



# Your Hospital, Your Health, Your Charity

See the difference your support is making...



# Welcome



**Your generous donations and fundraising are continuing to make a difference every day to hundreds of patients, their families and NHS staff at Salisbury Hospital.**

Thanks to your brilliant support, this year we have been able to fund a vast array of new equipment for the Hospital. This includes state-of-the-art heart monitors for expectant mums and their babies, the Hospital's first-ever 3D ultrasound machine, supported walking equipment for spinal injury patients, and a virtual reality headset, pictured on the front cover, that takes children into magical worlds, far away from their hospital bed, to name just a few examples.

This is in addition to funding a wide range of ongoing work such as supporting patients with cancer, providing accommodation for parents who have a baby or child in hospital, and keeping patients connected with their families through our Wi-Fi.

We have been overwhelmed by your amazing support without which none of our work would be possible. And we are hugely grateful for every penny we receive, whether through your donations, fundraising, and, poignantly, that given in memory of a loved one or through a gift left in a Will.

Of course, it is the stories of the patients and families that your generosity helps that inspire us all. Inside you can read about the difference you are making to people like David Kunzer after he was diagnosed

with bowel cancer and Megan Field, who has been supported in her recovery from a spinal injury with specialist equipment funded by your donations. And Tamar Vellacott shares how the Benson Suite, which recently marked its 10th anniversary, supported her and her family after the loss of their baby son.

We want to say a huge thank you for everything that you do for the Stars Appeal and wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year.



*Stephen Oxley*

**Stephen Oxley**  
Chairman  
Fundraising  
Committee

*The Earl of Pembroke*

**The Earl of Pembroke**  
President

*Mr Graham Branagan*

**Mr Graham Branagan**  
Consultant Surgeon  
and Lead Clinical  
Ambassador

**PS. You can make your Christmas and New Year extra special by entering our Christmas Raffle. You will not only have the chance to win a cracking prize of £1,000 but you will also be supporting our vital work at the Hospital. Turn to page 11 to find out more.**

## The Stars Appeal is the charity for Salisbury District Hospital.

Every day Stars Appeal funded projects help hundreds of patients across all wards and departments and support the NHS staff who care for them.

The Stars Appeal – Salisbury District Hospital's Charity  
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Tiff Needell, Julian Rhind-Tutt, Johnnie Walker MBE

The Stars Appeal is the working name of Salisbury District Hospital Charitable Fund registered charity no. 1052284.  
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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, your contact details have changed or you would rather receive it by email, please let us know.

With thanks to Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust Communications Team, Spencer Mulholland and Simon Ward for taking the pictures that appear in this update, and Drive DeVilbiss Healthcare Ltd for supplying images.

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[www.dkbcreative.com](http://www.dkbcreative.com)



# How you can help patients across the Hospital



We're fundraising for new cots for the 2,200 babies born at Salisbury Hospital each year

**Every year we aim to raise at least £1million to enhance care for patients across all wards and departments at the Hospital and support the NHS staff who care for them.**

One of the projects we're currently fundraising for is the provision of 20 specialist cots for newborn babies on the Labour and Postnatal wards. The state-of-the-art cots, which cost £1,900 each, will benefit the 2,200 babies born at the Hospital each year and their mums.



Maternity Matron Becky Roberts says: "The cots are height adjustable and have drop down sides which make it much easier and more comfortable for mums to be closer to their babies, enabling greater bonding in the first few hours of life. The new cots will enhance not only the experience of babies who are in our care, but also their parents."

If you can donate or raise £1,900 or more you will have the opportunity to add your name, or that of a loved one, to your very own cot.

We're also fundraising for a range of other projects which your support could help to fund including:

- A mechanical chest compression system for the Emergency Department (£15,000).
- A dedicated room in the Gynaecology Department for women to receive treatment after sadly experiencing a miscarriage early in their pregnancy (£65,000).
- An audiometer, which will provide the latest technology for hearing assessments and enable hearing aids to be tested and programmed remotely so patients have to travel to hospital less (£12,000).
- Helping create a new Day Surgery Unit discharge lounge and waiting area to enhance the comfort of those who have undergone surgery (£92,000).

Please get in touch with us if you would like more information about any of these projects. You can see a full list of what we're fundraising for at [www.starsappeal.org](http://www.starsappeal.org) and read about the many different ways you can donate towards and fundraise for projects like these on page 11.





# Stars Appeal Ambassadors host MRI Scanning Suite Private View

Frontline staff who volunteer as Stars Appeal Ambassadors hosted a special 'private view' event in October to show donors and fundraisers, who helped fund the second MRI scanner and MRI scanning suite, the difference that their support is making.

The £1.7million scanning suite and second MRI scanner funded by your donations have already helped over 15,000 local people.

MRI scans are used to diagnose cancer, strokes, heart problems, spinal and brain injuries and many other conditions. Having a second MRI scanner means the Hospital is able to scan around 30 patients every day, which helps to reduce waiting times and means patients have to travel less to other hospitals. It has

enabled an additional 4,200 patients a year to receive scans. And the Suite, which opened in 2021, provides a spacious and relaxing environment for patients as well as enhanced facilities for staff.



Mr Graham Branagan, Consultant Surgeon and Lead Clinical Ambassador, who hosted the event, says: "Thousands of people have already benefited from these facilities and tens of thousands more will over the years to come. All of us involved in the Stars Appeal are immensely proud of the Hospital and the enhancements we can provide through our charity. It is a privilege to be able to show supporters the impact of their generosity first-hand."

The second MRI scanner has also enabled the Hospital to introduce new scanning techniques such as MRI scans of the heart.

Consultant Cardiologist and Stars Appeal Ambassador, Dr Tom Jackson, says: "We can look at the heart from any angle and get the best possible images. It is a massive boost for patients to be able to have this done locally."

Alongside the second MRI scanner, the two Stars Appeal funded CT scanners continue to provide patients with over 27,000 CT scans a year.

**If you'd be interested in attending a tour of Stars Appeal projects in the future please contact us.**

# Meet David, just one of the people your donations help



**56-year-old David Kunzer lives in Salisbury with his wife Sarah. He has four children and is a chartered accountant. David is just one of the thousands of local people that benefit from projects funded by your donations and fundraising. Here he shares his story of how the Stars Appeal made a difference to him and his family during his treatment at Salisbury District Hospital.**

"In March this year, I was about to start a new job, so I went for a routine health check with my doctor. My GP wanted to do further tests and referred me for a colonoscopy. On May 5th, I had the colonoscopy at the Hospital in the morning. The team called me back immediately and, at 3pm that day, I had a full body CT scan.

The next week, I went with Sarah, my wife, for an appointment with Rob Padwick, the Colorectal Surgeon, to discuss my results. Mr Padwick explained that it was not good news and that he had found a tumour on the left hand side of my large bowel. He confirmed that it was bowel cancer.

As you can imagine, at this point, my world started to fall apart...

**"My thanks go to everyone that supports the Stars Appeal, for the difference that you have made to my life and my family's life."**

The following Wednesday I had an operation to remove the tumour, which, thankfully, was successful and the cancer was contained. Five days later, I returned home. I am now continuing with my ongoing recovery.

**"As you can imagine, at this point, my world started to fall apart..."**

I would like to thank Rob Padwick, his colorectal team, the nurses and staff at the Hospital for the exceptional care and support that I received. I am eternally grateful.

I also want to thank the Stars Appeal. If it wasn't for the Stars Appeal funding an extra CT scanner, I would not have received a full body scan on the same day as my colonoscopy examination. Whilst recovering in Chilmark Ward at the Hospital, I also benefited from the free Wi-Fi, paid for by the Stars Appeal, and received cups of tea from the Stars Appeal tea trolley. I also enjoyed the tranquillity of the charity's gardens during my stay, spending much time there with my family.

My final thanks goes to everyone reading this that supports the Stars Appeal, for the difference that you have made to my life and my family's life. I ask that you carry on supporting the Stars Appeal, and the valuable work that the charity performs."







# Your support is making great things happen at your hospital



Here are just a few examples of the equipment and projects that support like yours has funded over the last 12 months.

## Refurbishment of the Medical Engineering Department

The Medical Engineering Department, which provides bespoke mobility and rehabilitation aids for adults and children with complex disabilities, has been given a fresh new look. As part of this £41,000 refurbishment, the waiting areas and clinical rooms have been enhanced with sensory lighting and equipment and colourful and inviting artworks, making it a more calming and comfortable space for patients to receive treatment.



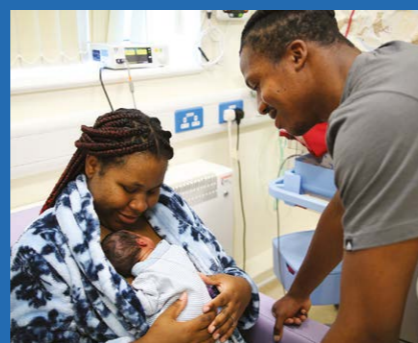
## New plastic surgery theatre

This £190,000 dedicated plastic surgery theatre with state-of-the-art equipment enables patients to be treated as day cases rather than having to spend several nights in hospital.



## Salisbury Hospital's first 3D ultrasound machine

The 3D ultrasound machine in the Gynaecology Unit provides the best possible images to help diagnose a range of conditions and pick up complications in early pregnancy. The £90,000 machine reduces the need for patients to have to undergo other types of scans or invasive procedures.



## Accommodation for parents

Your support provides free accommodation and home comforts for families whose babies and children are being treated on the Neonatal Unit and Children's Ward.

## Virtual reality therapy headset

Children on Sarum Children's Unit can be transported into space or go on a dinosaur safari thanks to this virtual reality headset. The specialist therapy kit, costing £6,000, helps children to feel calmer, distracts them from treatment and makes their time in hospital more fun.



## Phone charging stations

Staying connected with loved ones while in hospital has been made easier thanks to new charging stations where patients and visitors can charge their mobile phones and other electronic devices for free. Two charging stations are located in the Accident and Emergency Department, and we are trialling another in other areas of the Hospital.



## Baby brain monitor

This specialist £21,000 monitor can quickly detect if a baby is having a seizure especially in cases where there are no physical signs.

## Stars Appeal Live and Engagers

Every week Stars Appeal Live musicians bring music and entertainment to patients in hospital. And our Stars Appeal Engagers programme provides companionship and social activities for older and long-stay patients.



## Cancer support projects

Patients with cancer have access to a range of Stars Appeal funded support projects. These include aromatherapy, headwear for patients who lose their hair, hot drinks and snacks for chemotherapy and oncology outpatients and dedicated swimming sessions in the Hospital pool.





## Benson Suite marks 10 years of supporting bereaved families

**For over 10 years, the Stars Appeal Benson Suite has been supporting bereaved parents who tragically experience the loss of their baby.**

The Suite, which opened in 2013, provides a dedicated, private space where bereaved families who lose a baby shortly before or after birth can spend time with their babies and grieve away from the Labour Ward.

Your donations enable us to fund a specialist bereavement midwife who cares for families before, during, and after their time on the Suite. We are also able to maintain and enhance the Benson Suite environment, provide equipment, visits from Hospital chaplains, keepsakes for families, and support the Wave of Light event at Salisbury Cathedral, which brings families together to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week.

Tamar Vellacott and her partner Cameron Pratt from Salisbury were supported at the Benson Suite after the loss of their baby son Albie in February 2022.

Tamar says: "The use of the Benson Suite meant the world to us as we were able to celebrate and grieve the birth and loss of our baby away from the Labour Ward where new parents were having the best day of their life as we battled through our worst.

"The privacy and dignity that the Benson Suite offers is second to none. For a place where so many hearts have broken, we walked out of there feeling supported, loved and that our baby had been born and died surrounded by so many people who cared which is all you could ever want.

"I am so grateful to have been given the time we needed to prepare ourselves to say goodbye."

▲ Tamar Vellacott and Cameron Pratt when they met with Stars Appeal Bereavement Midwife Stephanie Thompson and Sir Christopher Benson to mark the 10th anniversary of the Benson Suite. The Suite is named in recognition of Sir Christopher Benson and Lady Benson who donated the funds needed to create it. Lady Benson sadly passed away in 2022.

## 'Thank you for helping me to walk again'

**After a "life-changing" horse riding accident 35-year-old Megan Field was left paralysed and told she would never walk again.**

The accident in May 2023 damaged Megan's spinal cord, causing paralysis of her lower legs. She says: "It was like a light going out where the connection to that part of my body just went. I thought I can't feel my legs or anything below the chest, nothing."

After surgery Megan, who is from Trowbridge, started to get feeling back in one of her legs and was later transferred to Salisbury Hospital's Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre to start her rehabilitation treatment. She was one of the first patients to use the £29,000 Stars Appeal-funded LiteGait – a supported mobile hoist system that enabled her to practice and build up her strength and confidence walking with and without crutches.

Four months after her accident she was able to walk out of the Spinal Treatment Centre with the help of her crutches and is continuing her recovery at home.

"This has been such a life-changing injury, which happened within a split second. I woke up in the morning able to walk and went to bed that night paralysed. You rely on equipment like the LiteGait and the physios to help you with your rehab. As a result of that I'm starting to walk again. When I first had my injury I was told I would never walk again.

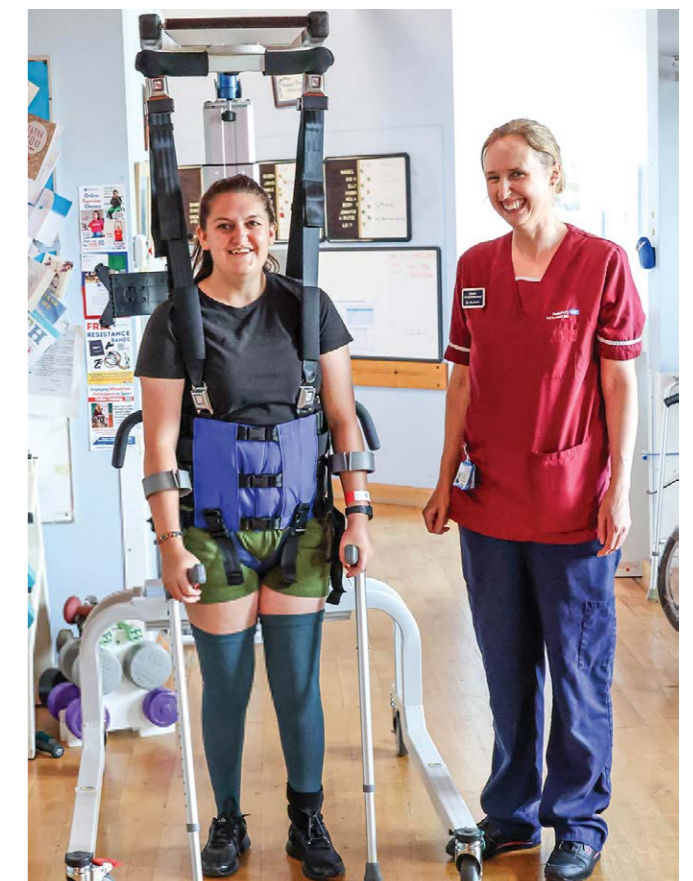
"The progress I've made would have taken much longer without the LiteGait. It's made a huge difference to me. Every day on the Spinal Unit Stars Appeal equipment made a difference to my life. It is massively important and supports everything the therapists are doing. I don't really have the words to say what this has meant to me. Thank you to all the Stars Appeal supporters who have made this equipment possible and helped me to walk again."

Megan's physiotherapist Elly Marchant said: "The LiteGait is something we've wanted for a long time because we know how empowering it can be for patients. It is a great addition to our tools that we can

use to start people's walking in a safe environment. This would not have been possible without the generous supporters of the Stars Appeal. Thank you."

During her time in the Spinal Centre, Megan also benefited from the Stars Appeal Wi-Fi as well as other equipment and facilities funded by the charity, including specialist trainer bikes and the Stars Appeal anti-gravity treadmill, adjustable dining tables and the Silver Lounge, which provides a quiet space and also a place to socialise.

She says: "The free Wi-Fi was a real lifeline as the minimum stay in the Spinal Unit is 12 weeks, so being able to access the internet for free means we are able to keep in touch with the outside world. I used the Silver Room regularly when I wanted a quiet break from the ward environment and to socialise with other patients in the evening where we would watch films."



▲ Megan using the LiteGait with Spinal Centre Physiotherapist Elly



# New arrivals on Labour Ward



**Expectant mums now have access to the very latest baby monitoring equipment on the Labour Ward at Salisbury District Hospital.**

Your generous donations have funded eight state-of-the-art Cardiotocography (CTG) machines which monitor the hearts of babies before and during labour, helping midwives and doctors monitor the health of the baby, as well as monitoring the mum's contractions. The new machines cost £80,000 in total.

CTGs are used particularly for pregnant mums with high risk factors and enable midwives to detect any problems. Several of the new monitors have wireless sensors so expectant mums have more freedom to walk around.

Midwife Tori Harper says: "It is one of the best tools we've got to help us to understand in a snapshot how the baby is doing. Having these new CTGs is enhancing the care for babies and mums by significantly improving the quality of our monitoring."

First-time mum Michaela Cone, from Amesbury, benefited from a Stars Appeal CTG monitor during the birth of her son Rory. She says: "Having the latest monitors to see how your baby is doing and hearing their heartbeat while you're waiting for your labour to progress has been really reassuring. The machine is fantastic and helped put my mind at ease. I want to say a big thank you to Stars Appeal supporters for making this equipment possible."

▼ Michaela and baby Rory



► Midwives Tori Harper, Paula Norgan and Sarah Roberts celebrate the arrival of the new CTG machines



# Please continue to support your Hospital

- You can make a **one-off donation** or sign up to a **monthly gift** using the form on [page 12](#).
- We'd love you to **fundraise for us**. Please call **01722 429005** or send an email to [info@starsappeal.org](mailto:info@starsappeal.org)
- Leave a **gift in your Will**. Solicitors Parker Bullen will prepare straightforward Wills free of charge if you wish to benefit the Stars Appeal. Contact us to find out more.

- **Display a collection box** at your business, pub, club, school, shop etc. Call us to arrange this.
- **Follow and help share our news:**

 [@StarsAppeal.SalisburyHospital](#)

 [@StarsAppeal](#)

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## What's on in 2024

- **Walk for Wards – Sunday 7th July**  
Sign up to take part in our walk at Wilton House and support the hospital ward/department of your choice. 3k, 5k or 10k routes.
- **Race for Men – Sunday 26th May**  
Run 3k, 5k, 10k or a half marathon and enjoy a family fun day in support of the Stars Appeal Urology and Prostate Cancer fund.
- **Berwick St John Country Fayre Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September**  
The country fayre attracts huge crowds from across the country offering live music, stalls, steam engines and more.
- **Rockbourne Fair – Wednesday 16th until Friday 18th October**  
Make a start on your Christmas shopping at Salisbury Racecourse with over 100 stalls selling exclusive goods.



## Christmas Raffle

**Help support your Hospital Charity and be in with a chance of winning £1,000.**

A second prize of £500, third prize of £250 and other cash prizes are up for grabs. **You can buy tickets online at [www.starsappeal.org](http://www.starsappeal.org) or by filling out and returning the stubs** enclosed with a cheque (payable to the Stars Appeal) in the Freepost envelope provided. Tickets, which are £1 each, are also available at the Hospital.

By entering our Christmas Raffle you will be helping to make a difference to patients, their families, and staff at the Hospital. The top prize of £1,000 has been kindly sponsored by [FJ Chalke](#). The raffle will be drawn on January 11th, 2024.

Find out more at [www.starsappeal.org](http://www.starsappeal.org)



**We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who donates, fundraises and volunteers, without whom none of our work would be possible.**





# Your Donation

You can also donate online at [www.starsappeal.org](http://www.starsappeal.org)

Thank you for your support

## Your details:

Title: ..... Forename: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....  
.....  
.....

Postcode: ..... Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Organisation name (if applicable) .....

## I wish to direct my donation as follows:

**The Every Patient Fund to help fund projects benefiting patients across the Hospital wherever the need is greatest**

**A specific ward, department, project or fund. Please state in the box below**

For example: Pembroke Unit, Staff Fund, Cardiac Care, Breast Unit, Farley Stroke Unit, Dementia and Elderly Care, Neonatal Unit, Chaplaincy, Children's Unit, Spinal Centre, Benson Suite, Wi-Fi, Radnor Intensive Care Unit, Amesbury Ward etc.

## One off donation:

I would like to donate £ ..... Please make cheques payable to: **The Stars Appeal.**

## Monthly gift:

I would like to give the sum of: £5  £10  £20  £50  £100  Other £ .....  
(Please insert your own amount)

Every month until further notice. Starting immediately  or on: ...../...../..... (insert date)

Bank name: ..... Bank address: .....

..... Bank postcode: .....

Account name: .....

Account number: ..... Sort code: .....

**Please pay: Salisbury District Hospital Charitable Fund Receipts** the sum indicated above.

Natwest, 48 Blue Boar Row, Salisbury SP1 1DF | Sort Code: 54-41-19 | Account No: 47011297

Signature: ..... Date: ...../...../.....

## A gift in your Will:

I am planning to leave a gift in my Will to the Stars Appeal and wish to let you know.

Please contact me with further details of your free Will writing service.

## Gift Aid: Make your gift grow by at least 25% at no extra cost to you.

*giftaid it*

**Yes**  (please tick)

Date: ...../...../.....

I want to Gift Aid my donation to the Stars Appeal (Salisbury District Hospital Charitable Fund, registered charity no. 1052284) and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years. 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.

We like to keep supporters up-to-date with the difference they are making by post but please tick here if you'd rather not hear from us

We acknowledge all donations. If you would prefer **not to receive** a thank you letter, please tick here

Please return this form to: **The Stars Appeal, Salisbury District Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 8BJ**

The Stars Appeal is a Registered Charity No. 1052284 | 01722 429005 | [info@starsappeal.org](mailto:info@starsappeal.org) | [www.starsappeal.org](http://www.starsappeal.org)

**Thank you  
for your  
support**