

Ten Years Making a Difference

by BBQ On The Green (Aimee, Steve, Louise, Bev, Ron, Cheryl, Paul and Claire)



What began as a small gathering of friends around a few barbecues has grown into one of the most loved community events in the local calendar. Now marking its tenth year, BBQ On The Green shows what can happen when people come together with generosity, purpose and a shared desire to make a difference. For Forest Holme Hospice Charity, the event has been a loyal and valued source of support, raising vital funds while bringing people together in celebration, remembrance and hope.

BBQ On The Green was first held in 2015, inspired by deeply personal experiences. For the organising committee, cancer was no longer something distant. It had touched their lives directly. Mandy Ross-Read, a close friend of one of the team, was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer, while committee member Kev Boon was

diagnosed with Prostate Cancer. Alongside these experiences, others within the group had already lived through loss. Together, these moments created a determination to do something positive for charities that support people when they need it most.

The first event was modest but full of purpose. With borrowed gazebos, a few barbecues and a small stage for live music, around 200 people came together and raised £2,000. More importantly, it showed what was possible when a community rallies around a cause.





Each year since, the event has grown, supported by volunteers, performers and local businesses who generously give their time and resources.

Today, BBQ On The Green is a vibrant family friendly festival. Alongside live music and food, it includes an established bar, raffles, an afternoon tea and cake tent, a family fun zone and space for local stalls. Attendance has continued to rise, matched by increasing generosity, resulting in more funding for causes that matter and a day that offers something for everyone.

Alongside growth, there has also been loss. Both Mandy and Kev sadly died from their cancers. Their absence is felt deeply, but their memory remains central to the event. Each year, BBQ On The Green is held not only in their honour but in memory of countless partners, parents, children and friends lost to cancer, giving the day a depth beyond fundraising alone.

In 2025, the organisers launched their first spin-off event, working with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust to host a prostate cancer testing day. Early detection tests were provided for

128 men, with some results indicating the need for further investigation. It was a powerful reminder that early action can change lives.

Supporting local causes has always been central to BBQ On The Green, with Forest Holme Hospice Charity holding a special place. Several organisers have personal connections to the hospice through loved ones who received care there. Seeing first-hand the compassion, dignity and comfort provided shaped their commitment to ongoing support.

Fundraising like this helps make real differences, from bedside recliner chairs and improved staff spaces to simple details that help reduce the feel of hospital life. These changes support patients, families and staff at the most important times.

Entirely community led, BBQ On The Green exists because of volunteers driven by kindness and determination. Looking back over ten years, including a record £17,388.19 raised in 2025 and over £80,000 in total, the legacy is clear. It is a celebration of community, compassion and what ordinary people can achieve together.



www.bbqonthegreen.com