



well wishers

Raising funds to make a difference



Walsall Healthcare
NHS Trust

Charity Newsletter Winter 2025 Edition

Welcome to the winter 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

A spectacular night of entertainment saw a 12-year-old singing superstar crowned the first-ever winner of Walsall's Got Talent.

Niamh Mulligan topped the list of talent at the sold-out charity event, hosted by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's Well Wishers charity. The glittering evening, which took place at Pelsall Community and Arts Centre, saw the audience wowed by 16 incredible acts ranging from singers and choirs to dancers and musicians.

Niamh, from Walsall, impressed both the crowd and the panel of judges with her faultless performance of *Lost Without You* by Freya Ridings, securing the top prize of £250 donated by H & Jodie's Nisa.

Second place went to Esme Rudd, who received £150 donated by Geoff's Decks, and third place was awarded to Myles Rich, who won £75 donated by Vibrant Networks.

Niamh said: "Walsall's Got Talent was an amazing experience, I have a huge passion for singing and performing, and I am over the moon to have won the first ever one."

"Thank you to everyone who gave me the opportunity to be up on stage, doing what I love."

Reality TV star Sacha Jones, who



appeared on *Married at First Sight*, headed up the judging panel alongside Garry Perry, Associate Director for Patient Voice at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Samantha Hale, Finance Manager at Walsh Funerals and Memorials, and Edward Lee, a professional pianist and organist.

Sacha said: "The standard was incredible; every single act brought something special to the stage. But Niamh's performance really stood out. She has such confidence and talent for her age, and I can't wait to see where her journey takes her."

A total of £2322 was raised on the night and will help create a new space on Walsall Manor

Hospital's paediatric ward, where play specialists can carry out one-to-one therapeutic play sessions with children.

The room will also be used for play therapy and as a calm waiting area for young patients who are anxious about being in a clinical environment.

A huge thank you to all the sponsors who made the event happen:

- Walsh Funerals & Memorials
- H&Jodie's Nisa
- Vibrant Networks
- Geoff's Decks
- Creative Solutions
- Best of Walsall
- Dor2Dor



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Events

Fun and smiles for young patients

Young patients enjoyed a week filled with laughter, colour and creativity - all thanks to the generous support of charitable donations.

The Manor Hospital's Children's Ward and paediatric departments hosted a series of themed dress-up and activity days designed to bring joy to children and families during their hospital stay.

The week of fun was funded by Well Wishers, allowing events to take place not only on the Children's Ward but also across Paediatric Day Case, Children's Outpatients, the Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU), and Children's Emergency Department.

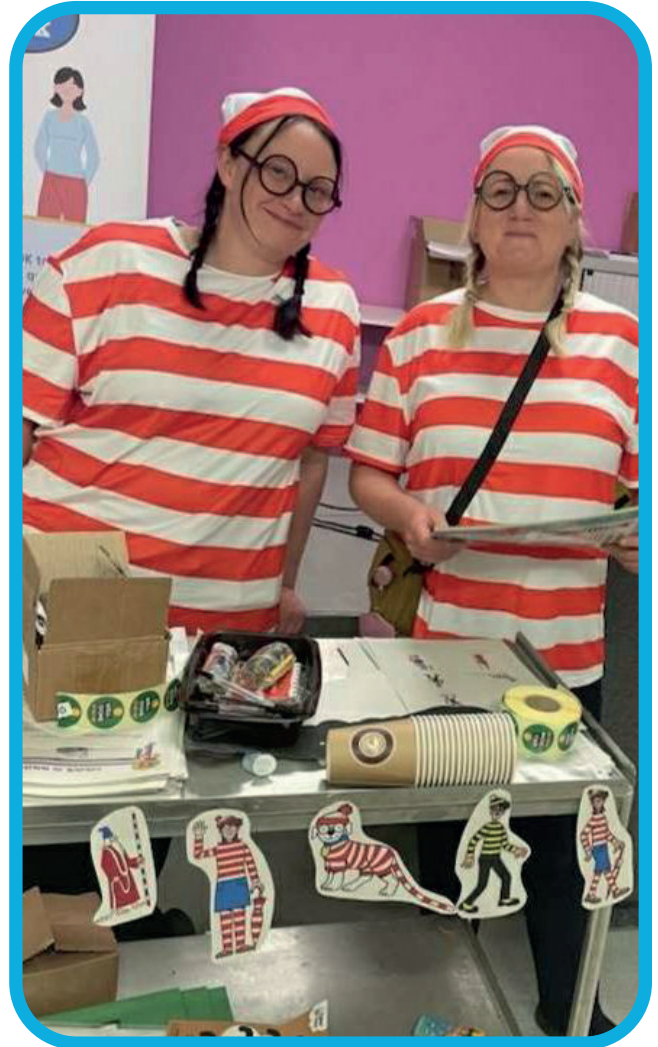
The celebrations began with Where's Wally Day, where children — and even parents — joined in by creating their own red and white glasses and taking part in a "Find Wally" challenge around the ward.

Next came Superhero Day, with children decorating cakes and designing their very own superheroes, celebrating strength and imagination in true comic-book style.

Midweek brought a touch of magic with Pirates and Princesses Day. The ward was visited by "Nurse Cinderella," "Nurse Belle," and "Nurse Aurora," while magician Magic Russ wowed everyone with his tricks and balloon creations. Children also crafted pirate hats, princess tiaras, and colourful paintings of dragons, castles, and princesses.

The week concluded with Teddy Bear Day, where children and parents designed and coloured teddy bear pictures before choosing their very own hospital bear to take home and care for — thanks to a generous donation from Crafting for the Community.

Emma Lester, Play Specialist on the Children's Ward, said: "Seeing the children smile, laugh, and get creative was incredibly special. We're so grateful to Well Wishers and Crafting for the Community for helping make it happen."



Walsall doctors lead the way with an innovative AI trial

Doctors at Walsall Manor Hospital are pioneering the use of artificial intelligence to reduce administrative burden, enhance patient safety, and unlock thousands of hours of clinical capacity.

Dr Mohammed Jamil Aslam, Consultant in Emergency Medicine and Walsall Healthcare's Clinical Lead for Quality Improvement, is leading the pilot of Ambient Voice Technology via Heidi Health. This AI-powered transcription tool listens to and transcribes patient consultations in real time.

The system identifies key clinical information and automatically generates structured notes, clinic letters, and discharge summaries. Clinicians then review these for accuracy.

Dr Aslam said the technology, initially introduced as a three-month pilot, which has since been extended, has already begun transforming clinical workflows.

"Using this technology has been a

real game changer," he said.

"It's significantly reduced admin time and given clinicians more time to focus on patient care."

In the Emergency Department, documentation time has dropped by an average of six minutes per consultation, representing a 62 per cent reduction. With around 300 patients attending daily, this equates to nearly 11,000 hours of clinical capacity created within the emergency department alone.

In Dermatology Outpatients, letter turnaround time has gone from 9.28 days to just 18 minutes. This 99.86 per cent reduction was achieved without additional secretarial input, freeing up administrative staff for other essential duties.



Memorial garden refurbishment reveal

Students are being welcomed to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust with special packs aimed at helping them feel at home, thanks to charity funding.



A newly refurbished hospital memorial garden has been officially opened, creating a peaceful space for reflection for staff, their families, patients and visitors.

The project was made possible through £11,487 of Conservation Enhancement Scheme Funding from Natural England secured by Well Wishers for Walsall Manor Hospital.

Groundwork West Midlands enhanced the internal courtyard at the hospital to create a nature-filled space for staff to take time to reflect and remember family, friends and colleagues they have lost.

Joe Chadwick-Bell, Group Chief Executive, said: "Our staff have felt the impact of losing colleagues over the years, whether that's to COVID or other illnesses. Looking to provide some comfort, the Trust's Well Wishers charity has helped to create a memorial for staff and their families

"This space has been achieved in collaboration with staff, charity Trustees and the public who were all invited to make suggestions and feedback

"The project also highlights the Trust's commitment to protecting our local environment, as the plants will create habitats for bees and butterflies. Overall, it's about looking after our people and the planet."

Local sculptor Oliver Wellings, who was born in the Manor Hospital, created a sculpture from recycled metal in the middle of the garden allowing for personal messages to be added using padlocks.

Double legacy donation

"It just means so much to us – being able to see for ourselves how a legacy donation can make such a difference to patients and staff at this hospital."

The family of former Walsall Manor Hospital patient, Bhagabhai Lallubhai Patel, whose last wishes were for the net proceeds of his and his wife's home to be donated to help others following their deaths, have paid an emotional visit to the teams that have benefited from his generosity.

Mr Patel died in August 2021, and the 92-year-old had been a strong supporter of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, working with its Well Wishers charity to see how he might be able to leave a legacy. Prior to this, he made a £15,000 donation in memory of his wife Sitaben and this was used to buy six High Flow Nasal Therapy machines. These are used to reduce the need for intubation and ventilation, therefore avoiding Intensive Care admission and helped to save many lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the sale of the couple's home, a donation of £130,000 was made to Walsall Healthcare and this has been used to buy five pieces of equipment to enhance patients' care and improve their experience.

Mr Patel's family visited the hospital last week to see an OPT machine in Outpatients, Endoscope in Endoscopy, Novosure and Myosure in Gynaecology and an MRI compatible infusion pump station on the Intensive Care Unit.

The family said: "This visit just means so much to us because we've been able to see for ourselves how a legacy donation can make such a difference to patients and staff at this hospital.

"We have heard how these pieces of equipment have, in some cases, helped reduce waiting times for results, or helped to make procedures more comfortable for them for



example. And to see the teams so enthusiastic about being able to bring about these improvements was also powerful – and emotional for us.

"Mr Patel was determined he wanted to do something good for others after his and his wife's death and he would definitely approve of how Well Wishers has spent the legacy. It was just as they wished and we think if other families could see the impact such a donation can make, they would want to do the same.

"Thank you to everyone who took the time to see us on our visit, it was important for us to see that we honoured their wishes as intended."

Laura Graham, Divisional Director of Operations, Women's, Children's and Clinical Support Services at Walsall Healthcare, said it had been an honour to meet Mr Patel's family.

"We are tremendously grateful for the legacy donation, and it was an honour to meet the family and give them a real sense of how significant

such a kind gesture has been for our Trust," she said.

"He sounds like a wonderfully caring and compassionate gentleman – thinking of the wider community in this way."

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, has been working with Mr Patel's family for the last few years to ensure his wishes were carried out.

She added: "I was privileged to meet Mr Patel a few years ago when he visited to tell us he wanted to make a donation in his wife's memory. He was determined that others should benefit in some way and was incredibly open and honest about how he wanted this to be done, following his own death.

"We all said Mr Patel would be proud of how we made this happen and his selflessness also shows how legacy donations can help to transform patient care and the working environment for staff."

ns make a huge impact

Patients with heart failure are being better supported towards early diagnosis and treatment at Walsall Manor Hospital thanks to the legacy of a former patient.

John Wilson was admitted to the hospital in May 2022. He had heart problems following a fall and he died after a short stay, aged 94.

Family friend Lizi Bird is an Executor of his estate and she and her mother Marion, who was best friends with John's wife Jean, visited the Cardiology Service to see how John's wishes for his estate to benefit the Manor Hospital had been realised.

John's legacy has meant Walsall Healthcare Trust was able to buy a digital cardiovascular and shared service ultrasound system for patients to be given echocardiograms – a test that uses sound waves to measure the heart's pumping actions and the structure of the heart, including heart valves. The machine is used in heart emergencies to assess the function of the heart and for procedure planning. It also includes a vascular probe used to perform cardiac and vascular procedures safely, minimising the risk of bleeding.

Dr Jeffrin Anthony, Consultant Cardiologist, explained: "All adult hospital admissions, with either new

or suspected acute heart failure, should have an echocardiogram (ECHO) within two weeks, as early diagnosis and treatment improves their overall care.

"This vascular access echo machine funded through Mr Wilson's legacy, managed by our Well Wishers charity, means we have been able to replace our old device with a much more state-of-the-art system which helps us to ensure our patients have access to the best quality, timely care. We have also been able to buy ultrasound probes and thank Lizi and Marion for coming in to visit the service and hear for themselves how much of a difference this generous gift will make to our patients."

Lizi said Mr Wilson's wishes were for his estate to be split between the Manor Hospital, Cancer Research, the British Heart Foundation and the RNLI and £90,144.02 came to the hospital to fund the equipment, with £10,000 of that going towards the recent Chemotherapy Unit refurbishment which saw the reception and treatment area brightened with wall graphics and new recliner chairs

provided.

"She said: "I think John will be looking down and thoroughly approve of how his legacy has been used here at the hospital that treated him and where my mum, formerly known as Sister Cooper, worked from the 1950s until the mid-1990s.

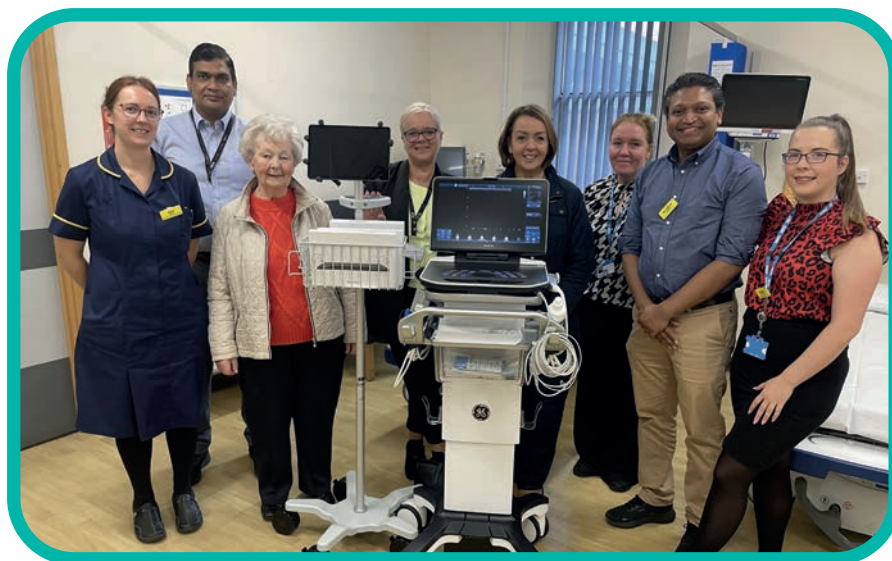
"For us, it was also good to see the equipment the legacy funded and hear directly how it is helping patients, and we thank Dr Jeffrin and colleagues for explaining it all to us."

Lizi said Mr and Mrs Wilson, who lived in Pelsall, were married later in life, as John had been caring for his mother. He had worked as a wages clerk in engineering while Jean worked as Records Supervisor in Walsall Council's Social Services.

She added: "They were a couple who loved being in each other's company and were happy just spending time together at home. Jean was a churchgoer, and John had been a keen tennis player in his time. Jean developed dementia and died in 2016, aged 89, leaving John on his own.

"I used to enjoy talking to John – he had a really dry sense of humour and always gave sound advice."

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "We were pleased Lizi and Marion could come and visit our Cardiology Team because this gave them a real understanding of how significant a difference donations in the form of legacies make to our Trust."



To find out more, contact our Fundraising Team:

01922 656643

wht.fundraising@nhs.net

Spirometry equipment for respiratory team

A new specialist piece of equipment used to monitor lung conditions is enabling patients to be cared for in their own homes, thanks to charity funding.

Well Wishers has bought a £3,000 portable Spirometer. A Spirometer is used to assess lung function and detect a range of respiratory conditions.

Kirsty Donaldson, ACP/Operations Lead, said: "Our team didn't previously have a portable Spirometer. Having one means we can now take this vital piece of equipment out into the community, supporting patients in their own homes.

"Karen Dawkins, Community Respiratory Nurse Specialist, came up with the idea as she saw what other Trusts were doing when attending national meetings.

"She was also instrumental in introducing Point of Care Testing, where patients can get a result in their own homes if they have an infection instead of coming to a clinic or hospital. This helps with antibiotic resistance as well.

"We wanted to explore the use of portable digital technology with patients living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), by having a portable spirometry machine it will allow us to monitor disease progression by bringing care closer to home.

"COPD can be managed away from a hospital setting as the condition can be monitored by Nurses using a Spirometer. This then reduces the need for hospital beds.

"Patients then don't need a hospital appointment or need to come on site. They can be seen in the community instead at different clinics or in their home.

"We really want to have all the tools we need to provide care in the community and this new equipment will help us do so."

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the name for a group of lung conditions that cause breathing difficulties. It is a common condition that mainly affects middle-aged or older adults who smoke. Many people do not realise they have it.

The breathing problems tend to get gradually worse over time and can limit normal activities, although treatment can help keep the condition under control.

Georgie Westley, Fundraising Manager, said: "One of the key priorities of the NHS is to strengthen and expand community care, so we were delighted to help out and fund this piece of equipment to help our staff have the most up-to-date equipment to be able to provide the best care possible."





Christmas Tree Lights Switch-on



Festive
market
9am-5pm

Children's
Ward
Extravangaza
(invitation
only)

Friday 5 December 2025 from 3pm in the Main Atrium

- 3pm Great Barr Brass Band
- 3.30pm Welcome from Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust Executive Team
- 3.35pm Niamh Mulligan – Winner of Walsall's Got Talent 2025
- 3.40pm Thank you from Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Louise Harrison and lights countdown
- 3.45pm Christmas Blessing from the Chaplaincy Team
- 3.50pm Singing sensation Shannon Harvey, leading us into a Christmas singalong
- 4.00pm Finish



Meet our Corporate Sponsors

Would you like to feature your business in our next newsletter? Ask today about signing up for our Charity Marketing Pack!

We offer three fantastic packages to choose from — a great platform to promote your business while supporting our work.

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 Palliative Care Centre. Our newest recruit is Enoch Evans Solicitors who said: "We're delighted to become Corporate Partners of Well Wishers, building on our long-standing relationship and ongoing support for the charity. At Enoch Evans, giving back to the local community is at the heart of what we do, and we're proud to support a cause that makes such a meaningful difference to so many."

Other businesses which have signed up recently include Turley's Electricals.



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 wht.fundraising@nhs.net

Don't forget to follow us on social media!

  @WellWishersWHC