

FEBRUARY 2026

RBH CHARITY FOCUS



**FEATURING: NEW PARTNERSHIPS,
AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME,
CLINICAL RESEARCH AND MORE!**

**ROYAL
BROMPTON
& HAREFIELD
HOSPITALS
CHARITY**

Welcome to the first edition of RBH Charity Focus for 2026. Inside, you'll discover pioneering research, new partnerships and inspiring fundraising stories. Supporting us helps make world-leading heart and lung care possible.

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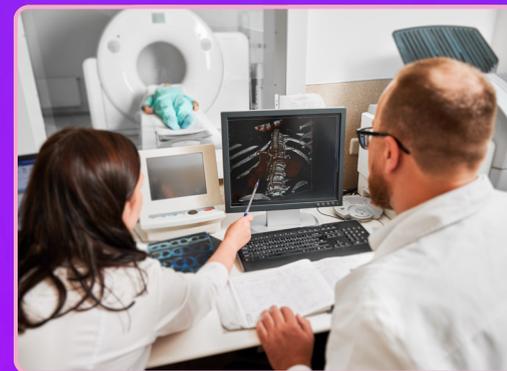
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WHAT'S ON



HAREFIELD HOSPITAL NURSERY TRANSFORMED

Every day at Harefield Hospital, lifesaving care unfolds. Alongside demanding clinical work, many staff rely on reliable childcare close to work, especially during long shifts, emergency call-outs and early starts.

That's why the transformation of Harefield Hospital Nursery is so important. Thanks to an extraordinary gift in kind from construction specialists Jarvis Build, previously unused rooms have been transformed into welcoming spaces where children can learn, play and explore.

When Jarvis Build approached the Charity to volunteer, it quickly became clear their skills and commitment could make a meaningful difference. What would have cost the hospital many thousands of pounds was delivered entirely as a gift in kind.

The results speak for themselves. Formerly lifeless rooms are now warm, inviting play spaces, from sensory areas to cosy reading corners, enjoyed daily by children and families.

Reflecting on the project, Shane Jarvis, Managing Director of Jarvis Build, said:

"Supporting Harefield Hospital was an easy decision. When staff have reliable childcare on site, they can focus fully on caring for patients and supporting families."

Rated Outstanding by Ofsted, the nursery can now expand its reach, supporting even more NHS staff with trusted, on-site childcare.

"PREVIOUSLY UNUSED ROOMS HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO WELCOMING SPACES WHERE CHILDREN CAN LEARN, PLAY AND EXPLORE."

Michelle Orsi-Gell, Assistant Nursery Manager, said:

"THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY JARVIS BUILD HAS HAD A REAL IMPACT ON OUR SERVICE, ENABLING US TO OPEN AN ADDITIONAL ROOM AND BETTER SUPPORT STAFF AND PATIENTS WITHOUT FAMILY NEARBY."



On-site childcare supports hospital teams and families.



This project is a transformation that supports staff wellbeing, strengthens families, and helps Harefield patients.

INTERVIEW WITH DR NORA ROSSBERG

CARDIOLOGY REGISTRAR AND CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOW, ROYAL BROMPTON HOSPITAL



Preeclampsia affects thousands of pregnant women every year, yet its long-term impact on heart health remains poorly understood. At Royal Brompton Hospital, Dr Nora Rossberg is working to change that. As a cardiology registrar with a specialist interest in pregnancy and heart disease, she has begun a PhD funded by RBH Charity exploring how complications during pregnancy may influence cardiovascular health years later, and how targeted follow-up could transform prevention for women.

We sat down with Dr Rossberg to find out more about her work.

Q1 WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO LOOK AT THE LINK BETWEEN PREECLAMPSIA AND HEART DISEASE?

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women, yet women remain underrepresented in cardiology research. This means findings do not always reflect the needs of half our patients. We are increasingly recognising that risk factors can differ, particularly around pregnancy.

High blood pressure during pregnancy, known as preeclampsia, can have lasting effects on heart health. Women affected face a higher risk of heart failure, dilated cardiomyopathy (when the heart becomes enlarged and weakened) and high blood pressure later in life.



Q2 WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO UNCOVER IN YOUR RESEARCH?

We want to understand whether women with a genetic predisposition to preeclampsia are more likely to show early signs of heart impairment on MRI scans. If so, this could help us develop a risk prediction tool.

Currently, women do not routinely receive heart follow-up after pregnancy. As tens of thousands experience high blood pressure during pregnancy each year, it is not feasible to follow everyone. The challenge is identifying which women are at increased risk, and genetics may play an important role.

Q3 HOW COULD YOUR FINDINGS CHANGE THE WAY DOCTORS CARE FOR WOMEN AFTER PREGNANCY?

If we can design a risk prediction tool, then we can identify which women need follow-up. That might be clinic reviews, imaging of the heart, and targeted prevention to reduce their risk of developing heart complications.

Q4 YOUR CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING FELLOWSHIP WAS PARTLY FUNDED BY THE CHARITY. WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS THAT MADE TO YOUR WORK?

These research studies wouldn't be possible without the Charity's support. For me personally, as someone early in my PhD, it's an amazing opportunity to develop my research career and focus on something that's very dear to my heart. I hope to build on this towards future research and to have an impact on women's cardiovascular health.

Q5 MORE BROADLY, HOW DOES THE CHARITY'S FUNDING HELP EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS?

It's a great opportunity for early-career researchers to develop and build projects that may lead to a PhD but also act as a springboard to a future research career. It helps develop the next generation of research and clinical leaders who will make an impact on patients and help change the way we practice medicine.

Q6 WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY TO THE DONORS WHO'VE MADE YOUR RESEARCH POSSIBLE?

A huge thank you. It's an incredible opportunity for me from a career point of view, and an incredible opportunity to make an impact in women's cardiovascular health.

A PARTNERSHIP WITH COMPASSION AT ITS HEART

Most of us imagine our final days somewhere familiar, with our people close. Yet for more than a third of people in England and Wales, the end of life still happens in a hospital. If that care doesn't meet people's needs, the impact can be profound.

That's exactly why we've joined forces with Marie Curie and Leeds Hospitals Charity to launch a major new research partnership focused on one clear mission: improving end-of-life care in hospitals and making the journey home smoother when that's where someone wants to be.

Together, we're backing research that cuts straight to where the need is greatest, and where evidence is thinnest.

Marie Curie's *Better End of Life 2024* Time to Care report found that 38% of people died in hospital, while half of people who died still had to make at least one emergency hospital visit in their final three months. Many spent their last week in hospital, and they reported the highest symptom burden of anyone in the study.

Discharge, too, is often where things fall apart. When services are stretched, people wait too long to go home. When pressure builds to free up beds, people can be sent home too soon. In both cases, the result is the same: care that feels rushed, fragmented or simply not good enough.

WHY THIS PARTNERSHIP MATTERS

Marie Curie, Leeds Hospitals Charity, and Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity bring different priorities, perspectives and communities, but are united by a shared belief: everyone deserves compassion, dignity and comfort at the end of life.

By aligning our funding, we're enabling researchers to take on projects that influence real-world practice. We're not interested in research that sits on a shelf, but in research that changes what happens at the bedside.

For Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity, this work has particular significance. Heart and lung patients often face complex symptoms, rapid health changes and difficult decisions about their care. That's why over £200,000 of the partnership's fund is dedicated to improving end-of-life care for people with heart and lung disease in hospitals.



LOOKING AHEAD

We have received proposals from across the UK that put patients and families at the centre. The evidence generated will help shape policy, guide hospital practice and support clinical teams caring for people at the most vulnerable moment of their lives.

We can't change the fact that some people will spend their final days in hospital. But we can change what those days feel like. Together, we're making sure they're filled with comfort, respect and kindness, exactly as they should be.



THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE

None of this would be possible without you. Your support helps clinicians and researchers continue their work and plays a part in enabling compassionate, respectful care, including at the end of life, in ways that recognise the individual and the life they have lived.



INTERVIEW WITH DR ROBERT SMITH



Dr Robert Smith leads one of the world's most innovative transcatheter mitral and tricuspid programmes, using minimally invasive catheter-based procedures to repair or replace heart valves. As a newly appointed Clinical Ambassador for Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity, he helps patients understand the impact of philanthropy on pioneering cardiac care.

01 WHAT LED YOU TO WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE CLINICAL AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME?

I've been involved with the charity on and off for about 10 years. It began in 2016 with a programme to raise money for a therapy that wasn't able to be funded by the NHS.

Over the last few years, we've supported patients who wanted to show their gratitude by guiding them to the Charity, which has resulted in several significant donations. Our whole team plays a part in those relationships. We see our roles as important, in directing people that are interested to learn more and want to help improve the hospitals and help advance care for heart and lung patients.

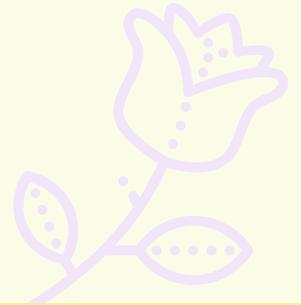
02 WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO GET OUT OF YOUR TIME AS A CLINICAL AMBASSADOR?

I want to help the hospitals, clinical group and my specialist area of medicine thrive in these challenging times. I am hoping that I can help support the hospital build its innovative approaches to healthcare which will help us provide even better treatments to our patients, attract talented staff and continue to make the hospitals the best places they can be.

03 WHAT DOES YOUR ROLE AS A CLINICAL AMBASSADOR INVOLVE, AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

As a Clinical Ambassador, I act as a bridge between the clinical teams and the Charity. I understand what treatments mean in real terms for patients and their families, and I can help translate that into clear funding priorities. It's a two-way role: I advocate for patients when speaking with the Charity, and I help patients and donors understand the Charity's impact and why their support matters. I'm well placed to do both.

THE NEW GARDEN WALL MURAL AT ROYAL BROMPTON HOSPITAL



Visitors arriving at Royal Brompton Hospital are now welcomed by a vibrant new garden mural, bringing colour, nature and calm to an outdoor space near the main reception.

What began as a simple idea to uplift an underused area became a collaborative project involving patients, staff, the rb&hArts team and artist Irita Ozolina. Over several weeks of workshops, participants shared ideas, memories and favourite plants, shaping a design rooted in the connection between nature and heart and lung health.

The mural serves as a warm and welcoming feature for patients, staff, and visitors. Each leaf and petal in the design carries meaning, reflecting both the traditional uses of plants and modern connections to wellbeing, resilience, and breathing.

The project is a reminder that care extends beyond clinical spaces. When patients, families or staff step outside for a moment of pause, surroundings matter. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, small changes like this can make a meaningful difference.

"Creative spaces can reduce anxiety, lift mood and support emotional healing, benefits that complement specialist clinical care," said the rb&hArts team.



FUNDRAISING SPOTLIGHT

Thank you to all our supporters who help create hope for heart and lung patients



BACKING EARLY-CAREER MEDICAL RESEARCH

RBH Charity's Early Careers Fund supports newly appointed consultants by giving them protected time for research alongside clinical work, a rare and vital NHS resource. By backing early-stage ideas, the fund helps accelerate discoveries that could transform patient care.

The fund is currently supporting Dr Richard Hewitt, who is leading a pioneering study into pulmonary fibrosis, a serious lung condition with a prognosis worse than many cancers. His work focuses on identifying the disease earlier, when there is greater potential to slow or prevent progression.

This research is made possible through philanthropic support, including a generous donation

facilitated by Andrew Gibson, a trustee of his company's charitable foundation.

Andrew said:

"Having heard about the great work being done by Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals, I'm delighted to be able to help their ongoing research. With advances in the digital era, there are huge opportunities to significantly advance research into disease pathways."

Andrew's support is enabling Dr Hewitt to build a research team, attract further funding and apply advanced approaches such as genomics and artificial intelligence. As Andrew notes, "Funding is clearly vital, as is hard work and persistence. I wish the research team every success."

Supporting research into earlier detection of lung disease through advanced imaging.



To find out more about Corporate Partnerships, contact ashley.scott@rbhcharity.org



DAIWA CAPITAL MARKETS EUROPE LTD

When a trio from Daiwa Capital Markets Europe Ltd joined us at Royal Brompton Hospital for our latest Crafternoon, they brought with them an instant lift in the room.

Run by the rb&hArts team, Crafternoons give inpatients a chance to step away from the medical routine and reconnect with creativity, conversation and a sense of normal life. For people spending long periods on a ward, that connection can make a real difference.

Amy, Clare and Chas from Daiwa arrived ready to chat, craft and get hands-on with a recycling workshop for Zero Waste Week. Their warmth and enthusiasm helped create the relaxed, welcoming atmosphere patients value so much.

Grace from rb&hArts captured it perfectly, saying their energy “brought an extra buzz to the day,” whether chatting with

“CRAFTERNOONS GIVE INPATIENTS A CHANCE TO STEP AWAY FROM THE MEDICAL ROUTINE”



patients or turning scrap materials into something joyful.

Daiwa have long supported the charity through funding and volunteering. Thank you to everyone involved. What you help create stays with patients long after the afternoon ends.



RBH BUSINESS CLUB WELCOMES HEADLINE PARTNER

Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity is delighted to announce King's Road Partnership as the Headline Partner for its new RBH Business Club, marking the start of an exciting collaboration rooted in community, innovation and impact.

The partnership brings together two iconic Chelsea institutions: Royal Brompton Hospital, a global leader in heart and lung care, and the King's Road Partnership, which plays a vital role in preserving the King's Road's status as a world-famous destination for British creativity, style and culture.

United by a shared ambition to improve local community wellbeing, the collaboration will help build a healthier future for the area and create meaningful opportunities for local businesses to engage with the Charity through volunteering and support outstanding heart and lung care.

The King's Road Partnership is the business improvement

district (BID) for the King's Road in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, representing over 300 businesses and working on behalf of the local business community to deliver a world-class experience for visitors and residents.

Speaking about becoming the Charity's Business Club Headline Partner, Rebecca Handley, Director of Place and Environment, said:

“We are incredibly proud to become the Headline Partner of the Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity's new Business Club. As organisations rooted in Chelsea, we share a deep commitment to supporting the wellbeing of our local community and championing innovation that has a lasting impact. This partnership creates an exciting opportunity for businesses along the King's Road to connect with the Charity through volunteering and community engagement, and we look forward to helping make this happen.”



A LEGACY THAT LIVES ON

Balvinder Chana was the kind of person people remembered. Warm, generous and endlessly curious, he had a gift for connecting with others and believed deeply in giving back.

For more than 12 years, Balvinder was cared for at Harefield Hospital while living with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a rare and progressive lung disease. During that time, he built close relationships with the doctors and nurses who cared for him. To Balvinder, the hospital felt like family.

He spoke often of his gratitude for the care he received and wanted others to experience the same compassion and dignity. In his will, Balvinder chose to leave a legacy gift to the hospital that had supported him so closely, a final act that reflected the generosity he showed throughout his life.

As his niece, Taj, explains: "He wanted others to have the same care he was given. If his gift helps even one person, it's all been worth it."

Today, Balvinder's legacy continues to support patients and families at Harefield Hospital, helping fund exceptional care, research and innovation. Legacy gifts like Balvinder's help hospitals plan for the future and offer hope to people he would never meet, ensuring his kindness lives on.

"HE WANTED OTHERS TO HAVE THE SAME CARE HE WAS GIVEN. IF HIS GIFT HELPS EVEN ONE PERSON, IT'S ALL BEEN WORTH IT."



Visit rbhcharity.org to find out more about how gifts in wills can support heart and lung patients.



SUMMER FEST

If you ever needed proof that community spirit can do extraordinary things, you'll find it in two neighbouring gardens in Chandler's Ford. That's where Fran and Jason Richardson, alongside their friend and co organiser Lynda Kinchington, grew Summer Fest from a small gathering in 2018 into a 300 strong music festival.

They were inspired by the hospital that cared for Jason during his journey with heart failure. Jason received lifesaving treatment at Harefield Hospital, including an LVAD (left ventricular assist device) in 2015. The compassion shown to Jason and his family stayed with them, inspiring a fundraiser rooted in his love of music.

Jason sadly passed away in 2025, but the festival continues to grow. Over eight years, it has raised more than £49,000 for good causes, including £8,500 for Harefield Hospital in 2025 alone, supporting specialist teams delivering world class heart and lung care.

What makes Summer Fest special is how it brings people together. Bands play for free, neighbours open their gardens and friends go to extraordinary lengths to help.

Fran, Jason and Lynda's dedication has created something truly special, a celebration rooted in gratitude, music and community.

Fran Richardson, co-founder of Summer Fest:

"IT'S THE PEOPLE WHO HELP US, THE BANDS THAT PLAY FOR FREE AND EVERYONE WHO BUYS A TICKET THAT MAKE SUMMER FEST THE SUCCESS IT HAS GROWN INTO."

WHAT'S ON



FANCY CHALLENGING YOURSELF?
Escape the everyday and sign up.

MOVE YOUR WAY

This February, take on 28 miles in 28 days. Free to join, with a Chelsea Sports Centre day pass included, prizes, and every mile helping support patients.



BRIGHTON MARATHON

Run by the sea on 12 April, taking in iconic views and an uplifting atmosphere, as you take on one of the UK's most-loved marathons.



LONDON BRIDGES WALK

Join us on 4 July to cross six iconic London bridges, choosing 5km, 10km or wheelchair-accessible routes, through the heart of the capital.



HAREFIELD FUN RUN

Join us on 6 September to run or walk through the Harefield countryside, choosing a route that suits you and taking part in a relaxed, community celebration.



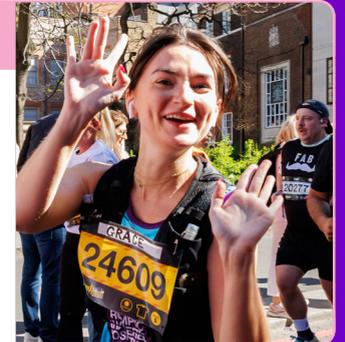
GREAT NORTH RUN

Run the iconic 13.1-mile route from Newcastle to South Shields on 13 September 2026, joining thousands on one of the world's biggest half marathons.



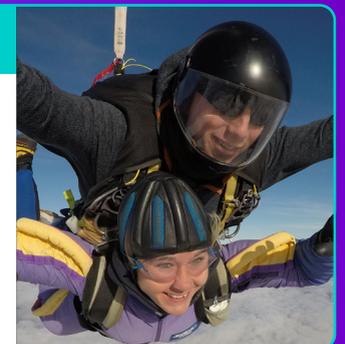
ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON

Take on a stunning 13.1-mile route through four of London's beautiful parks on 11 October 2026, a unique way to experience the capital.



SKYDIVE

Jump from 10,000ft over Salisbury, raising vital funds to help patients breathe easier, live longer and recover faster. We'll support you every step of the way.



DONATE TODAY

Your donation will support world-leading heart and lung care, giving patients the chance of a healthier future.



**SCAN HERE TO
MAKE A DONATION**

**ROYAL
BROMPTON
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HOSPITALS
CHARITY**

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