

# SPRING & SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026



## Yeovil Half Marathon

### A Partnership That Keeps on Giving

We're incredibly proud of our long-standing partnership with Race Nation Events for the annual Yeovil Half Marathon, which has been going strong since 2012. **Together, we've raised an amazing £89,929.97 for Yeovil Hospital Charity!**



This year's event was another fantastic success. We welcomed 11 dedicated runners to our team, representing both Yeovil Hospital Charity and our parent charity, Somerset NHS Charity, which supports NHS services across Somerset. Their efforts were truly outstanding – together they raised over **£8,000!**

What makes this even more special is that our runners get to choose where their sponsorship money goes. This year's funds will support vital departments including Oncology, Mental Health, and the Maple Unit, our wonderful breast cancer unit. Any remaining funds will be directed wherever the need is greatest across the hospital.

We couldn't make events like this happen without our amazing volunteers, their support is invaluable.

### Get involved in 2027

Fancy pulling on your running shoes for a great cause? We'd love to have you join our team for next year's Yeovil Half Marathon on Sunday 4th April 2027. Or if volunteering is more your thing, we'd be delighted to hear from you too.

Get in touch at [YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk](mailto:YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk) to find out more.

### What's inside

- A message from our Head of Charity
- Our wonderful fundraisers
- Your impact
- What's coming up?

An incredible total of  
**£8,003**

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[www.YeovilHospitalCharity.org.uk](http://www.YeovilHospitalCharity.org.uk)

# DEAR SUPPORTERS

## Welcome to the Spring & Summer 2026 edition

Every act of support, no matter how big or small, helps make a meaningful difference to the lives of NHS patients and their families. Thanks to your generosity, dedication and compassion, we continue to fund projects and equipment, improve environments and support wellbeing across our hospitals and community services.

This edition celebrates the people behind that impact. People and organisations from every corner of our community are raising funds for Yeovil Hospital. In this edition, you can read about the Mayor of Yeovil, a local church group and a wonderful group of friends who get together regularly and do something fun to support their local hospital.

Their stories remind us of the strength, kindness and community spirit that make our charity, and the people that support it, so special. We are incredibly proud to share some of those moments with you in these pages.

We hope you enjoy reading the stories and updates inside and seeing the difference your support makes.

Many thanks,

**James Kirton**  
Head of Charity



## Charity Golf Day 2026

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May saw another glorious day of golfing, community, and camaraderie at our annual Charity Golf Day, hosted at the picturesque Cricket St Thomas Golf Club.**

The weather forecast was touch-and-go during the lead-up to the event, but the skies stayed dry and mostly clear, allowing our 12 teams to enjoy their round in bright, if rather windy, conditions.

Our players and visitors were incredibly generous on the day, purchasing raffle tickets, enjoying refreshments at the Halfway House, or simply making donations - all of which helped us raise an amazing **£3,824** for our family of charities.

Thank you so much to everyone who attended, and to Cricket St Thomas Golf Club for once again

being superb hosts and donating some incredible prizes. With special mentions to Mortgage Select, who sponsored the 18th tee; Heritage Cider, Thatchers Cider, Frome Brewery Co, and M&S for supplying the refreshing drinks for our Halfway House; and to all the local businesses that were generous enough to donate to our raffle prizes.

Last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers - this event simply wouldn't have been possible without their support (and a special shout-out to Mandy for her delicious homemade flapjack).





Making a difference for patients

# Charity of the Year

## THE MAYOR OF YEOVIL

We were honoured to be selected as one of the Mayor of Yeovil's chosen Charities of the Year, alongside Yeovil Blood Bikes.

Over the past year, the Mayor and his dedicated team have worked tirelessly to raise funds in support of Dementia and Delirium care at Yeovil Hospital. Thanks to their incredible efforts and the generosity of the local community, an outstanding **£6,742.96** has been raised. A wide range of successful fundraising activities took place, bringing the community together while raising awareness of these vital services.

Highlights included a joint motorcycle event, lively Super Saturday events in the town centre, a Christmas concert hosted by Glastonbury Brass and the much-anticipated Mayor's Ball. With a striking black and gold theme, over 200 guests enjoyed a memorable evening of entertainment, celebration, and generosity.



The year will conclude with a Concert and Civic Service at Westlands Entertainment Venue – a fantastic night of entertainment featuring local choirs, and a heartfelt opportunity to thank everyone who has supported the Mayor throughout the year.

We are delighted to announce that we have once again been selected as Charity of the Year for 2026-2027, allowing us to continue raising much-needed funds for Dementia care at Yeovil Hospital. We are incredibly grateful for this ongoing support and look forward to another year of making a difference together.

An amazing **£6,742** raised!

## 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.

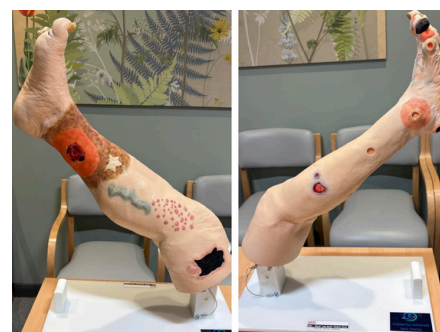


### Buzzy Bee Device

This device uses vibration and cold to distract children and reduce needle pain, helping to make medical procedures less distressing and more comfortable for our young patients.

### Gene Xpert Machine

The Gene Xpert Machine provides rapid diagnostic technology to help deliver faster test results, improve patient flow throughout the hospital and strengthen infection control.



### 'Vinnie & Annie'

'Vinnie', the venous insufficiency leg, and 'Annie', the arterial insufficiency leg to help enhance skills, support continuous learning, and ultimately improve care for patients across Somerset.

### Headphones

We have recently funded some new headphones to help distract patients, so that they are able to relax during eye surgery, which can be a very challenging experience for some patients.

### Milk Warmers

Thanks to your kind donations, we have been able to fund milk warmers for our Special Care Baby Unit which will allow parents to heat breastmilk at the cot side for their baby.

## 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.

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

Every monthly gift, big or small, helps make even more of a difference to our patients, families, and staff. Join our community of regular givers today and be part of something that truly changes lives.

[www.YeovilHospitalCharity.org.uk/Donation](http://www.YeovilHospitalCharity.org.uk/Donation)

## NHS Birthday Abseil Challenge

### Are you brave enough to go over the edge?

Our much-loved annual abseil challenge is back, and this year it's extra special. We're inviting you to take part in the NHS Birthday Abseil Challenge, held on the 78th birthday of the NHS – a truly unforgettable way to celebrate and give back. Join us as you abseil from the roof of Yeovil Hospital, soaking up stunning views across the town before descending an exhilarating 112 feet down the building. By taking part, you can raise funds for any ward, department or service across Somerset's NHS services. Every pound you raise will be a birthday gift that makes a real difference, helping improve care and experiences for patients across Somerset. Whether you're signing up as an individual or getting friends, family or colleagues together as a team, this challenge is open to everyone. Plus, there's a special offer for teams of four or more, making it the perfect opportunity for group fundraising, corporate teams, or a memorable day out with friends. **Sign up today, take the leap, and help make this year's NHS birthday celebration truly unforgettable.**



Sign up here



## Continue making a difference for patients and donate today



# Around the community

## THE JAMMY DODGERS

### Serving up community spirit for the Maple Unit

For the third year running, Jackie, Audrey and Mary, affectionately known as the Jammy Dodgers, have brought their village together with food, friendship and a huge helping of generosity, all in support of the Maple Unit at Yeovil Hospital.

Based at East Coker Village Hall, the trio organise two much-loved community events each year: a traditional afternoon tea and a festive Christmas lunch. What began as a simple fundraising idea has grown into a highlight of the local calendar and a shining example of what can be achieved when a community pulls together.

Their 2025 Christmas Lunch was a huge success, welcoming 175 people across two sittings. True to the Jammy Dodgers' ethos, it was a real team effort. Villagers generously cooked turkeys and roast potatoes at home, while volunteers prepared everything else fresh onsite. Local businesses also donated delicious desserts, adding even more festive cheer.

Thanks to the kindness of everyone involved – from cooks and volunteers to attendees and local supporters, **£2,500** was raised this year alone, bringing the Jammy Dodgers' three-year total to an incredible £5,000 for the Maple Unit. A huge thank you to Jackie, Audrey and Mary for their continued dedication and community spirit.



### ABBEY HILL STEAM RALLY

We were thrilled to be invited to this year's Abbey Hill Steam Rally at Yeovil Showground in May.

Our dedicated volunteers created a fantastic raffle, tombola, and beautiful handmade crafts to raise funds for the charity. Despite challenging weather conditions, our amazing volunteers persevered with incredible spirit – and their efforts paid off! The tombola proved so popular it sold out by day two. Over the three-day event, we raised an outstanding **£920.65**, which has been shared between our Dementia and Maternity teams. This wonderful achievement was made possible by generous donations from our supporters, the hard work of our volunteers, the public's tremendous support, and the Abbey Hill Steam Rally Committee for the opportunity to attend. Thank you to everyone involved!

### EMMA'S Bingo Night

We're delighted to share that Emma's bingo night, held earlier this year, was a huge success! Thanks to her hard work and dedication, the event raised an impressive **£214** for our Children's Epilepsy Services. We're incredibly grateful to Emma for her wonderful support and to everyone who participated.

If you are interested in organising your own bingo fundraiser and helping raise vital funds for Yeovil Hospital, please email [YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk](mailto:YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk) or contact us on 01935 383020.



### CASTLE CARY Lent Appeal

We're incredibly grateful to Churches Together in Castle Cary and Ansford for selecting our charity as a beneficiary of their 2026 Lent Appeal. Their generous donation of **£672** will make a significant impact on the care and support we provide to patients at Yeovil Hospital. Thank you for your wonderful community spirit and commitment to helping those in need.

# What's coming up?

## Cycle 42 for Cancer SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

Cycle 42 for Cancer is Back for its 10th year!

Join us on Sunday 13th September for our much-loved Cycle 42 for Cancer event, raising vital funds for Cancer Services across Somerset. Choose from three beautiful cycling routes through the stunning Somerset Levels:

- The Debutante – 22 miles
- The Classic – 42 miles
- The Tour – 62 miles

Prefer running? You're in luck – we're also hosting a 10K and Half Marathon, so there's something for everyone. Every mile helps support cancer care in our local community. Let's go the distance together.

**CYCLE 42 FOR CANCER**  
SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026  
AT WALROND'S BUSINESS PARK, TA3 6QP  
RAISING FUNDS FOR CANCER SERVICES ACROSS SOMERSET

## Charity Firewalk TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER

Feel the heat - The Charity Firewalk is back!

The legendary Charity Firewalk returns on Tuesday 20th October at Yeovil Rugby Club, and we're inviting you to take on the ultimate challenge! Are you ready to face the flames, conquer your fears and make a difference for patients? Step barefoot across red-hot embers in support of Yeovil Hospital Charity. Sign up today with our early bird offer of just £20! Places are limited – don't miss out!

Take part and find out more about our events here or visit [www.YeovilHospitalCharity.org.uk/Events](http://www.YeovilHospitalCharity.org.uk/Events)



## 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 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](mailto: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



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](mailto: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.

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

**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
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**Card number:**

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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 tick this box and we'll be in touch with further information.

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Registered Charity No. 1059922

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