



President: The Earl of Pembroke

Your Hospital, Your Health, Your Charity



Meet the Stars Appeal
Play Assistant
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See the difference your support is making...

**The Stars Appeal is the NHS 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.

2021/2022 Update

Welcome

As for so many people and organisations, it has been another challenging year for the Stars Appeal. However, we have remained focussed on our mission to raise £1million each year to make things better for our hospital, the people who are treated here and the NHS staff who provide them with such wonderful care.

Over the last 12 months we've celebrated the opening of our new Stars Appeal MRI Scanning Suite, funded state-of-the-art equipment including a pulsed dye laser, and recruited a Stars Appeal Play Assistant and a Stars Appeal Bereavement Midwife. And we've continued to support all our ongoing Stars Appeal initiatives such as free Wi-Fi, staff wellbeing, chaplaincy, cancer support, and companionship and entertainment for older people, to name but a few. You can read more about some of these projects over the following pages.

All of this has contributed to helping tens of thousands of local people and NHS staff at Salisbury Hospital. Yet none of it would be possible without those who so brilliantly support us through donations, fundraising and, of course, so kindly remembering us in their Wills. Thank you all for your far-sighted and generous support. We wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.



Penny Brown
Chairman
Fundraising Committee



The Earl of Pembroke
President



Mr Graham Branagan
Consultant Surgeon and
Lead Clinical Ambassador

PS. Please do take a moment to visit our brand new website at www.starsappeal.org where you can see our work in greater detail and find out about all the projects for which we are currently fundraising.

The Stars Appeal - Salisbury District Hospital's Charity
Salisbury District Hospital, Salisbury SP2 8BJ
01722 429005 info@starsappeal.org www.starsappeal.org

President: The Earl of Pembroke
Patrons: Nick Bailey, Olivia Colman, Stephen Mangan, Tiff Needell, Julian Rhind-Tutt, Johnnie Walker MBE

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, Simon Ward and John Rose for taking the pictures that appear in this update.

The Stars Appeal is the working name of Salisbury District Hospital Charitable Fund registered charity no. 1052284.
Read our privacy statement at www.starsappeal.org
This newsletter is printed on paper from responsible sources and is fully recyclable.



Win an £11,000 car in our Christmas Raffle

**Please support our Christmas Raffle
by buying the enclosed tickets.**

The top prize, worth over £11,000, is a brand new Kia Picanto, a stylish city car that offers low running costs and a seven year warranty, supplied to us by F.J. Chalke of Mere. Second prize is £1,000, third prize £500 and there are more cash prizes as well!



Money raised by the raffle will help us towards the £1million that we aim to raise each year to fund projects at Salisbury District Hospital helping thousands of patients and the NHS staff who care for them. These include free Wi-Fi, accommodation for parents of poorly babies and children, support for staff, entertainment and companionship for older people and state-of-the-art equipment.

To buy your tickets, please fill in and return the stubs along with a cheque for the appropriate amount (payable to the Stars Appeal) in the Freepost envelope provided. We draw the raffle in early January, so please return your stubs as soon as possible - thank you. You can buy more tickets ONLINE at www.starsappeal.org

Our new Patron - Olivia Colman

**We are delighted that Olivia Colman,
the multi-award winning actress,
has become a Patron of the charity.**

Olivia visited the hospital in January 2020, when she toured projects funded by the Stars Appeal and met some of the patients, families and hospital staff that the charity helps.

Olivia said: "I am deeply honoured to have been asked to be a Patron of the Stars Appeal. My visit there filled me with joy, and the positivity and enthusiasm from patients and staff were such a beautiful thing to behold. Thank you so much for having me, and I hope to come back and visit again when next I am allowed."

Lord Pembroke, President of the Stars Appeal said: "We are delighted that Olivia has chosen to become a Patron of the Stars Appeal. I had the pleasure of accompanying her during her visit to the charity and it was immediately clear that she shares our passion for helping people in hospital."



Meet Natasha, the New Stars Appeal Play Assistant

Play is very important when a child is in hospital. It's a familiar and fun part of a child's life and helps to make time in hospital more normal. Research shows it can help reduce anxiety, fear, stress and even pain.

That's why we're funding a new full-time Stars Appeal Play Assistant to work on the Children's Ward and in other areas of the hospital where children are treated, such as Accident and Emergency and the Fracture Clinic. Around 3,000 children are expected to benefit in the first year. Stars Appeal funding also provides all the toys, games, gadgets and play areas needed to make play as interactive and fun for children as possible.

"Play is so important to all the children I meet in hospital, whether they are facing a long stay because of serious illness, have been admitted in an emergency or feeling scared before having an operation. It's wonderful to see the reactions of the children and it really does make them feel a lot better."

Natasha Long, Stars Appeal Play Assistant





Six-year-old Chester is regularly in hospital because he has Cystic Fibrosis. Chester really enjoys his play sessions with Natasha, especially making Lego.

“Natasha’s amazing, absolutely amazing. Interacting with her and having someone different to play with makes Chester really happy. I think it’s vital they have that, especially when it comes to trying to distract him when he’s having a cannula put in. As a parent, I’ve had to physically restrain him while the staff do what they have to do, it’s awful. But if he can be distracted by play, it’s so much easier for him.”

Emma Hughes, Chester’s Mum from Larkhill



Two-and-a-half year old Aubrey has had numerous hospital stays recently due to an ongoing respiratory condition.

“Natasha’s the only one who’s got Aubrey out of bed and playing. It helps make her feel better. Someone just being there and playing with Aubrey is a huge help. It brings a bit of normality to her time in hospital and, as a parent, it takes that bit of weight off your shoulders knowing that Natasha’s going to come in and make Aubrey happy. I managed to grab myself a cup of tea, knowing that she was in there playing, whereas before I couldn’t leave without Aubrey getting upset or distressed. Since having Aubrey and spending so much time in hospital I’ve really seen what the Stars Appeal does, and it’s a big deal. Sometimes when you donate to charity you don’t necessarily see what the outcome is, but as soon as you step into this hospital you can see it everywhere. It’s not just money thrown here and there, there’s love gone into this. A massive thank you to everyone who supports the Stars Appeal. Your money has made my child feel at ease, it’s made her feel normal.”

Becky Samaras-Sykes, Aubrey’s Mum from Larkhill



Aubrey with Mum Becky

Stars Appeal MRI Scanning Suite Opens

Hundreds of local people are now benefitting from the new Stars Appeal MRI Scanning Suite which opened to patients in July.

The Suite, which houses one of the hospital's two MRI scanners, has enabled the hospital to effectively double its previous capacity to perform MRI scans. These are used to examine almost all parts of the body including the brain and spinal cord, bones and joints, heart and blood vessels and other internal organs, such as the liver, womb or prostate gland.



Located centrally on the hospital site near the Eye Clinic and Day Surgery, the Suite is easy to find and only a short distance from the main hospital car parks. Alongside the scanning room, the Suite has two waiting areas with changing rooms, pre-scan treatment rooms, an area for inpatient beds and reporting rooms where scans are viewed and interpreted by Radiologists. There is also a staff rest area with a kitchen, shower and changing room. The £500,000 Suite, which is decorated throughout with large-scale photographs of the surrounding countryside, provides a spacious, bright and calming environment which makes having a scan less stressful for patients and better to work in for staff.

Around 12-14 patients a day, including some children, receive their MRI scans, which can take from 15 minutes to over an hour, in the new Suite.

"We are thrilled with our fabulous new Scanning Suite. It's such a lovely space for our patients and makes a huge difference to their experience of having an MRI scan. We are so grateful to people who support our hospital charity, the Stars Appeal, for funding this transformational building."

Dr Katie Peace, Consultant Radiologist and Stars Appeal Ambassador



Stars Appeal Live Artists and Stars Appeal Engagers Return to the Wards

Two Stars Appeal funded projects that provide support for thousands of older, long-stay and dementia patients are now back on the wards at Salisbury District Hospital after an 18 month break due to Covid restrictions.

The return of 'Stars Appeal Live' means wards at the hospital are now alive with the sounds and sights of music, poetry, dancing and singing. The project brings musicians, actors, dancers, story-tellers and poets to the bedside who use their skills to lift spirits and stimulate memories. These 'Stars Appeal Live Artists' work three days each week and cover 12 different wards.

Meanwhile, Stars Appeal Engagers, specially trained psychology volunteers who support the emotional wellbeing of patients during their stay, are visiting patients across the hospital. Their work involves companionship, conversation, playing games and reading to patients. They also take patients out for coffee, or to visit Stars Appeal gardens, to provide a much needed break from the ward.

Each year we aim to raise £65,000 to fund these projects, which between them support over 20,000 people in hospital annually.

"You sit here, especially in a room on your own, and you don't see anything else. All you see is the nurses coming in and out. But getting a visit makes you feel as though you've not been forgotten, you're still in the land of the living! They're so friendly. One man who visits me is in the Army like I once was and we can talk, you know, one soldier to another."

Donald Mollison, 92, from Broadstone who had regular visits from Stars Appeal Engagers whilst in Odstock Ward for over two months

"These projects provide vital stimulation to older people in hospital. They break up the hospital day, help stop isolation and loneliness and alleviate distress, depression and anxiety. We are delighted that they are now back on the wards of our hospital in Salisbury helping local people. This work is only possible thanks to people who support our hospital charity, the Stars Appeal, and to whom we are hugely grateful."

Dr Nigel North, Consultant Psychologist



Stars Appeal Live



Donald Mollison with Stars Appeal Engager Daniel Gillam

Liver Scanner Means Quicker Diagnosis

A new piece of equipment is enabling thousands of patients with suspected liver problems to have the best possible diagnostic test here at their local hospital in Salisbury.

The £75,000 fibroscanner, a specialist ultrasound scanner that can measure the degree of inflammation in a patient's liver using high frequency sound waves, helps medical teams to understand how much scarring is in the liver.

They can then plan the most effective treatment which can result in patients getting better more quickly. Patients benefitting from a fibroscanner include those with diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and a range of different liver diseases. Fibroscanning helps enable early intervention in liver problems which can prevent patients developing chronic liver disease later in life. Previously, patients either had to travel to Southampton for this procedure or have an alternative, less effective test.

"My colleagues and I in the Gastrointestinal Unit are extremely pleased to now be able to offer fibroscanning to our patients. This advancement in our diagnostic capability would simply not be possible without the generosity of Stars Appeal supporters and we extend our sincere thanks to each and every one of them."

Mr Graham Branagan, Consultant Surgeon and Lead Clinical Ambassador



The new fibroscanner in use

New Laser is Changing Lives

A new £56,000 Stars Appeal funded pulsed dye laser in the hospital's Laser Clinic is making a life-changing difference for patients including people being treated for bleeding disorders and those recovering from burns injuries.

The laser, which works by targeting the tiny blood vessels beneath the skin's surface, has a range of applications but is especially useful for improving scarring caused by burns and reducing the frequency of severe uncontrollable nose bleeds.



Dr Mark Brewin treating Simon Warner with the new laser

"I was born with a condition that causes me to have sudden uncontrollable nosebleeds almost every day. At its worst, I can lose up to a quarter of a pint of blood each time - it's dangerous. This terrific laser treatment stops that from happening and gives me the freedom to enjoy my life."

Simon Warner from Ringwood, Laser Clinic patient

"Having been established around 1982 when medical laser treatments first started, Salisbury Laser Clinic is at the forefront of laser treatment in the UK, if not Europe. This state-of-the-art laser helps keep us there. A big thank you to everyone who supports the Stars Appeal for enabling us to provide the best equipment for our patients."

Dr Mark Brewin, Lead Consultant, Laser Clinic

New Maternity Entrance and Reception Opens

Thanks to your donations and fundraising Salisbury Hospital has a new entrance and reception for its Maternity Unit funded entirely by the Stars Appeal.

The building, which cost £120,000, provides an easy to find, warm and welcoming space through which families can directly access maternity services including the labour ward, day assessment unit, antenatal clinic and the maternity scanning department. Ambulance access and car parking is available immediately outside.

With around 2,200 babies born at the hospital each year, tens of thousands of local families are set to benefit from the new building over the coming years.

"It's great to be able to welcome expectant parents to this wonderful new building with its stylish, friendly reception area. For many years people had to find our services from the old 1940s corridor, or via an outdoor entrance bay shared with ambulances. This new area is much more in-keeping with a modern busy maternity unit and helps make a trip to hospital less stressful. Thank you to the Stars Appeal and everyone who supports the charity for making this possible."

Hannah Boyd, Acting Head of Midwifery and Neonatal Service



Supporting Our Hospital's Staff

Salisbury Hospital staff have faced another year of intense pressure, striving to provide the very best care to thousands of patients and their families.

Thanks to the donations we receive for the benefit of staff, and money raised by our Staff Lottery, we've been able to support them with a range of ongoing projects.

Our Stars Appeal Staff Counsellor has provided over 1,000 counselling sessions, which, along with our Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner and Staff Physio, make a huge difference to hospital staff's emotional, mental and physical wellbeing. We've funded support sessions known as Schwartz Rounds that provide an opportunity for staff from all disciplines to reflect on the emotional aspects of their work and are proven to reduce psychological distress.

Alongside this, we've delivered a range of morale boosting treats including care packages and free pizzas and helped to fund the staff awards ceremony, social events and a staff family fun day. And staff benefit from a range of other Stars Appeal projects too, including water coolers, free Wi-Fi, hospital chaplaincy and specialist education and training.

"I'm so grateful for everything that Stars Appeal supporters enable us to do for our staff. The charity's work helps improve staff morale, wellbeing and teamwork which ultimately has an extremely positive impact on the person-centred care they provide."

Stacey Hunter, Chief Executive, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust



Remembering Michael Beck Esq. BEM

Everyone at the Stars Appeal was deeply saddened by news of the death of our brilliant supporter and great friend Michael Beck Esq. BEM in November.




Through his amazing efforts collecting at the hospital and across the local community, and taking on dozens of sponsored walks, often accompanied by his trusty wheelbarrow 'Wally' and supported by his many friends, Michael raised over £450,000 during an incredible 18 years of fundraising. He also inspired countless others to donate and fundraise themselves.

Michael's support has made, and continues to make, a life-changing difference to the health care of tens of thousands of local people. His efforts played a major role in funding many Stars Appeal projects including Salisbury's first dedicated Breast Unit, the Children's Unit, state-of-the-art scanners, recreational activities for Spinal Unit patients and cancer support programmes.

All of us at the Stars Appeal owe Michael a massive debt of gratitude. And, like so many, we will hugely miss Michael and his warm, welcoming and inspiring presence here in our hospital.

Please continue to support your hospital

- ★ You can make a one-off donation or sign up to a monthly gift using the form overleaf ➡
- ★ We'd love you to fundraise for us. Please call 01722 429005 or head to www.starsappeal.org to download a fundraising pack and resources.
- ★ Leave a gift in your Will. Local 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 on 01722 429005 to arrange this.
- ★ Follow and help share our news!

 @StarsAppealSalisburyHospital

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What's on in 2022...

Walk for Wards



• 3rd July Walk for Wards

Sign up to take part in our huge sponsored walk at Wilton House and support the hospital ward/department of your choice. Choose from a 3k, 5k or 10k route.

• 5th June Race for Men

Run 3k, 10k or 21k. Kindly organised by Salisbury Lifestyle Studio in support of the Stars Appeal Urology & Prostate Cancer fund.

• 17th - 18th September Berwick St John Country Fayre

We are delighted to have been chosen as the beneficiary of this wonderful country fayre that attracts huge crowds from across the country.

• 19th - 21st October Rockbourne Fair

Make a start on your Christmas shopping at Salisbury Racecourse with over 100 stalls selling exclusive goods.

Sign up and find out more at 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 support is funding life-changing projects helping thousands of patients at Salisbury District Hospital and the NHS staff who care for them - thank you.

Registered with





Your Donation

You can also donate online at 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 benefitting 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 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 Please tick
Yes ☐
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 www.starsappeal.org

**Thank you
for your
support**