

Somerset Masons 'Step-up' for Weston Hospice and Raise Over £10,000

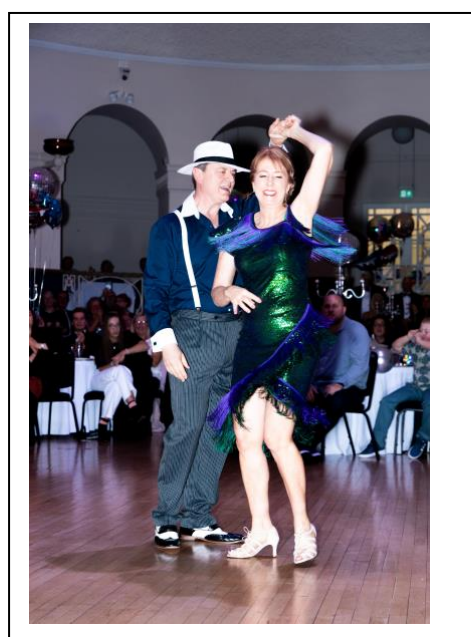


Most of us are aware of the invaluable service provided by the Hospices around the country, but what most people don't realise is that only 20% of their funding comes from the government – the rest has to be raised through donations, their charity shops, and fund-raising events.

On the 4th November 2023 two Somerset Masons, Russ Woodland a member of Royal Naval and Forrest of Mendip Lodges, and Jamie Hoare-Matthews of Tivoli Lodge, took part in Weston Hospice's annual 'Strictly Fun Dancing' event – this takes 6 couples and trains them up over a period of 10 weeks to perform two dances, this year the Salsa and Tango, and then hold a full gala competition at the Winter Gardens in Weston-Super-Mare in front of a panel of judges and an audience of over 250 people.



Jamie and Sam demonstrate their elegant Tango, and Russ and Penny spin their way through the Salsa.



At the end of the competition, 3 couples were tied on equal points, so it went back to the judges for final deliberation. Eventually Jamie and his partner Sam were awarded second, and Russ and his partner Penny, third. They may not have won the dancing, but they certainly won the fund raising with Russ and Penny raising a staggering £7500 and Jamie and Sam just under £3000. With the support of their lodges, and the individual donations of lodge members, their combined efforts made almost half the total amount raised by the event.

Both couples had good reason to support this charity, Jamie's mother works with the Hospice team, and Russ' partner Penny Gunter lost her husband, Malcolm, to Motor Neurone Disease in 2018. As well as the Hospice providing terminal care for Malcolm, they continued to support Penny and her teenage daughter in the years that followed.