

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024



Breast Unit Opening WE DID IT!

Thanks to you, our wonderful supporters, the new Breast Care Unit is now open! The opening ceremony marked the end of our biggest ever appeal, which we launched in March 2019.

We had to fundraise through a global pandemic and a cost of living crisis, but thanks to you, we did it! **The Breast Cancer Unit Appeal raised almost £2.9 million** and Yeovil now has its first ever dedicated Breast Care Unit. The ribbon was cut by some of our hard-working fundraising volunteers and we are truly grateful for every single donation we received over the last five and half years.

The new unit has been named the Maple Unit and it brings a range of breast care services into one place. Breast care services were previously spread around the hospital, which meant that patients had to move around the hospital and undress in multiple locations. Our appeal changed this. The new unit will allow patients to have a biopsy, a mammogram, an ultrasound and a consultation all in one place. There is also space for difficult conversations, a dedicated waiting area away from the rest of the hospital and a meeting room for support groups and wellbeing activities.

Although the breast unit is now open, you can still support the team. Additional furniture and equipment will be needed on an ongoing basis. Any funds raised for the breast cancer unit will be made available to the breast care team and used to make a difference for breast care patients.



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DEAR SUPPORTERS

Welcome to the Winter 2024 edition of our Newsletter. Thank you to all those who have variously, supported us, donated, and fundraised for Yeovil Hospital Charity already in 2024 and to those who are still fundraising for their events now.



I would like to express my thanks to you all for your incredible support, and stress the positive difference your efforts make to the hospital.

I would also like to pass on my personal thanks to everyone in the Community who have done a wonderful job at fundraising for the charity through so many different types of events over the whole of this year; and just remember there is an event out there for everyone!

I wish everyone well for the rest of the year and look forward to seeing you and hearing about you in 2025.

With best wishes and many thanks.

Graham Hughes

Non-Executive Director and Chair of Charity



Cycle 42

On Sunday the 8th of September, we were lucky enough to support Iain and Ken in the 6th instalment of the incredible International Cycle 42 for Cancer event.

Having started the event all the way back in 2017, after both of the organiser's families had been affected by the cruel illness and received treatment in the Beacon Centre. Iain and Ken made a vow to be in a position to give back to the NHS to make a difference for future patients.



What started as a cycle event that contained 60 registrations, has grown and grown over the last 7 years and has now transformed into the wonderful, well-oiled event we see today. Iain and Ken have had the amazing idea of adding courses and routes every year, boasting 22, 42, and 62-mile cycle routes, along with new marathon and half marathon options for runners. This year saw impressive participation from over 180 people, raising over an outstanding £13,000. It's fantastic to see such a large turnout and generosity for a worthy cause. With donations still coming in, it's likely the final amount will be even higher. This added to the £25,000 already raised over the years, results in an ever rising £38,000! Thank you so much to Iain and Ken, who work tirelessly to plan, organise and host this event. A huge thank you to everyone who registered and donated so generously.

This year's event was a truly special one that will live long in the memory for Iain, Ken and everyone associated. In the run up to September, Iain and Ken lost a dear friend named 'Cookie' to cancer. Cookie was the photographer for Cycle 42 and will always be remembered for holding such an amazing role on the day. Our thoughts go to Iain, Ken and Cookie's family and friends.



Charity of the Year

PARTNERSHIPS

This year we have had great success in forming Charity of the Year partnerships with local companies, who are raising money for various departments in Yeovil Hospital including the Breast Cancer Unit and the Children's ward.



We are so fortunate to work with so many wonderful people in our community, with the ability to gain both 6 and 12 month partnerships.

We want to thank both Porter Dodson and The Old Barn club for the support they have shown so far. We have seen some great events taking place including a music festival, a summer picnic and employees taking part in our abseil challenge.

We would also like to thank Barolo who have already donated £1777.50 from the sale of coffees and burgers during the their first month of being open.

We are excited for what all these businesses of planned in the coming the months. If you belong to a group, or a company that is looking to sponsor a charity through these partnerships, please contact us at **YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk**.



On Wednesday 25th September, for the first time ever all three of our charities collaborated to create an event that saw our fundraisers testing if they could handle the heat... The Fire walk 2024.

This event was not only too hot to handle, but was also a wonderful opportunity for our workers, supporters, fundraisers and donors to all be a part of the same event. Hosted at Bridgwater Community Hospital, 15 walkers joined us for this fantastic event, raising vital funds for our various wards and departments in Yeovil Hospital, Musgrove and Bridgwater Community Hospital. The event was lead and held by UK Firewalk, who are not only one of the world's leading experts in the unique world of firewalking, but their founder and our instructor for the evening, Scott, is a two-time Guinness World Record Holder for the longest fire walkers...soles of steel!

The event began with an introduction from Scott, outlining what the evening would entail, after which he led everyone down to the fire walk area. Our Community and Events Fundraiser, Amy, opened the event in a way akin to the Olympic opening ceremony – armed with a very large fire lighter, and aptly accompanied by the sounds of Prodigy's 'Fire Starter'.

Once the fires were lit, Scott lead the team for a full briefing, where he outlined the importance of following his instructions for health and safety reasons. In an effort to put everyone's mind at ease, he even displayed his method of 'showing you something scarier than firewalking', where

he proceeded to snap an arrow on his throat, sharp end first! If that wasn't impressive enough, one of our firewalkers, the Matron of Bridgwater Community Hospital, also attempted it, and he absolutely smashed it! Kudos to Pete!

Now our firewalkers were ready to face their fears and cross the coals. Still accompanied by aptly fire-themed songs and lyrics, our fundraisers all completed the 3-metre scorched trail not once, but twice, and some even going back for thirds! As instructor Scott had promised at the start of the evening, everyone completed the walk with a smile and even a dance in some cases!

We want to give a huge (and fiery) thank you to all the fundraisers for their efforts – it was inspiring to watch! And of course, to Scott and Chloe of UK Firewalk for helping us host the event. So far, the team have **raised an incredible £4000**, and we can't wait to start taking bookings for next year.

If this event has lit a fire in you, please keep an eye out for Fire Walk 2025 updates. If you would like to know more, please contact us at **YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk**

And remember...
please don't try this at home!



**Scan the QR code
TO DONATE ONLINE**

Abseil

On Sunday 20th October, we saw the return of the annual Yeovil Abseil Challenge, where 30 brave participants of all ages, from 12 to 89, took part in the 112ft abseil from the roof of the Yeovil Hospital.



With the event being held in October and the usual challenges we face with the British weather; we were forced to merge all of the bookings into the afternoon. We would like to thank each and every one who attended for their patience, understanding and arriving with an amazing attitude to complete this immense challenge. A day that started with an element of worry, ended in a great day with an incredible atmosphere. We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did!

In another first for our family of charities, this year fundraisers were able to raise vital funds for Yeovil Hospital, Musgrove Park, South Petherton Community Hospital and Community Mental Health Services.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved, from brave fundraisers to the dedicated volunteers who gave up their time to make the event run smoothly. Special thanks also go to Devon Adventure for their continued support in helping host this thrilling event.

Yeovil Lions LADIES LUNCH



Yeovil Lions Club and Options have once again shown their incredible support for the Breast Cancer Unit appeal. This year, their efforts raised an outstanding £10,000 through various fundraising activities, including an Easter Hamper raffle and a themed ladies' lunch.

The theme for this year's lunch was "Pearl and Diamonds," with attendees generously donating unwanted jewellery to be sold, further boosting funds for the Breast Unit. Their creativity and dedication have made a significant impact, and their contribution will go a long way in supporting the vital work of the Breast Cancer Unit. A huge thank you to everyone involved!

Funtasia ENTERTAINMENT LTD

The incredibly popular Funtasia Charity Ball returned for it's 15th appearance earlier in the year at Westlands in Yeovil and it raised a staggering £11,000 for our Breast Cancer Unit Appeal.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all, with live music, a rodeo bull and casino games. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for this well organised event and to all who donated to the cause, it will make a big difference to our breast cancer patients and the team.

Some of the projects we have funded, THANKS TO YOU

Swimming lessons for cancer patients, seated exercise classes on the wards, new comfy seating for the children's ward, refurbishing treatment areas for cancer patients, video link for parents to watch their babies in the baby unit, emergency alarm for end-of-life patients, a TV for outpatients waiting area and much, much more!

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Brenda INGRAM

Supporter takes on 15,000ft Skydive for Oncology.

Brenda is not a stranger to taking on a challenge to raise money for Yeovil Hospital Charity, she took part in our annual abseil challenge in 2022 and then took on the Wing Walk in 2023.

This year Brenda, alongside two of family members, completed the 15,000ft tandem Skydive at Dunkeswell near Honiton, **raising an amazing £3490!** Brenda said that even though she felt a little sick when she landed, it was an amazing experience.

By completing these 3 challenges, Brenda has raised a whopping **£8920** for the Oncology department. We wonder what she will do next?!



Somerset 3 PEAKS CHALLENGE

Connie and Niall from Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust took part in the Somerset 3 Peaks Challenge on Friday, 20th September, raising an impressive £1,715 for each of the three charities Yeovil Hospital Charity, The Hub, and Mind in Somerset.

The duo trekked a total of 50km, starting their journey at 4 a.m. at the iconic Glastonbury Tor. From there, they tackled Dundon Beacon and climbed Ham Hill before crossing the finish line at Huish Park, home of Yeovil Town FC.

The event was made even more special by the presence of volunteers and representatives from the charities, who helped create a fun and encouraging environment. During their trek, Connie and Niall visited several primary schools, where children participated in a non-uniform day to raise additional funds. In a heartwarming gesture, Yeovil Town FC kits were also donated to the children.



Yeovil

HALF MARATHON

Yeovil Half Marathon is back! If you're looking for a challenge to get you through the winter, we've some charity places for just £16! Run for your chosen ward or department and help us make a difference for patients. For more information on how to register, contact us on **01935 383020** or email **YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk**.



WHAT'S COMING UP?



Christmas CAMPAIGN

Christmas Presents for Patients

We are delighted to share the news that Yeovil Hospital Charity will be buying presents for patients who will be staying in the hospital over the Christmas period.



To allow us to reach all of those who will spend time with us on Christmas Day, we need the help of you, our wonderful community, to help us fund these gifts. If you have the time and the means to donate, please do. If you or someone you know are planning to donate toys to our Children's Ward, why not donate the cost to this wonderful cause. Your donation could make a patient's Christmas **www.justgiving.com/campaign/christmaspresentsforpatients**.

Please note if we raise additional funds, we will use these to fund other vital projects across the hospital.



We rely on the generosity of people to help develop and fund services across the Trust for Yeovil and all our Community Hospitals and a large part of this comes from legacies or gifts people leave us in their Will for which we are incredibly grateful.

We have we received some incredible legacies which help to fund equipment and projects across the Trust.

Gifts in Wills can make a real difference to patients and for generations to come.

If you would like more information about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact **James.Kirton@SomersetFT.nhs.uk**

Gifts in Wills

your gift for future generations



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I am over 16 and my address details are.

Title
First Name
Last Name
Address
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If your donation is in memory of someone please tell us

Their Name
Your relationship with them

We like to keep our supporters up to date with news and ways to get involved. If you would rather not receive this information by post, please tick here. ☐

If you would like us to contact you by email, you need to opt-in by ticking the box below. I am happy to be contacted by email ☐

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.

One off gift

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

To the following fund/department:

☐ Where it is most needed
☐ Cancer Services ☐ The Children's Ward
☐ Other £ _____

☐ I enclose a cheque payable to Yeovil Hospital Charity
Please debit my Visa/CAF/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 GiftAid your donation you must tick the box below ☐

☐ I want 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 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.

If you would like to make a regular gift via direct debit, please tick this box and we will send you further information on how to sign up ☐