

PRESS RELEASE

THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FOR CHARITY FUNDRAISER

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For one fundraiser the sky really was the limit when she took a leap of faith and jumped out of the plane all in the name of charity. Here Amy Barnie, Cornwall Hospice Care's Challenge Fundraiser, gives her account of the experience.

"When I joined the charity a year ago I never imagined I'd end up falling from 10,000 feet voluntarily. But, this is what I've done. Last week I took part in the charity's Parachute Day and completed a sponsored tandem skydive at the Cornish Parachute Club, Perranporth.

"My nerves grew as the day loomed and on the morning I don't mind admitting I was a bit of a nervous wreck! During the pre-jump briefing we were told 'All you have to do is cross your arms' – easy! But when it got to the jump remembering such a simple instruction proved to be quite challenging.

"Some other participants did their jump first then my name was called. I was assisted into a very "flattering" orange and black jump suit and hat, and off to the plane. There I was 'strapped' to the instructor, a very up close and personal experience with someone I'd only just met, but it was a comfort to know I was securely attached.

"As the plane took off I began to realise that choosing to sit on the door side of the plane may have been an error as there was no mistaking how high we were when it was right there staring me in the face. Before I knew it, it was time to jump. I shuffled over to the plane door and everything I'd been told went out of my head as I looked out over Cornwall. There was no time to panic as soon we were out and falling at 120mph, before the parachute was opened at 5,000 feet.

"The feeling was indescribable as I floated in mid air, with no sounds other than the canopy parachute occasionally fluttering. I was given the chance to control the parachute and in my excitement started to take us out to sea before being put back on course."

"From the second I landed I wanted to go again, it genuinely was the best experience of my life and I would recommend anyone considering doing a jump to go for it. It's something I will never forget and although it only lasted for eight minutes the memories will stay with me forever, and the fact I got to help a charity I am truly passionate about in the process, is a huge bonus."

Along with Amy, Hannah Rosser and Sheelagh Harvey also completed sponsored jumps in aid of the charity.

Cornwall Hospice Care offers people the chance to take part in parachute jumps at other times of the year. Anyone interested in finding out more about jumping for Cornwall

Hospice Care is asked to contact Amy Barnie on 01726 66868 or email abarnie@cornwallhospice.co.uk.

Ends

For further information: Contact Amy Barnie, Charity Challenge Officer on 01726 66868.

Background Information

Cornwall Hospice Care provides Specialist Palliative Care – the term used for the alleviation of pain and management of symptoms – for people in the county who have life limiting illnesses and gives support to their loved ones. The charity provides 24 in-patient beds, day treatments and therapies at its two hospices in St Austell and Hayle.

It costs nearly £6 million annually to run these services – over £11 a minute and around 85pence in every £ must be met through raised voluntary income.