



Gort Cancer Support

Supporting People affected by Cancer

SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE 24

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our quarterly newsletter.

As we reach the end of September, we look back on a summer that, thankfully, brought us plenty of sunshine and an opportunity for many to enjoy time with family and friends.



While July and August are traditionally quieter months for events and activities at Gort Cancer Support Centre, our commitment to supporting those affected by cancer remained as strong as ever. Behind the scenes, our team, volunteers and therapists continued to provide a welcoming space, practical support and compassionate care to those who needed us. As the seasons begin to change and the days grow shorter, we are reminded that every season has its own unique beauty. Autumn offers an opportunity to slow down, reflect and reconnect and we look forward to the coming months with gratitude, renewed energy and excitement for the initiatives, events and community support that lie ahead.

Our Volunteer Driver Service

One of the most valued services we provide is our Volunteer Driver Service. We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteer drivers who generously give their time to help people attend oncology appointments. Without their support, many individuals and families could face significant challenges in travelling to and from hospital for essential treatment and care.

Our volunteer drivers provide a transport service for people with a cancer diagnosis and, where appropriate, their carers. Their kindness, reliability and willingness to help make a real difference at what can often be a difficult and stressful time.

It is important to note that our drivers are insured to provide transport only. Their role is to collect clients from their homes, bring them safely to their hospital appointment and return them home afterwards. They are not insured to assist clients into the hospital, accompany them to appointments or provide any form of personal care.

We are deeply grateful to each and every one of our volunteer drivers. Their commitment, compassion and generosity help ensure that those affected by cancer can access the treatment they need and we simply could not provide this valuable service without them. Their contribution often goes far beyond transportation, offering a friendly face and reassuring presence along the journey.



Music Therapy: A Joyful New Addition to Our Programme

On 7th September, we introduced our new Music Therapy sessions facilitated by Dr Lisa Kelly of Anam Music Therapy and they have quickly become a highlight of the week. These mornings are filled with laughter, connection, creativity and of course, music, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone who attends.

Participants have been enjoying the opportunity to relax, express themselves and share in the uplifting power of music in a supportive group setting. Whether through listening, singing, gentle participation or simply being present, each session offers a chance to connect with others and enjoy a fun and positive experience.

If you have been affected by a cancer diagnosis and would like to join us, you would be more than welcome. No musical experience is required, just a willingness to come along and enjoy the morning. We look forward to welcoming new faces and sharing many more enjoyable sessions together.



Valerie's Breast Care Visits Hollyblue House



It was wonderful to welcome Valerie Murphy of Valerie's Breast Care back to Hollyblue House recently. Since 2015, Valerie has provided a valued service to women in our community following breast surgery.

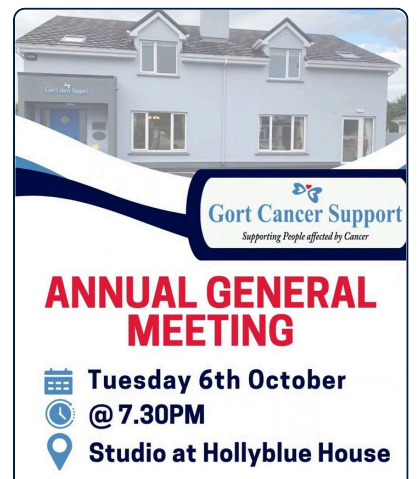
A specialist breast care provider, Valerie offers expert fittings and a range of products including breast prostheses, mastectomy bras and prosthetic swimwear, helping women regain comfort, confidence and wellbeing after surgery.

If you would like to arrange an appointment with Valerie during her next visit to Gort, please contact her directly by phone on **085 160 1783**.

Annual General Meeting 2026

It's hard to believe that another year has passed and that our Annual General Meeting is just around the corner. Our AGM will take place on Tuesday, **6th October** at **7.30pm** in Hollyblue House and we would be delighted to welcome both familiar and new faces.

As Gort Cancer Support continues to grow and develop, we are always keen to hear from people who would like to become involved in supporting our work. Whether you have experience in fundraising, marketing, PR or simply a willingness to help, the AGM is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about what we do, meet our team, hear about our plans for the future and discover how you can make a meaningful difference in the community. The meeting is open to everyone and we look forward to seeing you there.



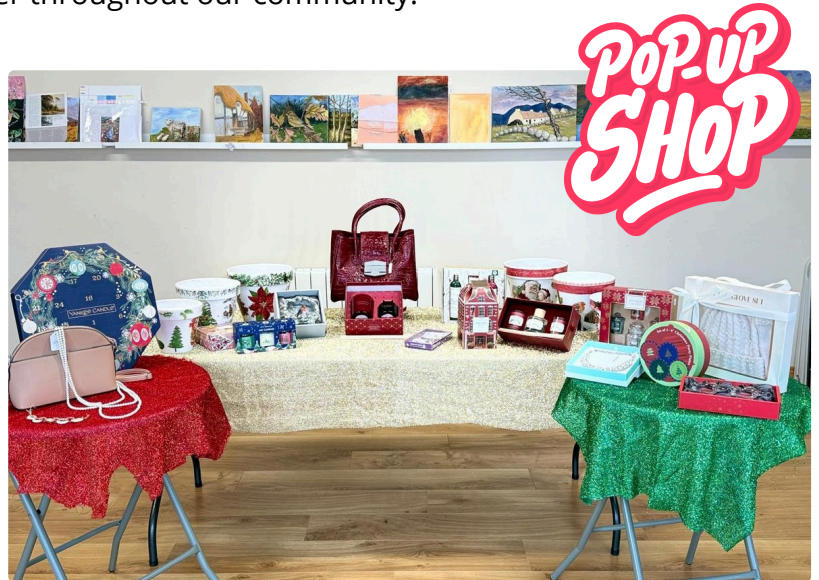
Upcoming Fundraising Events

The following fundraising initiatives play a vital role in helping Gort Cancer Support continue its work with individuals and families affected by cancer throughout our community.

Annual Pop-Up Shop

Our Annual Pop-Up Shop returns on **19th** and **20th November**.

Make Hollyblue House your first stop for Christmas shopping and browse a wonderful selection of festive decorations, candles, gifts, cosmetics, jewellery, scarves, handbags and more, including many favourites from the Hollyblue Gift Shop. Whether you're searching for the perfect gift or a little treat for yourself, there is something for everyone.



Christmas Floral Demo



Mary Cannon of Florabunda returns to the Lady Gregory Hotel on **1st December** for our annual Christmas Floral Demonstration.

This popular event is a wonderful way to kick off the festive season, with Mary showcasing beautiful Christmas arrangements, decorating ideas and seasonal inspiration.

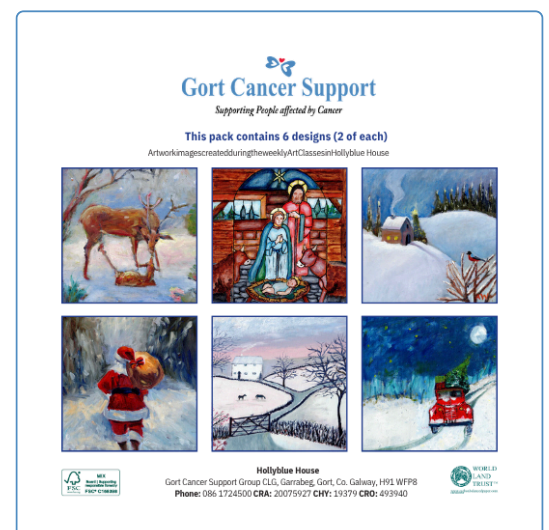
Tickets are **€10** and will be available shortly from **Hollyblue House** and **Florabunda, Loughrea**. Early booking is recommended as this event is always well supported. We look forward to welcoming you for an enjoyable evening of festive creativity in support of Gort Cancer Support.

Christmas Cards

Following the success of last year's collection, our beautifully designed Christmas cards are back.

Featuring original artwork created by participants in our Tuesday afternoon art classes, packs of 12 cards (two each of six unique designs) are available for **€12**.

Available from Hollyblue House and selected local outlets, the cards are a wonderful way to send festive greetings while supporting local people affected by cancer. We encourage supporters to purchase early, as they have proven very popular in previous years.



Annual Raffle



Excitement is building as we prepare to launch our much-anticipated Annual Raffle 2026 in the coming weeks. This popular fundraiser is always a highlight of the year, bringing our community together while offering some fantastic prizes.

We are delighted to announce that this year's top prize is an incredible **€5,000 cash prize**, generously sponsored by **Coen Steel**. A range of additional prizes will also be available, giving supporters plenty of opportunities to win.

Tickets will be on sale shortly, with full details and the complete prize list to be announced in the coming weeks. We look forward to another successful raffle and thank everyone in advance for their continued support.

As we bring this edition of our newsletter to a close, we would like to thank everyone who continues to champion the work of Gort Cancer Support. Whether you volunteer your time, attend our events, purchase from our shop, take part in our fundraising activities or simply help spread the word, your support makes a real difference.

We look forward to welcoming you to Hollyblue House over the coming months and sharing more news, events and opportunities to connect. Thank you for being part of our community. Together, we are creating a caring and supportive environment for those affected by cancer and ensuring that no one has to face their journey alone.