

# RUH eXtra!

Celebrating the extra-extraordinary work of our community

Spring 2026



## RUHX eXtra! Special Edition Walk of Life, 20th Anniversary Special Take a stroll down memory lane!

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# Looking Ahead: New Goals for RUHX

Welcome to our Spring 2026 edition.  
*Is it that time of year already?*

Spring is a time for **springing into action**, and that is exactly what we are embracing here at RUHX. After an exceptional 2025, we are stepping into 2026 with renewed energy, purpose and ambition. We are doubling down on what matters most: strengthening cancer care, enhancing women's health services, supporting child mental health, and much more, as you will soon discover. In this edition, you will find the latest updates on these priorities, along with a sneak peek at what is coming later in 2026.

We are also delighted to share the impact you are already making. Thanks to the generosity of RUHX supporters, new initiatives and equipment are now hard at work at the RUH. These range from exciting new research studies and improved staff facilities for our hardworking midwives, to a simple but powerful initiative that makes it easier for people to communicate hidden disabilities. Every one of these projects has been funded by RUHX donors, and each is helping to greatly improve care for patients every day.

Naturally, it would not be RUHX without an action-packed events calendar, and 2026 is shaping up to be our most memorable year yet. This May, our much-loved Walk of Life celebrates its 20th anniversary, and on pages 10-13 we look back at some of the brilliant fundraising stories that have brought moments of joy, reflection and remembrance over the years. We have also just welcomed home our team of intrepid overseas trekkers following their incredible adventure in Kenya. A huge well done and heartfelt thank you to everyone involved. Turn to page 18 to find out how you can be part of our events this year and beyond.

Thank you, as always, for reading and for standing alongside us. To learn more, get involved, or help us deliver the next RUHX project for our hospital, please contact us at [hello@ruh.org.uk](mailto:hello@ruh.org.uk).

Together, we can achieve *extraordinary* things. Let's get started...

Best wishes,

Rhyannon Boyd  
Associate Director, RUHX



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# Spread the LOVE



**RUHX Tribute Funds** are a special way to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one. Each fund is set up in their name, allowing family and friends to donate or fundraise in support of a chosen ward or team at the RUH Bath.

By creating a Tribute Fund, you're helping us provide something truly extraordinary for the patients, staff and visitors who use the RUH every day. **Our Tribute Funds have helped to fund the Dyson Cancer Centre**, create updated rooms in the Neonatal Unit so parents can stay close to their babies, help bring state-of-the-art robotic surgery to the RUH – placing us at the forefront of surgical technology in the South West – and support our Forget-Me-Not Suite alongside the maternity bereavement team, to name just a few. Here at RUHX, we have partnered with MuchLoved, the UK's leading in-memory non-profit platform, to host our Tribute Funds online. MuchLoved provides a dedicated space to share stories, photos and memories in one special place, making it easy to donate or fundraise in support of your chosen ward or team. You have complete control over your tribute page, allowing you to keep it personal, meaningful and up to date. MuchLoved also makes it simple to share and connect with family and friends near and far while remembering your loved one.

To find out more about how our Tribute Funds support the RUH, or to set a fund up yourself, visit our website, call **01225 825900** to speak to our wonderful Tributes Team, or email [tributes@ruh.org.uk](mailto:tributes@ruh.org.uk)



Just some ways that Tribute Fund teams have raised vital donations for RUHX in the name of their loved ones.



For more information about MuchLoved, visit [www.muchloved.com](http://www.muchloved.com)  
**muchloved**

# We made a difference

At the beginning of 2026, we published **RUHX's 2024-25 Impact Report**. It was a proud moment for us as the report shines a spotlight on the significant difference our supporters' generosity made during the year. The report was warmly received by our supporters and staff. Here's the lowdown on just some of the projects covered in the report...

## Dyson Cancer Centre

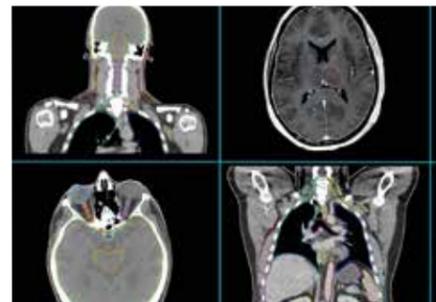
The incredible centre opened in April 2024 and, since then, the Dyson Cancer Centre has supported thousands of patients with expert care. To date, there have been **25,023 outpatient appointments, 27,663 day cases, 1,076 Gamma-CT scans and 830 inpatients** cared for on the William Budd Ward.



The Dyson Cancer Centre

## AI Contouring Tool

RUHX supported the introduction of **MVision AI Contour+** – an artificial intelligence-powered radiotherapy planning tool that automatically identifies and outlines tumours and surrounding organs on medical scans. By automating the outlining of treatment targets, it saves clinicians valuable time, improves consistency and supports more accurate and effective radiotherapy planning at the RUH.



AI Contouring Images

## Linear Accelerator

Thanks to a significant grant, RUHX funded a cutting-edge linear accelerator for the radiotherapy department. This advanced machine **delivers highly precise radiotherapy by matching X-ray beams to the shape of a patient's tumour**. But that's not all: "This new LINAC helps radiographers provide a less

intimidating environment for patients undergoing a course of radiotherapy," the team told us. "With reduced anxiety, patients are better able to tolerate treatment, which can also reduce reliance on other support teams within the hospital."



Linear Accelerator

## HIPEC

We funded a Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC) machine, enabling the RUH to offer a new service for patients with advanced ovarian cancer and those undergoing surgery to remove cancer. Since the launch of the HIPEC equipment, the clinical team has reported **"significant clinical and operational impact, improving patient outcomes and expanding our surgical oncology capabilities."** Great to hear.



HIPEC – in action!

## NHS Charities Together Community Partnerships

In 2022, RUHX proudly led the delivery of the two-year NHS Charities Together Stage 2 programme across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, securing more than £400,000 to fund 13 community-based projects. All were designed to help reduce health inequalities worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Bath City Farm Gardeners

## What's Next?

The Impact Report also highlighted what's next for RUHX, including the PET-CT Campaign and the Women's Health Campaign, which is funding a urodynamics machine to transform care for women in the community. In addition, a cancer research project in partnership with the University of Bath is exploring how exercise can improve immune function and enhance treatment outcomes for patients. Watch this space.

*We're excited to share our 2024-25 Impact Report. None of our impact within the RUH would be possible without you – a huge thank you to all of our amazing supporters.*

**Ruby Guymer-Parker,**  
Charity Impact Manager at RUHX



Ruby Guymer-Parker with Impact Report

Scan to view the RUHX 2024-25 Impact Report



# Questions with...

This month, we ask one of our extra-special fundraisers, **David Morgan, five questions about his big fundraising challenge ahead, the motivation behind it and how it's going.**

If you follow RUHX, you will have heard about our Children's De-Escalation (Mental Health) Room campaign, which aims to raise £50,000 to create a vital new facility for our Paediatrics Ward. One of the fundraisers supporting the campaign is David Morgan from Wells, Somerset. David is taking on both the 2026 Bath Half Marathon and the London Marathon to raise funds, so we thought we'd check in to see how his training and preparation are going...



David & Benjamin enjoying family time

Scan the QR code to sponsor David and support the campaign here!



## What led you to fundraise for RUHX'S Children's Mental Health campaign?

My son Benjamin was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 2025, and adapting to finger-prick blood tests, an insulin pump and glucose monitors during an initial hospital stay was something he found challenging at the time. When I heard about this campaign and the need for this facility, we all wanted to help make it available for patients, families and staff on the children's ward. The staff at the RUH have been nothing short of amazing throughout our journey – saving Benjamin's life on two occasions and going above and beyond the call of duty many times over.



## How have your wife Janey and Benjamin been involved?

Well, it's more than just the running! The fundraising side of what we're doing has taken some organising, and we've also been back to the RUH to speak to the media about the campaign and Benjamin's story, as well as dropping off Christmas gifts for children staying on the ward over the festive period. It has very much been a family team effort from the three of us, and we'll all be together in London for the marathon in April to enjoy the day as a family. It's not just us, though – countless kind family members, friends and colleagues have supported us along the way. Thank you, everyone.



## What have the Children's nursing team told you about the need for the De-Escalation Room?

Charlotte Nicol, Lead Nurse for Children and Young People at the RUH, told me that two child patients a day are admitted with mental health illnesses. She also explained that the new room will provide an environment where children can take a break from busy wards, which can be noisy and chaotic, and spend time in a space that is calm and relaxing. The room will help children regulate their behaviour and relieve some of their distress, supporting not only young patients and their families, but also the staff who care for them every day.



## How's the marathon training going?

I've been getting in some (pretty cold) training miles over the winter, even taking my kit with me on a festive family New Year break. It's my first marathon, and by the time race day arrives I'll have completed close to 100 training runs! I enjoy it, so it's a pleasure to combine a healthy New Year habit, something I love, and a great cause that helps local children.



## How can RUHX Extra! readers support you and the campaign?

To sponsor me, please visit "David and Benjamin Morgan's Marathon Fundraising" on our Enthuse page online, or scan the QR code: 100 per cent of the funds raised will go directly to the campaign. Thank you for your support, it truly is for a great cause.

Find out more about our Children's De-Escalation (Mental Health) Room campaign at [ruhx.org.uk](http://ruhx.org.uk)

# Heart to HeART

It's time for a little heart to heart. We need the support of our donors to help restart the RUH's Art at the Heart programme after 12 months without sufficient funding to run it. Here's a reminder of why it matters so much...

Through its award-winning arts and music programmes, Art at the Heart of the RUH creates opportunities to engage young and older patients, staff, volunteers and visitors, as well as parents, families and carers. Its participatory projects and live music are a core part of what makes care at the RUH truly extra extraordinary and has become increasingly essential in meeting the evolving needs of patients. The programme helps ensure that emotional and mental wellbeing are supported alongside clinical care and it has been supported by RUHX supporters for more than 20 years.

The need for ward teams to prioritise clinical needs can mean that the more personal aspects of individual care become a lower priority, with ward staff sometimes pulled away from day rooms or playrooms to attend to other duties.

This highlights the vital role of artists and musicians in residence, who consistently provide continuity of care, emotional support and meaningful engagement. Through tailored programmes such as artist-led Artsparks on the Children's Ward, Stitch in Time on Combe Ward for Older Persons, and musician-led Soundbite across ward areas, they play an invaluable role in alleviating physical and mental health challenges, fostering connections between patients and staff, and supporting families.

The programme's benefits are significant, as clinical ward staff and the parents of young patients will tell you... ✂



RUHX is actively seeking support from our generous donors to bring these much-loved sessions back to the RUH in 2026. Our artist-led workshops for patients and families – Artsparks and Stitch in Time – offer a wide range of therapeutic benefits but, unfortunately, have not been running over the past year. If you'd like to help RUHX get them running again, scan the QR code.



“For over 20 years, I have cared for paediatric oncology patients at the RUH. During this time, I have seen first-hand the palpable benefits that the Artsparks programme brings to patients and their families. Our patients attend hospital repeatedly, often for difficult and challenging treatment, and the positive impact simply cannot be overstated.

The opportunity for children to take part in a proper art project during this time brings real benefit to them and much-needed relief to their parents. Children quickly learn which days Artsparks takes place and actively look forward to getting involved, helping to take some of the sting out of coming into hospital. Artsparks is a fantastic addition to the work of our Play Specialists, who, although excellent, are often thinly stretched on a busy paediatric ward.”

Paediatric Oncology Consultant, Children's Ward

“Art sessions enable fun, laughter and smiles. They allow our patients, as well as staff, to feel settled and calm, and to experience moments of real enjoyment.”

Dayroom to Doorstep Facilitator, Combe Ward

“It was lovely to watch my daughter playing and learning skills at what is a horrible time due to illness.”

Parent of a Patient

## A Day in the Life

David French,  
RUH's Head of Audiology

RUHX Extra! sat down with David French to hear all about a day in the life of the RUH's brilliant Head of Audiology.

Over to you, David...

I qualified about 15 years ago in Bristol and went on to do some further training to qualify as a clinical scientist. Then the vacancy came up as head of the department – and here I am! My job is 50 per cent management and 50 per cent clinical. The routine side of audiology is hearing tests and hearing aids. Hearing loss is very personal, so although a hearing test followed by hearing aid is the “routine” pathway, a lot depends on the patient's experience so you adjust things individually depending on who you're seeing.

“When Friends and Family test results are returned, the Audiology Department regularly achieve over 90 per cent good or very good patient satisfaction scores.”

The more advanced side of audiology is balance testing because part of the balance system is in the ear. That involves diagnostic work and rehabilitation. We also see patients with learning difficulties, with more complicated hearing loss or a more complicated history that might be affecting their hearing or their ability to use hearing aids.

As part of my typical day, I do home visits in the community. I go out to people all around the region, in Bath, but also right out to Malmesbury, Devizes and Wells – we cover a big

area. The typical cohort of audiology patients is on the older end of the age range, and some patients are not able to get into hospital. Many are housebound or in care homes, so I go and provide the service out there.

**A big achievement in the last 12 months is the reduction in our waiting list for hearing aid fittings.** About a year ago, we had a waiting list time of 14 months between a hearing assessment and a hearing aid fitting. We've managed to bring that down now to a three to four month wait now, and we're anticipating getting it down to six to eight weeks by spring this year. We're really pleased with that, it makes such a difference to everybody. Now, staff don't have to apologise to every patient and it makes a huge difference to patients who've waited that long without any hearing aids to be able to have treatment in a couple of months. We're also on track for seeing people within six weeks for their first assessment after being referred by their GP.

**Every day, I work very closely with the Ear, Nose and Throat department, and thanks to the RUHX-funded Titan Advanced Handheld Tympanometer, we now have several diagnostic capabilities in one piece of equipment.** It allows us to assess how well the eardrum is functioning, identify issues such as perforations, and detect problems that cannot be seen through a routine ear examination.



The device can also assess hearing in different ways for patients who are unable to complete a standard hearing test, meaning it can be used with young children. ENT colleagues often require specific results relating to particular conditions that we have not previously been able to test for, but this equipment includes three different tests to support the diagnosis of those conditions. This is a significant benefit for both Audiology and ENT, particularly when considering surgery or other interventions – so thank you to RUHX for making a typical day in my work that much more effective. ✂

“Typical hearing loss is not just like the volume's been turned down. You can have quite a significant hearing loss, but only at certain tones. If a bus goes past, you can hear the bus going past the other side of the road through your closed windows but what you can't hear is the clarity when people are talking to you.”

# Making the Rounds

Our regular round-up of the latest news from the wards of the RUH – sharing how RUHX have helped in the moments that matter most...

## Maxillofacial Unit

RUHX is tackling childhood tooth decay by funding toothbrushes and toothpaste for families where it has not been identified that a child aged eight to 15 does not own a toothbrush. Toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste is a fundamental preventative measure, and this support aims to encourage twice-daily brushing, build long-term healthy habits, and improve school attendance, sleep and wellbeing – while helping to reduce pressure on the NHS and deliver better long-term health outcomes.

This intervention comes at a critical time. Despite being largely preventable, tooth decay is on the rise and was the leading cause of hospital admissions among children aged five to nine in England in 2022. Around 23.7 per cent of five-year-olds have experienced visible tooth decay, with significantly higher rates in more deprived areas and among certain ethnic groups.

Dental extractions cost the NHS millions of pounds each year, with around 90 per cent caused by preventable tooth decay. **Poor oral health can lead to school absence, pain and long-term health consequences, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Adults with gum disease are twice as likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke.** Spot questionnaires completed by paediatric dental patients show that four per cent do not brush their teeth at all, and 11 per cent do not own their own toothbrush.



## Breast Unit

RUHX is no stranger to funding vital equipment for the Breast Unit, including two new ultrasound machines and a previous extension to the unit. More recently, we have funded the potential publication of a research paper titled 'Implementation and Impact of Mainstream Genetic Testing within a High-Volume UK Breast Unit for Pathogenic Variations Associated with Breast Cancer Using the R208 and R444.1 National Test Directory Criterion'.

The paper, authored by RUH Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon Nicola Laurence, has been submitted for potential peer review publication in The Breast Journal.

*"It is estimated that only 5–10 per cent of all patients who are diagnosed with breast cancer have an alteration in their DNA which has given them a predisposition to develop breast cancer. These alterations will have been passed down by a parent. It may be helpful for this 5–10 per cent of patients to be aware of this abnormality as they may choose to have all breast tissue removed to not only treat the breast cancer they present with but also to reduce the risk of developing another breast cancer in the future. Furthermore, patients may also benefit from a drug treatment for breast cancer which will only work in patients with a certain DNA alteration.*

*Testing all patients with a new diagnosis would be costly. Therefore, a set of criteria were developed by NHS genomics to try to pick out the majority of patients with a DNA variation. These criteria include patient factors including age and family history and tumour factors such as sensitivity to oestrogen. Checking eligibility is time consuming, however, we felt that if patients are eligible, we should put together a pathway to ensure none of these patients were missed. We believe that we are one of the few hospitals to have put together a robust pathway. As such, we wanted to test the expectation that 10 per cent of patients tested, would be shown to have a pathogenic variation, which was the case."*

*Knowing that we have a robust system, we can be confident that patients at the RUH are offered testing if they are eligible and choose testing. This has an impact on their treatments and potentially on their relatives. We wanted to publish this to give other units the confidence to set up a similar pathway.*

**Nicola Laurence,**  
Consultant Oncoplastic  
Breast Surgeon



# Progress Report

It's been such a busy few months at the RUH that we have another two more important updates to share with you: the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower and the Mary Ward waiting room refurbishment...

## Room for Improvement

Mary Ward, part of the RUH's maternity services, has recently benefited from a major refurbishment of its staff room, jointly funded by RUHX and the Trust. The work was completed and the space opened in late 2025.

The refurbished room will make an extraordinary difference to the hardworking staff who use it, including midwives, maternity support workers and infant feeding peer support volunteers. **Designed to be both relaxing and sustainable, the space features new furniture, flooring and cupboard storage, alongside the latest solar lighting.** Together, these improvements create a calmer, more welcoming environment, making time spent there more comfortable and relaxing for the hardworking team that work all hours there.

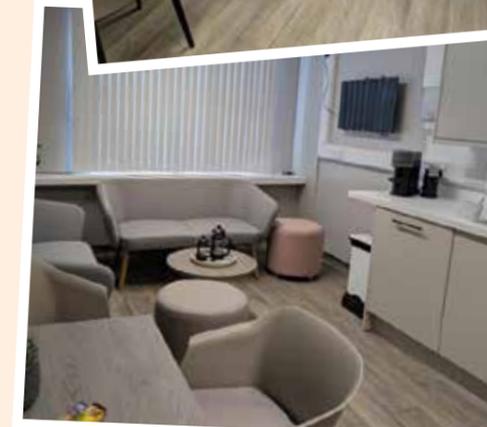
## Time to Shine

In November 2025, RUHX introduced the **Hidden Disabilities Sunflower** at RUH Bath – a voluntary symbol that can be worn by patients, staff or visitors to discreetly indicate a non-visible disability. The initiative helps to foster a culture of inclusivity, acceptance and understanding between patients, staff and visitors.

Many disabilities, conditions and chronic illnesses are not immediately visible. For people living with non-visible conditions, this can make it difficult to be understood or believed when they need support – particularly when others assume that a disability must be something you can see. **By wearing a Sunflower lanyard, wristband or ID card, individuals can quietly signal that they may need extra assistance, understanding or time.**

Sunflower lanyards, wristbands and ID cards are now available free of charge across the RUH for staff, patients, carers and visitors to collect and keep. ☒

The Sunflower is a voluntary symbol that discreetly indicates a non-visible disability, helping others recognise when extra support, time or understanding may be needed.



The Mary Ward staff room refurbishment – looking good!

Jo Baker, Associate Director for Vulnerable People with Laura Davies, from Patient Experience, launching the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower, November 2025



# 20th Anniversary Special!

# A Long Walk

2026 celebrates 20 years of RUHX's beloved Walk of Life. Put your boots on, it's time for a meandering stroll down memory lane...

## Where it all Began

The Walk of Life began in 2006, thanks to sisters, Nicola and Vanessa, who were both determined to raise funds to improve cancer facilities at the RUH.

Vanessa, known to her friends and family as 'Ness', was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2000. She received her treatment from a fantastic team at the RUH, but during this time became aware that the facilities were outdated and in urgent need of improvement. Ness sadly passed away in 2007 after the cancer progressed, but not before she made Nicola promise to continue their shared passion for fundraising.

Nicola, or 'Nic', has kept that promise ever since, leading the Walk of Life every year and helping it grow into RUHX's flagship fundraising event. Along the way, she has found comfort in meeting other walkers who have experienced similar journeys.

While the event is now taking place for the 20th time, it may surprise you to learn that it did not follow the Kennet & Avon Canal until 2008. In its earliest years, the event looked quite different and was known as 'March Miles' and 'May Miles', taking place over a full week on roads across the RUH catchment area. The former GWR Radio team even provided their 'Black Thunder' promotional vehicles, complete with flashing lights, to help keep walkers safe.

When the route moved to the canal, it began as a 21-mile challenge from Devizes Wharf to Bath and did not officially become the Walk of Life until 2011. Since then, the event has continued to evolve with a marathon distance (of 26.2 miles) introduced in 2017. Today, the Walk of Life features three distances, with a brand-new 'Do It At Home' option launching in 2026.

Each year, the Walk of Life has continued to grow thanks to the support of local organisations and businesses, dedicated volunteers and the walkers themselves. When the pandemic prevented the event from going ahead in 2020, participants still stepped out by taking part in My Walk of Life Marathon instead – a virtual, at-home challenge to complete a total of 26.2 miles over the course of September. Talk about dedication to the cause!

# Walk of Life

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## Peter Giles, Volunteer

The Walk of Life wouldn't be possible without the brilliant volunteers who step up in so many ways – cheering on walkers, handing out refreshments and marshalling the route. Many have walked the event themselves and now dedicate their time to making sure the day runs smoothly.

Meet Peter Giles – a dedicated Walk of Life volunteer since 2022, after completing the walk the previous year with his daughter-in-law and two young grandsons. If you've taken part in recent years, you may recognise Peter from the Bishop's Cannings start line, where he serves as a route marshal, or at the Holburne Museum, where he proudly hands out finisher medals. "Most rewarding is seeing the people make it who you thought might not finish – the looks of determination on their faces in those last few yards, and the sense of satisfaction and achievement as they cross the line," Peter told RUHX. "I volunteer so I can contribute to a really well-run event alongside a great bunch of people – staff, volunteers and participants – in such a positive atmosphere."



Peter Giles, Volunteer

## Alan Morley, Walker

Alan Morley had planned to take part in the Walk of Life in 2020, having previously walked in 2018 to say thank you to the RUH for his treatment and care – just 15 months after major surgery and chemotherapy. **When lockdown struck, Alan was determined to continue his fundraising efforts by taking part in the 'My Walk of Life' marathon instead.**

"As I had been walking during lockdown in anticipation of the walk in September, I thought 26.2 miles in a month would be easy, so I decided to walk at least a marathon each week until the end of September. To round it up, I set a target of 300 miles," Alan told RUHX. Brilliantly, Alan surpassed his goal, completing an incredible 352 miles in total and raising more than £1,500!

When asked what he enjoyed most about his challenge, Alan said: "To prove to myself that after extensive abdominal surgery and chemotherapy, I was able to regain a reasonable level of fitness just by walking – and to inspire others who have gone through similar treatment that recovery is possible."



Alan Morley, Walker

## A Walk for Everyone

Ellie and her daughter, Grace, took part in the Walk of Life for the first time in 2025 to give back to the RUH. "The hospital saved my mum's life, brought me into the world and were there for us at the end of my dad's life with compassion and care," Ellie told RUHX. Together, they completed an impressive 16 miles from Bishops Cannings to Bradford on Avon. "We are super proud to have proven that, with a bit of moaning and a lot of snacks, a 12-year-old can walk 16 miles if it's for a great cause – and raising over £1,000 to help a hospital that's helped our family (and continues to do so) felt like a very fair reward."



Ellie and Daughter Grace

## Rapid Relief Team UK, Volunteers

The Walk of Life wouldn't be the same without the generous support of Rapid Relief Team UK, whose volunteers provide an epic lunchtime feast for walkers at Bradford on Avon.

"The Rapid Relief Team is very pleased to have supported RUHX by providing a delicious BBQ burger lunch at every Walk of Life since 2019," Local Team Leader James van As told RUHX. "Our volunteers really enjoy supporting the event because the money it raises helps fund the great work RUHX does to give patients better services and care at the Royal United Hospital in Bath. Providing much-needed lunch and refreshments is the least we can do to help walkers get through the day."



The Rapid Relief Team, Volunteers

## Ruth Ridewood, Walker

Ruth Ridewood has taken part in the Walk of Life for more than 10 years, in loving memory of her husband, Tony. **"My darling husband Tony passed away after a year-long battle with cancer. He was treated at the RUH on the William Budd Ward, and I couldn't praise the staff enough. My sister was also treated for cancer by the same amazing consultant."**

Ruth set up a Tribute Fund in Tony's name and has raised almost £11,000 to date. She says she will continue taking part in the Walk of Life for as long as she is able, to carry on her support. "Taking part in the Walk of Life has given me something to focus on and makes me feel like I am helping others, in the same way my Tony and my sister were helped," Ruth told RUHX.



Ruth Ridewood, Walker



Michael Eavis, gets the 2017 walk started

**Famous Faces**

Many well-known figures have taken part in the Walk of Life. In 2017, Glastonbury Festival founder, long-time RUHX supporter – and official Walk of Life ambassador – Michael Eavis gave 500 walkers a smiling send-off to mark the start of the event. Ali Vowles, the BBC presenter, was in attendance too.

In 2023, Nic was nominated for the BBC's The One Show One Big Thank You and was surprised by Angela Rippon at the Walk of Life finish line. Two legends at once!



Ali Vowles



Angela Rippon



David Hirst

**David Hirst, Walker**

David Hirst dedicated 2025's Walk of Life to all 82-year-olds and dear friends "who didn't make it this far". He was joined along the canal path by his younger daughter, Fiona, and her two dogs. On the dedication sign on his back, he wrote the names of five special friends who are no longer with us – one of whom had been his best man in 1970. "Every time I look at the photos, it brings back very fond memories," David told RUHX. "It was a lovely sunny day, so we often tried to walk in whatever shade we could find. It was a glorious afternoon and I loved every minute of it."

For David, it was a privilege to take part alongside so many keen and like-minded people, and he remembers fondly the sense of joy and friendship shared throughout the day. "Back at the museum at the end, when we walked through the avenue of flags and banners, it was quite superb. I felt honoured," he said.

**New in 2026 Walk of Life – Your Way!**

A brand-new feature for 2026, the Walk of Life – Your Way! gives you the chance to take part whenever it suits you throughout May 2026. Choose a place, route and distance that works for you, gather your friends and family, and join the Walk of Life – your way! Whether it's 5km on 17 May or a mile a day throughout the month, however you choose to take part, you won't be doing it alone. The Walk of Life – Your Way is completely free to enter.

**Walk With Us In 2026**

Since 2006, the Walk of Life has raised more than £875,000, making a real-life impact for patients, families and our extraordinary hospital staff – all thanks to your support. Will you step up in 2026 to help us continue doing more for everyone who needs it?

**Choose your Distance**

- ✦ 26.2 miles / marathon (all day)  
Bishops Cannings to Bath
- ✦ 16 miles (morning only)  
Bishops Cannings to Bradford on Avon
- ✦ 10 miles (afternoon only)  
Bradford on Avon to Bath



*It is a privilege to sponsor this fantastic initiative in support of such an important part of our community here in Bath. Those who live locally know just how vital the RUH Bath is to our city, and our team is no exception, with most of us having experienced its services first-hand. We've supported the Walk of Life for several years now and we're excited to return as a sponsor this year and are looking forward to getting our walking boots muddy on the very pretty canal route.*

**Alistair Heather,**  
Director of Savills Bath



Sign up for the Walk of Life today at [ruhx.org.uk/events](http://ruhx.org.uk/events)

# Meet Our Team

The **RUHX Development Team** builds meaningful partnerships and inspires generosity among our supporters to fund extraordinary projects, support patients and staff and drive positive change across the hospital and wider community. They're here for you, so let's say hello...



## Kirsten Busby **Trusts Manager**

I work with trusts and foundations to unlock funding that enables extraordinary projects across the RUH and in our wider community. In 2026, I hope we can create meaningful, positive change for people receiving care at our hospital, while celebrating our incredible RUH staff along the way.

**Fun Fact:** At 15, I made my TV debut as an extra on Casualty!

**Contact:** 07353 109824 [kirsten.busby@nhs.net](mailto:kirsten.busby@nhs.net)



## Sam Coyne **Philanthropy Manager**

As Philanthropy Manager, I inspire others to make a difference by connecting generous individuals and community-minded businesses with impactful projects at the RUH. In 2026, I'm excited to drive our PET-CT campaign forward to help keep us at the forefront of cancer care, working alongside our incredible supporters to build a happier, healthier community.

**Fun Fact:** In 2025, I made the leap across the pond from the U.S. to the UK – a whirlwind of firsts that included my first mince pie at Christmas and learning to drive on the “wrong” side of the road.

**Contact:** 01225 826034 [sam.coyne1@nhs.net](mailto:sam.coyne1@nhs.net)



## Jan Witt **Head of Development**

I'm proud to lead our talented and dedicated Development Team as we work to secure sustainable income and embed a true culture of philanthropy. My focus is on ensuring that everything we do is aligned with the charity's strategy, so we can deliver our mission with purpose and move steadily towards our vision for the future. I am genuinely inspired by the relationships we build—both with our generous donors and with our incredible colleagues across the organisation and in our community. I want every supporter and staff members to feel deeply invested in our projects and outcomes, and to feel proud to be associated with RUHX.

**Fun Fact:** I journeyed into the Amazon and shared life with a tribal community

**Contact:** 01225 825819 [jan.witt@nhs.net](mailto:jan.witt@nhs.net)



## Charlotte Foott **Legacy & Tribute Projects Coordinator**

I support families who wish to fundraise in tribute to loved ones who have passed away, while also raising awareness of Gifts in Wills and how they support the RUH. This year, I hope to increase awareness of the many ways people can support their local hospital and help bring new and innovative change to those receiving care at the RUH.

**Fun Fact:** I once did work experience for a fashion company and got to walk down the London Fashion Week catwalk – unfortunately, not as a model!

**Contact:** 01225 825900 [charlotte.foott@nhs.net](mailto:charlotte.foott@nhs.net)

# What's New?

Thanks to our incredible supporters, two important impacts have recently been made at the RUH. It's news too good not to share...

## **RUHX Secures £40,000 GBECF Funding for Solar Feasibility Project**

RUHX, in partnership with the Royal United Hospitals Bath (RUH) and Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE), is thrilled to announce a £40,000 investment funded by Great British Energy and supported by the Southwest Net Zero Hub, to kickstart an ambitious solar feasibility study. This project will explore installing community-owned solar panels across multiple RUH rooftops, paving the way for a greener, healthier future for Bath.

**The initiative targets significant impact: reducing hospital energy costs, cutting carbon emissions and reinvesting profits into tackling fuel poverty.** Jack Roberts, RUH's Energy Manager says, “With potential to generate up to 360,000 kWh annually, this project supports RUH's Net Zero by 2030 pledge while freeing resources for frontline patient care.”

We extend heartfelt thanks to Great British Energy and Southwest Net Zero Hub for their support. Together, we're driving innovation that benefits both our hospital and the wider community for decades to come.



RUHX's Great British Energy Partnership has empowered an ambitious solar feasibility study.



Paediatric Ophthalmologist Selina Tomlinson examining a young boy diagnosed with Coates disease, who required retinal laser treatment to help save his vision

## **Head-Mounted Binocular Indirect Ophthalmoscope**

For patients who are unable to sit still – including children, people with additional needs such as autism, and wheelchair users – it is essential that the Ophthalmology Department can provide an equivalent standard of care when examining eyes. **RUHX has invested in a new ophthalmoscope to support the diagnosis and ongoing monitoring of eye disease, helping to ensure all patients receive the care they need.**

Eye examinations can be particularly stressful for parents of babies and young children with visual problems, and this equipment helps to reduce that stress by enabling quicker, more effective assessments. All consultants, doctors and optometrists within the Eye Department have access to the ophthalmoscope, which is used multiple times each day across a wide range of patients, with clear benefits already being seen.

A head-mounted binocular indirect ophthalmoscope is a specialist piece of eye-examination equipment worn by clinicians to examine the back of the eye (the retina). It provides a bright, magnified, three-dimensional view, helping doctors detect and diagnose eye conditions quickly and accurately.

The headset is stored in the consultants' clinical room with a wall-mounted charging unit, ensuring it is accessible, fully charged and ready to use at all times – a great example of extraordinary care in action. ✂



All monies go direct to our PET-CT Scanner campaign

# As Good as Gold

**A huge thank you to the team behind loyal RUH supporters, the Rodney Cook Memorial Rally (RCMR), who have once again turned their love of metal detecting into something extraordinary – recently donating more than £40,000 to support RUHX’s campaign to bring a state-of-the-art PET-CT scanner to the Royal United Hospital Bath.**

Founded in 2018 by Gary Cook, the Rodney Cook Memorial Rally honours the memory of his father, Rodney Cook. Rodney sadly passed away at Royal United Hospital Bath in 2017 following his battle with cancer. Driven by a heartfelt commitment to supporting cancer services, Gary ensures that proceeds from ticket sales, raffles and other event activities help patients cared for at the RUH, while also supporting other local causes.

**The rally has since grown into the largest metal-detecting event in Europe, attracting enthusiasts from around the world. In 2025, the volunteer team did things slightly differently, organising not one but three ‘no-frills’ weekends in Wiltshire over the autumn.**

Since it began, the rally has raised an incredible £280,000 for patients, families and staff at the RUH Bath. Its continued support for cancer services helped make the Dyson Cancer Centre a reality in 2024 and will now help bring a new state-of-the-art PET-CT scanner to the hospital. Thank you to Gary, and everyone who participated in 2025’s events! 📷



Rodney Cook Memorial Rally 2025



“Gary and the RCMR team are living proof that when ordinary, hard-working people come together, they can achieve extraordinary things. Their dedication is inspiring, and their determination to help others shines through in the fantastic events they organise. We are incredibly grateful to the RCMR team, their volunteer marshals, the landowners who make it all possible, and the passionate community of detectorists who travel far and wide to support so generously.”

Laura Snell, Events & Community Manager, RUHX

A PET-CT scanner combines two imaging techniques to show both the structure and activity of the body, helping doctors detect disease earlier and plan treatment more accurately. To donate to the PET-CT campaign, please scan the code



# Lights, Camera Action

2026 starts in style with the launch of RUHX’s PET-CT Scanner fundraising video...

Our £4 million PET-CT Scanner Campaign made a strong start when it launched in summer 2025, but there is still a long way to go. That’s why, to kick off fundraising in 2026, RUHX released a new campaign video, which was shared online this February and will be shown on waiting-room screens across the hospital.

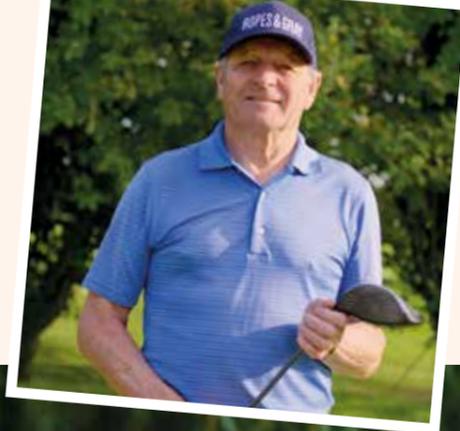
The video is centred on the theme of giving back the gift of time. It highlights how rapid, accurate diagnosis and treatment planning – made possible through PET-CT scanning – helps doctors deliver the best care for their patients. In many cases, this leads to improved outcomes that give people more time back with family and friends, and the chance to return to the hobbies and activities they love.

**The video offers a powerful, human perspective on what investing in a new PET-CT scanner could mean for patients from our local community, including those undergoing scans as part of cancer, dementia, rheumatology and cardiovascular treatment at the RUH.**

The film features Dr Sheila Jen, who regularly uses PET-CT scans to guide patient treatment, alongside four patients – Sue, Alan, Philip and John – all of whom have recently undergone PET-CT scanning as part of their care. Each shares how treatment at the RUH is helping them get back to enjoying life.

Philip, who appears in the film pursuing his passion for wildlife photography following ongoing myeloma treatment guided by PET-CT scan insights, shared why supporting the campaign was important to him:

“I’ve benefited from more than one PET-CT scan during over ten years of treatment for myeloma, which is a type of blood cancer – including my most recent scan, which was such a relaxing experience that I almost fell asleep. Thankfully, it showed no further progression of the disease in my bones, giving me the reassurance to get on with enjoying life to the full. I was only too happy to help when asked to feature in the video. I’ve seen first-hand how insights from PET-CT scans can help inform and direct cancer treatment.” 📷



Top and Middle right: RUHX on location and filming with patients

This Photo: Philip, who features in the film

Bottom right: Alan, who features in the film

A PET-CT scanner is more than just a machine. It represents hope, earlier diagnosis, and the chance for thousands of patients to receive faster, more accurate treatment when time matters most. To donate to the PET-CT campaign, please visit [ruhx.org.uk](http://ruhx.org.uk)

Want to see our film? Scan the code and go!



# Events and Volunteering

Clear your diary – these are the must-see (and must-do!) events of the year. Don't miss out... sign up today!

## Glow Run, 2026

The Glow Run returns on 16 October for a night of glow-in-the-dark fun! With a colourfully lit course at Odd Down Sports Ground, Bath, this is a fun run with a difference. Get sponsored in style by wearing your brightest neon outfits and help us light up the night for RUH Bath. The Glow Run is suitable for the whole family, from beginners to seasoned park runners alike. Sign up now at [ruhx.org.uk/events](http://ruhx.org.uk/events) and join RUHX for an unforgettable night of colour, energy and community spirit!

## Bath Half Marathon, 2027

Team RUHX is once again pulling on their running vests to turn the streets of Bath blue. Will you join them and go the extra mile for RUH Bath?

The Bath Half Marathon is a sell-out event, with a limited number of charity places available for RUHX – so sign up TODAY. When you do, you'll be joining a brilliant team of more than 100 runners, with training and fundraising support provided, plus a WhatsApp community to help keep you motivated in the lead-up to race day.

Since 2000, almost £1 million has been raised for RUHX through the Bath Half. With your help, we can continue to make our care extra extraordinary for every patient at RUH Bath. Get your entry now at [ruhx.org.uk/events](http://ruhx.org.uk/events)

## Events Calendar

### Throughout May 2026

Walk of Life Virtual Event

### May 23, 2026

Walk of Life 20th Anniversary Event

### October 16, 2026

Glow Run

### March 23, 2027

Bath Half Marathon

To see our full events calendar, visit [ruhx.org.co.uk/events](http://ruhx.org.co.uk/events)

Don't forget – you can also join an RUHX Fundraising Group in Bath, Warminster, Melksham or Keynsham too! Learn more: [ruhx.org.uk](http://ruhx.org.uk)

## We Need Volunteers Like YOU!

Could you spare some time to support RUHX? If so, why not volunteer at one of our events, join a fundraising group, or help out at the H.U.G.S. Charity Shop in Bath? Volunteering is an exciting way to learn new skills, meet new people and make a real difference. To find out more and chat to our team, please email [fundraising@ruhx.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ruhx.org.uk)



RUHX Bath Half runners – on the run!



Glow Run



Bath Half volunteers



Warminster & District Fundraising Group



Walk of Life volunteering

## Volunteering Opportunities

- ✦ Walk of Life 20th Anniversary Event: May 23, 2026
- ✦ Glow Run: Oct 16 2026
- ✦ H.U.G.S Charity Shop, Chelsea Road, Bath: all year round

# RUHX Superheroes!

Let's spring to action with this season's amazing RUHX superheroes. An extra extraordinary thank you to you all!

### Joyce Fletcher Charitable Trust

A huge thank you to the Joyce Fletcher Charitable Trust for their generous ongoing support of Soundbite – the RUH's live music programme that brings joy and comfort to patients, families and staff. **Soundbite transforms hospital spaces with uplifting concerts in the Atrium and the Dyson Cancer Centre. This latest donation will fund monthly lunchtime performances throughout all of 2026.** When asked what motivated their support, trustee Andrew told us: "In my early retirement days, I volunteered on an annual residential music course for young adults with what we now call SEND, particularly those with physical difficulties. I was very impressed by the abilities of the young performers and how deeply they lived through their music." Thanks to the Joyce Fletcher Charitable Trust, more than 2,500 people will experience live music at the RUH next year. Thank you!

To find out more about how you can support our creative arts programme at the RUH, visit RUHX at [www.ruhx.org.uk](http://www.ruhx.org.uk) or email us at [development-team@ruhx.org.uk](mailto:development-team@ruhx.org.uk)



Local music students perform in the RUH Bath Atrium

### All of Santa's Children's Ward 'Little Elves'!

This month's second Superheroes are quite literally almost half of Bath and beyond – or at least it felt that way as our incredible community donated thousands of gifts for the Children's Ward throughout December, transforming it into a festive Santa's grotto at Royal United Hospital Bath. **More than 150 gifts arrived thanks to an innovative new Amazon Wishlist, which allowed donations to be delivered directly to the hospital and enabled the Children's Play Specialists to specify what was needed for children of different ages and genders.** Beyond that, hundreds more gifts were donated through toy drops organised by generous companies, families and individuals – enough to support young patients throughout 2026 across the main Children's Ward, Children's Emergency Department and other areas.

There were plenty of memorable moments along the way, from presents arriving in police cars (and evidence bags!) to gifts being handed out by Bath Rugby players and panto characters from the Theatre Royal Bath.

The list of donors was almost endless, with gyms, builders, schools, hotels, shops, mortgage brokers and patient families all getting involved.

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated, visited and supported this incredible effort – from RUHX, and from everyone who cares for our young patients at RUH Bath. ✨



The RUHX Team surrounded by donated children's gifts

### Vasanta Subramanian

Meet Vasanta Subramanian, one of our fantastic supporters, who raised an incredible £3,140 for our PET-CT Appeal and cancer services. Making sure there was something to tempt everyone, Vasanta organised a cake, plant and preserve sale at the University of Bath Life Sciences Department, where she is an Associate Professor. **The sale quickly became a true community event, with colleagues, neighbours and family – from as far away as India, Australia and the US – all playing their part in making it such a resounding success.** Vasanta, you truly deserve your place as one of this edition's RUHX superheroes. By bringing people together and raising such a fantastic amount for an incredibly important area of our work, you've shown just how extraordinary our supporters can be. Thank you!

“What was particularly heartening was the number of undergraduates who came to support my efforts.”

If you know a superhero who deserves to be in next season's edition of RUHX Extra, let us know at: [fundraising@ruhx.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@ruhx.org.uk)



Vasanta's super-successful bake sale at Bath University

# Please give a gift today

## Your details

Full name

Address

Postcode

Telephone No.

Email

We do not sell personal data to any third parties. Your personal details are held on our internal database, which allows us to contact you about the work of RUHX. If you are happy for us to send you information please tick how we may contact you.

By post  By email  By telephone

## I would like my gift to go even further:

For every £1 you give we can claim an additional 25p of tax at no extra cost to you.

*giftaid it*

YES, I am a UK Tax payer and would like RUHX to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made for the past 4 years as well as any future donations until I notify them otherwise. (Please tick).

I understand that if I pay less income tax and/or Capital Gains tax in a tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all of my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

## Gifts in Wills

I would like to hear more about leaving a gift in my Will, please update me.

## Your method of payment

I enclose a cheque / postal order / charity voucher made payable to RUH Charitable Fund

To the value of £

OR please debit my Visa / Mastercard / Maestro / Delta Card for the above amount (Delete cards as appropriate)

Card No.

Start date  /  Expiry date  /

3 Digit security code

Issue No. (if applicable)

## Your donation

RUHX supports many extraordinary projects around the RUH where our donations are used. If you have a specific purpose for your donation please let us know in the box below.

To enable us to claim Gift Aid on your donation, please ensure you have completed your name and address details above.

### Please return form to:

RUHX, Royal United Hospital, Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG

Signed

Date

/

## Other easy ways to give

 Call our friendly team on 01225 825691



Complete and return the donation for to us.



Scan the QR code or visit:  
[ruhx.org.uk/spring26](http://ruhx.org.uk/spring26)