



well wishers

Raising funds to make a difference



Walsall Healthcare  
NHS Trust

## Charity Newsletter Spring 2023 Edition

Welcome to the spring edition of Walsall Healthcare's Well Wishers charity newsletter.

Following another busy end to last year, 2023 has got off to a flying start with plenty of events planned, fundraising appeals progressing well and opportunities for the charity to make a difference to the people who use its services in the hospital and community.

Inside this edition find out how a former patient's legacy will help us to enhance the rehabilitation of stroke patients, take a look at our first community roadshow aboard the Chatty Bus and see how you can get involved over the coming months.



### Home sweet home for Well Wishers



### We're back!

Our charity hub was officially re-opened following its refurbishment and we can't wait to welcome visitors old and new.

**Turn to pages 4 and 5 for the full story.**



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## Stroke and playroom appeals' success

**Two major charity appeals – one in the Manor Hospital, one at Hollybank House – have both reached their targets.**

Our Community Stroke Garden Rehabilitation Appeal was given a wonderful boost through a grateful former patient and the story of his legacy can be read in full on page 3.

This appeal, at Hollybank House in Willenhall, was started by the charity before the COVID-19 pandemic but because of COVID was put on hold until August 2022.

Fundraising events, including two football matches, have been held and netted more than £11,000. Now that a legacy has boosted this, work is set to begin shortly.

Plans are for the current lawn to be replaced with a potting area, pergola, coloured planters, a sensory spot and seating area for patients, their families and staff to not only enjoy the garden but help create and maintain it.

Meanwhile, another success story can be found on Children's Ward 21 where work is now underway on transforming its tired outdated playroom.

The £23,000 makeover is being funded by Well Wishers and will create a bright and colourful feature, complete with new wall murals, wall art activities, equipment including role play areas and a wet play area.

Ongoing fundraising has helped towards the cost of new toys for the new feature including donations and support from H Jodies Nisa, HCB Solicitors, CTS Fitness and Tile Choice.



Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "To see these appeals reach their target is so rewarding and I'd like to thank everyone who has played their part in getting us to this point.

"The playroom will have an official opening early summer and we can't wait for our supporters to come in and see what all their hard work has achieved.

"And work will start soon on the stroke rehab garden which we hope to finish as planned round about August time.

**"Both appeals really show how the charity helps to provide items above and beyond what the NHS can provide and enhance our patients' experience."**



## A lasting gift that honours loved ones

**Well Wishers has been fortunate to have benefitted from a number of legacies over the last couple of years, in memory of former patients or from those for whom the NHS meant a lot.**



These often arise as a result of house sales or families carrying out the plans and wishes of loved ones.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said legacies provided a substantial boost to the charity's work and this area of fundraising has been a focus over the last 12 months or so.

She said: "We have had a couple of legacies within the last year and are appreciative of such generous donations as they can make a significant difference to our appeals or entirely fund a particular piece of equipment for example.

**"We want to work with our communities where appropriate to highlight legacy giving and encourage families to have those sometimes difficult conversations with their loved ones about potential donations."**

"We have many donations as a result of people telling us they want to give something back to the NHS for care they or someone else received and these are seen as a way of creating a lasting memorial too."

### Thank you John

John Wilson, aged 94, was admitted to hospital following a fall and heart problems last May. Following his death, family friend Lizi Bird who is an Executor of his estate, got in touch with Well Wishers.

She explained that her mother Marion was best friends with John's wife Jean and that Marion, formerly known as Sister Cooper, had worked at the hospital since the 1950s until the mid 1990s.

"John's wishes were for his estate to be split between the Manor Hospital, Cancer Research, the British Heart Foundation and the RNLI," she said.

"This resulted in £90,144.02 being donated to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and when I was speaking to the Fundraising Manager Georgie she told me about the appeal for the stroke garden and I think this is a fitting use of John's estate.

"I have asked that a bench could be put in the garden in memory of John and Jean too and think that is also a nice touch.

"I hope the patients and visitors who use the stroke garden will get a lot of enjoyment out of it and am pleased to see John's legacy used in this way."

This generous legacy donation has helped the stroke rehabilitation garden appeal reach its target, to the delight of all the fundraisers involved.





## New look Fundraising Hub opens its doors

### "Doesn't it look wonderful!"

Walsall's Mayor, Councillor Rose Martin, is just one of many visitors to our new Fundraising Hub to be impressed at its brand-new look.

The Mayor cut the ribbon at the official opening event last month which featured Well Wishers' supporters and a surprise VIP.

The upgrade means that the charity, which is based in the hub in the main atrium of Walsall Manor Hospital, now has much more room to sell books, handmade cards, jigsaws, knitted baby clothes and toys, with additional storage space and shelving.

**Paul Assinder, Non-Executive Director who Chairs the Charitable Funds Committee said:** "The Fundraising Team is doing a fantastic job for the organisation to help us support staff and to help make things a bit more pleasant for those coming into hospital."



Well Wishers has been one of the Mayor's chosen charities over the last year.

**She said:** "It has been a pleasure to work with Georgie and the team. Through your support, and the hard work and dedication of the Fundraising Team, the charity has made such a difference to the experience of patients using the Manor Hospital and Community Services."

"I was able to visit Goscote Hospice last year and staff were doing a fantastic job supporting patients having palliative care.

"Long may the Fundraising Team continue to make a difference – please continue to support them."

Thank you to everyone  
for their support on our  
grand opening!



After the ribbon cutting and a round of applause, visitors were able to tuck into some tasty treats provided by Kitchen of Spice, a gorgeous Well Wishers cake baked by Emma Simmons and cupcakes courtesy of June's Occasional Cupcakes. But not before a very special appearance by Humphrey the charity's mascot who went round saying hello to visitors and offering a sweet treat to all.

Musical entertainment was provided by Rich Austin and the re-opening was supported by Well Wishers' patron Martin Gethin, former British lightweight boxing champion, and BGT star Eva Abley.





## Taking our fundraising far and wide

While the Fundraising Hub makeover made the team temporarily homeless, it did create an opportunity to take Well Wishers on tour.

The Fundraising Team visited wards, offices and departments within the Manor Hospital and went to see colleagues at Blakenall Village Centre and Walsall Palliative Care Centre. Stands were arranged for Asda and Morrisons supermarkets and the month-long charity roadshow finished all aboard Walsall Community Transport's Chatty Bus which visits venues across the borough.

Kimberley Aplin, Fundraising Support Officer, said: "The roadshow meant that we were out and about throughout the month to spread the word about Well Wishers.

**"For staff, it was a chance to remind them about the support the charity can offer and to look at ways the team could help with fundraising. For our communities, it was lovely to meet so many people and tell them about the work we do."**

At Morrisons in Willenhall Humphrey our Well Wishers charity mascot was particularly popular with young customers.

Billie, Kyran and Jayden rushed to give him a hug which made Humphrey's day as this was his first proper trip out since lockdown.

Kimberley added: "We also had a visit from some local schoolchildren on the Chatty Bus who told us all about their work and asked lots of questions about the charity. Other visitors hopped on board for a cuppa and a chat and were impressed to hear about the improvements Well Wishers had supported teams to make across Walsall Healthcare."



## Helping to make special memories

From helping to organise a hospital wedding to making an end-of-life patient's family wish come true, the charity often springs into action with little time to spare.



Well Wishers is regularly contacted by staff supporting patients at difficult times in their lives in a bid to help them create memories for themselves, their families and friends. Last month alone saw two important occasions that the charity was proud to be involved in.

Lung cancer patient Andy Jenvey, aged 58, was staying at Goscote Hospice and wanted a tea party for him and his family before his health deteriorated further.

It was important for the Walsall grandfather-of-four to have that special get-together and Well Wishers organised this with support from local businesses before Andy died.

Lisa Jenvey, Andy's daughter said: "The tea party was great, especially for the grandchildren as it was the last time they got to see grandad as himself.

**"The staff at Goscote Hospice have been fabulous, everyone has been so nice so I just want to thank them for all they have done as well as the charity and local businesses who helped organise the tea party. It meant a lot to us."**

A huge thank you to Amrik Singh (Vibrant Networks), Richard Scandrett (Drain Doctor Plumbing and Heating) and Laura Andrews (Community Champion Morrisons Willenhall) for providing presents for the grandchildren to have at the tea party.

Well Wishers also lent a helping hand for terminally ill Maureen Goring to marry her long-time sweetheart Steve Clarke on Ward 29 of the Manor Hospital.

Maureen, 57, tied the knot with partner Steve, 60, in a ceremony that was brought forward due to her diagnosis.

A Support Services Assistant on various wards, Maureen was diagnosed with lung cancer in November 2022.

The ceremony was arranged in five hours, thanks to the efforts of Sarah Griffin, Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Specialist, Walsall Registry Office, and the charity which organised support from local businesses and supplied cake, flowers and sandwiches.

**The bride said: "It surprised me how quickly everything came together but it's been fantastic. I feel contentment."**

Fiona's florist of Walsall provided Maureen's bouquet, while Morrisons of Willenhall provided a buttonhole for Steve, and cake flowers.

Spar at Walsall Manor supplied snacks for the special day. Maureen died just over two weeks later.



# EVENTS CALENDAR 2023



Event	Date	Venue
Bongo Bingo	19 May	Rushall Labour Club Lichfield Road Rushall, Walsall
NHS 75th Birthday	5 July	Fundraising Hub, Walsall Manor Hospital
Sky Dive	8 July	Nottingham
Monster Gaming Event	5 & 6 August	Board in Brum Unit 2 ERA Industrial Estate Ezekiel Lane Willenhall
Quiz	9 September	Gilberts Bar 54 Field St, Willenhall
Football - Well Wishers v RWT	September TBC	Wolverhampton
Boxing	6 October	Rushall Labour Club Lichfield Road Rushall, Walsall
Make a Will Fortnight	November TBC	Enoch Evans LLP & Fundraising Hub, Walsall Manor Hospital
Trust's Got Talent/Christmas Party	1 December	Rushall Labour Club Lichfield Road Rushall, Walsall
Christmas Light Switch-on & Christmas Market	1 December	Main Atrium, Walsall Manor Hospital



## 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](http://www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk/charity)

Call the Fundraising Team on **01922 656643**  
or e-mail [wht.fundraising@nhs.net](mailto:wht.fundraising@nhs.net)

**Don't forget to follow us on social media!**

  **@WellWishersWHC**