



well wishers

Raising funds to make a difference



Walsall Healthcare
NHS Trust

Charity Newsletter Spring 2025 Edition

Welcome to the spring edition of our Well Wishers newsletter – keeping you up to date on Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust’s charity activities.

The charity has enjoyed another busy few months and has continued to build partnerships in the community and the borough’s business world.

Once again, generous supporters and fundraisers have helped us make a difference to the people who use our services in the hospital and community.

Remember, there are lots of ways YOU can get involved!

To find out more contact the team on 01922 656643 or wht.fundraising@nhs.net



Garden set to bloom thanks to funding

Work has finished on a new wildflower garden at Walsall Manor Hospital to be enjoyed by patients, families and staff.

Turn to page 2 for the full story.



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New wildflower garden at Manor Hospital

A garden area, near Manor Hospital's Urgent and Emergency Care Centre, has been transformed into a haven thanks to a £11,487 grant from Natural England, which was secured by Well Wishers.

Joe Chadwick-Bell, Group Chief Executive, attended the opening event where she was shown around the garden and met some of the staff and volunteers working on the project.

Development has also seen the transformation of the staff memorial garden at the hospital which has now been completed.

Melissa Underwood, Land and Environment Manager for Groundwork West Midlands, who led the project, said: "The wildflower meadow is starting to take shape and I am looking forward to when it blooms this summer.

"It will really make a fantastic community space as well as provide an environment for cross-pollinators.

"We all know that nature and wellbeing fit together and the hope is this can be used by patients and visitors alike."

Joe added: "This is a really great opportunity to make the most of the green space we have available within the site for our community, staff and patients.

"We'll have a lovely wellbeing space within the hospital and I can't wait to see the end result this summer."

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager at Walsall Healthcare, said: "Well Wishers is really proud to be working alongside Groundwork and Natural England on this project. I can't wait to see the area develop and look forward to seeing the wildflower garden bloom.

Potential volunteers who already support Walsall Healthcare or staff who want to contribute ideas to the garden project are asked to email Melissa.Underwood@groundwork.org.uk



Midwife delivering a boost for families

A Midwife plans to deliver a boost for families by swimming five kilometres in open water with her two sisters.

Rhoda, Consultant Midwife at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Laura and Carla Flynn will be swimming the equivalent of 200 lengths of Lake Windermere on 13 June to raise money for the Delivery Suite at Walsall Manor Hospital.

The money raised will go towards renovating two birth rooms on the Delivery Suite.

Rhoda said: "When a woman is in labour it is important that she is in a relaxing, calm environment to help support her changing hormones.

"Having a room that looks less medical where a woman feels safe really makes a difference when it comes to labour."

All three sisters are trained, competitive swimmers after their dad Carl Flynn introduced them to the sport. He went on to train as a swimming coach and has been at the City of Birmingham Club for 45 years.

Rhoda said: "I swam a couple of kilometres in Lake Windermere 15 years ago but this will be a big challenge.



"Open water swimming is so good for you, but it is very cold and also harder to navigate. You can get very disorientated,

"I have always loved swimming, and I am looking forward to taking on the challenge with my sisters."

"Training is about to get underway, so I will start in the pool and then practice in a local lake when the weather gets better. There is a time limit of two hours so I will need to be fast."

The money raised will go toward new facilities on the Delivery Suite, including new birthing pools and adjustable lighting.

Rhoda added: "If you can spare any money, please support us to make the experiences of all our women a better one.

"At Walsall, we recently relocated our Midwifery-Led Unit (MLU) into the hospital and this environment is homelike and calm. The rooms have birthing pools and adjustable lights, the feedback is always positive.

"Not all women are eligible for this unit, however, this is either because of complications experienced previously or evolving problems or chance of problems in the current pregnancy so some women have to go on to the Delivery Suite.

"If we can create an MLU-like environment on the Delivery Suite all women can have access to a birth pool."

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "It was great to see how the MLU rooms turned out following support from the charity and it would be good if we could replicate the feel of the MLU on our Delivery Suite."

"We are totally behind Rhoda and her sisters and we'll look at ways to help them achieve their aim."

If this is something you would like to get involved in and help fundraise, please get in touch via georgie.westley@nhs.net

To donate, go to www.justgiving.com/page/rhoda-flynn-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



WALSALL'S GOT TALENT *The Auditions*

Sunday 6 July 12pm-6pm

Pelsall Community and Arts Centre, Station Road, Pelsall, WS3 4BQ

Do you, your band, your dance school or even your pet have what it takes to win Walsall's biggest talent show and take home a £250, £150 or £75 cash prize?

Then book your place for the auditions by contacting Walsall Healthcare's Well Wishers charity on **01922 656643** or **wht.fundraising@nhs.net**

All funds raised to benefit Well Wishers charity.


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All contestants put through to the final must be available to attend the Walsall's Got Talent final show on Saturday 27 September 2025 at Pelsall Community and Arts Centre at 7.30pm



Thank you to these local businesses for supporting this event



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Training doll donation to help staff

A training doll that helps staff keep up to date with new plastering techniques has been funded by the charity.

The Well Wishers has bought the £138 doll to help Orthopaedic staff provide the best care for their patients.

Paul Foster, Orthopaedic Practitioner, said: "In the plaster room we provide exceptional care for many children, especially those who need specialised treatment for fractures of the femur (thigh bone).

"One common procedure involves applying a hip spica cast. A hip spica is a cast which starts from halfway down the body (from the tummy), around the hips and extends down both legs. It is most commonly used after hip surgery but can also be used following surgery or a break to the femur. This cast is used to keep the hip or thigh still to help the bone heal.

"After the hip spica cast is applied the child is discharged and followed up in fracture clinic.

"To ensure the best outcomes for our young patients and to support our Orthopaedic Practitioners, we frequently update and refine our casting techniques.

"Our commitment to excellence means we regularly hold training sessions to stay current with the latest techniques and materials.

"To continue this critical training, we require the right demonstration dolls.

"This doll is essential for teaching and refining our skills.

"A huge thank you to Well Wishers for buying this training doll for us. The support makes a significant difference in enabling us to acquire the necessary equipment and continue providing the best care for paediatric patients.

"Thank you for considering our cause and helping us in our mission to enhance the lives of those we serve."

Georgie Westley, Fundraising and Engagement Manager for Well Wishers, said: "The Charity supports so many different services, wards and departments across the Trust such as buying items like this which are above and beyond what the NHS provides.

"This was the first time we have supported the Fracture Clinic and its been a pleasure getting to know the team and helping them to strive to provide the best outcomes for their patients"



Partnership working welcomes more businesses on board

Businesses have an opportunity to showcase their services as well as support their community thanks to the charity promotional partnership packages.

Well Wishers launched its corporate support pack in August 2024 and is going from strength to strength.

Money from the packs goes straight into the charity and is used to improve patient experience across hospital and community services, including Goscote Hospice, Fair Oaks Day Hospice, Hollybank House and the Walsall Palliative Care Centre.

Shiv Pattni, Development and HR Manager from Ikon Fostering, said: "We're thrilled to join the Well Wishers corporate pack, supporting the incredible work they do for our local hospital.

"At the same time, we hope to raise awareness about our work as a fostering provider and the vital role fostering plays in transforming young lives. Together, we're making a positive impact on our community."

Other recent businesses who have signed up include Homecaring Angels Ltd, Pax Mentis Financial and Nest Secure Self storage.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "With three packages to choose from to suit your budget it is a great platform to promote your business.

"We have more than 5,00 staff, patients and visitors to the Trust so it's a win win for all concerned.

"Full details of all the packages can be found on Well Wishers' website."

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SCAN ME to learn more and see if Fostering could be for you

Keep safe boxes for patients

Patients are being given boxes to keep their glasses, dentures and hearing aids safe while they're in hospital thanks to a charity initiative.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Well Wishers charity initially issued these to patients on elderly care wards during Falls Awareness Week last year as part of a focus on factors that can lead to falls and raise awareness of what can be done to avoid them.

Boxes have been distributed across the hospital including the Emergency Department, Acute Medical Unit, ICU, Cardiology and day case wards have had theirs and the rest will be distributed shortly.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager at Walsall Healthcare, said: "Each box has a label for the patient's name, date of birth and ward details to be filled in along with a list of the items that are going in for safekeeping.

"We know many people come into hospital unexpectedly and many don't have family support – items can easily get lost or misplaced, plus patients may need to move out of the Emergency Department to a ward for instance and need to keep their things with them. The falls week focus we held really highlighted the importance of patients' personal items and the impact that having no glasses or hearing aids can have on communication for example, and the importance of maintaining mouth care while in hospital, ensuring patients have their dentures.

"Our staff will be encouraged to use the boxes, but we want patients to be aware they're available and make the most of them too. If they prove to be effective in improving our patients' experience, Well Wishers will look to fund more."



Mother's Day treats for Walsall mums in hospital

Mothering Sunday was made brighter – and tastier – thanks to a donation for mums on the postnatal ward and Neonatal Unit at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Ash Brownsword, Senior Trader, and Charlie Campbell, Operations Manager, of CB Pugh in Darlaston, visited the hospital to deliver Mother's Day biscuits and daffodils, through Well Wishers.

Ash and Charlie are keen fundraisers, having made donations for a number of years now. The pair have hosted gatherings and community barbecues, always aiming to raise some money and "bring smiles to people's faces."

Charlie added: "It's nice to give something to people in hospital. If you're in a position to help, you should. We hope this makes a difference in some way."

Crocheted hearts appeal goes viral

An appeal for knitted hearts has gone viral, sparking the biggest response in a Walsall charity's history – and attracting its youngest crocheter.

In just one week Well Wishers' social media post has netted more than 145,000 views on Facebook, reaching well over 73,000 people and attracting more than 500 reactions.

End of Life Specialist Nurses at Walsall Manor Hospital asked for knitted hearts through the charity as the team was running low.

The hearts are given to patients, with a matching one passed to their loved ones as a keepsake.

Deliveries and offers to knit hearts have flooded into Well Wishers' Fundraising Hub in the main atrium of the Manor Hospital.

Kelsey Barrington, 16, from Darlaston, produced 18 sets of hearts after being shown the appeal by her nan Denise Cook, a Clinical Support Worker on Ward 17 at the Manor.

The 'A' Level student at Walsall College, who wants to be a barrister, knits items for her sister Anya, 15, who has autism and finds comfort in them.

"I just thought it was a nice thing to do because it's not a lot of effort and it costs hardly anything, but it means the world to someone going through a hard time," said Kelsey, who is now Well Wishers' youngest crocheter.

"I taught myself to crochet in lockdown because it was more productive than sitting on my phone. I get ideas from Pinterest and YouTube.



"I've made clothes, hats, a blanket at Christmas with coloured squares, and toys for my siblings. I'm happy to make more hearts too."

Ward 17 is Respiratory and intensive care patients are referred there, including those at end of life.

Sheryl Meegan, End of Life Specialist Nurse, said: "I would like to express my gratitude and say a very big heartfelt thank you to everyone who has responded, already donated and in the process of donating.

"I am completely overwhelmed with people's kindness. The hearts are a fundamental comfort for our patients and families during difficult times.

"Please take pride in your kindness for supporting such an important cause."

Donations of hearts are still welcome. They can be posted or deposited at Well Wishers Charity, The Fundraising Hub, Main atrium, Manor Hospital, Moat Road, Walsall WS2 9PS. Hub opening times are Monday to Friday 9am-5pm.

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!

  **@WellWishersWHC**

