by car, foot, train, bus and tram. Find out more about getting to Brindleyplace and parking at www.brindleyplace.com/visit/getting-here

Do I need to do anything to prepare before the event?

No, you do not need to train or buy / bring anything to take part in the event. We will provide boar, paddles, buoyancy aids and safety cover.

What should I wear?

We recommend wearing comfortable clothes and shoes that you don't mind getting wet (just in case!) and changing facilities will be available. Fancy dress isn't compulsory but is definitely encouraged! Why not buy a branded Birmingham Hospice t-shirt to wear with pride on the day? Order one via our online shop beforehand or grab one at the merch stall on the day.

Can I bring anyone with me?

Your family and friends are welcome to come and cheer you on, on the day and there will be food and fun activities for them to enjoy. Please note, only pre-registered participants can take part in the race itself.

What is my fundraising target?

If you signed up for team registration £110 you pledged to raise £1,650 for Birmingham Hospice and your team captain will have set up a team fundraising page which you can share with your supporters.

If you signed up with the none sponsorship option you've paid more to take part in the event and therefore have not committed to a fundraising target, however we would still encourage you to fundraise as every penny raised enables us to continue our vital work across the city.

We're here to help and support you on your fundraising journey with branded materials, collection buckets and fundraising ideas.

Important Event Information

It is compulsory to wear a buoyancy aid at all times whilst actively taking part in the event.

There will be no storage facilities available on the day, so please only bring what's necessary and keep important personal belongings with you at all times.

Toilets will be located at x+why, The Foundry, 6 Brindleyplace (Opposite Costa Coffee) in Central Square.

Team gazebos are not permitted at the event, due to the narrow towpath. Please see our [sponsorship pack](#) for details of event spaces for your team.

START FUNDRAISING!

Setting up your online fundraising page

When your team signed up, an Enthuse online fundraising page will have automatically been set up for you.

Enthuse is an online fundraising platform, and it's easy for you to shout about what you're doing and share your page so that people can sponsor you. The money you raise is sent directly to Birmingham Hospice.

If you prefer you can use other fundraising pages, including JustGiving and Facebook Fundraising. Don't forget to personalise your fundraising page by uploading photos, sharing why you are taking part and adding updates so people can be part of your fundraising journey e.g. Check out my fancy dress costume - if I raise another £100 today I'll wear the wig to work tomorrow!



Jane hosted a bake sale as part of her fundraising target she had set herself, in memory of a dear family friend.

"It was so wonderful to see the community coming together to support the hospice, and getting to enjoy some homemade cake at the same time!"

Fundraising offline

You can collect cash donations using the sponsorship form included in this guide. Pop your team name and a bit about the Dragon Boat Race on the form then share it at work, school or your local club.

Don't forget to encourage anyone sponsoring you to tick the Gift Aid box – this means that we can claim an extra 25p per £1 donated at no cost or effort for you. Once you've collected sponsorship you can pay this in via our website, to our bank account, by post or in person.

Craig's story

"The hospice made Craig a man again - they brought his dignity back."

There are the words of Craig Liggett's parents – Chris and Bill, whose son was cared for by Birmingham Hospice before he died in July 2025, aged just 45 years old.

Craig was only 21 when he had his first brain tumour, and despite being given only two years to live he defied expectations and recovered from the operation to remove the tumour. However, in 2021 doctors discovered multiple tumours which left him unable to walk.

Craig needed specialist care and support. He was referred to our Hospice at Home Team who started to visit every day helping to wash, dress and care for Craig. His dad Bill recalls: "They were brilliant. No words can explain, they made Craig's life so easy - he never complained at all. They let Chris and I become parents again."

Craig was then moved to the Inpatient Unit at Selly Park in 2025 and celebrated his 45th birthday there, thanks to hospice teams, who organised refreshments, music, decorations and games.

Chris and Bill say the hospice teams became like family to them, and they loved the special relationship all the staff had with Craig. They said Craig was 'so happy' when staying in our Inpatient Unit and they felt peaceful knowing he was safe.

"He never let the tumours bother him", remembers Chris. "He fought. He fought well – over 20 odd years. Those last few months of his life were perfect because he was in the hospice and they looked after him. They made him a man again - they brought his dignity back."



A-Z workplace fundraising ideas



G

A

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Whether you're a dab hand with a paint brush, or great at cutting and sticking, why not sell your handmade items and donate the proceeds to Birmingham Hospice.

AFTERNOON TEA AT WORK

Love scones and dainty sandwiches? Gather your colleagues for a delightful afternoon tea and ask for donations in exchange for sweet treats.



GAMING MARATHON

Organise a gaming tournament where players pay to enter



B

BEARD SHAVE

If you have a beard, challenge yourself to a clean shave and ask loved ones to sponsor the transformation. Or flip the challenge and should you be clean shaven, grow one for hospice care.

BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Instead of gifts, request donations from family, friends and loved ones for a meaningful birthday contribution



H



HOSPICE HOP

Get your work colleagues together and get sponsored to collectively hop the distance from your workplace to one of our hospice sites.

C

CHARITY GALA Host a VIP ball with a raffle and auction to maximise your fundraising.



COFFEE MORNING

Enjoy coffee and cake while catching up with colleagues and raising money.



I

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK LUNCH Celebrate signature dishes with your colleagues..



INDOOR TREASURE HUNT Hide clues around your office or venue and charge a small entry fee for participants to join the hunt and win prizes.

D

DIGITAL DETOX Can you survive 24 hours without your phone or TV? Get sponsored to unplug!



DRESS DOWN DAY Switch up your office attire for a casual (or themed) dress down day in exchange for contributions.

J

JEWELLERY MAKING Design to support Birmingham Hospice.

JUMBLE SALE Round up clothes, books, and household items for a group sale and raise money while grabbing second-hand bargains.



E

ENDURANCE CHALLENGE Whether it's running, walking, swimming, or squatting, set yourself a challenge and get sponsored to power through.

EGG AND SPOON RACE

Hold your very own school sports day at work and generate team sponsorship.



K



KICK A HABIT Quit a habit for a set time and get sponsored for your willpower.

KNITATHON Gather fellow crafters, knit up a storm, and sell your handmade creations for our hospice.

F

FANCY DRESS DAY Choose a fun theme (superheroes, decades, movie characters) and ask for donations to join in the dress-up fun.

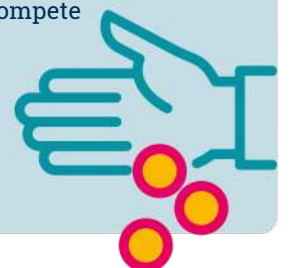
FITNESS CHALLENGE Set a personal fitness goal, like 100 push-ups a day or running 5K daily for a month and get sponsored for your determination.

L

LUNCHTIME QUIZ Host a quick-fire trivia session teams donate to enter and compete for a fun prize.

LOOSE CHANGE COLLECTION

Keepajar for spare coins, they add up faster than you think!



M

MATCH FUNDING Double your impact at work with matched funding - speak to your employer to see if they offer it!

**T**

TALENT AUCTION Encourage people to auction money in exchange for a talent

TURN £50 INTO £500 Set yourself a budget of £50 and invest with the aim of raising more. Challenge yourself to raise £525 - which could pay for 24 hours of nursing support for a person being cared for on one of our Inpatient Units.

N

NAME THE OBJECT Whether it's a teddy, a plant, or a mystery prize, have people pay to guess the name and win.



NAME THAT TUNE Host a music quiz where players guess songs from short snippets, entry fees go to Birmingham Hospice.

U

UPCYCLING

Transform old items into something new and donate the proceeds.

Who knows? You might find a new hobby too.

**O**

OFFICE OLYMPICS Organise fun, office-style challenges and compete in teams for bragging rights and fundraising success.

ONLINE FUNDRAISING Set up a JustGiving page and turn almost any activity into an online fundraiser.

V

VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING Take on a virtual challenge, like cycling the Tour de France on a spin bike or running a marathon on a treadmill.

P

PAYROLL GIVING Check with your employer about tax-free payroll donations. Find out more details online.

**W**

WALK TO WORK

Skip the car or public transport and walk instead and donate your usual commuting cost.

Q

QUIZ NIGHT

Test your knowledge by hosting a trivia night with entry fees supporting the hospice.



QUIET HOUR CHALLENGE Challenge chatterboxes to stay silent for an hour (or more!) and get sponsored for every minute of quiet time.

Y

YES DAY CHALLENGE Say "yes" to everything (within reason!) for a day and collect sponsorship for our hospice.

**R**

RAFFLE

Sell tickets, gather prizes, and get your network involved.

RUN FOR BIRMINGHAM HOSPICE

Pick a distance, lace up your shoes, and get sponsored to complete the challenge.

**Z**

ZERO WASTE WEEK Challenge

yourself and others to go waste-free for a week and raise sponsorship for every day you succeed.

ZUMBA FUNDRAISER Coordinate a Zumba-thon with your gym, community centre or workplace and donate the proceeds.

S

STEP CHALLENGE Set a daily or monthly step goal and raise funds with every step.

SWEEPSTAKE A simple and fun way to raise money, everyone chips in, and the winner gets a prize while the rest supports Birmingham Hospice.



Find out all the ways you can get involved and support Birmingham Hospice at www.birminghamhospice.org.uk/get-involved/

A-Z
workplace fundraising ideas

 **Birmingham Hospice**

 Registered with **FUNDRAISING REGULATOR**
Registered charity in England and Wales (No 1156964)

PROMOTE YOUR CHALLENGE

Make some noise

Social media is a great way to share that you and your team are fundraising for Birmingham Hospice and keep your supporters updated with your fundraising progress, event plans or training.

Encourage your family and friends to share your posts, and don't forget you can find us on **Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok** and **LinkedIn**.

Remember to tag **@brumshospice** in your posts for a shout out and so we can see how your fundraising is going!

£93 could pay for a nurse to visit a patient in their home so they can be cared for in the place of their choice.



Pin up your poster



An event poster is a great way to promote your challenge and let people know how they can support you.



Blogs are brilliant!

Writing an online blog for your company intranet or website will help spread awareness of your challenge and encourages sponsorship.

You could also contact local influencers, press offices, businesses and community websites or their social media pages, and ask them to promote your fundraising. They could also repost your social media posts, share your online donation page or share your story with their followers.

Do have a story to share on why you are taking part and raising money for Birmingham Hospice?

If so, get in touch with the Events Team - we'd love to hear from you!

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

No matter how you choose to raise sponsorship for Birmingham Hospice, our dedicated team of fundraisers will be on hand to support you every step of the way.

The fundraising tools we can provide you with include:

- Collection Buckets
- Collection Tin and Boxes
- T-shirts
- Bunting
- Balloons
- Banners
- Stickers
- And more!



Get in touch by emailing events@birminghamhospice.org.uk or call 0121 465 2009.



Thank you for supporting



www.birminghamhospice.org.uk
events@birminghamhospice.org.uk

0121 752 6150



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