AUTUMN & WINTER NEWSLETTER 26/27

Yeovil Hospital Charity



NHS Birthday Abseil

Going Over the Edge for the NHS!

What better way to celebrate the NHS's 78th birthday than by stepping backwards off a 112-foot hospital building?

On Sunday 5th July, 35 adventurous fundraisers did exactly that as they took part in our spectacular NHS Birthday Abseil Challenge at Yeovil Hospital.



With nerves, laughter and plenty of adrenaline, participants descended the hospital's towering exterior as family, friends and supporters cheered them on from below. Delivered by the expert team at Devon Adventure, the challenge ensured everyone could take part safely while enjoying an unforgettable experience. Our dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes, keeping everything running smoothly and providing encouragement every step of the way.

The result? **A fantastic day of community spirit and an incredible £10,688 raised**. Every participant demonstrated remarkable bravery while raising vital funds to support patients across Yeovil Hospital, Musgrove Park Hospital, and local NHS-based community health services. As the NHS celebrates 78 years of changing lives, this event highlighted just how much local people value and support their hospitals. We are incredibly grateful to every participant, volunteer, donor and supporter who made the day such a success.

Here's to next year's challenge!

Feeling inspired? Be among the first to hear when registration opens by emailing YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk. Whether you're looking to conquer a fear, take on a unique challenge, or simply support a great cause, we'd love to have you on board!

An incredible total of £10,688

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DEAR SUPPORTERS

Welcome to the Autumn & Winter 2026–2027 edition

Every donation makes a real difference to the care patients receive every day. From funding equipment that improves comfort and safety to creating welcoming environments, your generosity helps our NHS teams provide the best possible care for patients and their families.

In this edition, we're sharing inspiring stories of people who have turned deeply personal and difficult experiences into something positive. By taking on incredible challenges, bringing people together and raising money to help others, they offer a powerful reminder of how hope and generosity can emerge from heartbreaking times.

As the Dementia and Delirium Team, we have seen first-hand the tangible difference your support makes to patients living with dementia or experiencing delirium. Being in hospital can be confusing and unsettling, particularly when patients are separated from their usual support networks. Thanks to your generous donations, we have been able to provide a range of interactive resources, including radios, DVD players and CD players, as well as Jelly Drops to help support hydration. Your support has also helped fund an exciting new project to create a dedicated day room on Ward 6A. This welcoming space will enable patients with dementia to enjoy meals together, connect with others and take part in activities in an environment tailored to their needs.

We know how important it is for patients to feel comfortable, safe and supported throughout their visit. Having the right equipment helps us deliver high-quality care in a welcoming environment and makes a meaningful difference to our patients and staff.

Your support has been invaluable, and we truly appreciate your contribution to improving the care and experience we provide to our patients. Thank you for helping us make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who use our service.



Dementia & Delirium Team
Yeovil District Hospital



CYCLE 42 FOR CANCER

A phenomenal **£31,613** raised!

On Sunday 13th September, Cycle 42 for Cancer returned for its ninth year, raising vital funds to support cancer services across Somerset.

The event first began in 2018, inspired by the organisers' personal experiences after both of their families were affected by cancer and received care at the Beacon Centre. Wanting to give back to the NHS and help future patients, Iain and Ken launched what started as a small cycling challenge with just 60 participants.

Nine years later, Cycle 42 for Cancer has grown into a well-established and much-loved community event. Over the years, new routes and challenges have been introduced, with participants now able to choose from 22, 42 and 62-mile cycle rides, as well as 10k and half-marathon running events.

This year saw the largest turnout in the event's history, with more than 260 people taking part and raising a record-breaking £31,613.11. Combined with funds raised over previous years, the event has now generated an incredible total of **£127,800** in support of local cancer services.

A huge thank you goes to Matt from Walronds Park for once again hosting the event, and to Gary for organising this year's running routes. Special thanks to Iain and Ken, whose dedication, hard work and passion have made Cycle 42 for Cancer such a tremendous success. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, donated and supported the event so generously.

Save the date

Next year's Cycle 42 for Cancer will take place on Sunday 12th September 2027. For more information, please contact YeovilHospitalCharity@Somerset.FT.nhs.uk.



CHARITY FIREWALK



On Tuesday 20th October, our much-loved Charity Firewalk returned to Yeovil Rugby Club for an unforgettable evening of courage, fundraising and community spirit.

Brave participants took on the fiery challenge, raising vital funds for wards and departments across Yeovil Hospital, Musgrove Park Hospital and our wider community. Hosted by UK Firewalk, the evening was led by expert instructor Scott, who inspired fundraisers to overcome their fears and embrace the challenge. Our Community and Events Fundraiser, Amy, officially ignited the flames to the sound of The Prodigy's Firestarter, setting the scene for an evening to remember!

After a safety briefing and an incredible demonstration of focus and confidence, participants stepped onto glowing coals reaching 637°C. Cheered on by family, friends and a fiery soundtrack, every participant successfully completed the three-metre walk, with many bravely taking on the challenge more than once! The atmosphere was electric, filled with cheers, laughter and some well-earned victory dances. A huge, fiery thank you to all our fundraisers, and to Scott and Chloe from UK Firewalk, for making the evening such a success.

So far, we've raised an incredible £3,450! We're already looking forward to 2027. **Fancy taking on the heat?** Keep an eye out for next year's event updates, or contact YeovilHospitalCharity@somersetft.nhs.uk to find out more.



TREE OF LIGHT

Think of someone special this Christmas

Dedicate a bauble in memory of a loved one, which will be hung on our Christmas Tree in Yeovil Hospital

Request your bauble or make a donation. Call: 01935 383020 or visit: www.yeovilhospitalcharity.org.uk/tree-of-light

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

Become a regular giver today.

By becoming a regular giver to Yeovil Hospital Charity, you'll help provide the very best care, equipment, and comfort for patients and families at Yeovil Hospital - not just today, but all year round.

www.YeovilHospitalCharity.org.uk/Donation

Regular giving also helps us plan ahead, ensuring your generosity is used in the best way possible.



COW & APPLE

A huge thank you to Cow & Apple for raising an incredible £805.46 during their week-long 10th birthday celebrations.

The celebrations brought staff, customers and the local community together, to mark this exciting milestone while raising funds for Yeovil Hospital. We're incredibly grateful to the whole Cow & Apple team for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to making the fundraiser such a success.

FUNTASIA BALL

A huge thank you to Funtasia Entertainment Ltd for raising an incredible £10,000 at their recent Funtasia Ball.

We're extremely grateful to Russell, Louise and everyone involved for their continued support of Yeovil Hospital Charity. We'd also like to thank everyone who attended the ball and contributed so generously on the evening. Finally, a special thank you to our amazing volunteers, whose time and hard work helped make the evening such a success. We couldn't have done it without you.

What's coming up?

Charity Golf Day 2027

FRIDAY 21ST MAY

We're excited to announce that our 2027 Charity Golf Day will take place at Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club. This year's event will be in aid of **children's services** across Somerset, helping us to raise vital funds for play and sensory resources. Registrations are now open! Book your team or sponsor a tee: www.yeovilhospitalcharity.org.uk/charity-golf-day



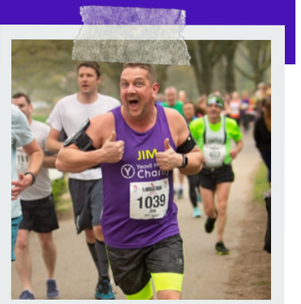
21.05.2027

Yeovil Half Marathon 2027

SUNDAY 4TH APRIL

We're delighted to be partnering with Race Nation Events once again for the 2027 Yeovil Half Marathon. We have a very limited number of discounted charity places available for just £25, with a minimum sponsorship target of £60. Ready to run for a great cause? Sign up online.

Sign up to our events here:



04.04.2027

SHANNON & MAISIE'S SKYDIVE



A huge thank you to Shannon and Maisie, who took on a charity skydive and raised an incredible **£1,307.50** for Yeovil Hospital Charity.

After their first two attempts were postponed due to adverse weather conditions, it was certainly a case of third time lucky. Despite the delays, Shannon and Maisie remained determined to complete their challenge and finally took to the skies for an unforgettable experience.

Their courage, commitment and dedication to fundraising are truly admirable. Taking part in a skydive is no small challenge, and we're incredibly grateful that they chose to use the experience to support Yeovil Hospital Charity.

We'd also like to thank everyone who sponsored Shannon and Maisie and helped them reach this fantastic fundraising total. Every donation will help us continue supporting our patients and making a positive difference at Yeovil Hospital.

Thank you, Shannon and Maisie, for going the extra mile and helping raise vital funds for our local hospital.



Around the community

FAMILY FUNDRAISING IN SANDRA'S MEMORY

Family's fundraising boosts oncology team in memory of Sandra

Our oncology team, based at the St Margaret's Hospice building, received a generous **£1,688.00** donation thanks to the fundraising efforts of local supporter Clare Kingston, following the success of Clare's bingo event held earlier this year.

Clare's fundraising comes at a deeply personal time, following the recent loss of her mum, Sandra, who received care from the oncology unit. In a further act of kindness, Sandra requested that donations made in her memory be given to Yeovil Hospital Charity.

We are incredibly grateful to Clare and her family for this wonderful donation. Their support will make a meaningful difference to local cancer patients and their families at a time when they need it most.





Brave Wingwalkers take to the skies for their local NHS

On Sunday 31st May, a group of fearless supporters took fundraising to new heights as they completed an exhilarating Wingwalk Challenge in aid of their local NHS charity. Showing incredible courage and determination, our brave wingwalkers climbed aboard a biplane and soared through the skies while strapped to the wing, all to support services close to their hearts. Together, they have raised an amazing **£2,803.86**. The funds raised will help support Queensway at Yeovil Hospital, Stroke Services at Musgrove Park Hospital, and the Somerset Team for Early Psychosis (STEP), helping to make a difference for patients across Somerset. A huge thank you goes to all of our wingwalkers for their bravery, dedication, and commitment to supporting their local NHS.

SWEET SUCCESS for the Maple Unit



We're incredibly grateful to Catherine and Nicola, who raised an incredible **£3,640** for the Maple Unit through a fantastic bake sale and raffle. The event was a tremendous success, bringing together family, friends and supporters who generously donated, purchased delicious homemade cakes and took part in the raffle. Their enthusiasm and kindness helped create a wonderful community fundraising event, while raising a remarkable amount for the unit.



TRACY & CHARLEIGH

We would like to say a huge thank you to Tracy and Charleigh, who have raised an incredible **£5,935** in support of the Maple Unit at Yeovil Hospital. After Charleigh received the devastating news of a breast cancer diagnosis, Tracy made the courageous decision to shave her head in tribute to the dedicated breast care team who were supporting her daughter throughout her treatment journey. Tracy and Charleigh have shown extraordinary strength, resilience and determination during an incredibly challenging time. Their fundraising efforts are a wonderful way of giving back to the teams who have been there for them, while helping to make a difference for future patients.

Your impact

Your generosity continues to benefit our patients and colleagues every day. With your support, we have been able to continue funding equipment and services throughout the hospital and its associated teams.



Radiology Playmobil Set

Our new Playmobil MRI set helps children understand what to expect through play, making the experience feel more familiar, less daunting, and more enjoyable for both children and their families.

Dementia Team Resources

Ward 6A at Yeovil Hospital now supports patients living with dementia. We are proud to fund additional equipment and resources to help ensure they have the best possible experience during their hospital stay.





Doppler for Maple Unit

This portable imaging device helps surgeons plan reconstructive procedures by analysing blood flow in a non-invasive way. Its flexibility allows it to be used wherever needed, helping to improve outcomes for patients.

Z-Beds for parents

We have funded additional Z-beds for the children's ward, enabling parents to stay overnight with their child. Having family close by can reduce anxiety, provide comfort, and help make treatment a more positive experience for young patients.



Continue making a difference for patients and donate today

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR PATIENTS

GIFTS IN WILLS

your gift for future generations

By leaving us a gift in your Will, you are supporting local people who need our help. Your support makes a difference to everyone that uses our hospital, including those who need lifesaving or specialist treatment, mums and new babies, and of course the elderly members of our community who often rely on NHS services the most.

Leaving us a gift in your Will gives you a chance to make a lasting difference. Just like our doctors and nurses, you will be helping people at a time when they need it the most.

For more information on leaving us a gift in your Will, please contact **James.Kirton@SomersetFT.nhs.uk**. If you are already thinking about leaving us a gift, Somerset-based law firm **Lyons Bowe** have agreed to offer a 50% discount to anyone that includes us in their Will.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE GIVE A GIFT TODAY

Yeovil Hospital Charity

I am over 16 years old and my details are:

Title

First Name

Last Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

If your donation is in memory of someone, please tell us:

Their name

Your relationship with them

We like to keep you up to date with our news, activities and ways to get involved. We'll never sell or swap your details with anybody else.

I am happy to hear from Yeovil Hospital Charity by

Email ☐ Post ☐ (Tick all that apply)

Signature

Date

You can unsubscribe or change your preferences at any time by emailing **YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk** or contacting us on **01935 383020**.

Yeovil Hospital Charity always stores your personal details securely. For full details see our privacy policy on our website.

I would like to make a one-off donation of:

☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ Other amount _____

To the following fund/department:

☐ Where it is most needed ☐ The Children's Ward

☐ Cancer Services

☐ Other _____

☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to **Yeovil Hospital Charity**

Or please debit my Visa/Maestro/Mastercard (circle as appropriate)

Cardholder's name

Card number:

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Start date: ☐☐/☐☐ Expiry date: ☐☐/☐☐

3 digit security code: ☐☐☐

Signature

Date

Make a Gift Aid Declaration

Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

☐ I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ _____ and any donations I make in the future, or have made in the past 4 years to Yeovil Hospital Charity.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference, I will notify Yeovil Hospital Charity if I want to cancel this declaration, change my name or home address, or I no longer pay sufficient Income Tax and/or Capital Gains tax.

Become a Regular Giver

By becoming a regular giver, you'll help provide the very best care, equipment, and comfort for patients and families at Yeovil Hospital - not just today, but all year round. If you would like to make a regular gift via direct debit, please visit: **www.yeovilhospitalcharity.org.uk/donate**

Every donation goes towards improving the care, comfort, and experience of patients here at Yeovil Hospital.

Yeovil Hospital Charity
Yeovil Hospital, Higher
Kingston, Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Phone
01935 383020

Follow us...
@YeovilHospitalCharity

Website
www.YeovilHospitalCharity.org.uk

Email
YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR PATIENTS

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