

Christmas at QEHB

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*Support QEHB Charity's
Christmas Campaign and
help spread festive cheer
this year!*



**Queen
Elizabeth
Hospital
Birmingham
Charity**

Help us bring Christmas

Following the success of last year's Christmas Campaign, QEHB Charity is once again raising money to bring festive cheer to patients and staff at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham.

Over the festive period, more than 100,000 patients will visit QEHB. From elderly care and dementia patients with few or no family members, to children receiving gruelling radiotherapy treatment five days a week for six weeks, to emergency admissions and people in need of life-saving transplants, the 'season to be jolly' will be business as usual at Birmingham's biggest hospital.

That's why we want to provide hampers for patients and staff to share, Christmas trees for every floor of the hospital, decorations for wards, gifts for children and young people with cancer, and free parking and TV for patients and visitors on Christmas Day. But we can't do it without you! Will you help to support QEHB at Christmas?

DECEMBER

We've got an advent calendar full of winter events to get you in the Christmas spirit - will you join us?

- Twelve choirs of Christmas from primary schools and community groups across the region will visit the hospital atrium throughout December to perform carols and hymns, and collect donations on behalf of the QEHB Christmas Campaign. Why not attend one of the performances, enjoy some festive carols and drop your spare change into one of our collecting tins?

- QEHB Charity's Festive Jumper Day on Friday 15 December is a great opportunity to flaunt your favourite festive knit at work or school and donate £1 to support QEHB at Christmas! QEHB staff can purchase one of our QEHB Christmas badges, which will be available to buy from the Fundraising Hub in the main atrium. Donations can be made online at qehbchristmas.org or alternatively, drop your £1 into a collecting tin at the Fundraising Hub on the day.

- The popular Birmingham Hospitals Carol Service will return to St Phillip's Cathedral on Thursday 14 December at 7pm.

To book your tickets please visit qehb.org/events or email charities@uhb.nhs.uk for more information.



Thank you!

FIND OUT MORE

Go to www.qehbchristmas.org to find out more or make a donation.

Christmas cheer to QEHB

Don't forget to visit our Christmassy Fundraising Hub, which will be open Monday – Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm. We'll be selling Christmas decorations, Christmas cards and gifts along with our usual range of QEHB Charity merchandise. Come along and have a chat to our friendly volunteers and check out our selection of festive goodies!



Laura Beacham, who works on the Teenage Cancer Trust Young Persons Unit at QEHB, providing support to teenagers and young people who are receiving cancer treatment, said: "Christmas is a time of the year when no one wants to be in hospital.

"Unfortunately, for many of the 16 to 24 year olds being cared for on the Unit, treatment can't be stopped and they are in hospital for some, if not all, of the festive period. With the help of QEHB Charity's Christmas Campaign, the Teenage and Young Adult Service team are able to decorate the unit and give presents.

"Being able to provide opportunities through activities and Christmas distractions means so much to the team, but more importantly the patients and their loved ones get to forget about their cancer and its treatment for a while and just enjoy Christmas. Thank you."



Is your company or community group looking to give to a local charity this Christmas? QEHB Charity offers a variety of packages to help your organisation identify the type of support that's best for you. From sponsoring a floor or ward of your choice to collecting office donations for Festive Jumper Day, we're grateful for any help you can provide to enable us to bring Christmas to QEHB. Every week we'll celebrate the activities of our corporate partners with Festive Friday.

If you're thinking of getting involved, please contact cathryn.worth@uhb.nhs.uk or call 0121 371 4852 for more information.



A Christmas Case Study

A liver transplant patient is backing QEHB Charity's Christmas Campaign after undergoing a life-saving operation on Boxing Day.

Francis Tavernor, a retired history teacher and later an employee in an NHS occupational therapy department, aged 64, from Herefordshire, underwent a liver transplant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham on Boxing Day 2012, after suffering from ulcerative colitis and then PSC [Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis] for over four decades. By early 2012, Francis was in desperate need of a new liver in order to save his life.

He said: "My time was fast running out. As my condition worsened I felt helpless. My wife of 13 years, Eileen, was doing everything for me. I thought that if I wasn't going to get a transplant I didn't really want to go on for too much longer. I was afraid of becoming more and more of a burden to Eileen, losing my ability to enjoy life, and experiencing the loss of my ability to think clearly."

Eileen, a retired vicar and scientist in chemical pathology, who met Francis thanks to the work of match-making friends, said: "For 12 months we waited for the phone to ring. We left the house with mobiles attached to lanyards around our necks. We couldn't miss the call from the hospital."

Francis was called to the hospital five times before he had a successful transplant. "I can't fault the hospital. The staff were fantastic – every one of them – and I knew that they were doing all that they could for me. I was fit for transplant each time but unfortunately the organs were judged to be not suitable, for a variety of reasons."

Christmas Day of 2012 saw the pair considering that this could be their last Christmas together.

"We sat and talked, we held hands, and we cried. We really thought it was our last Christmas together; I only had a few months left."

The brave couple didn't know it then, but everything was about to change. At 10:20pm on Christmas



Day, as Francis was preparing to go to bed, the phone rang.

Eileen said: "For the first time in 12 months I didn't think it would be the hospital calling. I picked up the receiver to hear the words, 'We may have a belated Christmas present for you.'"

Francis and Eileen made the 90 minute journey to QEHB, and to their joy and relief Francis finally underwent the successful transplant on Boxing Day morning.

"As we watched the dawn come up over Birmingham on Boxing Day morning we were hoping for a new beginning for Francis; whilst realising that in another hospital, in another part of the country, another family was facing an

ending. We will never forget the courage and generosity of the donor's family."

Now the kind-hearted pair, who have had five happy years together since the successful operation, are backing QEHB Charity's Christmas Campaign. Over 100,000 patients will visit the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham over the festive period. From elderly care patients with few or no family members, to children receiving radiotherapy, a gruelling course of treatments five days a week for six weeks, over 1,000 patients will face the prospect of spending Christmas Day in the hospital. QEHB Charity wants to bring Christmas to these patients and the staff who will care for them over the festive period, from providing hampers for each ward to funding Christmas trees across the hospital.

Francis said: "I had a liver transplant on Boxing Day and the ward was in full use. The care really is 365 days a year and the dedication of staff is phenomenal. I'm so pleased to support QEHB Charity's campaign to bring Christmas to patients and staff at the hospital. We want to bring a little sparkle and kindness to people who, for whatever reason, find themselves in hospital at Christmas."

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about and donate to QEHB Charity's Christmas Campaign visit qehbchristmas.org, or call 0121 371 4852.

Dates for your diary

CHRISTMAS MEMORY WALK

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER • 11AM

Take a walk down memory lane and raise funds for the QEHB Charity Christmas Campaign, by taking part in this year's Christmas Memory Walk. The 5K walk will take place in Edgbaston's beautiful Cannon Hill Park on Saturday 9 December, and will help to raise money to provide free TV and parking, chocolate hampers, Christmas trees and decorations throughout the hospital as well as gifts and toys for young people with cancer, as QEHB Charity aims to raise £25,000 for its annual QEHB Charity Christmas Campaign.

Fancy dress is optional - but recommended! Dress up in brilliant outfits reflective of your favourite era and don some festive accessories, as we look back to the 'good ol' days! If you fancy more of a challenge, why not tackle the 10K route instead?

To book your place, please go to qehb.org/events or contact charities@uhb.nhs.uk for more information.

HARK! THE CHARITY SUPPORTERS SING

14 December • St. Philip's Cathedral • 7pm

The annual Birmingham Hospitals Carol Service returns this year and will feature performances from local choirs. Proceeds from the concert will go towards the QEHB Christmas Campaign, providing support to the thousands of patients who will be at the hospital over the festive period. Justine Davy, Head of Fundraising at QEHB Charity, said: "As the festive period is always very busy we're delighted that so many people will be joining us! The Carol Concert is a hotly-anticipated and wellattended event every year, and we predict this year's event to be even bigger and better than the last! Why not come along, enjoy some festive music, mince pies and mulled wine, and help support patients at QEHB this Christmas?"

Starting at 7pm, tickets cost £7 for adults and are free for children under 14 years old. For tickets please visit qehb.org/events or call 0121 371 4852 for more information.

Festive Jumper Day

Friday 15 December

Flaunt your favourite festive knit and donate £1 to support patients at QEHB this Christmas! Donations can be made online at qehbchristmas.org or on the day at QEHB Charity's Fundraising Hub.

If you are a QEHB staff member you are permitted to wear a festive badge, which will be available to purchase from the Fundraising Hub throughout December.

For more information please contact charities@uhb.nhs.uk or call 0121 371 4852 for more information.



12 Choirs of Christmas

Twelve Choirs of Christmas from primary schools and community groups across the region will appear in the hospital atrium throughout December with carols and hymns, and will be collecting donations. Why not attend one of the performances, enjoy some festive carols and drop your spare change into one of our tins in support of the thousands of patients who will be spending Christmas at QEHB this year?

For more information please contact rob.williams@uhb.nhs.uk or call 0121 371 4852.

Staff support for QEHB Christmas Campaign

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff at QEHB who have supported our Christmas Campaign in the past, and encourage everyone who is able to do the same this year.

From dropping your spare change into our collecting tins, to directing patients and members of the public who wish to support the Charity at Christmas to the Fundraising Hub in the atrium, to taking part in Festive Jumper Day, your support is incredibly important and

means that we are able to provide free TV and free parking on Christmas Day, as well as fund special hampers for patients and staff to enjoy, gift toys and vouchers to teenagers and young people with cancer, and sprinkle

festive joy in the form of Christmas trees, decorations and Christmas choir performances throughout the Christmas period.

Geoff Heyes, Principal Clinical Scientist at the Cancer Centre, said: "Providing Christmas gifts for children and young people with cancer who receive treatment at QEHB is a

wonderful idea. Anything you can do to lift people's spirits at such a difficult time is a real bonus."

Michele Powell, who works on main reception, added: "It's a pleasure to see the hospital looking more and more festive as Christmas approaches, and the choirs that sing in the atrium throughout December really brighten

my day. I think it helps patients and visitors to relax as they wait for news, and helps bring happy festive feelings to everyone at QEHB. I know QEHB Charity can only do this thanks to your donations, and I want to thank everyone who has given to the QEHB Christmas Campaign."



Did you know the Charity now has a Fundraising Hub which is the perfect place to direct anyone who would like to make a donation, or find out more about QEHB Charity, too?

What you need to know:

- The Fundraising Hub is located in the hospital atrium, next to the Queen Mother's Bust
- It is open to the public Monday – Friday, from 8.30am – 4.30pm
- As well as selling the usual QEHB Charity merchandise, at Christmas the Hub will stock Christmas Cards, Christmas badges for Festive Jumper Day participation and gifts and Christmas decorations.
- The Hub is also the perfect place to find out more about the Charity and how we can support you and your patients.

Our Fundraising Hub Assistant, Jess, would love to tell you about the events we have coming up and how you can support the Charity at Christmas and throughout the year, as well as provide information about the grant scheme we have in place, called 'Sprinkle Some Magic' which allows staff to spend money where it is needed.

- Finally, if your patient or family member would like to speak to someone about the Charity please direct them to the Hub, and if anyone would like to donate to the Charity or speak to someone before making a donation, Jess would love to hear from them!

Thank you!

How you helped us bring Christmas to patients last year

As the QEHB Christmas Campaign gets into full swing, we take a look back at last year's campaign, and all that was achieved thanks to you, our brilliant fundraisers!

Last year hundreds of people supported the QEHB Christmas campaign, helping the Charity to raise over **£17,000** for patients, families and staff who spent Christmas at QEHB.

Festive Jumper Day took place on Friday 16 December 2016 and raised a whopping £2,500! Local schools and community groups were amongst those who donned their favourite festive knit in favour of the QEHB Christmas Campaign.

Thanks to support from generous companies and organisations including Coltham Developments Ltd, Ladies Fighting Breast Cancer, Provest Financial Solutions LLP and Get A-Head Charitable Trust, we were able to provide Christmas trees for every floor of the hospital.

Finally, thanks to generous members of the public who kindly donated to the Christmas Campaign, we were able to deliver hampers full of goodies for staff and patients to share on Christmas Day, as well as providing free TV and free parking!



Sophie Carroll, Fundraising Officer at QEHB Charity, said: "For so many, Christmas is a time of relaxation and laughter spent with family and friends, but for some, it can mean a stay in hospital, separated from home comforts.

"Last year we raised a brilliant amount which was used to bring Christmas cheer to the hospital. This year, our target is £25,000 and we need your help to reach it! Please consider donating to our JustGiving page by going to qehbchristmas.org, taking part in one of our events or fundraising on behalf of the hospital Charity. We are nothing without our brilliant supporters like you; please help us make this year's campaign an even bigger success!"

To find out more about the Christmas Campaign and how you can provide support, please go to qehbchristmas.org. For fundraising support please contact charities@uhb.nhs.uk or call 0121 371 4852.



A Christmas Carol Service for all

at **St Philip's Cathedral**

Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB

Thursday 14 December 2017

7.30pm ● Doors open 7pm

Tickets £7, under 14s free!

**Supporting patients and their families at the
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham.**



Queen
Elizabeth
Hospital
Birmingham
Charity

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