

WINTER 2025/26

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER



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www.yshospitalscharity.org

Registered Charity No. 1054527



Making a positive
difference in your
local hospital



Dear friends and supporters

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter!

Happy New Year!

We're thrilled to share our Winter Newsletter, highlighting the many ways your support has made a difference across our hospitals and community.

Autumn was filled with inspiring fundraising efforts and generous contributions from individuals, community groups, and businesses alike. Thanks to your support, we've been able to fund projects that directly enhance patient care and experience, from new televisions in the renal unit to ultrasound scanners that improve diagnosis and treatment.

As we start a new year, it's a wonderful time to start your own fundraising journey or explore volunteering opportunities. Every contribution, large or small, helps us continue to make a positive difference.

I hope you enjoy reading about the incredible projects you've made possible, and I look forward to what we can achieve together in 2026!

Rachel

Rachel Brook

Head of Charity

Get in touch

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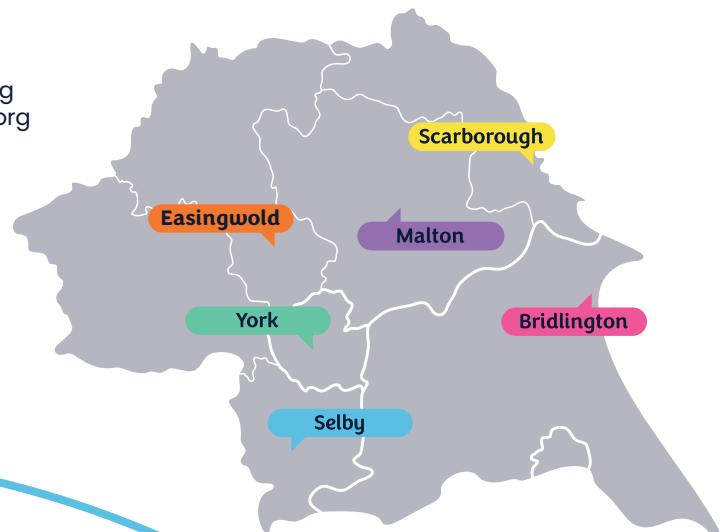
York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity

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York, YO31 8HE

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[@YSHospCharity](https://www.instagram.com/@YSHospCharity)



Get involved - fundraise your way

Have you ever thought about organising your own fundraising event to support your local hospitals?

Whether it's a bake sale, quiz night, sponsored challenge or something completely unique, your efforts can make a real difference to patients, families and staff.

Our dedicated Community Fundraising team is here to support you every step of the way, from supporting you plan your idea to celebrating your success. If you've got an idea in mind, we'd love to hear from you – please get in touch with our dedicated Community Fundraiser using the details below!



Sign up to receive updates on our volunteering roles
yshospitalscharity.org/keepintouch



Becky White

Community Fundraiser
01904 725738
rebecca.white76@nhs.net

Tiny Lives Appeal



Every year, around 375 babies begin their lives in the Neonatal Unit at York Hospital. These are babies born prematurely or with health complications. Babies who need specialist care, and families who need comfort, reassurance, and support during one of the most challenging times of their lives.

The Neonatal Unit, previously known as the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU), is undergoing a £2 million refurbishment to create a state-of-the-art space for babies and better facilities for families. Through the Tiny Lives Appeal, we aim to raise £100,000 to fund extra equipment and furnishings that will make the unit a calmer, more comforting, and family-friendly space.

The Neonatal Unit already delivers vital clinical care. Your support will help create an environment for families that matches the compassionate care delivered by the dedicated team. With your help, we can fund:

- Reclining chairs** so parents can stay close to their baby, day and night
- Twin cots** so twins can be together from the start, supporting bonding and emotional wellbeing
- Height-adjustable cots** to support mothers recovering from C-sections, helping them care for their babies with ease and dignity
- Comfortable furniture** to create a space where families can relax and feel at home
- Therapeutic skylights** to soften the clinical environment and bring a sense of calm to the unit



These upgrades will create a calm and comforting space that supports families emotionally and physically. They will help parents feel closer to their babies, reduce stress, and encourage connection.

How to get involved



Make a donation

Use the donation form on the back of this newsletter to make a donation or visit yshospitalscharity.org/tinylives



Fundraise for the appeal

Take on a challenge or organise your own event to raise funds for the appeal. Visit yshospitalscharity.org to find out more about fundraising opportunities



www.yshospitalscharity.org/tinylives

The impact of your gift

Your donation to the Tiny Lives Appeal will help to create a space where families feel safe, supported, and cared for. An environment that reflects the exceptional care provided by the Neonatal Unit team.

Together we can build a brighter, more comfortable future for our smallest patients and their families.



Should the Tiny Lives Appeal exceed its target, any additional monies raised will be used to further enhance the neonatal care provision at York Hospital.

Should the appeal not reach the required target, York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity will ensure that donations are spent in accordance with its charitable objects. Funds raised will be prioritised to enhance the neonatal care provision at York Hospital.

York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity reserves the right to revise the Tiny Lives Appeal target, should the expected costs of the project exceed initial estimates. The target of £100,000 was set based on best estimates of project costings available in October 2025.



The difference you've made

The new Dandelion Room in Ward 36 brings joy to patients, visitors and staff.

The Dandelion Room on Ward 36 was previously an underutilised space. The Corporate Improvement Team worked closely with ward staff to explore how the room could be better used to support patient care and staff wellbeing. Alongside several smaller improvement projects on the ward, the room was identified for repurposing to better fit with ward priorities and enhance the overall ward environment.

To mark the transformation, the team held a competition to name the room. The name Dandelion was chosen for its symbolism of resilience, survival and healing, with Joanna Bowe, Health Care Support Worker, coming up with the chosen name. The room was given a full repaint before Joanna and fellow Health Care Support Worker Jason created a beautiful hand-painted mural featuring Clifford's Tower, dandelions and bees.



The refurbished room now provides a welcoming and calming space where patients can watch television or spend time talking, and where families can join their loved ones. It also offers clinical staff a private, comfortable area to hold meaningful or difficult conversations with patients and their families.

Vicky Davey, Sister on Ward 36, said:

“The room was completely unusable beforehand. It was full of old posters, had no furniture, and was mainly used for storage. We are extremely grateful to the Corporate Improvement Team for their support and to York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity for funding the refurbishment. It really will make a huge difference to both patients and staff.”

She added: “Joanna and Jason have done a fantastic job with the mural, and it really makes the room feel warm and homely.”

Organ Donation Gift of Life event

Thanks to generous donations, the Critical Care team at Scarborough Hospital was able to host a Organ Donation Gift of Life event during Organ Donation Week. The event honoured families whose loved ones had donated their organs, incredible gifts that have helped many people live longer, healthier lives.

Each family received a personalised candle with their loved one's name, which was presented in an organza bag as a keepsake. Homemade treats, tea and coffee were also served, creating a warm and reflective atmosphere.



Specialist cups for Speech and Language Therapy patients

Thanks to support from York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity and Scarborough Hospital League of Friends, the Speech and Language Therapy team at Scarborough Hospital have been able to purchase specialist cups to support inpatients and patients in the community.

Molly Reeve, Senior Speech and Language Therapist, explained:

“The nosey cup with handles is specially designed with a cut-out for the nose, allowing for easy drinking without the need to tilt your head back, ensuring comfort and reducing strain.”



It is equipped with two sturdy handles proving a secure grip and allows for easy controlled use with both hands, ideal for individuals with limited hand strength or dexterity.”

Christmas round up

Children's ward visits

Over the festive season the Children's wards at York and Scarborough hospitals were delighted to receive some fantastic visitors. From local businesses, the Fire Brigade, a theatre company and of course Father Christmas. It was amazing to see so many people spreading festive cheer which truly brought joy to staff and young patients who were in hospital over the Christmas period.



Thank you for your generous Christmas donations

Thank you for your generous Christmas donations

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who donated chocolates, toys, and other gifts to the Children's wards this Christmas. Thanks to your generosity, gifts were shared with all the children in the hospitals, ensuring that every child received a present on Christmas Day.

Your kindness helped bring smiles and comfort during the festive season, and we are incredibly grateful for your support.



National Elf Service

In December, we celebrated National Elf Service across our hospitals, with wards and departments coming together to don festive outfits, raise funds and spread plenty of cheer.



Thanks to the fantastic efforts of everyone involved, over **£2,900** was raised. All funds will go towards making a positive difference in the wards and departments at your local hospitals. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped make this festive fundraiser such a wonderful success.



Support from our communities

Superhero bucket collection

A huge thank you to Joe, who became a real-life superhero by dressing up as Spider-Man to raise funds for the Children's Ward at York Hospital this Christmas.

Joe brought smiles and festive cheer to the streets of Malton, while raising an incredible **£155**. This fantastic amount will help make a real difference to the children and families cared for on the Children's Ward.



Bridlington Christmas Tree Festival

We were incredibly grateful to be chosen as the charity for this year's Bridlington Christmas Tree Festival. Hosted by St John's Burlington Methodist Church, the annual event featured a wonderful display of festive trees and decorations for the local community to enjoy. Thanks to the generosity of everyone involved, an amazing **£1,560** was raised. We are so thankful for this fantastic festive support.



2025 Knitathon

Sian, our amazing Occupational Therapist at Selby Hospital, has once again raised a fabulous amount through her annual knitathon. Throughout the year, Sian lovingly creates knitted items to celebrate Easter, Halloween and Christmas, which she sells to friends and family. This year, she raised an incredible **£665** to benefit Selby Hospital. Thank you so much, Sian, for your fantastic support.

Support from our communities

The York Ghost Merchants

We are incredibly grateful for the support of the York Ghost Merchants and their latest charity raffle, which raised a phenomenal **£13,479** for the Tiny Lives Appeal.

The fundraising began when the York Ghost Merchant Community Group raffled a donated original York Ghost, raising **£554** in support of the Children's Ward at York Hospital. Building on this success, the Ghost Merchants generously chose the Tiny Lives Appeal as their final charity raffle of the year.

The funds raised will help enhance the experience for babies and their families in the refurbished Neonatal Unit at York Hospital.



Beacon Farm tractor light parade

Mike and the team at Beacon Farm in Whitby once again organised their much-loved Tractor Light Parade through the local Whitby villages, raising funds for the Rainbow Ward at Scarborough Hospital.

This year saw an even greater turnout, with festive farmers coming together to decorate their tractors with Christmas lights before parading through the villages. Thanks to this fantastic community effort, an impressive **£2,849** was raised. We are so grateful for the continued support, which helps make such a difference.



Joe & Jordan's ultimate challenge

Brothers-in-law, Joe and Jordan became long-term supporters of the Special Care Baby Unit at Scarborough Hospital after Joe's children, Paige, Phoebe and Millie all received fantastic care from unit. Over the years, they have raised close to **£10,000** as a way of showing their gratitude for the care their family received.

This April, they are taking on the ultimate challenge of running the London Marathon. They are aiming to raise an impressive £5,000 to support Scarborough SCBU.

To help them reach their target, they are hosting a fundraising event on Friday 6 March at the Scarborough Rugby Club, with live music, delicious food and a raffle. If you are interested in donating a prize or attending the event, please let us know.



Events



Charity Golf Day

In October, we were delighted to host our first charity golf day. Thanks to the incredible support of local companies, suppliers, and supporters, the day was a fantastic success, raising a brilliant **£10,000**. The money raised will support the refurbishment of the Breast Unit waiting area at the Magnolia Centre.

We would like to share a special thank you to **Overbury** for their generous support as our headline sponsors.

Join us for this year's Charity Golf Day on **Friday 7 August**

Online Charity Auction

We are proud to share that our annual online auction raised our highest total yet, an amazing **£6,774**!

Thank you to all the businesses and supporters who donated a prize, and to everyone who placed a bid. The money raised will go towards the Tiny Lives Appeal, supporting the Neonatal Unit at York Hospital and ensuring the very best care for our smallest patients and their families.



NEW

Total Warrior: Great Northern Mud Run

New year, new challenges! We are excited to add two fantastic new events to our 2026 calendar. Get ready to get muddy as you tackle the ultimate 12k obstacle course at the Great Northern Mud Run, or take to the road for an unforgettable ride in the Great Yorkshire Sportive.

Date: 27 or 28 June 2026

Registration fee: £45 (early-bird registration)

Minimum fundraising target: £120

Location: Bramham Park, Leeds



Conquer 25 world-class obstacles at the Great Northern Mud Run! Gather your team for this 12k challenge and raise money for your chosen ward or department.



Sign up here
yshospitalscharity.org/mudrun

NEW

Cycle in the Great Yorkshire Sportive event

Cycle some of Yorkshire's finest roads with the Great Yorkshire Sportive. With three distances to choose from at 45, 80, or 106 miles, there is a perfect route for every cyclist, from beginners to seasoned pros.

Date: Saturday 26 September 2026

Registration fee: £20-£30

(depending on distance)

Minimum fundraising target: £100-£200

Location: York



Sign up here
yshospitalscharity.org/cycling

Charity events 2026

Your support helps us fund improvements to our hospital environments and services beyond that which NHS funding alone could deliver. Help us do more.

Great North Swim
12, 13, or 14 June

Great Northern Mud Run
27 or 28 June

The Yorkshire Peaks
Saturday 18 July

York 10k
Sunday 2 August

Charity Golf Day
Friday 7 August

Great North Run
Sunday 13 September

Great Yorkshire Sportive
Saturday 26 September

Yorkshire Coast 10k
Sunday 11 October



Arts in hospitals

Isaac Savage's Photography exhibition

Isaac Savage's photography exhibition is part of the ongoing programme of artworks which are changed throughout the year.

After receiving Isaac's exhibition application, and being aware of his talent from seeing his photography on social media, the Arts Team were delighted to create an exhibition of his work for the benefit of patients, visitors and staff.



Isaac told the Arts Team;

“I'm a 15-year-old photographer, based in York and I've been taking photos since November 2021. I enjoy taking pictures of the city early in the morning, when it is just waking up. I love its blend of historic medieval streets yet modern energy. I've always been drawn to interesting early morning sunlight, especially in the 'Golden Hour', unusual angles and reflections. I find the little details that go unnoticed that ultimately make some of the best pictures.

He continued “I started my photography journey when I was 11, after saving up to buy my first digital camera. A year later, I was honoured to win the 2023 Young Landscape Photographer of the Year in the Cityscapes category.”



Sign up now!

www.yshospitalscharity.org/challenge

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WRITE YOUR *forever thank you* INTO YOUR WILL

Writing a gift to York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity into your Will is the best possible way to say your forever thank you. It's a gift that will make a long-lasting positive difference, after you're gone. You can choose the hospital, ward or department you would like your gift to support.

Find out more by emailing
hello@yshospitalscharity.org or calling 01904 724521.



Ways to leave a gift in your Will

If you would like to leave a gift in your Will, how you decide to support the charity is entirely up to you.

There are four main types of legacy you might wish to consider:

- **Residuary legacy** – This is the remainder of your estate after all other gifts have been made. This is often a popular way to leave a legacy as all other gifts have been given first and it is expressed as a fraction of your estate so it retains its value over time. This can be anything from 1% to 100%.
- **Pecuniary legacy** – This is a fixed amount of money left to the charity. The amount of money may fall due to inflation so we do advise you to review the amount regularly.
- **Specific legacy** – This is a gift of a specific possession such as jewellery, antiques, land or buildings.
- **Reversionary legacy** – This allows you to leave your estate to your dependants while they are living, but after they pass away it will revert to the charity. For example, you may leave your house to your first beneficiary but after their death, the house passes to the second beneficiary which could be the charity.

It's never an easy conversation to have to think about, but making a Will is one of the most important decisions you can make to help safeguard for family in the future.

You can contact us at any time to discuss the options for leaving a gift in your Will, or find out more by visiting:

www.yshospitalscharity.org



York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity. Registered charity no. 1054527.



hello@yshospitalscharity.org

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Donation Form

Thank you for your support, together we can make a huge difference.

First Name:

Surname:

Home Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I would like to donate £

to **York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity**

Please use my donation to support
the following hospital or department:

Donate by Cheque: Please make it payable to **York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity**, send with this form enclosed to the address below.



Donate online: please visit
www.yshospitalscharity.org/donate
to donate now using a credit
or debit card.

Donate via Bank Transfer: Account no: 10989649,
Sort Code: 20-99-56, Reference: Newsletter.
Please advise us by phone or email if you are
making a payment so that we know to look out for
it and can say thank you!

We'd love to keep in touch

Please let us know if you would like to hear about where your donation and money raised is helping in our hospitals along with future event and fundraising campaigns.

By post By email By phone No thanks

Please let us know if you would like to hear from us about future volunteering opportunities when they arise.

By post By email By phone No thanks

You can change your preferences at any time by contacting us on the details below and you can read our full data protection and privacy policy on our website at www.yshospitalscharity.org

Increase your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate!

giftaid it I want to Gift Aid my above donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pass 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. York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity was previously known as York Teaching Hospital Charity.

Please return your form by post or in person to: York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity,
Fundraising Office, York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE
hello@yshospitalscharity.org 01904 724521 www.yshospitalscharity.org

I understand that York & Scarborough Hospitals Charity will use any funds donated in the way that is most appropriate for the need of York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, in line with its charitable aim and objectives and I cannot request purchase of specific items.