



Gort Cancer Support

Supporting People affected by Cancer

SEPTEMBER 2025

ISSUE 20

Welcome to the September 2025 edition of our newsletter.

As summer fades into memory, we reflect on a season that brought a true mixed bag of weather from sunshine, showers and everything in between. While the holiday season offered moments of rest and reconnection for many, we are reminded that cancer does not take a break. It continues to impact lives every day, regardless of the season. At Gort Cancer Support, our commitment remains unwavering: to stand beside those affected, offering care, compassion and community.



August was an exceptionally busy month for our volunteer drivers, who went above and beyond to support our clients. In just one month, **40 trips** were made to University Hospital Galway, Merlin Park, and the Galway Clinic, ensuring our clients could attend vital oncology appointments. This was all made possible thanks to the dedication of **23 incredible volunteers** who gave their time and energy so generously.

This transport service is truly life-changing - especially for those living alone or in rural areas, where access to reliable transport can be a major barrier to care. Our volunteers make it possible for clients to attend appointments with dignity, ease and peace of mind. We are deeply grateful for their kindness, commitment and compassion.

As the demand for our transport service continues to grow, we need more volunteer drivers to help us keep up. Whether you can commit to one drive a month or more, every single journey makes a difference. If you have a full driving licence, a kind heart and a little time to spare, we would love to hear from you. This is a deeply rewarding way to support people in your community — especially those facing cancer alone or in remote areas. Please consider joining our team of compassionate drivers and help us continue this vital work.

"I have been fortunate enough to use this service — it really does make a difference. A massive thank you to you all".
~ Anonymous

Passion for Fashion Raises Over €13,000!

We are absolutely thrilled to share the incredible success of our recent Passion for Fashion clothes sale, which raised over €13,000 in support of Gort Cancer Support services. This event was a true testament to the power of community. From the generous donors who contributed beautiful clothing, many brand new with tags, to the dedicated volunteers who modelled outfits, coordinated collection points and spent countless hours sorting and pricing each item with care, every contribution made a difference.

We simply could not have brought this event to life without the unwavering support of our amazing community and the friends of Hollyblue House. Every euro raised will go directly towards providing vital support services for individuals and families affected by cancer. These include: Adult and Adolescent Counselling; Play Therapy for children aged 4-12 impacted by cancer whether personally, through a sibling or a parent; Lymph Drainage Therapy; A range of Complementary Therapies such as reflexology, oncology massage and acupuncture.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who helped make Passion for Fashion such a meaningful and impactful event.



Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to announce that the Annual General Meeting of Gort Cancer Support will take place on Tuesday, 7th October at 7:30pm, in The Studio at Hollyblue House.

This meeting offers an opportunity to reflect on the past year's achievements, share our plans for the future and invite members of the community to become more actively involved in our work. We are fortunate to have a committed team in place, but we are always eager to welcome new individuals who are interested in contributing, whether through fundraising, communications or general support.

If you are passionate about making a difference and would like to learn more about how you can help, we warmly encourage you to attend.







We look forward to your presence and continued support.

A Bereavement Information Evening

Galway Grief Sherpa Network, as part of the Irish Hospice Foundation Local Bereavement Networks, is hosting a "Living with Loss" Bereavement Information Evening on Thursday 9th October in the Ardilaun Hotel, Galway.

This free public event is open individuals who have experienced the loss of a loved one and professionals and community members who may support those who are bereaved. On the evening, everyone will also have the opportunity to meet members of the Galway Network that support families through grief and loss in Galway city and county.

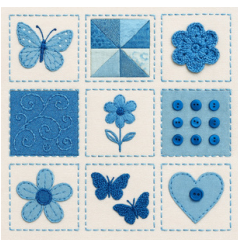
As part of the network, we are looking forward to representing our support centre on the night.

   <h3>Living with Loss</h3> <p>A Bereavement Information Evening When: Thursday, 9th October 7.00-9.00pm Where: The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway, H91 H29F</p> <p>This is a free public event hosted by Galway Grief Sherpa Network For more information on the network, please use the QR code</p> 	
Who will find this event helpful?	Those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Professionals and community members who may play a role in supporting anyone who has been bereaved.
Do I need to book a place?	Everyone is welcome; booking is <u>not</u> required For any queries or to submit a question for the Q&A panel Please email: galwaygriefsherpanetwork@gmail.com
What will happen at the event?	Tea/coffee on arrival - opportunity to view GGSN stands Opening address and information Guest speakers: Dr. Suzanne McClean & Ms. Kathie Stritch Q&A panel discussion - all with lived experience of bereavement
 <p>Kathie Stritch Founder of Grief Ireland and Family Flowers Only podcast. Creating compassionate spaces for healing, connection and hope after loss.</p>	 <p>Dr. Suzanne McClean Counselling Psychologist and founder of Rosabel's Rooms. Supporting families through loss with compassion, guidance and hope.</p>

Hollyblue Artistic Wall Hanging

As the evenings grow cooler, it's the perfect time to cosy up and get creative, all while supporting a great cause!

Join our community art project led by **Fidelma Larkin** and help raise funds for Gort Cancer Support.



Make a fabric square (10" or 5.5") using any medium — embroidery, quilting, knitting, crochet, painting, felting — just ensure it's attached to fabric and includes **something blue**.

Keep your design **within the marked border** (see PDF for details) and **drop off your square** (with your name) at **Hollyblue House** or the **GRET Centre**, clearly marked "Hollyblue Artistic Wall Hanging."

All squares will be joined into a beautiful wall hanging to be displayed and then sold to raise vital funds for our centre.

Deadline: February 29, 2026

Questions? WhatsApp Fidelma: **087 650 6683**

Annual Raffle



Our annual raffle is now live!

We are excited to unveil the headline prize for this year's Annual Raffle: a €3,000 travel voucher from Fahy Travel. Whether you're dreaming of a sun-soaked escape, a cultural city break or a relaxing retreat, this voucher gives you the freedom to plan the trip of a lifetime.

In addition to our grand prize, there will be a fantastic selection of other prizes, including luxury hotel breaks and high-quality items such as a Makita 4350CT Electric Jigsaw — perfect for DIY enthusiasts.

Tickets are available in Hollyblue House and through iDonate, <https://www.idonate.ie/raffle/HollyblueAnnualRaffle2025> or by scanning QR-code. All proceeds go directly towards supporting the vital services provided by Gort Cancer Support.

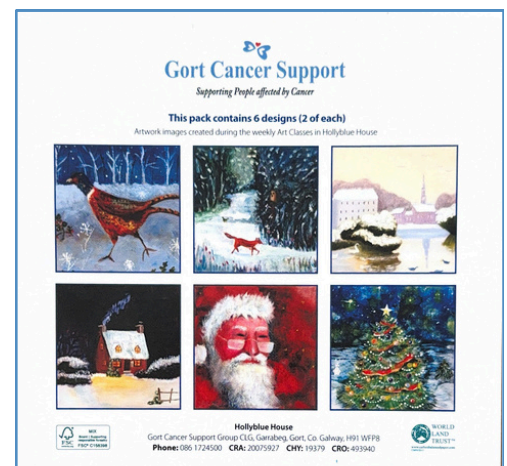
Stay tuned for more details and good luck!

Hollyblue Christmas Cards

It may still be early in the season, but preparations for Christmas are already underway at Gort Cancer Support.

We are delighted to offer our beautifully designed Christmas cards once again for sale, following the overwhelmingly positive response to last year's collection.

Each card features original artwork created by participants in our weekly Tuesday afternoon art classes, showcasing the creativity and spirit of our community.



Cards are sold in packs of 12, containing two each of six unique designs. Packs are available for purchase at a cost of **€12**.

Your support helps us continue providing vital services to those affected by cancer in our community. Thank you for helping us spread festive cheer while supporting a meaningful cause.

As we wrap up this edition of our quarterly newsletter, we would like to thank everyone who continues to support the work of Gort Cancer Support. Your kindness, time and generosity make a real difference in the lives of those we serve. To stay informed about our upcoming events, fundraising initiatives and community activities, we invite you to follow us on our social media pages. It is a great way to stay connected and see the impact of your support in action.