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have made to the lives of patients
and staff at Leicester's Hospitals.



Leicester
Hospitals
Charity

Spring 2026 Newsletter



New Parent Day Room on Ward 6 brings comfort and a little piece of home for families

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Hospitals Charity by making
a regular gift

A new era for diagnostics – thanks to you

Thanks to the incredible generosity of supporters like you, an important piece of diagnostic equipment funded through our 2024 festive appeal is now transforming patient care right here in Leicester.

Some of you may recall that our festive appeal focused on raising funds for a single-balloon enteroscope – a highly specialised piece of equipment that allows clinicians to investigate the small bowel in much greater detail. Until now, patients needing this complex procedure often had to travel to Sheffield, adding stress and inconvenience to what is already a difficult time – especially for those who may be facing a cancer diagnosis.

We are delighted to share that, thanks to the amazing support from across the community and the outstanding partnership with Brown Dog Cancer Charity, the enteroscope has now been delivered and is in use within the brand-new, state-of-the-art Endoscopy Unit at Leicester General Hospital. The unit that opened in November 2025 has been designed with patient comfort, dignity and efficiency at its heart and will allow

Enteroscope examinations can now take place within the new state-of-the-art Endoscopy Unit at Leicester General Hospital





Dr Kadri is proud to offer the very best care for patients using the new enteroscope

thousands more patients each year to access vital diagnostic tests closer to home.

Dr Sudarshan Kadri, Consultant Gastroenterologist, said, “We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated to make this happen. Thanks to your generosity, patients who need this specialised procedure can now be seen here in Leicester, rather than having to travel long distances to Sheffield. This not only allows more precise diagnostics by our colleagues, but also makes a real difference to patients and their families at a very stressful time.”

This achievement would not have been possible without our longstanding partnership with Brown Dog Cancer Charity, whose fundraising efforts and commitment

to improving cancer care played a crucial role in reaching the total needed.

Mark Storer BEM, Founder and Chairman, Brown Dog Cancer Charity said, “We are incredibly proud to have worked alongside Leicester Hospitals Charity and its supporters to fund this vital piece of equipment. Knowing that patients can now receive this specialist procedure in Leicester, closer to home and their loved ones, makes all our fundraising efforts worthwhile.”

To everyone who donated, fundraised or helped spread the word - thank you. Your support is having a real and lasting impact on patient care across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

How your support has helped to improve eye care in Hinckley

Patients in Hinckley are now benefiting from a second, top-of-the-range Visual Field Analyser at Hinckley and District Community Hospital.

The new Visual Field Analyser is a diagnostic tool used primarily to detect and monitor glaucoma, as well as a range of other visual and neurological conditions. Until recently, the department had access to just one machine, meaning staff were limited to offer appointments to the increasing number of local patients needing the diagnostic tool. Thanks to your support, the addition of this second analyser has significantly reduced waiting times, sped up diagnoses and helped improve patient outcomes.

"This equipment has transformed how we work day to day," explains Claire Bown, Senior Healthcare Support Worker.

"Having a second Visual Field Analyser means we can see patients more quickly and get accurate results without delays. That can make a huge difference, especially for conditions like glaucoma where early diagnosis is very important."

The machine works by carefully mapping a patient's peripheral and central vision. During the test, patients focus on a central light while small flashes appear in their side vision. Each response helps build a detailed picture of what they can - and can't - see. Advanced features, including automatic eye tracking and a liquid lens that adjusts instantly to each patient, ensure results are both accurate and comfortable.



Thanks to your support, Claire Bown and her colleagues can now provide more eye tests locally at Hinckley and District Community Hospital.

Importantly, visual field tests can reveal serious issues long before symptoms are noticed. Glaucoma, often referred to as the "silent thief of sight", can cause irreversible damage without warning signs. The analyser is also used to monitor conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and multiple sclerosis, and to detect neurological problems including strokes or brain tumours.



Ronald is very grateful to receive care more locally, thanks to the availability of the new Visual Field Analyser at his local community hospital.

Your support is also helping care happen closer to home - something that matters deeply to patients and aligns with the NHS's 10 Year Health Plan vision of shifting more treatment and support into communities and neighbourhood settings.

Ronald from Hinckley knows this first-hand. After his optician noticed abnormalities during a routine eye test, he was referred to hospital and diagnosed with early glaucoma. His first visual field test required a 13-mile trip to Leicester. This year, thanks to the additional machine, his follow-up appointment took place much closer to home in Hinckley.

"Being able to come here instead of travelling all the way to Leicester has made such a difference," Ronald says.

"It feels reassuring knowing this level of care is available locally. I'm really grateful to the people who helped make that possible."

By funding this equipment, you've increased local capacity, reduced travel time and anxiety for patients, and supported staff to deliver fantastic care.



A calm space when it's needed most: the new Parent Day Room on Ward 6

Families on Ward 6 at Leicester Royal Infirmary now have a welcoming parent day room – a calm, comforting space away from the clinical environment where they can pause, recharge and spend time together.

Ward 6 cares for antenatal and postnatal patients, supporting families at an incredibly important and often challenging time. Around 200 families each month can now access the new parent day room, and the difference it's making is already clear.

Tammy and Jamie are parents to baby Isla, who needed intensive care after birth due to

fluid on her lungs. Tammy also faced serious complications during pregnancy, including sepsis and existing kidney problems. While Isla and Tammy received further care before going home, the family used the parent day room every day.



Tammy, Jamie and baby Isla spending time together in the new Parent Day Room on Ward 6 – a calm, welcoming space made possible thanks to your support.



The team on Ward 6 are delighted to offer this new space to parents and families on the ward.

“The parent room has been such a comfort for us.” Tammy says. “It’s a calm space where we can step away from the ward, make a drink, grab a snack and just breathe for a moment. Being able to help ourselves to tea and coffee and have those small home comforts really makes a difference when you’re going through such a challenging time.”

For Tammy and Jamie, the room represents far more than just a place to make a hot drink. It gives them independence, privacy and a sense of normality – something that can feel very far away during a hospital stay.

The refurbished room includes a small kitchenette with drinks and snacks available 24 hours a day, alongside comfortable seating and calming wall art. Families can relax, listen to the radio, read, or spend time together away from the bedside. For visiting children, there are low tables and chairs, colouring books and pencils – thoughtful touches that help the whole family feel welcome.

Sharon Bannister, Ward Manager explains why improving the space was so important

“We wanted to create an area where parents, partners and children could take time away from the bedside and feel a little more at ease during their stay.”

She adds, “The new room is now used every day, not just by parents but by whole families. We’re incredibly proud to offer this space to families – knowing it makes such a real difference during what can be a very stressful time. Thanks to your support, we now have a calm, welcoming environment that truly enhances the experience of being on Ward 6.”

Your generosity has helped turn a simple room into a place of comfort, calm and connection – benefiting both families and staff at a time when it matters most. Thank you for the difference you’ve made for parents like Tammy and Jamie, and for the many families who will use this space now and in the future.



Making Christmas special across Leicester's Hospitals

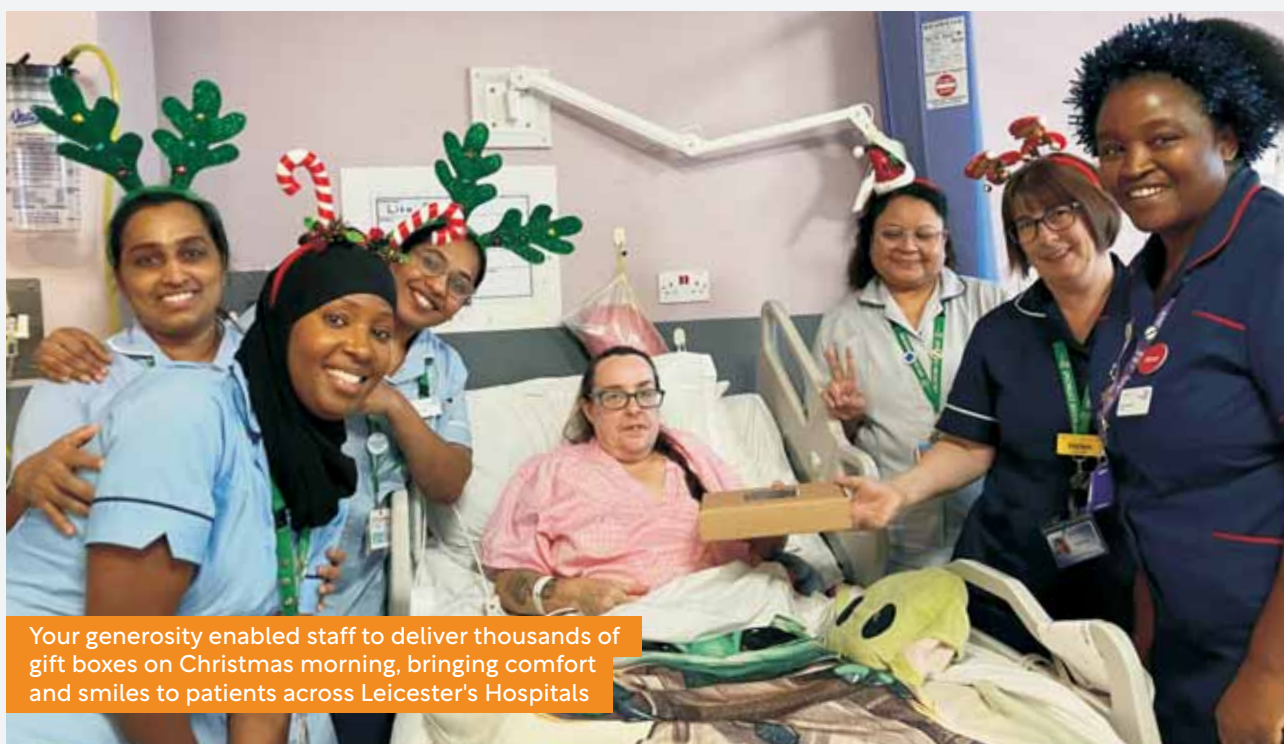
Just before the festive period, an incredible group of 120 volunteers came together with one shared purpose: to bring comfort and kindness to patients spending Christmas Day in hospital - and you helped to make that possible.

Over the course of one full day, volunteers packed more than 3,000 thoughtfully prepared gift boxes funded by the Charity, ensuring that every adult in-patient across Leicester's Hospitals had a gift to open on Christmas morning.

The volunteers included hospital volunteers, students from De Montfort University Leicester, alongside individuals from local community groups and businesses, all keen to support their local hospitals and the



A wonderful team of 120 volunteers packed over 3000 gift boxes to bring smiles to patients on Christmas morning.



Your generosity enabled staff to deliver thousands of gift boxes on Christmas morning, bringing comfort and smiles to patients across Leicester's Hospitals



people receiving care within them. Each gift box was carefully prepared and included essential toiletries, a crossword puzzle with a pen, sweet treats and delicious biscuits – small touches of comfort and care that we know make a real difference during a hospital stay.

The boxes were distributed across Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester General Hospital and Glenfield Hospital, as well as our community hospital sites.

Zubeda Master, Volunteer Services Administrator, said, “Nobody wants to spend Christmas in hospital. But for the 3,000 patients waking up in hospital on Christmas morning, receiving a small gift like this can make such a difference, especially for those who may not have family or friends to visit them. We take immense pride in this project and are proud of our dedicated volunteer team who put so much care and heart into

making it happen. It's also greatly appreciated by the clinical staff, who enjoy handing out gifts on Christmas Day.”

Colleagues took immense joy in sharing the boxes with patients like Tina, who spent the festive period in hospital and described her gift as “a reminder that someone was thinking of me.”

Lexa Nyarugwe, Matron, helped to distribute the gifts to patients on Christmas Day and said, “Handing out the gift boxes was incredibly special for our team. You could see how much it meant to patients. These moments of kindness created warmth and connection on the wards, and they reminded us all that compassion is at the heart of what we do.”

Thank you for helping to make Christmas special for thousands of patients across Leicester's Hospitals.

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust news



Artist impression of the new Urgent Treatment Centre at Leicester Royal Infirmary, where patients will receive faster, more comfortable care in modern, purpose-built facilities.

Enabling work will help to transform our hospital sites and create state-of-the-art facilities for future generations of patients.



We're excited to share with you that University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (UHL) has secured more than £50 million in new funding for two significant capital projects that will enhance patient care across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

New Urgent Treatment Centre at Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI)

- NHS England has approved £12.8 million for a purpose-built Urgent Treatment Centre at LRI.
- Construction is set to begin in early 2026, with a planned 2027 opening.
- This modern facility will replace the current Minor Injuries and Minor Illness service, offering larger clinical spaces, on-site diagnostics, and improved care for both adults and children – helping patients get the right care more quickly.

Enabling Works for the New Hospital Programme (NHP)

- A further £39 million has been confirmed to begin essential enabling works on UHL's three main hospital sites – Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester General Hospital and Glenfield.

- These works include relocating services, refurbishing key clinical and support areas, and preparing the ground for the main New Hospital Programme construction phase due to start around 2032.
- This investment is a major milestone in UHL's long-term plans to deliver modern, state-of-the-art facilities for local patients and staff.

Why this matters

Together, these investments reflect significant progress toward transforming how hospital care is delivered locally – from urgent treatment to long-term estate development. They build on recent projects such as the East Midlands Planned Care Centre and strengthened community diagnostic services, all contributing to faster access, better experiences and improved outcomes for patients across the region.

We are proud to be part of this journey as we can support the Trust to further enhance services through the delivery of projects that will set us apart from other Trusts in the country, helping to continue improve and build on excellence in service for the local community of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Year in pictures – Looking back at 2025



Visit our website to see what is coming up in 2026. www.LHCharity.org.uk

Have you considered a monthly gift?

Become a friend of
Leicester Hospitals Charity

£5 A MONTH

could help to bring smiles and comfort to patients spending time in hospital during important times of year like Christmas

£10 A MONTH

could help to create patient day rooms, providing calm spaces to rest recharge and spend time with loved ones

£20 A MONTH

could help fund state-of-the-art equipment that improves outcomes, speeds up diagnoses, and makes care more convenient for patients and families

Phone

Call us on: 0116 258 8709

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Visit online at: LHCharity.org.uk
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Post

Send your donation form to: Leicester Hospitals Charity,
Belgrave House, Leicester General Hospital,
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