

Spring 2025

# together

for staff and supporters



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# Welcome from our Chief Executive, Siobhan Harrington



## Welcome to your Spring edition of *Together Magazine*.

Spring is traditionally a time to celebrate the birth of new life, and I can't think of a better way to join this celebration than with the opening of our new Maternity and Neonatal Unit within our BEACH (Births, Emergency and Critical care and children's Health) Building at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.

It gives me great pleasure to say that our first baby was welcomed into the world at the BEACH Building on 31 March, just weeks after our Radiology and Critical Care teams moved in. It's a proud moment that enables us to showcase our fantastic new facilities that will improve the care we can offer to thousands of people.

It's so incredibly rewarding, knowing all the hard work that has gone into achieving

this move, that we've finally been able to witness such a joyous moment. I'm sure I'm not alone when saying I am looking forward to many more that will follow.

March also saw the announcement from the government around radical changes on how the NHS will be run in the future. These significant changes will see NHS England being abolished and the Trust (and NHS) being directly managed by the Department of Health and Social Care. As the picture evolves we will get a clearer idea of what impact this will have on the Trust and the wider NHS.

Our financial challenge across Dorset remains difficult, but we are continually looking at how we can make improvements and do things differently.

A time of year I always look forward to is our staff awards which celebrate the great work of our

colleagues and the difference they make.

Thank you to anyone who nominated for the Patient's Choice Award, all the results from the evening will be published in the next edition of this newsletter.

This year, National No Smoking Day coincided with the day that our Trust went smoke free. We have now joined hospitals across the country to offer a healthier environment to all our patients, colleagues and visitors, and we continue to support all those who smoke and would like to give up. You can read more about what being smoke free means at University Hospitals Dorset (UHD) later in this newsletter.

As spring turns to summer, we will witness further developments as other teams and departments move into the BEACH Building, and we will continue to develop Poole as our planned care hospital. I'm excited to see the transitions that will be taking place and how our community and staff, experience the improvements. You can find out more about what these are later in this newsletter.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

*Siobhan*



# Smoke free UHD

All of UHD's sites are now smoke free, offering a healthier environment for all patients, visitors and colleagues.

The move, which coincided with National No Smoking Day on 12 March, means smoking tobacco products is no longer permitted anywhere at the Royal Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch hospitals, as well as the Trust's off-site locations across Dorset. This includes entrances, car parks, and outdoor areas.

Considerate vaping is still permitted but must be at least three metres away from doors and windows.

Siobhan Harrington, Chief Executive at UHD, said: "The NHS increasingly cares for people with long-term health conditions, and we must do more to create an environment that supports healthier choices. Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death so we need to take proactive steps to prevent the very diseases we frequently treat.

"We are here to look after your health and we prioritise the wellbeing of our community, our staff, and our environment - providing a smoke free environment and supporting people to quit is a really important part of that."

Dr Peter Wilson, Chief Medical Officer at UHD, added: "This isn't easy - smoking is not a lifestyle choice or a bad habit - it is a powerful addiction. That's why we're here to support our colleagues and patients to quit for good. In fact, treating tobacco addiction is now a standard of care in our hospitals."

UHD has a dedicated Tobacco Addiction Care and Treatment Service offering support to all inpatients who smoke, providing guidance and assistance to promote recovery and wellbeing.

The Trust's Smoking in Pregnancy Team also offers support to pregnant women and their families throughout their time with us, helping people abstain or quit for good.



More information is available at [www.uhd.nhs.uk/about-us/smokefree](http://www.uhd.nhs.uk/about-us/smokefree).

Free stop smoking support is also available via LiveWell Dorset.





# New era in maternity care

On the last day of March we marked a historic moment for UHD as the first baby was born at the BEACH Building.

The BEACH Building offers an exceptional Maternity and Neonatal Unit designed to provide comfort, care, and the highest standard of medical support for expecting parents. The unit is set to welcome over 4,400 babies annually, ensuring comprehensive care from pregnancy and birth through to postnatal support.

As part of the transition, a small number of mothers and babies were safely transferred from St Mary's Maternity Unit to the BEACH Building's state-of-the-art facilities. This seamless relocation reflected the commitment to providing safe, high-quality care throughout the changeover.

In addition to the maternity and neonatal services, all emergency gynaecology and early pregnancy services have also moved to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital (RBH). Patients requiring urgent gynaecology care must now attend RBH instead of Poole Hospital, ensuring a streamlined approach to emergency services.

▼ Baby Leandra with mum Marina



Baby Ademole  
with mum Dorcas

The last baby born at St Mary's was Baby Ademole, and this marked an emotional farewell to over six decades of cherished maternity care at the site.

Mum, Dorcas, said:

“We didn't expect him to be born at St Mary's - he was supposed to arrive at the BEACH. It's been lovely hearing about the memories from St Mary's, and the team has shared their years of experience with us.”





Baby Leandra was the first to be admitted to the new unit, transferred from St Mary's earlier that morning, making history as the first baby to receive care at the state-of-the-art BEACH Building.

Mum, Marina, expressed her gratitude, saying:

“The new facility is everything we could have hoped for. The staff, the environment, everything made this experience so special and comforting.”

Later in the day, Baby Isla, became the first baby born at the BEACH, symbolising the start of an exciting new era in maternity care for families across the region.

Mum, Katy, said:

“Isla arrived a little after 11am this morning, with a smooth birth and no complications, and we're thankful to all the staff here for their amazing care. I'm

▼ Baby Isla with mum Katy

very tired but so excited, and our son, James, has happily told us he's 'ready for not much sleep!’”

Senior Inpatient Maternity Matron, Christine Smith, added:

“We're really delighted that our first baby has been born at the BEACH and so pleased that everything went well for this lovely family.”

Commenting on an amazing day, Sarah Herbert, Chief Nursing Officer, said:

“It's a bittersweet moment to bid farewell to St Mary's after 60 years, but the move to the BEACH Building is a tremendous leap forward in enhancing our maternity, neonatal, and gynaecology services.

“These state-of-the-art facilities will provide families with modern, comfortable care that reflects our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible experience for both parents and babies.

“With improved amenities, including the

option for a support person to remain throughout the stay, we are proud to offer a space that fosters a positive birth experience.

“We are thrilled to have supported Dorcas, Marina and Katy with their lovely babies and look forward to welcoming many more families in the years to come.”

As this new chapter begins, the UHD team remains dedicated to offering families the highest level of care in an environment designed with comfort and safety at the forefront.



The BEACH Building is part of a broader strategy to consolidate emergency services at the RBH. This move will reduce patient transfers between hospitals, alleviate pressure on the ambulance service, and ultimately improve care outcomes for both maternity and emergency patients.

Our Radiology and Critical Care services are already in the BEACH Building, having moved in in March and Bournemouth Emergency Department will follow suit in May.







Local families gather to say goodbye to St Mary's

# A fond farewell to St Mary's Maternity Unit

After more than 60 years of service, St Mary's Maternity Unit in Poole has closed its doors for the final time.

Over 750 people gathered in Poole on Saturday 5 April for a morning of reflection and celebration where, for the past 64 years, an estimated 250,000 babies have been welcomed into the world. It was an opportunity for the community to come together with colleagues past and present, share memories, and take a look around the unit following its closure.

Guests also had a chance to find out about the future of UHD's maternity services now located in the new BEACH Building at Bournemouth.

Siobhan Harrington, Chief Executive Officer at UHD, said:

“This event is a tribute to both the community and the staff who made the unit what it was. I've been here nearly three years as Chief Executive, and to see our community come out to mark this day with our staff is absolutely amazing. People are sharing stories about their experiences here, and it's incredibly moving.”



▲ UHD colleagues gather to pay tribute to St Mary's Maternity Unit

Kerry Taylor, UHD's Head of Midwifery, said it was important to give people a chance to celebrate the building and its history.

“We are so excited at moving to the BEACH Building, but acknowledge that for many local families and staff here today, it is bittersweet to see the doors to St Mary's Maternity Unit close for a final time. We are delighted to give people the opportunity to come and reminisce, sharing the memories they have from their time here in the building and joining us to say a fond farewell.”

UHD's Head of Midwifery, Kerry Taylor ►





Marion Pauley, 87, was one of the first women to give birth at St. Mary's in 1961, and returned to the unit to say her goodbyes with her daughter. She said:

“This hospital holds so many special memories for me. Although I was poorly after having my son, my mother lived nearby and was able to visit us everyday while we were in special care for five weeks. It meant everything.”



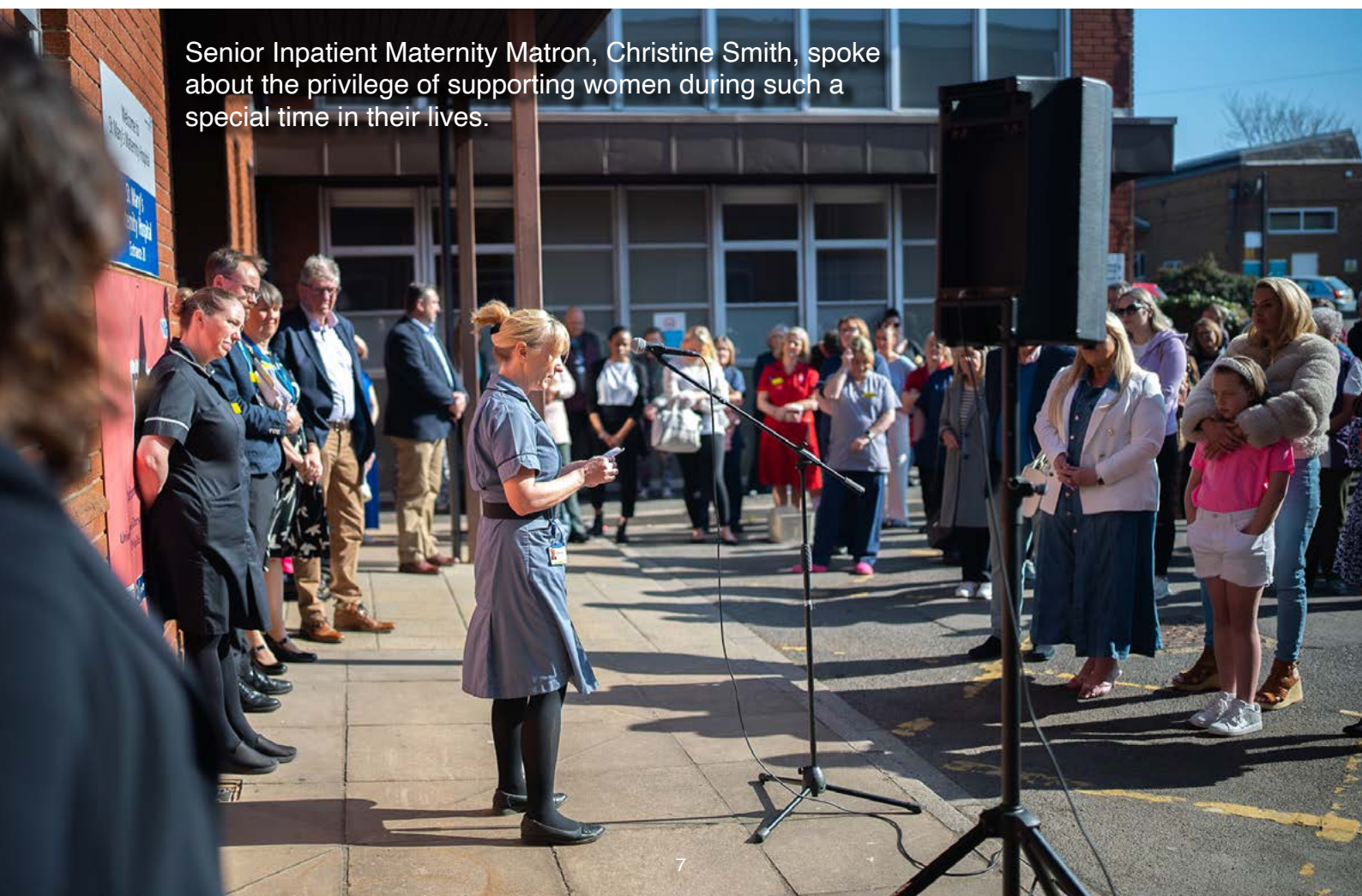
▲ Marion Pauley, was one of the first women to give birth at St Mary's when the unit first opened in 1961



Local families gather to say goodbye to St Mary's



Senior Inpatient Maternity Matron, Christine Smith, spoke about the privilege of supporting women during such a special time in their lives.





# Life changing work

**A** bionic grandad, a Paralympic swimming hopeful and an army veteran who elected to have his leg amputated, a special TV series goes behind the scenes of our Dorset Prosthetics Centre and meets three patients whose lives have been changed by the skills, innovation and dedication of all those who work there...

The teams in our Dorset Prosthetic Centre at RBH care for more than 900 patients. From babies and toddlers right through to centenarians, once they become part of this prosthetics community, they are supported for life.

A special three-part series with BBC South Today shone a spotlight on the service and introduced us to three people benefiting from the creativity and craftsmanship, as well as the psychological and therapeutic support, of the Dorset team.



**Charlie Holford,**

34, is a Dorset army veteran who describes having his leg removed as one of 'the best days of his life'. Charlie suffered from complex regional pain syndrome following an accident while on military training and has now gone on to become an international athlete and cross fit gym owner.



**Isabella Haynes**

from Wimborne has her sights set on the next paralympic games in LA. The 16-year-old freestyle swimmer has grown up without her right leg and her swimming ability was spotted by a scout two years ago. She has been supported by the Dorset Prosthetics Centre since she was born.



**And Dr Rob Mannion**

is proof that age is no barrier to the latest technology. In the last few months the team has been working with 78-year-old 'bionic grandad' to fit the latest electric hand.



You can see the TV episodes on **Charlie**, **Isabella** and **Rob** under the news section of our website: [www.uhd.nhs.uk/news](http://www.uhd.nhs.uk/news)





# Local news coverage brings boost to UHD study

**UHD and Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust are two of 19 centres running TRICEPS, a trial of an electrical earpiece that stimulates the brain. This device is being given to stroke patients to see if it improves physical strength after stroke in a weak arm.**

Over 100,000 people suffer from a stroke each year and around a third of these people will be left with a weakness in limbs after their stroke. If this non-invasive device is successful, this could dramatically improve the lives and physical mobility of these patients.

We are approaching the first-year anniversary of opening the study and so far, we have recruited five patients at UHD. But we needed more.

Wessex Health Partners and our UHD Communications Department helped facilitate visits from local news crews to report on this study locally and gain interest in those who may wish to participate.

Since the news segment we have had 105 enquiries about the study and Dorset Healthcare has had over 50 enquiries.

This shows how valued this potential intervention is by the public and gives us a potential opportunity to influence the health and wellbeing of the local population in a meaningful way.

Ian Odd, interviewed for the BBC, said:

“ Anything that can help me, four years down the line, I will be more than happy to try it, because I wasn't improving with the exercises I was doing.

“ This trial gives people some hope that you can get back some, if not all, the functions that you had before. ”





# The future of Poole emergency care

Following the Dorset Clinical Services Review and over 10,000 hours of NHS staff time developing plans for our future, the decision was made to split planned care and emergency care across our Bournemouth and Poole hospitals. Bournemouth to become the main emergency care hospital and Poole to become a planned care hospital.

The emergency/planned care split is due to begin in January 2026, with Poole's Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) staying open as the Poole Emergency Department (ED) moves to RBH. Poole ED's relocation aligns with Critical Care moving to Bournemouth and the creation of an Enhanced Post-Operative Care (EPOC) unit at Poole. Poole will then become a major surgical hub, expanding to 18 theatres.

Benefits of this move include:

- ◆ New top class patient facilities on both sites
- ◆ RBH becomes a major emergency centre, meaning faster, better specialist emergency care when you need it



- ◆ Poole Hospital becomes the biggest major planned care centre in the UK, reducing waiting times

This will ensure our patients receive the right care, in the right place at the right time.

# A new way of getting around RBH

A new wayfinding system is being introduced in RBH to help people navigate the changing site.

The site will be divided into three zones:

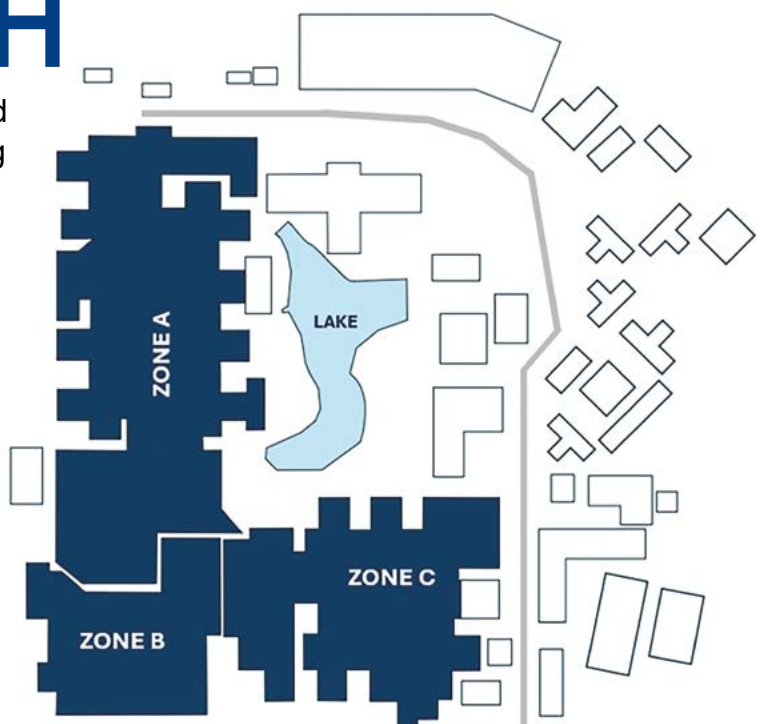
**Zone A** (West Wing)

**Zone B** (BEACH Building, including the new main entrance)

**Zone C** (East Wing and Coast building)

Both old and new signs are now in place, with temporary signage aiding the transition.

The ED will be clearly signposted as its own zone and will have clear red-and-white signage. Accessibility features will include pictograms, Braille, and tactile signs, with staircases highlighted in green.





# New partnership enhances 'gateway to the hospital' at RBH

UHD has teamed up with One Retail to enhance the patient, staff and visitor experience at its new BEACH Building at RBH.

Having opened in April, the upgraded main entrance features a 24/7 Costa Coffee, a Co-op convenience store, and a Stock Shop for clothing, alongside vital hospital services including the Chaplaincy Centre, Charity facilities, Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), and a dedicated Volunteer Hub.

One Retail has invested in the retail services to offer a range of products and services encompassing quality, familiarity and choice. One of the first Co-op stores within a hospital site has opened within the building, sharing One Retail and Trust values such as championing the local community, and prioritising access to healthy and ethically



sourced products. It has been designed with sustainability principles in mind, with low energy refrigeration and lighting being incorporated, as well as using recycled materials for signage.

This partnership within the Trust's new building, evolves an existing relationship between UHD and One Retail, who have worked together for around 10 years within Poole Hospital.

Overall, the new retail outlets have created over 40 jobs within the local Dorset area. One Retail will also be working with food redistribution charity, Too Good To Go, which will avoid good to eat food going to waste.



**Richard Renaut**, UHD's Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, said:

“We are delighted to partner with One Retail in creating a new gateway to the hospital the centrepiece of the BEACH Building at RBH, enhancing the experience for patients, staff and visitors alike.

“This partnership builds on our in-house services to elevate our food and retail offerings.

“We're also strengthening in-house catering with initiatives like Café West's reopening, 24/7 hot food availability, and a pre-order app to cut down on queues, all designed to serve our community for years to come.”





# together for our members

## An update from Lead Governor, Michele Whitehurst

Hello everyone,

The Council of Governors (COG) recently had the immense privilege of visiting the new BEACH Building at RBH before its doors opened on 31 March. Witnessing the collaborative efforts and dedication of UHD staff in bringing this massive project to fruition made us so proud. We are confident that the transformational changes at UHD will positively impact our community, enhancing healthcare services for both patients and staff.



Reflecting on the name of this magazine, 'Together,' I am reminded of the strong link we create between the COG, UHD staff, patients, members, and the wider community. Over the years, while the transformational work has been underway at UHD, the COG has worked hard to ensure that your voice is heard, to ensure high-quality, safe patient care and staff welfare. Fostering communication and ensuring that your feedback is considered in decision-making processes is a key focus.

As you walk into the new BEACH Building, one of many projects across the three UHD sites, I hope you can see and feel that UHD staff and partners have brought a new chapter to transforming healthcare locally.

The COG will continue to be actively out and about hosting engagement events. More details can be found below. Please do pop along and say hello to us. We would love to see you.

Our COG meetings are open to members to attend. Meetings are normally held in April, July, October and January of each year either in person or online.

If you would like to join us, please contact [company.secretary-team@uhd.nhs.uk](mailto:company.secretary-team@uhd.nhs.uk)

There will be another round of Governor elections at year-end 2025. All members of UHD are eligible to stand in elections. Elections will be advertised on our UHD website and promoted locally as the year draws to a close.

As always, thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to presenting your views and keeping you informed of the latest updates from UHD.

Warmest regards,

*Michele*



## Meet our hospital governors

Want to find out more about the changes within our hospitals? Or do your family and friends? Meet our hospital governors across BCP over the coming months at one of our free events, starting with Charminster Library on 18 June from 11am.





# Where could volunteering take you?

Volunteering is a great way of helping the local community and gives a sense of wellbeing. It is an opportunity to meet and help a wide variety of people and increase social interaction. There are currently 495 volunteers at UHD and 23% of these are young people.

## Sidney's Story...

Sidney joined our volunteer programme at UHD in August 2022, aged 16, as one of our first young volunteers to join the programme post Covid. Sidney at the time was at school doing his A levels and was aspiring to be a paramedic one day.

He wanted to join our programme to enhance his people skills and get a taster of what the hospital environment was like. He also saw it as a chance to get some experience in supporting patients and clinical areas in the hospital with his ultimate goal, once he turned 18 to be able to volunteer in our Emergency Department (ED).

## Where did he start?

Sidney began on our Outpatients Department initially, supporting our blood clinic by managing patient queues and helping people use the self check-in for their appointments. Once ward volunteering opened up, he was placed on one of our Elderly Care Assessment Units. He experienced what it was like on a ward environment in terms of how to support patients through food and hydration rounds and developed conversational skills.

## Achieving his goal

Sidney began volunteering in the ED in June 2024 once he

had turned 18. This further boosted his confidence and was perfect timing as he had applied, and was successful in gaining an apprenticeship with South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWAST).

## Where is Sidney now?

Sidney has now started his apprenticeship with SWAST and is well on his way to fulfilling his dream of becoming a paramedic. Volunteering was a great way for Sidney to boost his confidence and give him valuable experience, and he remains a volunteer at the hospital when he can.

**If you would like to become a young volunteer at UHD**  
find out more at our website:

**[www.uhd.nhs.uk/about-us/volunteer](http://www.uhd.nhs.uk/about-us/volunteer)**



# £1.3m solar panel funding awarded to UHD

**We have been awarded £1,368,761 to install further solar panels at UHD, saving £177k a year in energy costs and supporting investment into frontline care. It is part of a wider £100m package from Great British Energy, announced by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.**

The grant will fund solar panels on multistorey car parks and will fully cover the cost of delivering these new panels. The solar panels are expected to generate 700,000 kWh each year, reducing energy bills by £177k per year. The panels are guaranteed for 15 years



meaning UHD will save at least £2.5m in energy costs over the life of the project. The installation will take place this summer and will contribute around 200 tonnes of carbon savings each year.



## Haskins Ferndown raises £17,000 for SPRING

Throughout 2024, Haskins Ferndown raised over £17,000 for UHD's SPRING service, which supports parents and relatives experiencing baby loss.

It's a cause close to the team's hearts as some members benefited from SPRING critical support. Staff at Haskins Ferndown fundraised through all



sorts of events including static bike-a-thons, musical events, running a 5km race, a magical Santa's Grotto during the festive season and fun staff quiz nights.

While SPRING's time as charity of the year has passed, Haskins Ferndown and UHD NHS Charity look forward to continuing a close relationship in the future.

## Uncle raises £2,253 for Neonatal Unit by leaping for little ones

What began as a fun New Year's challenge to tackle 250 burpees a day in January turned into something truly inspiring, as Joseph raised over £2,253 for our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in honour of the care his little niece, Sienna, received. That's an incredible total of 7,750 burpees by the way - complete dedication!

Sienna spent 62 days in the NICU after arriving two months early, and now, she's a happy and bubbly baby full of life. Joseph couldn't be happier with the exceptional

care his niece and their family received during such a challenging time.

With a heart full of gratitude for the NICU Team, Joseph

jumped and sweated his way to enhancing care for babies, like Sienna, receiving dedicated support during such a challenging time.





# Ex-soldier gears up for epic challenge with local cycle shop to support UHD

Over the course of one day in August, Bob Perry - a former soldier and detective who now calls Bournemouth home - will cycle up France's Mont Ventoux three times (that's a momentous 137km!) to raise £10,000 for our cancer care and cardiology services.

Back in 2015, Bob was given the tough news that he had Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia (WM), a rare and incurable blood cancer. He was told that he had a "good 10 years" left. Fast forward a decade, and Bob is not just here, he's feeling vibrant and optimistic about the future - all thanks to the wonderful care he's received at UHD.

Bob's journey inspired Trek Poole, who are proudly sponsoring his fundraising efforts, with team members joining him on this mountainous adventure. Among them is Mark Wratten, a sales associate at Trek Poole who has faced his own battle with heart disease and is excited to give back to our hospitals. Together, they're not just cycling, they're making a difference!



Be part of Bob and Mark's inspiring cycling challenge by supporting their JustGiving page here:

[www.justgiving.com/page/robert-perry-5](http://www.justgiving.com/page/robert-perry-5)

# Twilight Walk: Shine bright for patients with breast cancer

As the sun sets and skies turn a beautiful pink, join others from across Dorset at the Twilight Walk on **Friday 16 May** to help provide brighter futures for UHD patients with breast cancer.

Gather your loved ones, grab your favourite neon outfit and don't forget your sparkly accessories as for a fun-filled evening supporting people impacted by breast cancer in our community. Every step you take will help raise funds for our breast cancer services, enhancing the care and treatment of breast cancer patients in our community.

We are so excited to announce that Prime Demolition and Barchester in Dorset are the gold sponsors for the Twilight Walk 2025.

**Join us and let your unique light shine!**





# Big things are happening at the BEACH!

We're super excited to share that after much anticipation, the first NHS teams are settling into the brand-new BEACH Building at RBH, and the Charity Team has joined them! Our new charity office is on the ground floor of the BEACH, near the Atrium - so come on by and say hello!

Thanks to the extraordinary support from individuals, businesses, community groups and so many others, we've already raised and pledged over £630,000 toward enhancing the BEACH. But we still need our fantastic Team UHD family and our wonderful community to help us reach our £1.5m goal.

## Fun ways to make waves for the BEACH

By supporting The BEACH Appeal, you'll be leaving your mark on our fabulous new building and impact every patient, staff member and hospital visitor who walks through those doors.

With warmer weather on the horizon, why not take on a thrilling fundraising adventure for The BEACH Appeal? Dive into one of our exciting challenges or chart your own course to raise funds for a service in the new building that matters the most to you.

Every gift, big or small, makes a difference and ensures our NHS services are stronger and more accessible than ever. Let's make waves together!



## 10K Steps Challenge

Want a way to get your steps in and back our BEACH? For an entire month, challenge yourself to walk 10,000 steps a day and know, with every step you take, you're not just getting fit you're putting your best foot forward for our community! Learn more about the 10k Steps Challenge by visiting our charity pages: [www.uhdcharity.org/get-involved/challenges/10k-steps-challenge](http://www.uhdcharity.org/get-involved/challenges/10k-steps-challenge)



## BEACH Dinner

Calling all culinary wizards!

Do you have what it takes to host the ultimate BEACH Dinner? Whether it's breakfast, brunch, dinner or a weekend BBQ, whip up something spectacular to impress your loved ones or teammates while raising funds for The BEACH Appeal.

Then, challenge your guests to continue the deliciousness by hosting their own BEACH Dinner!

[www.uhdcharity.org/get-involved/challenges/beach-dinners](http://www.uhdcharity.org/get-involved/challenges/beach-dinners)



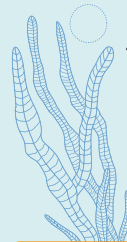
## Old Harry Swim

Trade in your everyday workwear for a swimsuit and get ready to make a splash as you dive into the Old Harry Swim challenge.

Navigate through beautiful seagrass forests and swim through the enchanting habitat of seahorses - all while raising £150 for The BEACH Appeal.

**Don't wait - spots are limited!**

Contact our Charity Team TODAY to secure your place in this unforgettable experience.



## Run Bournemouth

Lace up your trainers and prepare for a thrilling challenge at Run Bournemouth this October. Choose from a fun 5km, 10km or Half Marathon and help raise essential funds for our patients and NHS teams in the BEACH.

Fresh air, beautiful scenery and an incredible cause - what more could you want?

Visit our charity pages to find out more.

[www.uhdcharity.org](http://www.uhdcharity.org)



Contact us: [uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk](mailto:uhd.charity@uhd.nhs.uk), call 0300 019 4060/8449

or @UHDcharity on X (Twitter)  Facebook  and Instagram 