



Throughout July, Barnsley Hospital joined in national celebrations for the NHS 75th birthday. Our hard-working staff made time to have some fun on the big day (July 5) – with a special birthday cake, a cold water ‘dunk tank’ fundraiser for the hospital charity, party food and games, and a ‘lighting-up blue’ of the hospital. We also had joint events with partners in our community such as Barnsley College. Here’s a sample of our photos!

A special message from Chief Executive Dr Richard Jenkins



Happy 75th to the NHS

Welcome to this special edition of Barnsley Hospital News, marking 75 years of the NHS.

Throughout these pages you’ll find stories and photos about our NHS birthday celebrations. It’s the perfect opportunity to reflect on the lasting impact the NHS has had on the lives of so many.

I’ve worked in the NHS (if I count medical school) for 38 years, or almost exactly half of the NHS’s existence. Whilst we hear a lot about what needs to be improved in the NHS, that needs to be balanced with the amazing achievements we’ve seen over the last few decades and the remarkable ‘routine’ care that happens day-in day-out with little fanfare.

Just one small example: when I started work as a junior doctor, a patient with a stroke was not seen as an emergency because there was little that could be done immediately to improve their outcome, but now this would be treated as a medical emergency with an immediate head scan and likely admission to a regional Hyperacute Stroke Unit for clot-busting treatment. We shouldn’t forget these dramatic transformations in care.

The NHS has certainly faced challenges over the years and continues its ongoing recovery following the pandemic. Through it all, our staff have demonstrated resilience and commitment. Some of them in Barnsley have put in incredibly long service – we know of at least two staff who have worked here 50 years!

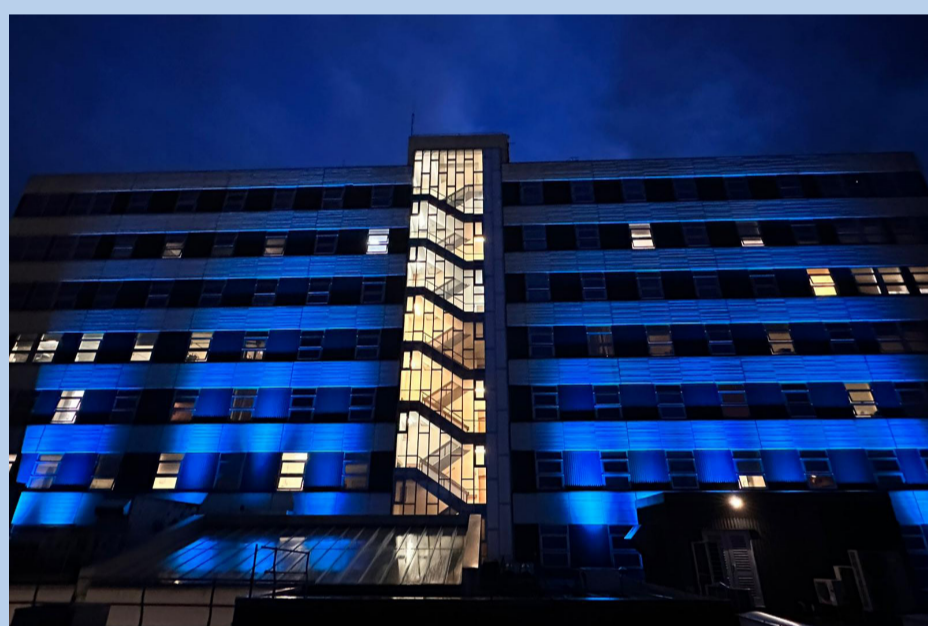
Others have won national accolades. For example, two of our midwives recently won a national award from the Royal College of Midwives for improving support for women with mental health issues in pregnancy. *See Page 2*

We have generations of Barnsley families who have worked in the huge range of NHS careers. Some remember when the hospital opened in the 1970s. Yet several of the Trust’s proudest achievements are recent, including the new £7.3m Intensive Care Unit, the children’s Emergency Department and the new Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) in The Glass Works. This year the CDC also won ‘Project of the Year’ at the Healthcare Estates and Facilities Management Awards (HEFMA).

We marked all these achievements and more with events for the 75th birthday. Among them was a celebratory tea at Barnsley College – bringing together inspirational staff and volunteers.

Whether the NHS has helped you deliver your baby, patched you up after a fall, held your hand as you received difficult news, or kept you smiling during tough treatments, it has undoubtedly touched us all. We hope you join us in saying a very big ‘Happy 75th birthday, NHS!’

Happy birthday to us!



Providing the best possible care for Barnsley and beyond

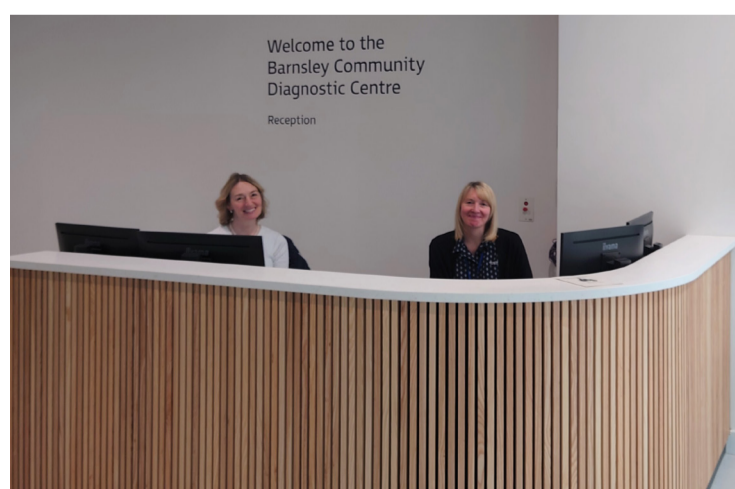
Barnsley Hospital has invested millions of pounds in facilities in recent years to ensure it is best equipped to provide healthcare for our communities.

Notable projects include the Children’s Emergency Department and Assessment Unit (EDCAU), a community-centred Antenatal/Postnatal unit, Barnsley’s ground-breaking Community Diagnostic Centre, and the fantastic new Intensive Care Unit.

The NHS is always seeking different ways to work and learn so staff can spend more time with patients and harness innovation. Barnsley Hospital is making strides forward in all these

areas and some recent national recognition is testament to this. The Community Diagnostic Centre won a design award this year and the Barnsley Place Based Partnership has also recently been published. This is a two-year plan on how we will improve health and care for people living in Barnsley.

Barnsley Hospital has also been shortlisted for the finals of the Health Service Journal Patient Safety Award and the Nursing Times Award for transformative work in children’s services. With the support of the people of Barnsley, the hospital continues to lead in innovative healthcare solutions.



Left: Barnsley Community Diagnostic Centre in The Glass Works.



Below: The new Children’s Emergency Department and Assessment Unit.

From the Chair

Hello and welcome to this special NHS birthday edition of Barnsley Hospital News.

Any 75th birthday is a milestone, and for an organisation to reach this landmark is a remarkable achievement. This is especially so for one as large and complex as the NHS.

In these pages we look at some of the personal stories and memories over the years of our own NHS here in Barnsley.

The hospital has been an anchor through thick and thin for our community and for individual families; we have had many instances of family members

working alongside each other in our departments.

I was lucky enough to be part of the NHS birthday celebrations and attended a cake-cutting and celebration day at the hospital on July 5. We were proud to say thank you to staff for their incredibly hard work.

I also attended a celebration tea with one of our many supportive partners in the community – Barnsley College.

At the event, I heard some amazing stories about the dedication of staff and volunteers. Even when they themselves faced adversity, they continued to give their all for

the NHS.

Their record for long service is also awe-inspiring; just look at the story of our volunteer Phil Hall on Page 3.

Many of our people continue to speak fondly of the NHS long after they have retired – and some of them come back for more!

We also regularly receive heartfelt messages of thanks and support from patients.

These often come in the shape of poignant stories about the most difficult times in their lives.

They give thanks not only to our doctors, nurses, midwives and therapists but also to those working

across dozens of other departments – from porters and stores to ward clerks, reception, medical education and domestics.

While reading through nominations for the college birthday tea, I was moved by the public praise across such a huge range of workers. Words like ‘human dynamo,’ ‘inspirational,’ ‘unstoppable’ and ‘legend’ were sprinkled across the pages.

It goes to show our NHS people are really our strength. Their kindness, generosity and sheer hard work are at the heart of our service. Long may they continue – and here’s to the next 75 years!



Hospital Chair Sheena McDonnell

An incredible fundraising force

Margaret Broadhead is an absolute gem, and Barnsley Hospital Charity cannot express its gratitude enough for the immense support she provides as a volunteer.

Margaret set her own fundraising target for volunteer stalls, and astonishingly, surpassed it for the hospital charity ‘Make A Memory Appeal,’ for patients with dementia. Week after week, Margaret tirelessly runs stalls and selflessly volunteers at various events.

Her dedication knows no bounds.

Her commitment is so strong that even during a recent short stay in the hospital, she was still determined to fundraise from her own bed.

She is a force to be reckoned with and serves as an inspiration to all at the charity.

Charity Development Manager Jane Mills said:

“Margaret’s unwavering passion and determination motivate the charity to keep pushing forward, striving to make a real difference for patients and staff.

“We are incredibly fortunate to have her as part of our team of volunteers.

“Thank you to her for being an outstanding advocate for our cause and for showing us the true meaning of selflessness.”

Pictured right: Margaret Broadhead with fellow volunteer David Armitage.



Dr Reddy, right, receives a Brilliant award from Barnsley Hospital’s Chief Executive Dr Richard Jenkins.

Doctor goes beyond the call of duty

Dr Bharath Reddy, a consultant in Barnsley Hospital’s Emergency Department, is a shining example of care and compassion.

He has left an indelible mark on the hearts of his patients. With a knack for explaining complex medical information in a relatable manner and a genuine concern for their well-being, he has garnered nothing but admiration.

The hospital community holds him in high esteem, recognising his invaluable contribution.

Patient feedback from the hospital’s ‘Publicly Brilliant’ awards talks about Dr Reddy’s ability to create an environment of comfort and dignity during the most precious moments of their lives. Going beyond the call of duty, Dr Reddy has touched lives in ways that words cannot fully capture. His exceptional care has forever earned the gratitude of those he has served.



Barnsley Hospital Lead Governor Graham Worsdale wishes a happy 75th birthday to the NHS. He said: “We want to acknowledge the superb work done by all our staff in all roles within the hospital. Thank you!”

Midwife duo ‘a voice for women’

Yasmeen Akhtar has undertaken some fantastic work to improve support for women with mental health issues in pregnancy.

She is part of a midwife duo from Barnsley who won a national award from the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) in recognition of this.

Gill Walton, Chief Executive of the RCM, said: “Too often because of staffing and resource issues women do not get the support they need with their mental health in pregnancy. Yasmeen and her

colleague Melissa stepped in to ensure that women in their area do get that support, and their project is a beacon of excellence for maternity services across the country to emulate. It puts women, their voices, and their needs right at the heart of what they do and how they design their services.

“A wonderful initiative and a great example of what committed midwives and supportive services can do for women. This award could not have found a better and more deserving home.”



Mental health midwives Melissa Addy (left) and Yasmeen Akhtar.

Why Val’s proud to be NHS ‘lifer’

Val Waller who lives in Darfield is celebrating an incredible 50 years’ working for the NHS. We talked to her about her half century of service.

Back in 1972, a pint of milk was just 6p and a gallon of petrol was 34p, and everyone was listening to Slade and Donny Osmond.

That’s when Val started work at the NHS in Barnsley aged just 17. She said: “My mum worked at the old Beckett’s Hospital on Church Lane in the town centre and said there was a job going. I applied and was unsuccessful, but then got a letter saying the lady who had got the job had backed out so I got in by default!”

Val was first a secretary in the Beckett’s laboratories: “I was greeting patients and booking them into appointments. They came in for blood tests and I had to write their details in a ‘day book’. I did typing and shorthand for the consultant haematologist. I was earning £6 a week!

“I worked on my own in an office at the top of Beckett’s that was really spooky. It had a big cupboard full of medical specimens in jars – this was way before the Human Tissue Act which governs how human organs and tissues are stored. I also went into the hospital mortuary which was a bit of a shock as I was only 17. But I’d always wanted to be a nurse so I liked the medical part of the job.”

In 1977, Val moved up to the ‘new’ hospital on Gawber Road where it still stands today.

“It was a brand-new hospital and Pathology was the first department to open. I worked on my own but kept in touch with my friends from Beckett’s. They turned out to be NHS ‘lifers’ too.”

Val has made lifelong friends in the NHS over the years. She gets invited to lunch by consultants and is no longer worried about visiting the mortuary as the manager is a friend.

“I suppose not many people visit a

mortuary for a chat but it works. After coming through Covid it makes you grateful for what you have. Covid was the pits, the worst point of my career.” She says the main changes in the NHS over the years are computerisation and workplace changes like hot-desking.

Val is now a Laboratory Medicine Medical Secretary and Clerical Supervisor. A mum-of-two and grandma to two boys, Val was approaching her 68th birthday when we spoke to her and says she still has a lot to give work-wise. She was nominated for a hospital Heart Award and has also completed a bereavement counselling course.

Wearing her NHS 50 years’ service badge, she said: “I’m quite proud of myself really. I think there must be a magnet that keeps me rooted to the NHS! Giving service to the public is my motivation to keep coming to work. And I get a lot of job satisfaction out of completing my projects. I feel privileged and honoured to have done my job.”



Fifty years’ service: Val Waller

Phil's 50 years' service

Barnsley Hospital's longest-standing volunteer Phil Hall is coming up to an incredible milestone – 50 years of voluntary service to the NHS.

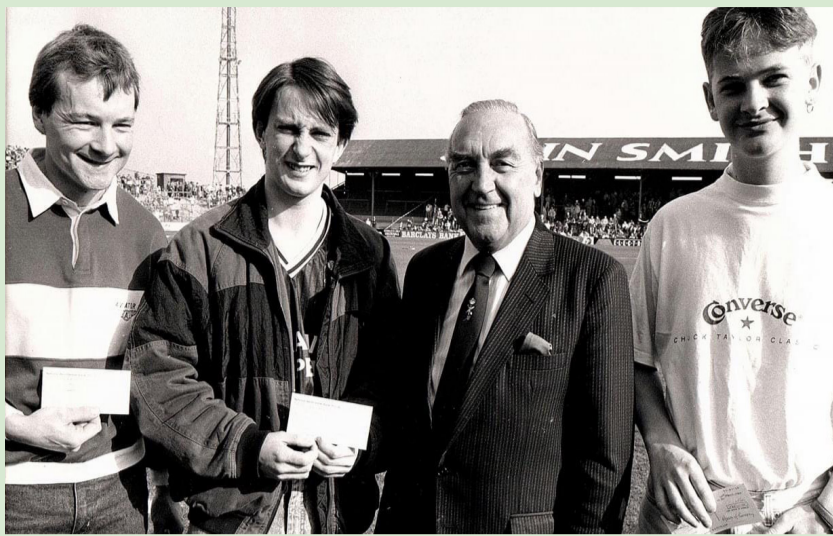
Phil's 50-year anniversary is on August 1 and follows the NHS 75th birthday on July 5. He has volunteered in all kinds of capacities across the hospital, from 'meet and greet,' as an Enhanced Volunteer in the Emergency Department and also for the Barnsley Football Club live commentary for patients.

Phil, 66, who lives in Wombwell, is a trusted member of the volunteer community and often mentors other new volunteers, coaching them through the role. He has a wide breadth of knowledge about the hospital and enjoys passing on his skills and tips to newer volunteers.

Becoming a volunteer

started for Phil all those years ago when his family moved to Barnsley from Nottinghamshire. He was 11: "I was going to Barnsley matches with my dad who had a friend who was involved in local football commentary. I had a go at commentating when I was 16 and I've been doing it ever since. The service does live commentary for every home game to the Hospital and the Hospice, and I also organise the equipment set up and the administration."

Phil, who worked as a technical manager at Redfearn Glass and also as a football reporter for Hallam FM and Real Radio Yorkshire, has a certificate from the Hospital Broadcasting Association acknowledging his 50 years' service. He said: "When I retired nearly three years ago, I wanted to do more than just the football



commentary, so I offered to volunteer in the Emergency Department (ED). I thought I should put something back as I've had several visits to ED over the years myself.

"I do anything and everything in ED that needs doing. I tidy up as patients come in and out and make sure aprons and gloves are topped up. I'll also make tea and coffee for people to help put them at ease."

Phil's wife Julie now also

volunteers in the hospital's 'meet and greet' service.

He added: "It doesn't feel like 50 years, and I have made some good friends among the volunteers."

Phil, who has a son Chris 41, daughter Jen 37, and three grandchildren, is also a hospital governor and won 'Volunteer of the Year' in the hospital's last Heart Awards for staff.

Jane Mills, Barnsley Hospital Charity Development Manager, said Phil had been

Pictured right: Phil Hall in the hospital wellbeing garden.

Left: Phil Hall at Barnsley Football Club 1985.



invited to an afternoon tea at Barnsley College for 50 of the hospital's inspirational staff and volunteers, as part of the NHS75 celebrations.

She said: "Phil's efforts are extraordinary. He is celebrating 50 years of volunteering with Barnsley Hospital, covering two thirds of the NHS's lifetime. He has volunteered in a range of roles since his teenage years including football commentary for patients, volunteering in the

Emergency Department, and holding his place as a Trust Governor. He is the perfect example of commitment and dedication to our wonderful National Health Service and a staple of Barnsley Hospital's character. Phil is known to be extremely kind and always willing to help out anyone and everyone where he can. Other volunteers describe him as 'kind and warm-hearted'.

Midwife calls up memories

Retired nurse and midwife Anne Smith served for 37 years at Barnsley Hospital and has many happy memories over that time.

Anne, who is 58 and lives near the hospital in Gawber, said: "There are so many things I could share but one in particular is that we entered the mayor's parade as a maternity unit in June 2014 and won! We were wanting to celebrate the opening of our new Barnsley Birthing Centre plus this was the year the Tour de France began in Yorkshire.

"We called our celebration 'Le Tour Midwife' and marked midwifery through the ages dressing up in old-style uniforms through to the uniforms of today. We sang and danced through the streets, we had an old-style pram and a midwife on an old bike with a basket and had a wonderful time promoting and celebrating our lovely brand-new unit. It was very much a joint Barnsley Birthing Centre venture.

"We also had a great time as a unit on another occasion – celebrating 70 years of the NHS."



Left: Midwife Jill Wyke on 'Le Tour Midwife' in 2014.

Above: Anne Smith and colleagues win Barnsley Mayor's Parade in 2014.

Below: Anne Smith second from right on NHS 70th birthday Mayor's visit to hospital. Hospital Chief Executive Officer Dr Richard Jenkins is second from left.



A group of staff from when the nurse teaching block was opened in Barnsley, around 1969. From left to right: Gill Partington (then Ineson); Miss Peel, matron at St Helen's Hospital; Charlie Bates, catering officer at St Helen's Hospital; Dr Ramaswami, consultant geriatrician; Frank Brown, group catering officer, and Eric Morley, hospital engineer.

Proud first for dietitian

Gill Partington was the first dietitian ever appointed in Barnsley. She took up her post in May 1968, working until December 1970, when there were eight hospitals in and around the town.

She earned the princely sum of £760 a year – a salary increase from her previous job in Huddersfield Infirmary. Gill said: "I was one of the first occupants of the houses and flats built at the junction of Summer Lane and Pogmoor Road where the staff car park is now. When I was employed, there were only about six staff who had cars, so no parking

issues then!"

Gill was appointed in her dietitian role after an interview in Moorland Court on Gawber Road. She was based at St Helen's Hospital – the site of what is now Barnsley Hospital. Gill said there was back then 'a degree of scepticism' from nursing and some medical staff who had always managed without a dietitian 'interfering' in anything to do with food and diets.

"It was essential to link in with staff at all the hospitals including catering, nursing and medical, and the role was very much about

informing them about what could be offered differently and trying to introduce change to long established routines and beliefs. It was a challenging but enjoyable role and I was part of the team developing ideas for the 'new hospital'.

"The coronary care unit was opened during my time there and the 'coronary care ambulance' was introduced by Dr Gerald Sandler. This was dedicated to treating cardiac patients at home before admission to hospital – an innovation of which Barnsley should be proud in the early 1970s."



Hospital volunteer Allie Hunton.

Brave Allie is a beacon of kindness

In a world where kindness often feels like a scarce commodity, Allie Hunton stands out as a beacon of selflessness and compassion.

As a hospital volunteer, charity advocate, and dedicated supporter of a retired greyhound charity, Allie's benevolent spirit knows no bounds.

Even in the face of personal adversity, Allie's commitment to making a positive impact remains unshaken. In 2021, she received the devastating news of a breast cancer diagnosis. However, this did not deter her from continuing her invaluable work as a volunteer and staunch

supporter of the hospital.

Undeterred by her own health challenges, Allie took immediate action and initiated her own fundraising campaign. She decided to have her hair cut, with the length symbolizing the fur of a greyhound, and dyed it electric blue to align with the colours of the hospital charity's 'Make a Memory' fundraising appeal. The proceeds were directed to the appeal along with the Greyhound Trust in Sheffield, both causes very close to Allie's heart.

During the peak of the pandemic, Allie also volunteered her time,

tirelessly working to distribute over £100,000 worth of donations to the hospital to sick patients in the trust.

Allie embodies the spirit of selflessness and compassion that serves as an inspiration to us all.

Her story reminds us that a single person, armed with kindness and determination, can make a profound difference in the lives of others.

Allie's unwavering commitment to volunteering and her indomitable spirit in the face of adversity make her a true hospital hero.

NHS apprenticeships open doors

The NHS offers some 350 careers as well as opportunities for staff to do further training while they work. Here, **Undergraduate Officer (Medical Education) Madelaine Lingard** explains how an NHS apprenticeship boosted her career.

Why did you choose an apprenticeship – and why in the NHS?

I decided on an apprenticeship as I was hesitant about going to university. I saw it as an opportunity to incorporate learning whilst working. I have always seen the NHS as something we are lucky to have so thought working as part of it is a way to give back.

What was your main concern?

My biggest fear was not being able to balance work and my NVQ but with help from my amazing team, they

made sure I was fully supported. They gave me the best support possible in balancing workload and college work which helped me get through both my level 2 and 3 swiftly.

What was your biggest surprise?

How much this qualification has helped me secure a permanent job within the NHS! From starting as an apprentice a few years ago, I never imagined I would be the Undergraduate Officer within Medical Education at Barnsley. It has opened

so many doors for me and I now know so much about what Medical Education is and how much it supports our doctors of all levels, including students studying medicine at university. It's so interesting to see how everything works behind the scenes of the NHS – something I would've never known about if it wasn't for taking up this apprenticeship.

How have your thoughts changed as you have developed in your post?

I didn't realise the opportunities

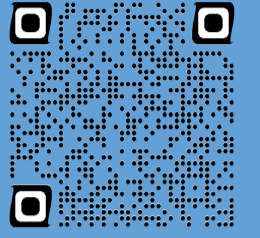
apprenticeships come with. I would fully recommend to anyone thinking about starting an apprenticeship, to just do it! It is one of the best things I have done.

What would you do differently if you had the chance?

I would try not to worry half as much as I did. My team were, and still are, the most supportive and helped me so much during my qualification. If I knew then what I know now, I would have applied for the apprenticeship much sooner!



If you're interested in beginning a career in healthcare, you could apply for a role at Barnsley Hospital. We often have apprenticeship opportunities, so sign up for alerts on the NHS Jobs website. Scan the QR code to see current vacancies on NHS Jobs – www.jobs.nhs.uk



Hospital thanks fabulous fundraisers

Barnsley Hospital Charity saw endless creativity in fundraising for the NHS 75th birthday, with events across the community as well as in the hospital.

On 1 July, celebrations sashayed into full swing with a fantastic flash mob performance in Glassworks Square performed by the talented and generous members of Ellie Etoile's Burlesque group. A big thank you to Charity Fundraising Officer, Sam Bentley, who helped choreograph the routine along with Eleanor Gillott and all members of the group who took part.



On 5 July we celebrated in true Barnsley style with treats and a 'cake splash.'



Premier Foods supplied our amazing NHS 75 birthday cake, PA Entertainments brought illuminated numbers, and Lavender Balloons and party supplies made everything go with a pop. NHS staff joined in from Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Barnsley Facilities Services, ISS Facility Management and NHS Professionals.



Tom Davidson, Barnsley Hospital's Director of Information Communications Technology, led by example in the charity dunk tank!



Local businesses too backed the NHS birthday year by celebrating in some marvellous creative ways. Milk from the Hills turned their flavoured milk blue for the birthday week, with all profits from the sale of three flavours – Blueberry Muffin, Bubblegum and Blue Raspberry – benefiting the charity.



White's Bakery Limited produced some specially designed biscuits and each box purchased will see our patients and staff benefiting from a donation. The biscuits are on sale in the hospital volunteers' coffee shop.



D Speed Butchers supplied some fabulous pork pies decorated with a pastry number 75, and Old George Coffee House produced mouth-watering cup-cakes to mark the birthday. The treats were available throughout July and for each one purchased, a donation was made to the charity to support patients and staff.



A N Car Hire, located next to the Glassworks Car Park, held a charity car wash to mark the momentous occasion and raise funds for the hospital's Emergency Department. Thanks to the generosity of the company, local shopkeepers and customers, a fabulous total of £5,150.59 was raised!



If you can get involved in supporting Barnsley Hospital Charity in this special birthday year, please telephone Jane on 01226 431650 or Sam on 01226 432307 or email barnsleyhospitalcharity@nhs.net



Volunteer Susan, 75, is supporting NHS 75

Our newest volunteer Susan Kilburn 75, who lives in Cundy Cross, is an expert crafter.

Susan not only gives her time to support Barnsley Hospital Charity but also buys all her own items and turns them into beautiful creations – handmade arts and crafts including present bags and fabulous trinkets to help raise vital funds for the Neonatal unit.

Susan took dedication to the next level and even celebrated her 75th birthday by hosting an Easter stall for the charity!

If you would like to volunteer for the charity, please telephone: 01226 434979 or Email: barnsleyhospital.volunteers@nhs.net

Upcoming Events

Cold Water Plunge
October 22 2023

Fire & Glass Walk
November 1 2023

