

Charity Newsletter Summer 2022 Edition

Welcome to the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter.

As the official registered charity of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, all money raised through Well Wishers is spent exclusively to improve the health and wellbeing of patients and staff across the Trust's hospital and community services. Every single penny is held and accounted for independently from the Trust's NHS funds.

Your efforts, support and donations make a huge difference; improving the hospital environment, buying medical equipment, and helping us go beyond the NHS standard.

Here is a quick round up of some of our upcoming events and some information about our wonderful supporters!

Well Wishers helps take the heat off staff

Staff working in hospital and community services across Walsall were given a helping hand during July's heatwave, thanks to the efforts of the Trust's charity.

Well Wishers charity was able to offer staff fruit, drinks and ice creams over the extremely hot period.

At Walsall Manor Hospital, staff were offered a free ice lolly thanks to support from the Trust's catering department throughout the heatwave.

The charity was also supported by Skanska, Darbar Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, Morrisons and Asda in providing free water, drinks, fruit, snacks, tissues and wipes.

On Sunday 17 July, a group of volunteers from the Sikh temple in Rollingmill Street kindly set up outside Walsall's Emergency Department to give staff, West Midlands Police and West Midlands Ambulance Service samosas, drinks and fruit.

Colleagues at Walsall community sites were able to get free refreshments from Walsall Palliative Care Centre and Hollybank House and, through their line managers, funds were also made available to keep them refreshed throughout the heatwave.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "The charity was absolutely delighted to support staff to keep cool by providing them with refreshments during the heatwave."

"As well as the Fundraising Team visiting areas, staff were sent information of where they could get free water and snacks. We also have an air-conditioned rest room – Manor Lounge, where staff get refreshments free of charge and for the whole of the hottest week it was stocking tip tops and extra water."



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Jubilee events that Royal-tea would be proud of

Celebrations were in full swing at Walsall Healthcare with a host of events fit for a Queen this Platinum Jubilee.

And what a fantastic day it was for patients, staff and visitors. A special market was set up in the main atrium and near to Costa Coffee with stalls selling perfume, jewellery, candles and jubilee goodies.

Singing group Sounds Familiar also entertained with a medley of songs.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "We had a brilliant day that started with our Bake-Off contest and finished with afternoon teas for staff in the hospital and our community services."



"Well done to Lilly Chung for winning the Bake-Off with her gorgeous red velvet delight cake. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor who proved a very popular guest and staff enjoyed chatting with her as she served their tea and scones. The musical entertainment was also a real hit."



Over the Bank Holiday patients were treated to a regal lunch and Royal cup cakes were delivered across the wards courtesy of the charity.

Young patients on the Children's Ward held their own version of a street party on Sunday 5 June.

Fair Oaks Day Hospice at the Palliative Care Centre and Hollybank House also held a celebration for its patients.

Walsall NHS staff treated like royalty

Staff were treated like VIPs when they attended a special celebration event hosted by two appreciative community organisations.

The Union of Muslim Organisations (Walsall) and UKIM Aisha Mosque wanted to say a huge thank you to staff for all their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Appreciating that 2022 is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year, organisers took the opportunity to treat Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust staff like royalty with a four-course meal and entertainment at the Badshah Palace in Great Barr.

The Deputy Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Chris Towe, Chief Superintendent of Walsall Police Phil Dolby and Dr Masood Ahmed Chief Medical Officer of NHS Black Country and West Birmingham CCG were on hand to welcome these special guests into the banqueting hall.

Mohammed Arif, interim Chair of the United Muslim Organisation, said: "We worked closely with the Trust's Fundraising Manager Georgie Westley throughout the COVID-19 pandemic as our communities wanted to show their support for all the NHS heroes who were delivering care and saving lives wherever possible in unimaginable circumstances."

"We tried to assist and support the staff with food and drink supplies, appreciating many were struggling to leave their work environment and were also coping with full PPE. We always said we'd like to thank them properly for everything they have done and the Queen's Jubilee seemed the ideal time to do so."



"We wanted our Walsall Healthcare guests to sit back, relax, and enjoy someone else taking care of them. We are truly indebted to our local hospital and community staff for their response to the global pandemic and this is our way of saying thank you."

Manjeet Shehmar, Walsall Healthcare's Chief Medical Officer, said: "This was such a generous and thoughtful gesture on behalf of the UMO and Aisha Mosque and makes us feel so humbled."

"Our staff who were nominated for colleague recognition awards were in attendance as well as others who were put forward by their teams because of their commitment and dedication. It's a huge thank you from us in return for the opportunity to be part of such an amazing event, organised in partnership with our Well Wishers charity."

Charity makes appeal for corporate support

Well Wishers is asking for support from local businesses to make a real difference for the people who use our healthcare services.

Fundraising helps by raising money for items and equipment over and above what the NHS is able to provide and also benefits Goscote Hospice, Fair Oaks Hospice and Walsall Palliative Care Centre.

As part of the charity's ongoing strategic plan, Well Wishers wants to work with businesses within Walsall and the surrounding area to help them achieve their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), play their responsible part in society and give back to the community.

A big part of that is fundraising for a worthy cause. Through businesses' support to Well Wishers, the charity can help provide them with the opportunity to make a difference in their communities and to support the treatment, care and outcomes, for what is more than likely a huge proportion of their employees.

Any donations to the charity go straight to benefitting patients right across Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, and because of this, businesses are keen to get on board with the charity, including a more recent partnership with Steps to Work and Starting Point Recruitment, based in Walsall.



Steps to Work is a Walsall-based charity with more than 20 years' experience supporting local unemployed residents to build their

confidence, gain new skills, face their challenges, and ultimately obtain secure employment and financial stability.

Steps to Work Chief Finance Officer Caroline Hill said:

"Steps to Work and Starting Point Recruitment are passionate about social values."

"Starting Point Recruitment donates 100 per cent of its profits each year to Steps to Work to enable it to make a difference in the local community."

"We feel that by partnering with the Well Wishers charity we will have a far greater reach and will help make a difference to the lives of people who are not able to walk through our doors because of their current circumstances."

Across 60 sites supported by 4,700 staff, the Trust provides local general hospital and community services to around 260,000 people in Walsall and the surrounding areas.

Among Well Wishers' many successes are Lolly's Place – a chill-out room for teenage patients on the Children's Ward – a sensory room at the Child Development Centre used daily by children with long-term conditions and more recently, Blossom Boxes for end of life patients and their families.

Fundraising Manager Georgie Westley said: "We are extremely proud of what we have achieved to date with the support of the community and local businesses and we would love to build on those relationships, create more opportunities for involvement and to make even more of difference to the people we care for, their families and our staff."

Anyone interested in working with Well Wishers should contact Georgie on 01922 656643 or email her at georgie.westley@nhs.net

The web address for Well Wishers' LinkedIn profile is: www.linkedin.com/company/well-wishers



Stroke rehab and Goscote Hospice two main focuses for Mayoral fundraising

Support for Goscote Hospice and rehabilitation for stroke patients are the priorities that Walsall's new Mayor would like her fundraising focus to concentrate on this year.

Councillor Rose Martin has picked Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Well Wishers to be one of her chosen charities – and she is keen to find out more about the range of services offered to patients in the hospital and community.

Councillor Martin said: "I have had some early discussions with Well Wishers' Fundraising Manager Georgie Westley and we are going to arrange some visits for me as well as some opportunities for staff to come and see me in the Mayor's parlour.

"I am particularly interested in the work the Trust is doing with Walsall stroke patients. Rehabilitation is so vital and valuable to enable stroke survivors to have the best quality of life possible. The staff who work in the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit at Hollybank House and elsewhere in the community are delivering a fantastic service and I do want to find out more about this, as well as meet some of the patients who are benefitting."

"As well as Hollybank House I will be visiting Goscote Hospice to discuss potential areas that my fundraising can support to enhance the patients' experience throughout my year as Mayor".

The Mayor attended Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the hospital recently and served afternoon tea to staff, and she also visited for the NHS Big Tea celebrations that marked the 74th birthday of the NHS.

"I had a wonderful time serving afternoon teas to staff who work so hard for our communities – it was my absolute pleasure to tell them to put their feet up for a change!" added Councillor Martin.

"I visited the Fundraising Hub too to find out more about the great work of Well Wishers. It's a local charity that directly helps local people who use Walsall Healthcare services and I look forward to working with Georgie and the team this year."



This may appeal to you!

We have two exciting appeals which are currently being pulled together to help support our patients:

New playroom appeal

This appeal will be going towards the creation of a new playroom on our Children's Ward.



Rehabilitation garden appeal

This appeal will be going towards the creation of a new rehabilitation garden at our Stroke Rehabilitation Unit.



To register your interest in getting involved and for further information please contact **Fundraising Manager Georgie Westley** via email at georgie.westley@nhs.net or call 01922 656643.



Get in touch to support

See our dedicated charity website for fundraising ideas and support, upcoming events and how to make a donation at www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/charity
Call the Fundraising Team on **01922 656643** or email georgie.westley@nhs.net

Don't forget to follow us on social media!



@WellWishersWHC