

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2025



International Cycle 42 FOR CANCER

On Sunday 14th September, the International Cycle 42 for Cancer celebrated for its ninth year, raising vital funds for Cancer Services across Somerset, thanks to the brilliant organisation of Iain and Ken.

The event began back in 2017, inspired by the organisers' personal experiences when both of their families were affected by cancer and received care at the Beacon Centre. Determined to give back to the NHS and support future patients, Iain and Ken launched what started as a small cycling challenge with just 60 registrations.

Nine years later, the event has grown into a truly remarkable and well-established fixture. Each year, new routes and challenges have been added, now offering 22, 42, and 62-mile cycle rides, alongside marathon and half-marathon options for runners. The event has even gone global, with participants joining from Melbourne, Vancouver, and this year, Bermuda.

Despite challenging weather, this year's turnout was outstanding: over 190 participants took part, **raising a record-breaking £20,920.25**. Combined with previous years, the event has now **raised an incredible £58,000** in total.

The atmosphere was one of camaraderie and achievement. Riders shared glowing feedback:

- "I have taken part in many events like this, but the Somerset ride was the friendliest one I've ever joined – see you next year!"
- "The event was so well organised, and we had such a brilliant day. I'm definitely feeling the aches and pains, but it was worth it for the achievement and to be part of such a great cause!"

A heartfelt thank you goes to Iain and Ken, whose tireless dedication makes this event possible, and to everyone who registered, donated, and supported so generously.

Save the date: Next year's International Cycle 42 for Cancer will take place on **Sunday 13th September 2026**. For more information, please contact us at YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk.



WHAT'S INSIDE

A Message from our Chair
Support from the community
What's coming up

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DEAR SUPPORTERS

Welcome to the Winter 2025 edition of our Newsletter. I would like to take a moment to personally thank you for the incredible kindness, generosity, and support you have shown over the past year.



Whether you've donated, fundraised, or simply helped spread the word, your efforts have been nothing short of inspiring.

From amazing community fundraisers to awe-inspiring personal challenges, your creativity and unwavering commitment has made a profound impact on our patients, staff and community.

As we look ahead to 2026, I'm excited to see what wonderful ideas and events you'll bring to life. However you choose to support us, please know that it is deeply appreciated and continues to make a real difference for our hospital.

With heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes,

Graham Hughes

Non-Executive Director and Chair of Charity



Firewalk

On Wednesday 19th November, our much-loved Charity Firewalk made a blazing return – this time hosted at Yeovil Rugby Club.

A total of 23 brave participants took on the challenge, raising vital funds for wards and departments across Yeovil Hospital, Musgrove Park Hospital, and the community.

The event was led by UK Firewalk, one of the world's leading experts in the art of firewalking. Our instructor for the evening, Scott, brought his world-class expertise (and his two Guinness World Records for the longest firewalks) to inspire our fundraisers with his "soles of steel"!

The evening kicked off as Scott led participants to the Firewalk area, where our Community and Events Fundraiser, Amy, officially ignited the flames – perfectly timed to the iconic beat of The Prodigy's "Firestarter."

As the flames roared to life, Scott led a full safety briefing, demonstrating his confidence and calm under pressure by performing a jaw-dropping stunt, snapping an arrow on his throat, sharp end first, to show that fear can be conquered with focus and trust.

With spirits high and nerves steady, our firewalkers stepped up to face the glowing coals, measuring at 637 °C! Cheered on by a lively crowd and a playlist of fiery anthems, every

participant completed the 3-metre trail – many not just once, but three or four times. True to Scott's promise, everyone finished with smiles, laughter, and even a few victory dances.

The atmosphere was electric, with supporters cheering on friends and family, creating an unforgettable sense of community and celebration.

One participant summed it up perfectly: **"That was absolutely amazing, the feeling of camaraderie between us all and achieving the firewalk, I'm so glad it did it for Yeovil Hospital"**

A huge, fiery thank you goes out to all our incredible fundraisers for their courage and enthusiasm – and to Scott and Chloe from UK Firewalk for making the evening such a success.

So far, the event has **raised an incredible £7,000**, and we're already looking forward to Firewalk 2026.

If this event has ignited your inner fire and you're ready to take on the heat, keep an eye out for updates on next year's challenge.

For more information, contact us at **YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk**.

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



Scan the QR code
TO DONATE ONLINE



Join Our Team as a Fundraising Volunteer!

Do you have some spare time and a passion for making a difference in your community? Join us as a **Fundraising Volunteer** for your local hospital charity!



We're looking for friendly, enthusiastic people to help us raise vital funds that support patients, families, and hospital staff.

As a volunteer, you can get involved by:

- Supporting bucket collections
- Selling raffle tickets
- Attending and helping at local fundraising events

There's no regular commitment required — volunteer whenever you can and make a real impact in your own community.

We'd love to welcome you to our team! Together, we can make a difference.

For more information, please contact us on **01935 383020** or email **YeovilHospitalCharity@SomersetFT.nhs.uk**

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, Rachel

We are delighted to welcome Rachel Hodge as the newest member of our wonderful team!

Rachel joined us on the 16th October and is our fantastic Donor Support Officer, providing invaluable support to our amazing fundraisers and serving as the first point of call in our office. Rachel works for us three days a week and works two days a week for the hospital volunteering team.

Having lived locally for many years Rachel is passionate about supporting our community and helping make a difference through the incredible work the charity does.

Rachel's background includes years of involvement in community fundraising from being a trustee and treasurer with her local scout group to helping out on her children's school PTA, she's always enjoyed bringing people together for good causes.



Outside of work, Rachel is currently studying for a degree with the Open University and in her spare time you'll usually find her reading, swimming, travelling or volunteering at local events.

Rachel is really looking forward to getting to know our amazing supporters and working with the team to continue making a positive impact.

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. Please visit **www.justgiving.com/campaign/christmas-presents-for-patients2025**

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

Your funding 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:

New parent armchairs and Z-beds for the children's ward, so that parents can spend time with their children while they are in hospital.

ICU Patient Diaries to document their journey in a meaningful way.



A Claris Portable Scanner, which will help us provide a one-stop service for patients with lower urinary tract symptoms, enabling faster diagnosis and treatment.



Sara Plus for our Stroke ward which is a powered sit-to-stand device to aid safer patient handling.



DONATE YOUR BROKEN OR UNWANTED JEWELLERY AND WATCHES

Please support us by donating your unwanted fine and costume jewellery, watches, gold and silver items to help raise much needed funds for Cancer Services at Yeovil Hospital

To donate, please drop your items at the hospital main reception.

Thank you

For more information, please contact
Maggie on 01963 250108 or
Yeovil Hospital Charity on 01935 383020

Jewellery APPEAL

Since 2019, our Jewellery fundraising project has raised an outstanding £247,141 – first supporting our Breast Cancer Unit Appeal, and now helping to enhance our wider Cancer services.

By clearing out old, unwanted, or broken jewellery and watches, you can contribute without having to host a fundraiser. One of our amazing volunteers, Maggie, takes the donated items to auction, or if they are not suitable for auction, the beads, chains, or links are transformed into beautiful pieces of art or trinkets by her friend, Trisha McGarry – the proceeds for both are given to the charity.

If you wish to empty the drawers of any jewellery or accessories, especially those that have been inherited, this is a respectful way to honour their sentimentality whilst giving to a charitable cause.

If you wish to donate or for more details, please contact us on **01935 383020**, or directly to Maggie on **01963 250108**.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

THE CAKE CUPBOARD YEOVIL

We were truly touched by the incredible fundraising efforts of the wonderful Victoria from The Cake Cupboard Yeovil, who raised an amazing £1,146.33 for our Children's Ward through her fantastic charity cake sale earlier this year.



Victoria is well known in the local community for her mouth-watering homemade cakes, bakes, and sweet treats, which she lovingly prepares and sells from her charming purpose-built cupboard at home.

We're so grateful to everyone who helped support her fundraising, whether that be by buying a slice of cake, spreading the word, or donating to the cause. Contributions like this help us to make a real difference to the care and comfort of our young patients here at Yeovil Hospital.

Ladies LUNCH

Ladies Lunch Raises £10,000 in Style.

On Friday 13th June, the Yeovil Ladies Lions and Options Hair Yeovil hosted their much-anticipated annual Ladies Lunch at the Northover Manor.



This year's theme, Vinted Vogue, brought a touch of high fashion to the afternoon, with each table named after iconic fashion houses such as Versace and Gucci, setting the scene for a day of glamour, laughter and generosity. Guests received their invitations in stylish gift bags and were encouraged to bring along unwanted garments to sell on Vinted, ensuring the event's impact extended well beyond the day itself.

The afternoon's lively programme featured a delicious meal, a dazzling fashion show with a surprise catwalk appearance from celebrity chef Lesley Waters, musical bingo, a DJ set, and an array of stalls, stands and a raffle prizes. The atmosphere buzzed with energy as guests danced, laughed and celebrated in true style.

Most importantly, the event **raised an incredible £10,000**, a testament to the generosity and enthusiasm of everyone involved.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the organisers, sponsors, and attendees who made this day such a success. Together, they proved that fundraising can be as stylish as it is impactful.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

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 £25! 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**.



Yeovil Hospital Charity

Raise £75 or more in sponsorship & receive a FREE t-shirt

YEOVIL HALF MARATHON

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2026

Join our team of runners for the Yeovil Half Marathon & help Yeovil Hospital Charity to make a difference for patients at Yeovil Hospital. Run for your chosen ward or department.

Registration fee £25, min. sponsorship £60

WWW.YEOVILHOSPITALCHARITY.ORG.UK/EVENTS/

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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 the 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.

Gifts in Wills
**your gift
for future
generations**

PLEASE DONATE GIVE A GIFT TODAY

I am over 16 and my address 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 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 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.

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 ☐