



DRAGON BOAT RACE 2026

Sunday 20 September 2026

Race for the people who need us most.

One day on the water. A lifetime of difference for families in South Warwickshire.



About The Shakespeare Hospice

The Shakespeare Hospice has been at the heart of South Warwickshire for decades, providing free, specialist palliative care to patients and families facing life-limiting illness. From our In-Patient Unit to our Day Hospice and care in people's own homes, we are there at the moments that matter most. It costs over £3 million a year to keep our doors open - and just 12% of that comes from the NHS. The rest comes from this community. From people and businesses exactly like yours.

Battle on the Avon 2026

This is not a quiet charity collection or a sponsored walk around the car park. This is forty teams, one river, and a fight for the title of 2026 Dragon Boat Champions. On Saturday 20 September, the River Avon at Stratford Boat Club becomes the most exciting stretch of water in Warwickshire - full of noise, colour, spray, and teams giving absolutely everything they've got. It's a genuine team day out, a brilliant CSR story, and a fundraiser that your team will still be talking about in December. No experience needed. Just the will to get on the water and race.

The Difference Your Money Makes

£12 could pay for a memory making activity for a bereaved child.

£60 could pay for a 121 Counselling session for a patient or carer.

£101 could provide one hour of nursing care for patients in their own home.

£934 could provide one month of travel costs for our Hospice at Home Nurses to deliver their compassionate care.

Next Steps

1

Set up your Just Giving page.

Go to [justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com) and set up a team fundraising page linked to The Shakespeare Hospice. Set your target at £1,500 or more, add a team photo, and write a short personal message.

2

Share widely and often

Email your customers, suppliers, and professional contacts. Post on LinkedIn. Ask team members to share on their personal social media. Most donations come after the second or third reminder.

3

Run a workplace fundraiser

Use the ideas in this pack to raise extra funds at work. Even a simple bake sale or dress-down day can add £100–£200 to your team's total.

4

Train, race, and celebrate

Arrive on 20 September ready to give everything. Enjoy one of the best days your team will ever have - and know that every pound you've raised is going directly to caring for patients and families in South Warwickshire.

Need fundraising inspiration?

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- **Bake Sale** - bake and sell cakes/treats at £1 – £2 per item. Theme the baked goods around the Dragon Boat Race for extra fun.
- **Dress Down / Theme Day** - Charge £2 – £5 to come to work in casual clothes or team colours. Dragon-themed outfits earn extra points.
- **Office Quiz Night** - Host an after-work or lunchtime quiz. Charge a small entry fee per team. Add a prize for the winners.
- **Cake & Coffee Morning** - Invite clients and suppliers to a morning coffee event charge for refreshments and run a small raffle.
- **Sponsored Activity** - Organise a lunchtime walk, run, or step challenge in the week before the race. Sponsor per mile or a flat amount.
- **Prize Raffle** - Ask local businesses to donate prizes - vouchers, experiences, hampers. Sell tickets at £1–£2 each to colleagues and contacts.
- **Ask Your Network** - A well-crafted email to your professional network explaining why you're taking part can be your single biggest earner. Keep it personal, brief, and include your JustGiving link.
- **Company Matched Giving** - Many companies match employee fundraising £ for £. Check your HR policy - matched giving can double your total with no extra effort from your team.
- **Social Media Challenge** - Issue a fun team challenge on LinkedIn or Instagram and ask followers to donate. Tag The Shakespeare Hospice and use #BattleOnTheAvon.

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theshakespearehospice.org.uk/supportus



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