



Volunteer Newsletter December

2025

*Bringing you the latest news and
celebrating all the wonderful things
you do!*

Welcome

Welcome to our Christmas edition of our Volunteer Newsletter and Happy International Volunteer Day! This month, we celebrate International Volunteer Day. This year's theme, **"Every Contribution Matters"** is a powerful reminder that we all have something meaningful to offer to the NHS and our communities through volunteering. It only seemed befitting to hold our annual Christmas and Long Service Awards' event during this time to be able to give our heartfelt thanks and recognise the valuable contributions you all make to WWL.

It has been yet another incredible year. Out of hundreds of entries, our Lived Experience Partner, Jessie Hunt was a finalist for the Volunteer Champion of the Year Award in the Greater Manchester Healthcare Awards for her amazing work in improving our paediatric services for patients with disabilities in ED. This year, we also saw the launch of our first Higher Development Award programme in collaboration with Wigan and Leigh College to help support volunteers on their journey to becoming healthcare support workers. We were absolutely delighted to have successfully won a bid to develop our patient activities and have just launched our Busy Boxes to improve our patient experience on our wards.

Our volunteers' team continues to grow with WWL being ranked the 7th largest volunteers' team out of 27 NHS Trusts in the North West region according to the mandatory data collected from all



Welcome New Volunteers!

- ✦ Aizay Alam, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Areesha Khan, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Augustina Aniekwe, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Bezalen Nebu, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ David Greaves, League of Friends Volunteer
- ✦ Doreen Gregory, Help Desk Volunteer
- ✦ Gladys Adu, Grow Our Own Volunteer
- ✦ Gracie Bowers, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Iman Khan, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Janet Nichols, PETS as Therapy Volunteer
- ✦ Jasmin Morgan, Spoons Volunteer
- ✦ Minal Faisal, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Moumita Chowdhury, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Richard Bennett, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Richard Drabble, Help Desk Volunteer
- ✦ Sara Murad, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Sarah Lewis, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Sithandazile Dube, Ward Volunteer
- ✦ Zainab Tijani, Ward Volunteer

A newsletter for volunteers

Our Volunteers' Newsletter is all about you and includes what information, news, or stories you would like to hear about. If you have a story you would like to tell or an achievement you would like to celebrate, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Nadia, Mel, or our Patient Experience Team to be featured in one of our editions. Our contact details can be found below.

Voluntary Services' Contact details

Nadia's working hours:

Monday	8.30am – 4.30pm
Tuesday	8.30am – 4.30pm
Wednesday	8.30am – 4.30pm
Thursday	8.30am – 12.30pm
Tel.:	07899 039 955
Email:	volunteer@wwl.nhs.uk

During these hours, our Patient Activities' Volunteer Coordinator, Melanie Cornish will be able to support you.

Thursday	12.30pm – 4.30pm
Friday	8.30am – 4.30pm
Tel.:	01942 77 3061
Email:	volunteer@wwl.nhs.uk



NHS Trusts and published by NHS England. We have recruited many more volunteers for WWL Radio, League of Friends, our Help Desks, Chaplaincy, Flower Ladies, LEPs, and Wards.

We are incredibly proud of all our volunteers and your achievements. While there is so much more we could say about what you, our volunteers mean to WWL, we would just like to really emphasise how grateful and thankful we are to have such a wonderful group of kind and caring people volunteering at WWL. Thank you all so very much and have a wonderful festive break!

Volunteers' Christmas and awards' celebrations

What a fabulous way to end our year with our volunteers' Christmas appreciation and awards' event on Wednesday 26th November. Thank you very much for all our volunteers who were able to come along and celebrate. Nearly one hundred volunteers and staff, including our Trust Chair and CEO attended. It was a wonderful afternoon and it's always lovely to spend time personally thanking and catching up with our volunteers.



Our volunteers who were due a Long Service Award received their certificates and badges ranging from 10 years to 35 years of volunteering service.



With the support of Olwen's family, we were delighted to present our Olwen Winstanley Award to two special volunteers, Anita and Carole for their outstanding work and commitment to supporting our Bereavement Service. Anita and Carole help to top up the Bereavement Boxes on every single ward, making sure resources are prepared and available for patients and staff. They are very caring, sensitive and supportive to families who have a loved one at the end of their life, making sure they have all they need at this difficult time.



A huge congratulations to all our other nominees who go above and beyond their roles to support our patients and staff: Leeann Barnes, James Maclean, Susan Baynham, and Josh Joy.

We were also very thankful for our kind sponsor, Brendan Ainscough for his continued and unwavering support again this year. We were also grateful to the Rare Old Times for freely giving their time to come to play for our volunteers as a thank-you for all your commitment to the NHS. At the end of the afternoon, we really enjoyed a game of bingo and congratulations to our lucky winners!

Thank you, Starlight Walk volunteers



We would like to say a big thank-you to everyone who donated and took part in this year's Starlight Walk. It was a truly special

evening of reflection, remembrance, and support for families affected by baby loss.

Launch of the Busy Boxes!



Exciting news! We have just launched our 'Busy Boxes' on every ward! So, what is a Busy Box? Packed with arts and crafts, hand creams

for massages, quizzes, and all sorts, staff and volunteers will use these resources to help boost patient health and wellbeing, and ease anxiety for our patients, families, and staff.



Christmas 2025 Services and Events

Please find below our schedule of services and events taking place across WWL this Christmas.

Christmas 2025 Services & Events

Advent Reflections
RAEI Chapel at 11:45am Wed 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th Dec
Ward Carol Singing, Services & Events
Carol Singing Leigh Main Entrance: Tues 9th December 10am Leigh CE Primary School
RAEI Carol Snake: Wed 10th Dec at 3pm (Gathering in Chapel at 2.45pm)
Carols in the Cafe RAEI Fri 12th Dec at 12-1pm with Woodfield Primary School
Thomas Linacre: Mon 15th Dec. at 9.30 am Service at 11:00 with The Deanery High School
Wrightington Carols on Wards Thurs 18th Dec from 9:30am
Carol Service at the Jean Heyes Reablement Unit, Leigh Thurs 18th December 2pm

Christmas Communion
Mon 22nd Dec RAEI Ward Communion
Tuesday 23rd Dec Wrightington & Leigh Ward Communion

Our Values

Haigh, Aspull & Blackrod
CHARITY CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN
Back for 2025!
Sunday 21st December 2025
(Route and start time to be confirmed via social media)
Raising money for Wigan Hospital Rainbow Ward.
 Just Giving pages: Haigh Aspull & Blackrod Tractor Run for Three Wishes

Volunteering over Christmas

First of all, I just want to say a big thank-you for all your hard work and support the past year. It has not gone unnoticed and has been hugely appreciated by everyone at WWL.

I am looking forward to a good rest and time with my family over the Christmas period. I am sure that you are all looking forward to spending time with your loved ones, so if you would like to have a break from your volunteering between 23rd December and 2nd January, this would be no problem.

If you would like to still come in and volunteer, we will also offer you the option to volunteer should you wish to do so. Thank you so much again for all your service and have a wonderful festive break.



Christmas Charity Tractor Run Returns

Haigh, Aspull and Blackrod's Christmas Tractor Run is returning for its second year in support of the Three Wishes Charity on Sunday 22nd December.

The event will start at 5pm. The route will be starting and ending at Willoughby Farm (WN2 1LQ). You can find updates on the [event's Facebook page](#).

Three Wishes are looking for volunteers to help collect donations on the day. You can sign up [here](#).

Should you have any questions, please contact our Charity Manager, Emily Mondon at emily.mondon@wwl.nhs.uk. Donations can be also made [here](#).

Alternatively, please contact Emily for further information on how to sign up and donate.

Volunteering Opportunities

*Help Desk Volunteers, Wigan
WWL Radio Volunteers
Wrightington League of Friends
Ward Volunteers*



Next Newsletter out in March 2026!

Volunteers' Newsletter Editorial Team



Nadia Bousseau, Voluntary Services Manager



Veronika Stevens, Trust Volunteer



Voluntary Services' contact

Do you have a story to tell or an achievement to celebrate? Then, we would love to hear from you!
Email: volunteer@wwl.nhs.uk
Tel.: 07899 039 955