



well wishers

Raising funds to make a difference



Walsall Healthcare
NHS Trust

Charity Newsletter Summer 2023 Edition

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

Following a busy few months, this summer has been full of wonderful celebrations 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 we celebrated the NHS 75th birthday in style, take a look at beautiful and much-needed room transformations, see which celebrities paid us a visit and find out how you can get involved over the coming months.



NHS 75 birthday celebrations



A 75th birthday to remember

Well Wishers organised a day full of events so that everyone could get in the birthday spirit at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Turn to page 2 for the full story.



Walsall wows on big birthday

Staff, patients and visitors all came together to celebrate the 75th birthday of the NHS.

Well Wishers organised a day full of events so that everyone could get in the birthday spirit at Walsall Manor Hospital.

BBC Radio WM presenter Kathryn Stanczysyn broadcast her show live from the hospital. She featured a host of interviews with staff including Priya Heer, Junior Doctor, David Powell, Clinical and Quality Lead for Community Nursing in the Community Division, Angelina Fernando from Black Country Pathology Services and Dan O'Carroll, Emergency Department Consultant and adviser to BBC TV's Casualty show.

The big day started with a dose of sunshine in the form of Ruby Doo children's entertainment company as superheroes and Spiderman visited the Children's Ward, Children's Outpatients and Ward 2 to spread some cheer with their singing and dancing.

Ward 2 patient Irene Roberts said: "It's brightened my day".

And young patient Jensen, recovering after having his appendix out, was given superpowers – so much so that he said his new name was "Super Jensen."

Emma Lester, Play Specialist said Ruby Doo had helped make the day special.

"The entertainers make such a positive impact on the ward. They have made us all smile and we're so glad they came to visit."



The Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Chris Towe, earned a new name of "The Singing Mayor" and entertained as part of his Sounds Familiar duo before cutting a special NHS 75 birthday cake.

And a distant relative of Sister Dora, Walsall's answer to Florence Nightingale, visited patients and put on a talk to explain more about the heroine's early life.

Suzanne Stirke, whose husband Peter's great, great, great uncle was married to one of Sister Dora's sisters, Rachel, found a captive audience across the hospital.

"I've really enjoyed talking to patients and staff and sharing some of the history of Sister Dora's life before she came to Walsall and followed her true vocation," said Suzanne, who travelled from Yorkshire to support the celebration.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "It was a wonderful day, and we'd like to thank everyone who supported the celebration and made it an even more special birthday for our NHS."

New look playroom gets the thumbs up

A tired and tatty playroom was brought to life in a blaze of colour this summer.

The £23,000 transformation on the Children's Ward was unveiled in July, watched by many of the fundraisers who had helped its makeover.

Bright, colourful walls, activity tables, new toys and a wet play area are just what the Doctor ordered for young patients.

Well Wishers worked with the ward's Play Specialists to create the new look feature.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "We were so excited to see everyone's faces when we showed them the refurbished playroom and their smiles said it all.

"It looks amazing and is a much better environment for our young patients to use now. The charity is also really pleased to see that our mascot Humphrey bear pops up here and there in the wall murals where we have also ensured that four business supporters who raised large amounts are mentioned. This finished appeal shows how generous our community has been on this project."

Charlotte Yale, Divisional Director of Nursing; Children, Young People and Neonates, said Walsall Healthcare had been one of the first Trusts to re-establish play following the COVID-19 pandemic.



Thank you to the following who supported this appeal:

- Michael Gough – Tile Choice
- Craig Timmins – CTS Fitness
- H and Jodie's Nisa
- Bharti Group
- Kyle Davies
- HCB Solicitors
- Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall
- Best of Walsall
- Skanska
- George Stretton
- Jordan Jackson
- The team at Grosvenor Interior Design who made the charity's idea of Humphrey Bear a reality

"Play is an important part of the care we provide on our Children's Ward and our Play Specialists do a fantastic job of helping take young patients' minds off their treatment and illness. We are delighted with our new playroom and thank everyone who has supported this important work."



Well Wishers is one of a chosen few!

Our charity has received another welcome Mayoral boost.

Councillor Chris Towe was sworn in as the new Mayor of Walsall in May and is supported by his daughter Louisa Hughes as Mayoress.

Well Wishers is one of his four chosen charities this Mayoral year and was also the previous Mayor, Councillor Rose Martin's chosen charity which means it's our second year running.

Councillor Towe has been a keen supporter of Well Wishers activities over a number of years and his Sounds Familiar singing duo has regularly performed in the main atrium of Walsall Manor Hospital, delighting staff, patients and visitors alike.

He said: "I am looking forward to working even more closely with the Fundraising Team at Walsall Healthcare over my 12-month term and am excited to see what opportunities we can create to bring in donations."

"Well Wishers is an important local charity that supports patients using the Manor Hospital and its community services. It raises money for items above and beyond what the NHS can provide, and the majority of its work focuses on enhancing patients' experience as well as supporting our dedicated NHS staff."

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said the Mayoral boost was fantastic news for the charity.

"We were proud to work with last year's Mayor Councillor Rose Martin as one of her chosen charities and we are thrilled to hear that Councillor Towe has chosen us this year too."

"We already work together regularly and the Mayor – and Mayoress – have supported lots of our events which we really appreciate. We are looking forward to a busy 12 months."

The Mayor's other chosen charities are Acorns Hospice, Walsall Community Network and the Walsall arm of Santa's Black Country Toy Appeal.



Image courtesy of Walsall Council

Casualty TV stars' charity drop in

Stars from the long-running BBC drama Casualty were able to find out more about Well Wishers on a recent visit.

Charles Venn and Neet Mohan, who play Jacob Masters and Dr Rash Masum respectively in the popular show, attended the official opening of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's £40m Urgent and Emergency Care Centre.

After meeting staff and guests, they went over to visit Well Wishers Fundraising Hub.

Charles said: "The teams are so affable, professional and warm. When you see healthcare in real life, you realise the importance of what you're trying to portray in front of the camera and its gravitas."

Neet said: "We play fictional medics so to be here among real medical professionals doing amazing work has been a great privilege. It's an amazing hospital."

The two-storey development – the most substantial investment Walsall Healthcare has seen – has significantly improved emergency care facilities and capacity and has provided almost 5,000 square metres of additional clinical space.

It includes an Urgent Treatment Centre, ED including Resus and Rapid Assessment and Treatment area, and Children's ED, co-located Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU), Acute Medical Unit and provision for Frailty and Community Integrated Assessment services.

Well Wishers also funded for a wall graphic to go in the Children's PAU waiting room to brighten up the space.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager said: "It was great to meet Charles and Neet and show them what the charity does for staff and patients. When it comes to healthcare, charity may not necessarily be the first thing people think of, so it was a good opportunity to show them how this side works."



Welcome Emma and Irene!

Some familiar and new faces have joined us as volunteers.

Emma Crutchley is our new volunteer on Wednesday mornings. She is helping out on the charity stall, based just outside the Fundraising Hub.

She has also been putting her creative talents to good use. We now have a number of items for sale in the hub, made by Emma, including sensory items, a mobile phone holder and some wonderful mugs featuring Well Wishers' mascot, Humphrey bear.

And back by popular demand is Irene Chilton who volunteered for the Trust for 12 years up until the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are thrilled that Irene has chosen to come back to Volunteer Services and has taken up the role of Fundraising Hub Volunteer, supporting the team on a Thursday morning.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager said: "We appreciate all the help and support from our volunteers, and we are so pleased to welcome Emma and Irene to the Fundraising family."



Community support

The charity appreciates all the support it has from the community.

Businesses have given a massive helping hand to staff and patients at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust through Well Wishers.

'A huge thank you to all our supporters. There are too many to name them, but recent support has come from::

Handles Bank - Six staff from the Wolverhampton branch of Handelsbanken mucked in by transforming the flower bed outside Walsall Manor Hospital, as well as tidying the Memorial Garden opposite.

Community Champions - We have community champions from Asda St Matthew's, Tesco, Walsall and Morrisons, Willenhall who always support by helping us to raise money in the Fundraising Hub or by donating goods for our patients.

Calderfields Golf Club - The club hosted a crazy bingo event and raised £129.



Bingo was top of the shop for fundraising

It was eyes down for a full and fun-packed house at a bingo event that proved a real winner for Walsall Healthcare's Well Wishers charity.

The um Bongo a Bingo event included traditional bingo, dance-offs, audience participation, prizes and hours of fun and entertainment. And the numbers were certainly lucky for Well Wishers as the night raised an amazing total of £1,286.96.

Prizes included Adventure Golf, Snowdome entry tickets, and two luxury weekend breaks at a five-star holiday park.

Throughout the night, in between the bingo games, a number of fun competitions took place from face painting to sing-offs, helped along by popular pair the Double A Party Girls, aka Walsall Healthcare colleagues Adam Dibble and Andy Tams.

Game prizes ranged from sweets to a large soft toy and cardboard cut-outs.

Kimberley Aplin, Fundraising Support Officer said: "Being my first big fundraiser I was a little apprehensive but, with the support of the team, we pulled off a really good night at Rushall Labour Club and everyone enjoyed it."

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager added: "I wasn't sure what to expect as this was something a little different for the charity but wow, what a great event - everybody who came along got into the spirit of things and between us it was a huge success."



Thanks go to:

- The Fundraising Team for pulling it all together
- Adam Dibble and Andy Tams
- Ben Malpass for his excellent game hosting skills
- Jordan Jackson for his photography
- Rushall Labour Club for allowing the charity to use the venue
- JABS events - in particular, its Director Jamie Firman who hit the decks to get the crowd partying and created a fantastic atmosphere
- Garry Mycock and Martin Bagnall for donating the weekend breaks

Xana Marriott, Senior Sister for Critical Care Rehabilitation was among those who joined in the fun.

She said: "It was just such a brilliant atmosphere with everyone having a great time. And we also enjoyed supporting the charity as it has supported our rehab service several times."

Georgie added: "JABS events, along with Rushall Labour Club, are so supportive of our charity and without them a lot of events would not be as successful as they are."

"A huge thank you to all those that attended. Without your support, the charity would not be able to raise over and above what the NHS is able to provide to make a real difference to our patients, their families and our staff that treat them."



Well Wishers supports Volunteer Awards

Invaluable volunteers are close to the heart of the charity which was proud to fund an awards evening to recognise and celebrate their contribution.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Walsall were among guests honouring volunteers for their efforts across the Manor Hospital and its community services with a string of awards. The Annual Volunteer Awards Evening was organised by the Patient Relations and Experience Team and funded through Walsall Healthcare's Well Wishers charity.

Andrew Rice, Patient Experience & Voluntary Services Manager, said: "This is a very special night for us as we make the most of an opportunity to appreciate and acknowledge our volunteers and shine a spotlight on all the wonderful things they do to make a difference to our patients, families and staff."

Fundraising Manager Georgie Westley said: "Our wonderful volunteers are invaluable to us all at Walsall Healthcare. Well Wishers is proud to fund this important night of celebration and would like to thank volunteers for all they do."



VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2023

Celebrating our volunteer heroes



Helping night staff have sweet dreams

Night staff who work across Walsall Healthcare's Manor Hospital and its community services have been given a helping hand in the land of nod.

Well Wishers sponsored sleep packs to support the Health and Wellbeing Team's #SleepWell campaign.

Members of the team visited night staff to hand out packs containing ear plugs, an eye mask and peppermint tea as well as reminding staff to ensure they have had their free health assessment to make them better prepared for night work. And they also passed on tips for a good day's sleep.

Nathalie Harris, Health and Wellbeing Operational Manager, said: "We did some night visits in the hospital and community sites and the feedback we received about these packs has been excellent."

"Staff were really appreciative of the fact that we were thinking of them which made them feel more included. We even had someone come to visit us at the Haven to let us know how the pack really helped them sleep that night."

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "We are pleased to be able to support this important campaign and ensure our night teams are given a helping hand."

"We appreciate them working the hours that many would struggle to manage and keep our services running 24/7. We hope they enjoy their Well Wishers sleep packs and thank our health and wellbeing colleagues for handing them out."



TV star unveils havens for Neonatal parents

Parents who need to stay with their babies in hospital can now enjoy refurbished parent flats thanks to charity.



Mums and dads who need to stay with their babies while they are being cared for on Walsall's Neonatal Unit can enjoy "a home from home" now that parent rooms have been given a makeover.

A Quiet Room has also been refurbished so that it provides a less clinical environment for families receiving sad news or having difficult conversations.

The revamp, which cost more than £20,000, has been funded thanks to a partnership between two charities – Walsall Healthcare's Well Wishers charity and Libby Mae's Little Angels – boosted further by Marks & Spencer Wednesbury, which made the unit its fundraising focus for a year, and generous local businesswoman Annette Owles-Bryan who owns Annette's Pram Shop in Blakenall.

And to celebrate the new rooms, Libby Mae's Little Angels arranged for actor and Strictly Come Dancing star Will Mellor to officially cut the ribbon on Friday 22 September, much to the excitement of staff and parents alike.

Lisa Poston, NNU Matron, said: "The new rooms are just world's apart from how they used to look and we are so happy with the makeover which has made them much more homely and comfortable."

"Having a baby who needs care on Neonatal can be a stressful time for parents and there are often twists and turns in the journey. Being able to spend time together away from the clinical environment of the unit, or just to have some quiet time to process thoughts or take stock is really important to our parents – they have told us – and we want to make this challenging time as smooth as we possibly can for everyone.

"The rooms have got lovely wall art now; TVs, brand new beds and comfortable armchairs and a lovely new sibling area with a table and chair set. On top of this, money raised updated the breastfeeding room with a lovely calming wall graphic and Well Wishers funded the refurbishment of a side room which we have turned into a sensory/quiet room where families can take time out, receive results and discuss treatment plans. We are so grateful to everyone who has supported this project. It will benefit parents now and well into the future."

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, added: "Once again our fantastic community has rallied to support us."

"Annette's Pram Shop held fundraising raffles and collections to raise money for the rooms and owner Annette was supported by Sales Assistant Skigh Mason – together they helped make such a difference. And we were so excited when former M&S Community Champion Carol Smith worked with us, pre-COVID-19, to boost this even further. Staff did a sponsored cycle, bake sales, bag packing and tombolas.

"When they came to the unit, along with Charlotte and Richard Sharratt from Libby Mae's Little Angels and their son Riley, it was quite emotional to see the end result and hear Charlotte describe how such rooms would have helped when she and Richard lost their baby Libby Mae.

"Thank you to everyone who has supported us and thank you to Will Mellor for taking time out of his busy schedule to come along to open them."

Mum's praise for revamped Neonatal rooms

New mum Terri-Marie Paul praises new parent flats funded by charity.

New mum Terri-Marie Paul is among those who have benefitted from the makeover of parents' rooms on Walsall Manor Hospital's Neonatal Unit that has been paid for by charities and community fundraisers.

Terri, 31, gave birth to son Wren early at just 28 weeks, after contracting pre-eclampsia, a complication that left untreated can be fatal for both mum and baby.

She had contacted maternity triage on 16 August because she hadn't felt her baby move and was advised to come into hospital.

"I thought it would probably be nothing and I'd go home again but my blood pressure was really high and I had protein in my urine and I was told I had pre-eclampsia," said Terri, who works as a Quality Consultant for the RAC roadside assistance and insurance organisation in Bescot, Walsall.

"After speaking to a Consultant it was decided that I would be best to have my baby that day or the following day, because of how harmful the condition can be if it's left so I very unexpectedly found myself having an emergency C section and Wren was born on 17 August weighing 2 pounds and 5 ounces, so just a bit more than a bag of sugar. He was ventilated then went on to CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure), then given high flow before moving on to oxygen and being taken into special care here on the Neonatal Unit.

"The staff here have been absolutely fantastic with everything. They have supported me to give him my breast milk and nothing is too much trouble for them. You can ask all the questions you need and they are so kind and patient.

"I have also been able to use the newly refurbished parents' rooms which has been really good for my mental health at times. This is all a lot to take in as you don't imagine needing Neonatal care for your baby, you're just looking forward to the due date which should have been 7 November in Wren's case. To be able to get out of the noise of the machines and the clinical stuff is what you need sometimes, and I've been grateful to have those rooms to use so thank you to everyone who made this possible."

Little Wren is now making good progress.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2023



Event	Date	Venue
Kick up the 80s	21 October	Bloxwich Memorial Club, Harrison Street, Bloxwich, WS3 3HP
Fashion Show	26 October	Collingwood Community Centre, Walsall, B43 7NP
Make a Will Fortnight	6-17 November	Enoch Evans LLP & Fundraising Hub, Walsall Manor Hospital
Trust's Got Talent/Um Bongo a Bingo	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

Call the Fundraising Team on **01922 656643**
or e-mail wht.fundraising@nhs.net

Don't forget to follow us on social media!

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