





FFOS LAS RACEDAY

CARMARTHENSHIRE

16th October 2025 | 10:30am - 17:00pm







Whether you're a seasoned racegoer or enjoying your first day at the races, this is the perfect opportunity to dress up, enjoy great company, and be part of a truly memorable occasion.

At £115 per head, ticket prices include the exclusive use of the Bridles Restaurant, a delicious two-course lunch, afternoon tea and seven live jump races, including the first national race of the season.

This event is held in partnership with Janet Davies, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, who has selected Cerebral Palsy Cymru as one of her chosen charities.

For individual tickets, please visit our website via the button on the right. For table bookings, please email kathrynj@cerebralpalsycymru.org

Headline sponsor:







Hello and welcome to our Autumn edition of The Tangram, which is kindly supported by our Principal Partner and supporter of Better Start, Better Future, Slater & Gordon Lawyers.

Since our last newsletter, we have launched a new monthly coffee morning for parents and carers, alongside our growing Adult Social Hub meet ups. The Adult Social Hub has continued to evolve with new themes and locations, most recently a Pedal Power event that proved to be great fun!

In June, we were thrilled to celebrate our longstanding volunteer, Sue Jones, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in the King's Birthday Honours. Volunteers' Week also gave us a chance to express our heartfelt gratitude to Sue and all our incredible volunteers, from those working in our charity shops and at our reception, to our Trustees and Ambassadors.

After over 25 years at the helm of Cerebral Palsy Cymru, I am moving to a new position in the organisation and becoming Clinical Champion. This newly created role will allow me to concentrate on clinical aspects within the centre and to work with a new Chief Executive to ensure we have strong and clinically excellent services going forward, keeping children and families at the heart of everything we do.

Marie Wood, who has been Director of Fundraising and Communications since January 2024 (and who served as a Trustee for 6 years prior to that), is stepping up as interim CEO until we are able to recruit in the New Year, so I know we are in safe hands.

As I write, we are busy preparing for our exciting array of Autumn and Winter events, including our first Ffos Las Race Day, the return of our Better Start Ball and our Christmas Market. Please keep an eye on our website for more details and opportunities to get involved.

Behind the scenes, we are working hard on our new strategy, with a clear focus on developing services for children and families in financially sustainable ways and growing our early intervention programme, Better Start, Better Future. We look forward to sharing our plans between now and 2028/2029 very soon!

The unwavering generosity and support of our families, friends, and fundraisers remain a huge source of support and inspiration to all of us at Cerebral Palsy Cymru. We are continually impressed and amazed by the creativity, energy and commitment of our community of supporters, and we hope you enjoy reading some of their stories in this edition of The Tangram.

With thanks for your support from all at Cerebral Palsy Cymru,

Jerry arroll

Jenny Carroll Clinical Champion











Rosie's story

Rosie is one of the 87 new babies that were referred to our specialist early intervention service last year. Her parents, Andy and Claire share her story:

Rosie was born prematurely at just 28 weeks and three days, while we were away from home, visiting relatives in Southampton.

Those first few months were a very scary time. After a few days on the neonatal ward in Southampton and delays due to stormy weather, we travelled back to North Wales via helicopter due to Rosie's fragility.

Rosie was then taken ill with meningitis which was treated with an extensive period of antibiotics. Unfortunately, the meningitis resulted in hearing loss and fluid on the brain which required surgery to place a shunt in her brain. But after five months in five different hospitals, we were finally able to bring Rosie home.

We first heard about Cerebral Palsy Cymru through our local physiotherapist, who mentioned that they worked with children at risk of cerebral palsy, even without a formal diagnosis. And after a lot of research, we realised that Rosie was very likely to have cerebral palsy and made a self-referral to their early intervention programme, Better Start, Better Future.

We had an initial online session and then travelled to Cardiff for our first in person therapy session. Even waiting in reception, we could see other families who were in similar situations, and we felt a sort of sense of belonging. We just felt less alone.

The team at Cerebral Palsy Cymru took the time to truly get to know Rosie, not just her medical needs but also her personality, her likes and dislikes. We felt really supported and cared for. Up until then, our experiences had been very clinical, dominated by discussions about medical interventions. But at Cerebral Palsy Cymru, the approach felt more human, more personal.

Having Natasha (Cerebral Palsy Cymru's Family Support Coordinator) join our therapy sessions was also really useful, especially as she is a parent to a child with cerebral palsy, it just made sense.

Better Start, Better Future has given us a much better understanding of cerebral palsy, and how we can best help and support Rosie. Our continued outreach sessions in North Wales, provided by Cerebral Palsy Cymru, have been really useful. Alongside our local weekly physio, these sessions have given us the strength and the energy to keep going and keep doing the exercises. The team are real specialists and have given us structure to work with and guide us.

Without Cerebral Palsy Cymru, there wouldn't be any early intervention at all. There is a lack of support out there for families with cerebral palsy, so we just feel so lucky to have access to a service like this.

There's a lot of uncertainty when you first find out your child has cerebral palsy, especially in the early days when you don't know what's going to happen. It can be a tough thing psychologically for parents, and quite isolating. Getting support from Cerebral Palsy Cymru has helped us have hope and to feel that we're not alone.











We warmly invite you to join us at our

BETTER START BALL

Friday 14th November | 19:00pm - 12:00am



Enjoy a glamourous evening with dinner and entertainment at the Parkgate Hotel, Cardiff, in the company of special guests – all to raise vital funds for our specialist early intervention service 'Better Start, Better Future', which provides therapy and support for babies across Wales who have or are at high risk of having cerebral palsy.

Tickets: £85pp or £850 for a table of 10

To book individual tickets or to find out more, please visit www.cerebralpalsycymru.org/events

For table bookings, please contact a member of our team on 02920 522600 or email fundraising@cerebralpalsycymru.org

Headline sponsor:





Following the Llanberis Track by torchlight, this night-time trek offers a unique twist on a classic challenge. Reaching the summit at sunrise, you'll be rewarded with unforgettable views over Snowdonia National Park, and as we descend, the stunning mountain landscape will unfold around us.

Click the QR code to find out more and sign up!



SAHARA TREK

19TH FEB - 24TH FEB 26 | £199 REG FEE | £2,150 MIN SPONSORSHI

Climb to the top of the towering Chigaga Dunes to witness a breathtaking desert sunrise. With the heat and tough trekking ahead, the stunning Anti-Atlas backdrop and strong support will keep you going, making the hard-earned finish all the more rewarding.

Click the QR code to find out more and sign up!

Spotlight on our corporate supporters: Slater and Gordon Lawyers

Slater and Gordon has a long and proud history with Wales. With offices in Cardiff for decades, supporting Welsh individuals and families throughout that time. Our Welsh lawyers have a deep commitment to our charity partners, supporting them in a host of ways so they can deliver vital services to the Welsh community.

Here, Kelly Lloyd Davies, principal lawyer in the clinical negligence team in Cardiff, and senior associate Lara Bennett, explains more about the partnership with Cerebral Palsy Cymru and how the whole Slater and Gordon team are determined to make a difference.

"We are proud to have worked with Cerebral Palsy Cymru for a number of years and have built a really strong relationship with the fantastic team who give such wonderful support to families across the country. We know from families we represent, as well as those we meet during fundraising activities and events, how much of a lifeline Cerebral Palsy Cymru's work is in supporting them to live their lives – and this inspires us even more to do all we can to help.

Through supporting the work of the team on a practical level, we know the impact this goes on to have on whole families. We are delighted to sponsor the Better Start, Better Future early intervention programme, a really vital service in delivering support from the earliest ages, at a time when families need it most as they adjust their lives around the child's needs.

We are also really pleased to sponsor some key events, such as the Better Start Ball, and we were pleased to host our legendary Crabtree's Curry Night – an annual event for Slater and Gordon, which brings together professionals from across the country – to benefit Cerebral Palsy Cymru. We fully appreciate that without financial support, charities cannot deliver the services families so badly need, so we will always commit to help Cerebral Palsy Cymru however we can.





We have an enthusiastic and committed team in Cardiff, and we're certainly not afraid to get involved in all manner of activities to help with fundraising – we take part in the Cardiff Half Marathon and the 70 Miles in March challenge, and we also try our hand at baking to hold bake sales in the office. Our colleagues always wear green for Go Green for CP day in March, with proceeds going to Cerebral Palsy Cymru.

We're always delighted to visit the children's centre and earlier this year we had the pleasure of donating Easter eggs to families. Visiting the centre, meeting families and the team and seeing their work in action really inspires us all at Slater and Gordon, and enables us to see first-hand the huge impact Cerebral Palsy Cymru is making every day. We are so pleased to be involved in such an important and dynamic charity, which does such amazing work, and will always do all we can to show our support."







Slater and Gordon supports families with a range of legal services, delivered by our expert teams of specialists. We can assist in:

- Clinical negligence
- Court of Protection
- Education law
- Wills, Trusts and Probate
- Family law
- Employment

To find out more, please visit: www.slatergordon.co.uk



Gifts in Wills are so important to us as they enable the charity to use the money where it is needed most – often to grow our services so that we can see more babies and children.

Every gift – no matter the size – makes a difference. Even 1% (so those closest to you inherit 99%) or a modest sum of money will help provide for children in the future who will need our care.

By including Cerebral Palsy Cymru in your Will, you will be helping to ensure that babies at high risk of cerebral palsy are seen by us as soon as possible, that children with cerebral palsy can achieve their full potential and live as independently as possible, and that the whole family is supported practically and emotionally for the journey ahead of them.

If you are interested in leaving a gift in your Will to Cerebral Palsy Cymru and would like to chat about it further, please contact Emma our Trusts & Legacies Fundraising Manager at emmab@cerebralpalsycymru.org or on 029 20528104.

A gift in Memory of a loved one...

Many of you have made a gift to Cerebral Palsy Cymru in memory of a loved one over the last year, whether that has been a donation in lieu of flowers at a loved one's funeral or by setting up a tribute page to remember someone special and fundraise in their memory. We would like to thank everyone who has donated in this way.

If you would like to remember someone special and fundraise in their memory, one of the ways to do that is to create a tribute page on www.muchloved.com

Here you can add photos and videos and share thoughts and stories with family and friends while raising funds for children and families living with cerebral palsy. Please click the button on the right for further information.



ONLINE PARENT CAFÉ

2nd Tuesday of the month | 1:30 - 2:30 PM

Join us for our online Parent Cafés, a safe, supportive space to connect, reflect, and grow together.

Led by Clinical Psychologist Emma Johnston & Family Support Coordinator Natasha Elliott, these virtual sessions explore themes like resilience, support, relationships, and understanding our children, through honest, peer-led conversations. These sessions create space to reflect, connect, and feel less alone on the journey.

If you would like to attend this event, please RSVP to Emma Johnston - emmaj@cerebralpalsycymru.org



Sponsored by **LEIGH DAY**

PARENT COFFEE MORNING

◆ Cerebral Palsy Cymru, Llanishen2nd Tuesday of each month | 10:00 - 12:00

Meet other parents and carers to children with cerebral palsy to talk and share experiences.

This event is open to all parents and carers who have a child aged 0-16 with cerebral palsy, or those currently accessing services through Better Start Better Future. Please note that children are not allowed to attend this event.

If you would like to attend this event, please RSVP to Natasha Elliott at natashae@cerebralpalsycymru.org.





Celebrating our incredible London Marathon runners Meet our fundraisers who took on the challenge raising over £25,000!

"I chose to run the London Marathon for Cerebral Palsy Cymru because of my son, Axel, who is my biggest inspiration. Axel is 3 years old and has cerebral palsy, and we've been receiving incredible virtual support from Cerebral Palsy Cymru since he was around 6 months old. Their guidance and encouragement have made a real difference in our journey, and running this marathon is my way of giving back to an organisation that continues to support families like ours every day." - Rhiannon





"I am a solicitor; in my role I help clients manage their property and financial affairs if they don't have capacity to do so themselves. Over the past ten years, I have witnessed how specialist intervention can help a child with cerebral palsy reach their full potential.

I ran the marathon with Cyril the Cerebral Palsy bear. Cyril has spent the past year going on adventures with children and their families in the hope to raise awareness of the condition and to add a few smiles and 'cwtches' along the way. The London Marathon was Cyril's most gruelling adventure yet but we were so pleased to be able to support this deserving charity." - Joy

"I ran the London Marathon to try and pay Cerebral Palsy Cymru back for all the support the team has given us as family both physically and mentally.

I know we'll never be able to pay you back for what the team has done for us but I thought this small effort in comparison on my part would help. The London marathon was just an escalation of my completion of the Cardiff half for Cerebral Palsy Cymru. Knowing that I didn't particularly enjoy running when I started, I thought people would pay to watch me suffer and luckily, they did." - James





"Running the London Marathon for Cerebral Palsy Cymru was a great honour!

The charity does such amazing work and have supported my niece with therapies. It was a great feeling to give something back to them! The marathon itself was a huge challenge but the sense of achievement when I completed it was priceless. If you decide to take on the marathon you won't regret it!" - Jessica



"After watching the highlights of the 2024 marathon I was inspired - I had already started running over the past 12 months and the most I was running was a 5k a couple of times a week.

So I thought being Welsh which charity could I raise money for - I had already raised money for Cerebral Palsy Cymru a few years prior in the 70k in a month I ran and walked with my daughter Millie- the reason we did this is because my middle daughter Abbie has cerebral palsy. Although we have not accessed support from the charity Abbie and us as a family received support up in north wales from OT and physio for her to develop and progress through her childhood - she's now almost 18 and completing her A levels." - Cathy



"I wanted to pick a charity where the money raised makes a real difference for the people the charity helps support, a local charity where I can see firsthand where it goes. This is why I chose to run for Cerebral Palsy Cymru.

Further to this, Cerebral Palsy is a condition close to my heart. My son Leighton was born at 26 weeks, so, I ran a mile for each week. Whilst in hospital the Doctors and Consultants talked about Leighton having a high chance of having Cerebral Palsy, but we may not know the extent until he develops. During that time it is something I extensively researched. Therefore, when the opportunity came I wanted to give something back to a charity that helps so many parents and children."- Sean

Thank you to all of our incredible runners for taking on the London Marathon, and sharing your wonderful stories with us.

We are so grateful for your support!





Stange & Co Pub Group take on the 19-mile Carneddau to Conwy Challenge in support of Cerebral Palsy Cymru!

In May, our friends at Stange & Co Pub Group headed to the mountains of Snowdonia to take on a 20 mile hike with 1500m of elevation, raising an incredible £7837.48 in aid of Cerebral Palsy Cymru.



We caught up with them to find out more about their experience and what inspired them to take on this epic challenge!

Why did you choose to take on this challenge for Cerebral Palsy Cymru? Was there anyone who inspired you?

We decided to support Cerebral Palsy Cymru as this charity sits very close to the hearts of one of our managers, and his family, as their son has cerebral palsy and Cerebral Palsy Cymru has helped them immensely through their journey.

How did it feel to be part of such a big team all hiking for a shared cause?

This is our 6th annual charity walk and every year it feels so special getting team members from all of our pubs together for a common goal and challenge, all knowing that we are raising money for such a good cause.

Did you have a favourite moment or memory from the day?

The best part of the day was being able to cross the finish line with the last walkers knowing that everyone had given it their all and made it.

How did it feel to cross the finish line and finally enjoy that well-earned pint at the Erskine Arms?

Every year it feels so special to cross the finish line of the challenge knowing that the team are all back safe and sound and all having completed something that is completely outside of their comfort zone (well for most of the team anyway). And that first pint never tasted so good!

How did you prepare for the hike, do you have any top training tips or funny moments from training?

Some trained more than others! But having heard about or experienced our previous challenges, our team know that the hikes are never easy, so this year I know that most of the team tried to get some long hikes in and some hills in preparation for it. Luckily they are running around all day in the pubs so are used to being on their feet!





Did the challenge bring your team closer together?

Every year our challenge brings the team closer together. Many of them have not met each other before and within a few hours they have become good friends. Camaraderie and teamwork is what makes the challenge work and gets everyone through. Supporting each other and helping each other through the tough moments and not leaving anyone behind. It's a team event so the goal is to complete and do it together.

Would you recommend this kind of challenge to others and if so, why?

Yes of course! I think doing a challenging hike a a large group is great as everyone can don a pair of hiking boots and get involved. If the charity sits close to your heart then raising money for such a good cause really does help spur on the team in those hard moments.

I think pushing many of the team beyond their comfort zone proved to them that they can achieve anything if they put their mind to it. Sometimes people just need a little nudge to help them realise that they can do so much more than they thought they could.

From all of us at Cerebral Palsy Cymru, we would like to say a massive thank you to the team at Stange & Co Pub Group!



Introducing our Trustees

Q&A with Toby Jones

As a charity, we are governed by our Board of Trustees. Our Trustees come from a wide variety of backgrounds and offer a wealth of experience in the fields of finance, health, business and fundraising, as well as the valuable perspective of being a parent of a child with cerebral palsy or a service user themselves.

Toby Jones works in the Welsh Political sector in which he has specialist knowledge in Disability Rights and Legislation. His daughter, Sienna, has cerebral palsy and has been attending the Cerebral Palsy Cymru's children's centre for specialist therapy since she was 4 months old.

How did you first encounter Cerebral Palsy Cymru?

There's always been a reassuring sense of inevitability when I tell the story of how we found Cerebral Palsy Cymru—then known as Bobath Cymru—at exactly the time we needed it. I first came across the charity as a parent, when our twin daughters, Sienna and Lyla, were still in the Neonatal Unit. Sienna had suffered a significant bleed on her brain during the first few days, and we were told she had a very high chance of developing Cerebral Palsy.

Like many parents hearing that news for the first time, we were overwhelmed—shocked, scared, angry, and grieving the future we had imagined. We had entered a new world, one we knew very little about and after a few weeks I felt this intense need to do something—even while she was still in neonatal care. I didn't know what that something was, but I knew I had to start. I work in the Senedd, and one day an email appeared in my inbox. It was an invitation to an event titled "Early Intervention for Children with Cerebral Palsy."



It felt like it had been specially written for us and I knew instantly that I had to go. We've been fortunate to benefit from Cerebral Palsy Cymru's incredible support ever since. From the very first appointment we felt we had found a place where everyone understood us and we and we learned so much so quickly. The rest, as they say, is history.

What interested you about taking on the role of Trustee?

Much like how we first found the charity, the opportunity to become a trustee came at just the right point in my life where I felt I had the time and experience to do this. As a parent who has seen first-hand the difference Cerebral Palsy Cymru makes, I felt a strong desire to give something back. It felt like a natural next step.

I also felt I could offer a valuable perspective—not just as a parent with lived experience, but through my professional background in public policy, and governance. I wanted to help ensure the charity is in the strongest possible position to continue supporting families like mine for many years to come.



What do you enjoy most about being a Trustee?

It's a real privilege to be part of a charity that has such a meaningful and lasting impact. We have a diverse and talented Board, and the same can be said of the incredible team who work within the charity. I really enjoy working alongside people who are so passionate, knowledgeable, and completely committed to the children and families we serve.

It's been a steep learning curve in many ways—it's very different to my day job—but I find it incredibly rewarding to contribute to an organisation that has played such an important role in my own family's journey.

You lead a very busy life, how do you juggle all your responsibilities?

It's definitely a challenge! Like most parents of disabled children, time is always at a premium. But I try to stay organised, plan ahead, and focus on the priorities. I'm lucky to have a very supportive family—especially with Grandparents who are always willing to help.

That said, it's much easier to stay motivated when you're passionate about something. Being a trustee is something I choose to make time for because I believe strongly in this charity's mission—and in the power of the charity sector more widely.

What do you do to relax?

Run, run, and run! Running is a huge outlet for me—it helps me stay physically and mentally fit. In truth, I think my brain needs it even more than my legs. I often find that I can work through a problem or come up with a solution while I'm out running.

As a family, we're regulars at parkrun, which is a great way to spend time together. Hayley (my wife) and I get to enjoy our hobby while the girls cheer us on, and it's become part of our weekly routine.



Celebrating our incredible Charity of the Year Partnerships

Across Wales, businesses are helping to make a real difference by choosing Cerebral Palsy Cymru as their Charity of the Year. These partnerships do more than raise vital funds to support our specialist therapy and family services, they also bring teams together, creating unique opportunities for staff to connect and give back, and raise awareness about what we do.

Every partnership is different, and there are so many ways for companies of all sizes and industries to get involved. In this piece, we want to shine a light our new Charity of the Year partnerships, and the difference they are helping us make!

We would like to say a massive thank you to the Customer Loyalty Remote Team at Admiral who since selecting us as their Charity of the Year partner, have gone above and beyond in offering their time, energy and support.

No task has been too big for the brilliant team at Admiral, they have been quick to roll up their sleeves and get involved!

From redecorating the exterior and interior of our Crwys Road Charity shop, to transforming our Wellbeing Garden at our Children's Centre, and decorating the centre in preparation for events, their support has been wonderful.

The team have even taken time to reorganise our merchandise and recount stock, keeping everything in order at our centre!



And a huge thank you to Liberty Marketing for selecting us as their Charity of the Year!



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As our neighbours and digital marketing experts, the team at Liberty Marketing have shown continued commitment to supporting our cause. The Liberty team proudly wore green during Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month 2025, hosted a delicious bake sale, and took on our 70 Miles in March challenge, raising an incredible £1.430!

On top of their amazing fundraising efforts, they have also shared their expertise by providing us with invaluable marketing guidance.

We are so grateful for their creativity, commitment and enthusiasm in showing support.

Another incredible partner helping us make a difference this year is Altra Law!

We are thrilled to be working with Altra Law, the UK's first not-for-profit law firm, based in Caerphilly. As employment law specialists, Altra Law donates 100% of its profits to charities chosen by their staff, clients, and referrers, showing their commitment to driving positive change and inspiring others to follow their lead.

By selecting us as their Charity of the Year, Altra Law are helping us to continue providing specialist therapy and support to children and families across Wales living with cerebral palsy.



Their generosity doesn't stop there, they have also pledged to provide our pledge pot for the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2025, meaning every donation made will be doubled! (You can find more details about the Big Give on the final page of this newsletter.)

Our Charity of the Year partnerships play a vital role in helping us to make a lasting difference. In return, we can offer your business support in achieving social impact and delivering your ESG goals, strengthening team spirit, and boosting staff engagement and morale.

If you'd like to learn more about how your business can benefit through getting involved with us at Cerebral Palsy Cymru, please contact our Head of Corporate Partnerships, Carwyn Williams, at carwynw@cerebralpalsycymru.org

Vital Grant Funding

Our continued, and very grateful thanks go to the Moondance Foundation, The National Lottery Community Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation and The Waterloo Foundation for enabling our work, particularly with babies at high risk of cerebral palsy, to continue.







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Our Private Therapy Service: personalised for all ages

We now offer the opportunity for families with children over the age of 2 to access our private therapy service

All self-funded therapy sessions will be conducted by one of our highly specialist therapists who all have extensive experience working with children and young people who have cerebral palsy. The sessions will focus on your child or young person's needs, helping them to move towards greater levels of participation in the things they need and want to do, and will build your confidence in carrying out activities at home. Sessions can be carried out in person at our Children's Centre or virtually so you can attend from home.

Domiciliary visits may also be possible at an additional cost.

To find out more please email info@cerebralpalsycymru.org or click the QR code on the right.

We are delighted to announce that our limited time offer for our Private Therapy Service in partnership with Slater and Gordon Lawyers is returning soon! We will be announcing more details about this partnership later in Autumn, keep an eye on our website for any updates.







OUR BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE IS BACK!

Tuesday 2nd – Tuesday 9th December 2025

The Big Give Christmas Challenge is the UK's biggest match-funding campaign and this year, we will be taking part to help fund our Family Support Service.

From midday on Tuesday 2nd of December, we will have just 7 days to raise £30,000. Every donation made to us via The Big Give Christmas Challenge during this time period will be DOUBLED, thanks to our match funding pot which is kindly supported by Altra Law.

Don't miss the chance to have your donation doubled at no extra cost to yourself, doubling the difference made!

If you would like to be notified once our campaign is live, please click the QR code and complete our short form.



Thank you to Altra Law, who are kindly supporting our Big Give Christmas Challenge 2025.

Altra Law are employment law specialists, and the first UK not-for-profit law firm, with all profits generated for good causes.



altralaw.co.uk.co.uk