

2021 in review



2021

What a year!

£128,000 raised

My first two years as Chair of The Helen Straker Charity couldn't have been more challenging and desperately frustrating in equal measures. Firstly, lockdown... which meant that no events could take place, and therefore no income for the charities we support! Then as we went through 2021 the brakes came off and we started to believe that we could actually go again, maybe a gentle toe in the water just to put feelers out there, in the hope we could raise a little bit from a couple of low key events. Then we realised that everyone really did have an appetite to get back on it, and what a fantastic end to the year we had, beating all previous records from three events in just 5 months! Very busy, but incredibly rewarding!

I would like to send my sincere thanks to everyone of you who has supported us over the years. Without your tremendous support, the charity couldn't function, so many many thanks once again.

My fellow Trustees and I look forward to seeing you at a Helen Straker Charity event later this year.

Steve Harbour Chair



AUGUST 2021

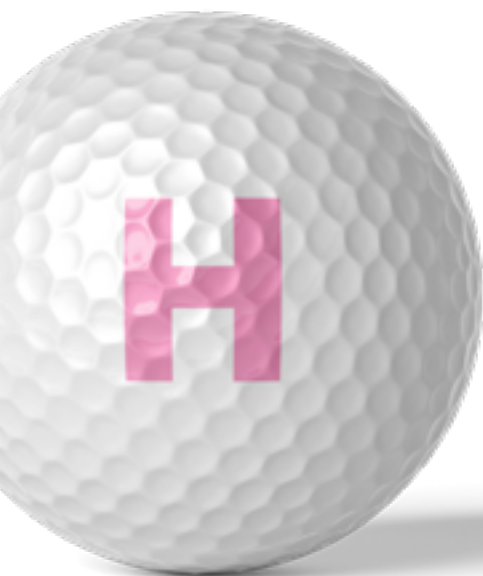
Golf Day, Castle Combe

£35,000 raised

Postponed from 2020, delayed from July and eventually played in August we were delighted to resume normal activities with our golf day which has now been running since 2014 and is a firm favourite on the calendar. With a few sensible restrictions in place which limited the number of teams we could allow to take part a great day was had by all, some great golf (?), loads of laughter around the course no doubt encouraged by the 'Hospitality' placed strategically amongst the 18 stunning holes at Castle Combe. The day ended with a barbecue, prize giving and an auction on the terrace on a warm evening serenaded by a gentle acoustic guitarist and closet rocker, Matt Cook from somewhere near Swansea! Many thanks to Rich Dee for generously putting Matt on 'stage' for everyone to enjoy.

We had some fun with the prize draw and prizegiving. Suffice to say some unlikely winners came to the fore on the individual comps, and our thoroughly deserving winners of the team event were Rich Dee, Mark Dee, Matt Baggott and Tom Moore.

"We were absolutely thrilled with how the day worked out, we always strive to add a few new twists to the day, which seemed to work really well this year, and to raise in the region of £35,000 was a remarkable result." *Antony Bulley Trustee*





SEPTEMBER 2021

Clay Shoot, Stroud Hill Farm

£86,500 raised

Following hard on the heels of the golf day, the scene was set on a fine September's morning at Stroud Hill Farm for the 40 teams of keen shots to enjoy a light breakfast before taking on the challenge of the 7 'conventional' and testing stands with clays appearing from all angles behind trees and hedgerows.

Some excellent shooting, and some not so good, provided a great day's sport which was enhanced this year by the Andrew Fleming Memorial Shield which was played out over 4 rather less conventional stands comprising fly fishing, air rifles, axe throwing and archery! Andrew had been a founding member of the Charity committee and later a Trustee who had been hugely influential in many ways but had certainly taken the clay shoot under his wing and ensured it grew in popularity over the years. Andrew very sadly passed away in December 2019 after a spell of ill health and it was lovely that his wife Emma was able to join us throughout the day and into the evening, she was delighted that Andrew could be remembered in such a way. The Trophy will remain as an integral part of the event for many years to come.

The beers went down well, the food and wine were once again excellent, and the marquee was full to witness a great auction held by Kit Harding. Many thanks to Kit for his support and expertise in achieving some great prices for the fine array of Lots.

"Of all the events we hold this has become very special, as you can imagine a huge amount of hard work goes into changing the working farm into a bespoke venue for the day but to raise a staggering £86,000 really does make it all so worthwhile." *Gordon Straker Trustee*

Winners of the main event were 'Poke & Hope' (Mark Carpenter, Jason Holloway, Laurie Vines & Karl Wieczorek). First to lift the Andrew Fleming Memorial Shield were 'The Time Bandits' (Edward Giles, Neil Straker, John Noble & Sam Giles).





DECEMBER 2021

Tractor Boys Lunch, The Rec

£6,500 raised

To round off the year in fine style came the Tractor Boys Lunch, this year held at the Rec, home of Bath Rugby, in a suite overlooking the pitch, many thanks to Bath Rugby for hosting us! A tried and tested formula of a long lunch and some rugby banter with Matt Powell encouraging some enlightening and entertaining conversation with former England captain Lewis Moody, who gave the hundred Tractor Boys who attended a revealing look into the life of a top class rugby player... on and off the field!

We also heard from Sandie Bunn, a great friend of Guy Straker and the Straker family, who is taking on the incredible challenge of the Marathon des Sables, a staggering 250kms (over 150miles) run across the Sahara desert in just 6 days, undeniably the toughest foot race on earth! A quite remarkable feat which Sandie is taking on in the name of The Helen Straker Charity! We all, of course, wish him the very best of luck. Go well, and stay safe!

Networking continued throughout the evening and long into the night for some! All in all a great day, and one that has become a firm favourite on the calendar!





Former England Captain Lewis Moody presenting his prized shirt worn in his last 6 Nations game to highest bidder, Brett Thompson.



