Issue 5. Summer 2024

Created by the HELP Appeal – funding helipads that save time and save lives

Helipad NEWS

- New lifesaving helipad at Salisbury Hospital
- New helipad opened on Isle of Mull
- Salford and Sheffield Childrens' Hospital helipads to open
- HELP Appeal and Royal Engineers join forces

OVER 28,000 EMERGENCY LANDINGS on HELP Appeal funded NHS hospital helipads



HELP Appeal
Helicopter Emergency Landing Pads

County Air Ambulance Trust

Have you made a Will?

Wills and Legal Services recently announced that through its Wills Campaign – where Wills are offered to their clients in exchange for a donation to the County Air Ambulance HELP Appeal – an impressive £3m has been raised.

It is almost 10 years since the Wills Campaign started supporting the charity's work and after writing 75,000 Wills, this fundraising milestone underscores its commitment to making a meaningful impact in emergency care across the country.

Wills & Legal Services' founder, Tony Watson says, *"This achievement is a testament to the generosity and compassion of our clients. Together we are making a significant difference to some of the most critically ill patients in our country and we are already working towards raising the next £1m".*

You too can have your Will professionally written by one of the firm's specialist paralegals, in exchange for a recommended £40 per person donation to our charity. If you would like to take advantage of the scheme, more information can be found on our website, or by calling **01885 490380**.





Wills and Legal Services present a cheque for £3 million to Jason Dennis from the HELP Appeal



OVER 28,000 EMERGENCY LANDINGS

on HELP Appeal funded NHS hospital helipads



Major Trauma Centres and key A&E hospitals provide comprehensive care for critically ill or injured patients and HELP Appeal funded helipads play a vital role as these 28,000 landings show.

They enable critically ill air ambulance patients to land as close as possible to hospitals' Emergency Departments because immediate access to specialist care is essential when lives are in danger.

Through your support, you've helped us to achieve...

30
new helipads opening

We are the only Charity in the country funding NHS hospital helipads

20
helipad upgrades

You have helped us to achieve so much



Salisbury District Hospital

Salisbury District Hospital was only able to construct a new upgraded helipad after we stepped in with a £321,000 donation to cover the entire cost. The state-of-the-art helipad is larger in size and has new lights to support night flights for the first time. It also has a weather station to provide pilots with site specific weather information. Thanks to the HELP Appeal's supporters, this helipad will make patient transfers easy, efficient, and expeditious.

Wiltshire Air Ambulance safety and ground operations manager Richard Miller said: "We can't thank the HELP Appeal enough for investing in the new helipad for the trauma centre..."

Supporting air ambulances

We have donated £1.8 million to Midlands Air Ambulance, which will fund the redevelopment of its Strensham airbase, including a new hangar. The importance of airbases can be often forgotten about in emergency care, but if air ambulances can't land and take off safely or quickly from their airbase, patients' lives could be put at serious risk.



HELP Appeal Chairman, Michael Henriques (right) presents a cheque for £1.8 million to Midlands Air Ambulance

already this year...

Isle of Mull helipad opens

A new, lifesaving helipad has opened on the Isle of Mull after we donated £418,000 to cover the entire cost of its construction and lighting installation. The state-of-the-art helipad ensures that the Scottish Air Ambulance and larger HM Coastguard helicopters can land beside Mull and Iona Community Hospital any time of the day or night, avoiding the need for a patient to be transferred by land ambulance to the Glenforsa airstrip, which is 15 minutes away by road. This ensures that specialist hospital treatment at another A&E hospital or Major Trauma Centre on the mainland can be accessed within the Golden Hour and thus improve patients' outcomes.

Air ambulance patient Scott, who lost control of his car, which careered down an embankment, rolling over several times explains:

"If the helipad had been available at Mull and Iona Hospital at the time of my accident, I could have had a smooth and quick transfer to Glasgow. Although the ambulance staff were incredible and looked after me so well, the bumpy journey to Glenforsa was very uncomfortable and I was so worried not knowing how bad my injuries were at the time or if they could become life changing or life threatening. This helipad is going to help so many people like me whenever they need immediate access to a specialist trauma centre."





More helipad highlights...

Royal Engineers and HELP Appeal join forces in Scotland

Corps of Royal Engineers and the HELP Appeal have been working together to build a much-needed emergency helipad on the community owned Isle of Gigha. Whilst there is a regular ferry service to and from the mainland, Gigha is still a remote and rural community, and its inaccessibility can be problematic particularly during a medical emergency. By having a permanent, purpose-built helipad at Gigha Airfield, the Scottish Air Ambulance and larger coastguard helicopters can land and take off at any time on the island, transporting critically ill patients to the most appropriate Major Trauma Centre or A&E hospital on the mainland.











Gigha resident, Maurice Forster, 53, was airlifted to the HELP Appeal funded Queen Elizabeth University Hospital helipad in Glasgow in December 2023 following a medical emergency. Maurice was taken to intensive care immediately after landing. He says:

"The emergency services were amazing, as was the coordinator between them all. Within 20 minutes, I had arrived in Glasgow. The Air Ambulance is a crucial service, and a permanent landing pad in Gigha will make it even more seamless for our community."

Opening soon

Salford Royal

Salford Royal will be the very first hospital in the country to have its own dedicated Major Trauma Centre building and the rooftop helipad will be the first to have a lift shaft accessible directly from the helipad. Thanks to a £2 million donation from us, the new rooftop helipad will be able to receive seriously injured or ill patients flown directly in by helicopter, saving up to 20 minutes in transferring a critically ill patient from an air ambulance to the hospital.



Sheffield Children's

After we donated £2.8million to Sheffield Children's Hospital, its rooftop helipad is set to open this year. Instead of air ambulances having to land in a park opposite and transfer the young patient across a busy road to the ED, the new helipad will provide dignity for patients and quick access to the specialist care they need.



Our work is still not done...

New helipads also in the pipeline in **Lincoln, Redhill** and **Basildon** this year.

Our helipad projects will cost **£50 million** over the **next 5 years**.

We can only fund these with your help.

Golf Clubs tee up support for the HELP Appeal



‘Fur off’ travels for Brad the Bear

Golf Clubs across the county have been embracing a ‘bear-y’ novel way to help raise funds for us. Members are kindly agreeing to donate to our charity before they take Brad, our HELP Appeal teddy bear, on a new adventure. From Nova Scotia to the Napa Valley, Brad has seen some incredible sights, all in aid of building more lifesaving hospital helipads.











Thank you!

A huge thank you to Minchinhampton Golf Club and lead sponsors, Butler Sherborn and Steppes Travel, plus BMW and the hole sponsors for helping us to raise an incredible £19,000 at our Charity Pro-Am Golf Day earlier this year.

Wish to help?

If you’re an organisation that would like to take Brad on his next adventure or hold a fundraising event for us, please email **info@helppappeal.org.uk** or call **0800 3898 999**.





Donating to volunteer medics across the country



The HELP Appeal has donated a total of £1,250,000 to the British Association for Immediate Care (BASICS), which distributes individual grants to schemes, made up of medical, nursing and paramedics who volunteer their free time to be on call to help NHS ambulance services.

So far, 79 grants have been made to schemes, which have been used to purchase much needed critical care cars, medical equipment, personal protective equipment and pre-hospital training courses plus much, much more. This has only been made possible because of our supporters' generosity.



Welcome to our new team!



Simon Jones, Aviation Technical Adviser



Denise Rowe, Fundraising Executive



Nicky Youster, Deputy Head of Finance



Mira Lokaichuk, Collections Team

We are here to raise and manage funds ensuring that all hospitals that need helipads have one.

If you have a fundraising idea, please get in touch with Denise at **denise.r@helpappeal.org.uk** or Lesley at **lesley.o@helpappeal.org.uk**.

Helipad patient runs the London Marathon





Our incredible supporter, Sarah Banks, who was the first air ambulance patient to take off from the HELP Appeal funded helipad in Applecross after a serious fall, ran the London Marathon in aid of the HELP Appeal this year. We hand over to her to explain what it's meant to train, fundraise and participate in this epic race:

"I ran the London Marathon in 4 hours 56 minutes and raised over £6500! It could not have gone better, and I could not have done it without my incredibly generous supporters!



"Knowing that so many kind people were behind me in my double quest – to get back to running after my broken hip and heart attack, and raise money for the HELP Appeal was a huge motivation. I cannot thank you all enough.

"Training for a marathon is not always fun, but the day itself was absolutely unforgettable and made all the graft worthwhile. The crowds, the runners, the sounds, the sights – what an experience! I was extremely lucky to have won a ballot place (meaning every penny of my fundraising goes directly towards the charity's work) and I knew it was genuinely a privilege to be there. I felt quite choked up crossing the start line, and totally elated getting to the finish."

If you're taking part in a challenge, we can support your fundraising efforts from drumming up interest in your local press to providing a range of merchandise including running vests and water bottles to help with your training and to stand out from the crowd on the day! Please get in touch if you'd like to take on a challenge in aid of the HELP Appeal by emailing **info@helpappeal.org.uk**.

Leave a gift in your Will

A gift in your Will to County Air Ambulance Trust HELP Appeal would cost nothing in your lifetime and mean that we can continue to save lives in the future. We rely on your donations to continue supporting projects to help save lives.

When you leave a gift in your Will, you are leaving a lifesaving legacy. Serious injury can happen to anyone at any time – we know that if the worst happens, the fast transfer of critically ill patients is vital and can often mean the difference between life and death.

After providing for your family and friends you may wish to leave us a charitable gift in your Will. Regardless of the size, legacy gifts are vital in helping us to continue our work and are one of the best ways to ensure the future for our charity.

If you have already made a Will, but you want to leave a legacy to our charity, you can make an addition, or change it without re-writing your current Will. This addition is called a codicil.

By naming the County Air Ambulance Trust HELP Appeal with our Charity Number 1057063 as a beneficiary in your Will, you will give us the maximum flexibility to respond to the ever changing needs in our communities across the country.

County Air Ambulance Trust is a Registered Charity in England and Wales (1057063) and Scotland (SCO45963)



The HELP Appeal needs **you!**





We urgently need more volunteers to raise awareness of the HELP Appeal and support our fundraising by placing collection boxes in areas close to where you live.

- The role is entirely flexible.
- It should only take up half a day every week.
- You'll have the opportunity to meet new people and work as part of a dedicated team.
- Have the satisfaction of knowing that you are making a vital difference to our life saving work!

If you'd like to talk to us about volunteering then please contact Jason on **07876 340492** or email **jason@helpappeal.org.uk**

Helping to save lives by improving trauma care

We will fund whatever it takes to enhance trauma care for the most critically ill in our country. This means that thanks to your donations, in addition to NHS hospital helipads, we have been able to fund...

- 30 critical care cars
- Personal Protective Equipment
- 10 Air Ambulance Base helipads
- Secondary lighting for temporary helipad sites
- Ultrasound equipment
- Defibrillators
- Helipads in remote communities
- Pre-hospital care training

With your help, we can continue this lifesaving work in the future.

















Find out more by visiting
www.helppeal.org.uk

Thank you to our supporters!

We are not funded by the Government or National Lottery, so support from the public is absolutely vital! Huge thank you to everyone who has helped us to build helipads across the country.

There are a variety of ways in which you can help us. Please visit our website for ideas or email **info@helppappeal.org.uk** for inspiration.



Green Turtles Swimming Club



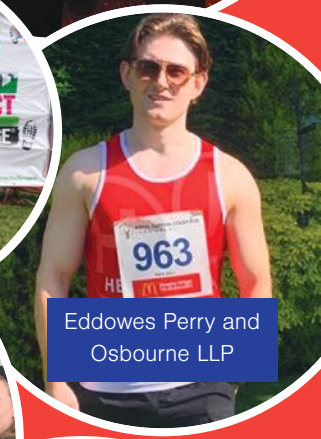
Force Accountancy and RedBox Web Design



Manor Golf Club



Leek Building Society



Eddowes Perry and Osbourne LLP



Stratford Oaks Golf Club



Cotswold Hunt



Future Faces



Moor Hall Golf Club

NHS Hospital helipads we have funded

Ashford
Barrow-in-Furness
Bournemouth
Bristol Royal Infirmary
Bristol Southmead
Cambridge
Campbeltown
Carlisle
Coventry
Dorchester
Edinburgh
Exeter
Gigha
Glasgow
Gloucester
Grimsby
Hereford
Hull
Inverness
Ipswich
Isle of Mull
Isle of Skye
Isle of Wight
Kilmarnock
Leeds
Liverpool Aintree
London, King's College
London, St. George's
Maidstone
Manchester
Margate
Orkney
Oswestry
Peterborough
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Preston
Salford
Salisbury
Scarborough
Sheffield General
Shrewsbury
Southampton
Stornoway
Telford
Whitehaven



Helipads are still urgently needed in

Aberdeen
Bangor
Barnstaple
Basingstoke
Birmingham
Blackburn
Blackpool
Boston
Brighton
Bury St Edmunds
Colchester
Cramlington
Dartford
Gillingham
Great Yarmouth
Harefield
Hastings
Islay
Isle of Arran
Isle of Barra
Keighley
Kings Lynn
Lancaster
Leicester
Lincoln
London, St Mary's
Milton Keynes
Newcastle
Prescot
Redhill
Romford
Sheffield Children's
Stoke
Stoke Mandeville
Torbay
Truro
Watford
Wolverhampton
Worcester

Follow us on social media:

@HELPAppeal

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Scan to donate

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T: 0800 3898 999 | E: info@helpappeal.org.uk | W: helpappeal.org.uk

Registered Charity in England and Wales (1057063) and Scotland (SCO45963)

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

AIR AMBULANCES UK SUPPORTING AIR AMBULANCE CHARITIES



HELP Appeal lottery



Could you be our next lucky winner of £10,000?

A key fundraising activity for the HELP Appeal is our hugely popular lottery, where each week, a top prize of £1,000 is given to one lucky winner with other weekly prizes including 1 x £250, 1 x £100 and 15 x £10, plus an annual Superdraw prize of £10,000!

Our lottery costs £5 per month and includes entry into the weekly draws and one entry into the annual superdraw each month.

To sign up visit: **helpappeal.org.uk/help-lottery**

