

The Hub

YOUR QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER FROM



NHS
East Lancashire Hospitals
NHS Trust
A University Teaching Trust

Issue 4:
Autumn 2024



Counting down to **Christmas**

Elmore is ready to unwrap the magic

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Alfie the therapy dog

Say hello to ELHT's Head of Happiness

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Fantastic feats of fundraising

Making marvellous things happen with ELHT&Me

.....
Happy birthday NHS

Elmore and friends Wear It Blue to celebrate

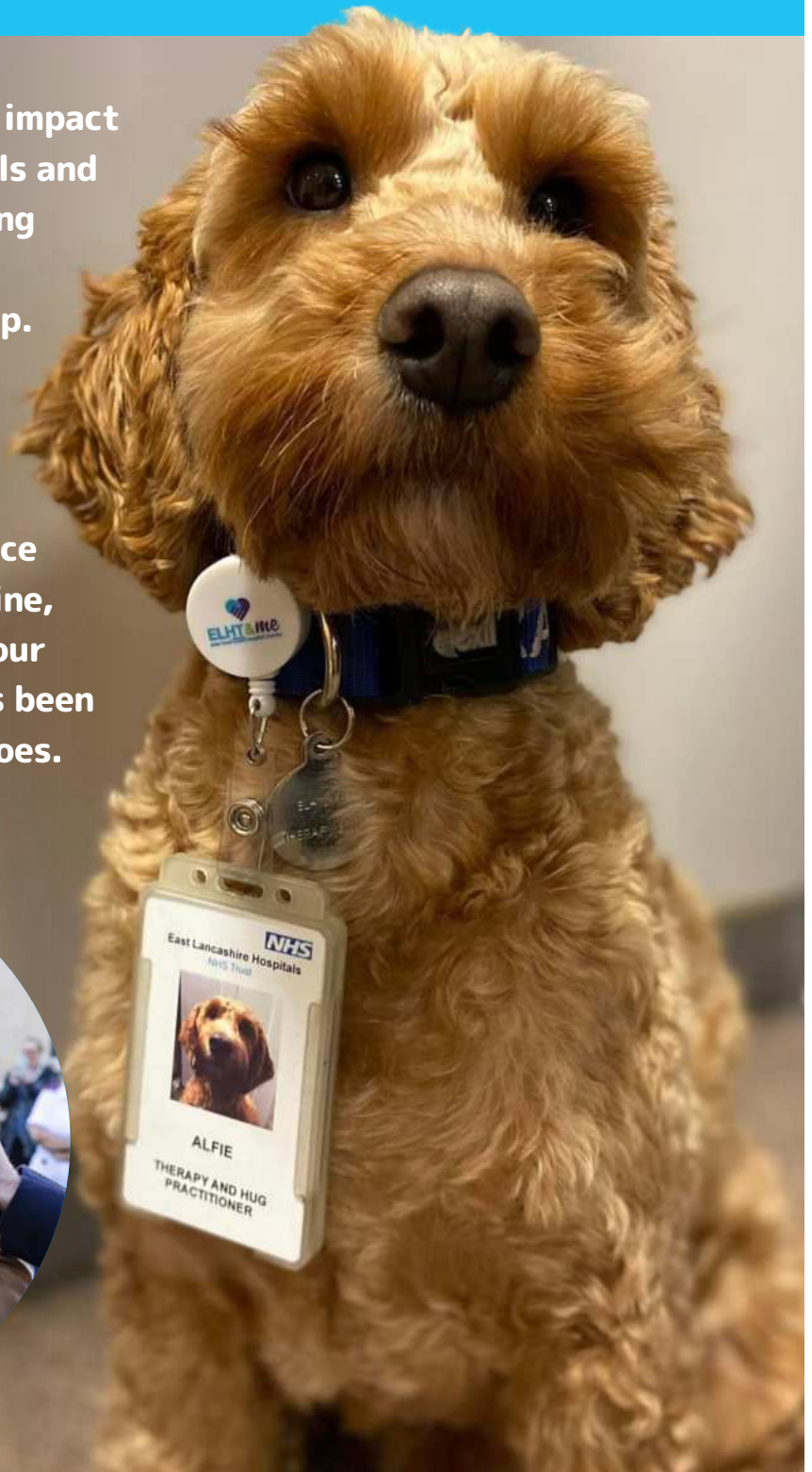
.....
What's under the Christmas tree?

A round-up of ELHT&Me's festive fundraising

Say hello to Alfie, ELHT's Head of Happiness

Alfie has made a remarkable impact across our family of hospitals and community services, providing much-needed moments of happiness and companionship.

Since his royal debut in January 2022 at Clitheroe Community Hospital, where Their Royal Highnesses, Prince William and Princess Catherine, proudly introduced Alfie as our newest team member, he has been spreading joy wherever he goes.



ALFIE : FACT FILE

D.O.B. 9 November 2021

Breed: Cockapoo

Colour: Apricot

At work: Over 400 ward visits*

1,200 bedside patient visits*

15 community sites supported*

156 days worked* (*2022-23 figures)

Favourite treat: Wild boar nuggets

Favourite toy: Cuddly whale



More about Alfie
www.elhtandme.co.uk/alfie



A very welcome visitor

“Having Alfie visit the ward meant the world to my wife, Sue. She hadn’t seen our two dogs at home for over five weeks so Alfie’s visits brought a much-needed sense of comfort. Stroking his soft ears and feeling his lovely fur instantly calmed her. It truly made her day and I couldn’t help but smile seeing the joy it brought her. He’s clearly a very special dog.”



Picture perfect

Alfie greeting cards are available to purchase from the Charity Hub. Insides are blank so you can send a personalised “happy birthday”, “get well soon”, “thank you”, “congratulations” or any other message.



Request an Alfie collection tin for your office, workshop, hospitality space or event.

✉ fundraising@elht.nhs.uk

☎ 01254 732140

How our community supports us

Our community is the heart of ELHT&Me's success, with every contribution – big or small – making a lasting impact. From creative fundraisers to engaging events, community support unites people through a wide range of activities. By coming together, we empower our community to take ownership of their hospitals and enhance services for everyone.

Fundraise

Have a fundraising idea? We're here to support you every step of the way! Whether you're planning a small event or a large-scale fundraiser, we'll provide the guidance, tools, and encouragement you need to succeed.



Donate

Your donations truly make all the difference in our ability to support patients, staff, and services across our hospitals. Whether it's through a one-time gift or regular contributions, we'd love to hear from you.

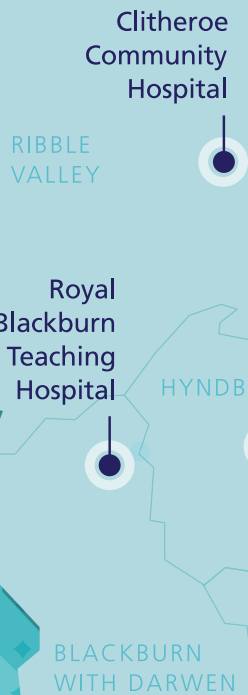
Volunteer

All of our volunteers are treasured and celebrated. We often hear that volunteering with us is both rewarding and enjoyable. Discover a role that suits you and experience the joy of giving your time and skills.



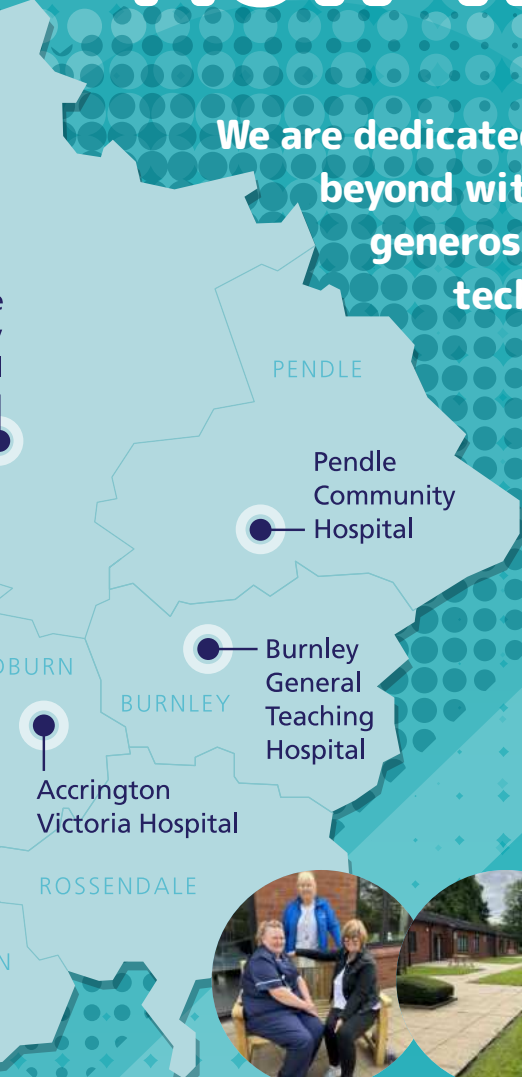
Follow us @ELHTandMe

Stay connected and be part of the conversation. By following ELHT&Me on social media, you can stay up to date with our latest news, announcements and see firsthand the difference your support makes.



How we support you

We are dedicated to enhancing patient care and going above and beyond with the overall hospital experience. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we can invest in advanced technology, wellbeing initiatives and environmental projects that benefit both patients and staff.



Pendle Community Hospital

Burnley General Teaching Hospital

Accrington Victoria Hospital

Equipment

Investing in specialist equipment and innovative technology, bringing advanced treatments to East Lancashire ahead of the wider NHS availability.



Wellbeing

Contributing to a positive hospital environment with wellbeing initiatives to bring benefit to our patients and staff.



Environment

Funding projects that transform our spaces into warm, welcome areas to be shared with everyone. From calming sky ceiling tiles to tranquil outdoor spaces and photos of local landmarks in our waiting areas; these touches make the hospital experience more comfortable and enjoyable.



Patient and family support

We strive to make every hospital stay as comfortable and supportive for patients and their families.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Charity mascot, Elmore, and his friends had the best time celebrating the NHS' birthday by wearing it blue in July. Elmore made sure to tick off everything on the birthday checklist:

NHS



ELHT&me
your local **NHS** hospital charity

- PLANT BLUE FLOWERS
- BAKE A CAKE
- COLOURING COMPETITION
- PLAY WITH FRIENDS
- SING 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY'

Look at the fun we had...



Don't miss out on the fun next year!

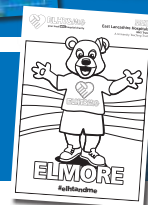
Scan the QR code to sign up for 2025 and receive your guide to wearing it blue along with a fantastic fundraising pack that includes everything you need: Certificates, rosette, bunting, colouring sheets, gift aid forms, etc.



Bring the celebration home with you!

For just a £10 donation, you can take home your very own five-inch Elmore teddy bear, with all donations going towards the Power Of Play appeal to continue the provision of play resources across our childrens services at East Lancashire Hospitals.

Download your free Elmore colouring sheet at www.elhtandme.co.uk/wearitblue2025



Advancing care. Improving diagnostics.

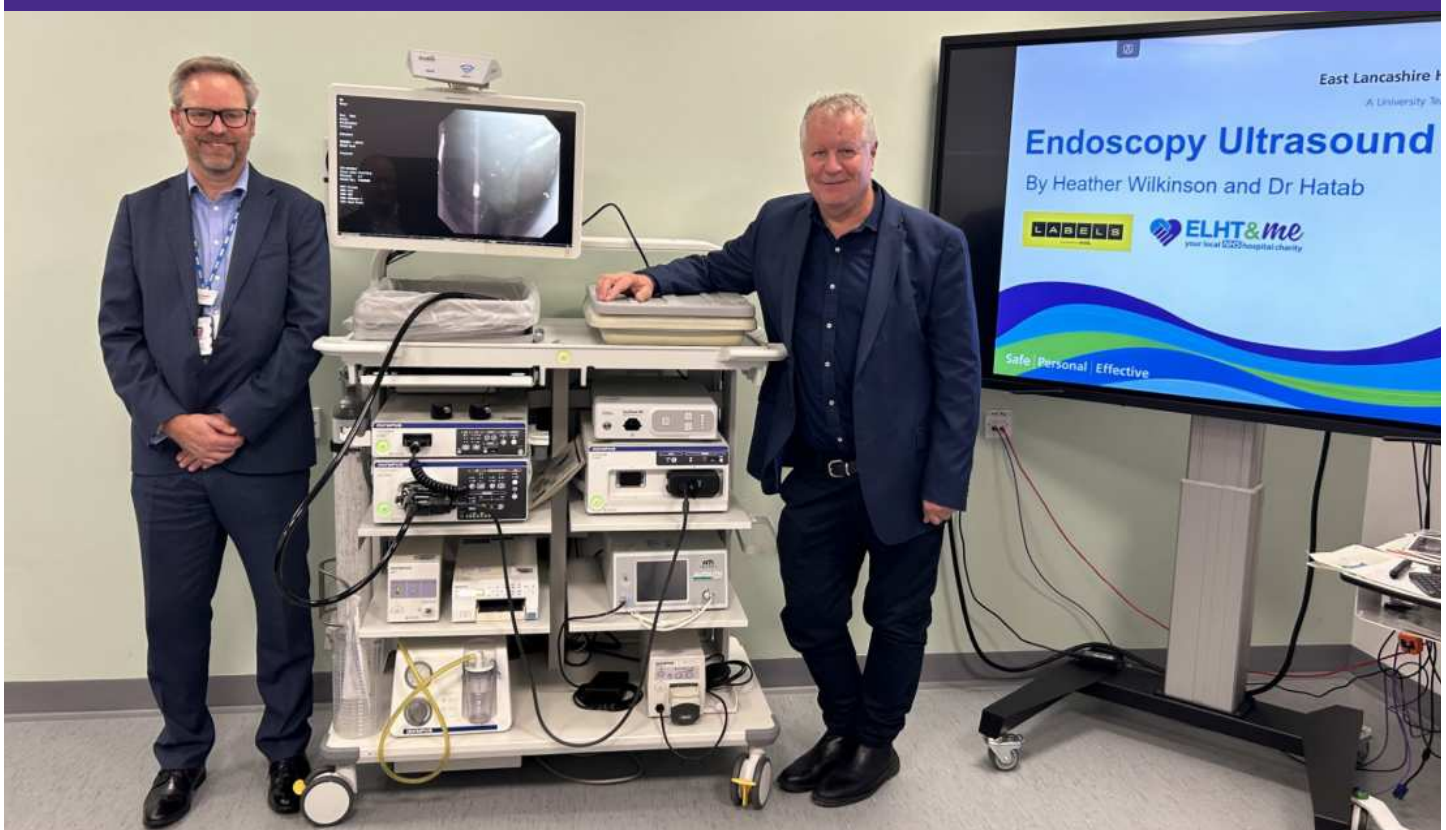
The Endoscopy Unit at Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital recently hosted a special demonstration event to showcase the new Olympus Evis EUS endosonography system, highlighting its capabilities in revolutionising cancer diagnostics.

Dr. Venkat Mahesh, Clinical Lead for Endoscopy at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, emphasised the impact of the new equipment:

“This is an advanced state-of-the-art diagnostic endoscopy with the help of ultrasound waves and other associated technologies to accurately identify, define, and stage cancer. It will also help with obtaining tissue samples, which would aid in accurate diagnosis and appropriate surgical and chemotherapeutic interventions. This is particularly suited for cancers of the pancreas, bile duct, liver, oesophagus, and stomach.”

This generous donation from Labels for Cares is a testament to their ongoing commitment to enhancing healthcare in East Lancashire. The new equipment complements the Trust’s existing machines, which have already scanned thousands of patients across the region, providing swift results and utilising the latest technology to improve patient outcomes.

The introduction of the Olympus Evis EUS endosonography system is expected to significantly enhance the diagnostic capabilities at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, ensuring that patients receive accurate diagnoses and effective treatments possible.



Have you got a story to share with us?
Get in touch!

 fundraising@elht.nhs.uk
 01254 732140

The ELHT&Me Hall of Fame

In every edition of the Hub, our hall of fame pays tribute to the incredible individuals, groups, and organisations who have generously given their time, resources and support in countless ways. A picture is worth a thousand words and each of you leaves us truly inspired. Thank you for all you do.



The Original Factory Shop



Lands End to John O'Groats in 24 hours



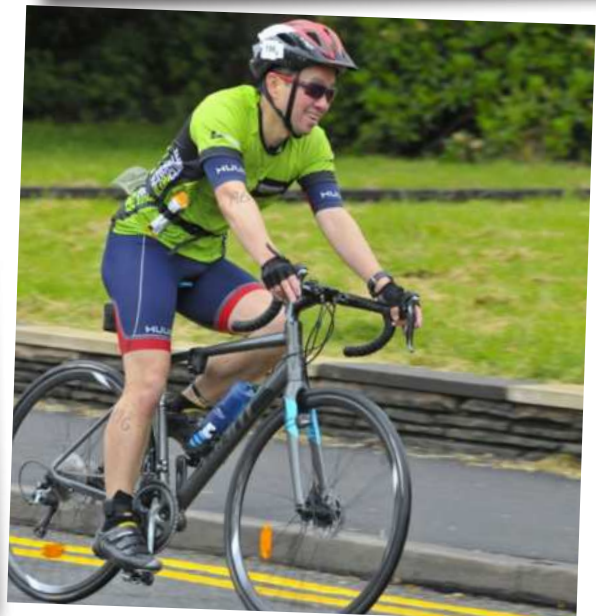
Isaac's Reading Challenge



KSC & Catholic Club, Nelson



Cherrybomb live at Alta, Whalley



Geoff Chiu's 100 mile cycle



The Dog Inn, Whalley



Ruby and Claret, Burnley



Pendleside Tractor Run



Tracy Hickey's Afternoon Tea



The Station, Cherry Tree



Asda, Blackburn

Transforming cancer care



The new state-of-the-art chemotherapy unit at Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital, named Bluebell Unit, is officially open.

This space will provide chemotherapy, immunotherapy and supportive treatments for cancer patients. The Bluebell Unit beautifully integrates nature into its design, featuring cherry blossom trees on the walls, illuminated sky ceiling panels and Darwen Tower imagery amongst floral designs across the corridor walls.

The unit is also equipped with scalp cooling systems to help reduce and prevent hair loss during treatment, giving patients additional support on their journey.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and fundraised to make this transformation possible.

**Have you got a story to share with us?
Get in touch!**

 fundraising@elht.nhs.uk
 **01254 732140**



Our talented crafters

We are fortunate to be surrounded by a community of incredibly talented and compassionate individuals and groups who devote their time and skills to making a tangible difference for our patients.

Thank you to everyone who knits, sews and crochets to support multiple areas of care across our hospitals. Your beautiful creations – soft blankets for newborns, drain bag covers for surgical patients, twiddlemuffs for those living with dementia and the lovely seasonal gifts that brighten our Charity Hub shop – make the biggest differences. These are symbols of love, care and generosity that reach beyond the hospital walls to touch hearts and lift spirits.



Shop and make a difference

Visit our shop in the main entrance of Royal Blackburn Hospital. Open seven days a week during October, November and December.

We welcome donations of new items, including any unwanted gifts you may have in the new year. Please get in touch with us if you have items to donate that we can use to raise funds.



Do you know a craft group that would be interested in supporting us? Please share this with them.



In memory of Minnie-Mai

Hayley and Simon lost their beautiful baby daughter Minnie-Mai just three hours and 22 minutes after she was born. Despite their heartbreak, they immediately set out on a mission to raise funds and awareness for the maternity bereavement service at the Lancashire Women's and Newborn Centre, in support of ELHT&Me

After losing Minnie-Mai, Hayley and Simon were able to spend precious time with her in the Serenity Suite – a comforting family room provided for those who have experienced loss. Now, as Minnie-Mai would have been starting school and turning four this year, Hayley is continuing to remember her daughter and support the team that enabled precious memories to be made.

She told us: "I'm doing another fundraiser in aid of the midwifery bereavement team to support families experiencing baby loss in the future. Raising awareness of baby loss and funds in aid of our local service is my priority."

As owners of The White Lion in Earby, Hayley and Simon recently hosted a family fun day with children's entertainment, a bouncy castle, tombola, food, and craft stalls, raising £1,000 for the cause.

With their support we have been able to enhance the two family bereavement suites with new televisions. These suites, located near the central birth suite entrance, offer a calm and peaceful environment for parents facing baby loss. They provide an opportunity for families to create cherished memories and bond with their baby during an extremely difficult time.



To support the maternity bereavement service at ELHT, please scan here



Leave a forever thank you with a gift in your Will.
All you need is the charity number: 1050478



Going for Gold

What means most to you?

Marsden Ward at Pendle Community Hospital is hosting a unique event aimed at inspiring patients and supporting their recovery: its very own version of the Olympic Games. This initiative is designed to remind patients that anything is possible and to encourage exercise as a significant part of their rehabilitation journey.

In true Olympic style, the event will begin with an opening ceremony, featuring patients participating in their own Olympic torch relay before the games are officially declared open.

The stroke rehabilitation team will put together a variety of meaningful and engaging activities, ranging from paper plate discus to improve coordination and core stability, to bowls for visual scanning and upper limb activity. These activities will be thoughtfully designed to cater to the needs and abilities of all patients on their rehabilitation journey.

Charitable funds have been used to introduce a new physiotherapy bike to the ward. This specialist therapy bike is tailored to suit individual patient needs and will provide a variety of workouts to aid in improving strength and flexibility.

You can support the area of care that means the most to you. Please www.elhtandme.co.uk/ donate and tell us why.

Scan the links below to donate directly to some of our key areas of care.



Neonatal Intensive Care Unit



Children's Services



Dementia Care



Acute Stroke Centre



Please scan the code contribute to the Marsden Ward's Olympic endeavours. Good luck, everyone!

Did you know you can dedicate your donation to the area of care closest to you? Is there an area you would like to support?



Christmas with ELHT&me

your local NHS hospital charity

Some of our festive fundraising activities happening during the run-up to Christmas...

Sock Days

Join the fun and put on your Christmas socks then make a donation for taking part - think snowmen, snowflakes, reindeers and sparkles. Wear your pair on any Wednesday in December, including Christmas Day!

Don't forget to snap a picture and submit to fundraising@elht.nhs.uk because there is a prize up for grabs.



Give a Gift

Can you help bring a smile to a patient's face this Christmas by becoming a Secret Santa and donating a gift?

Scan to find out how.



Letters from Santa

Add a touch of Christmas magic with a personalised letter from Santa as ELHT&Me teams up with the North Pole!

Register online and Santa will send a special letter directly to your loved one, bringing festive joy straight to their doorstep.



Prize Draw

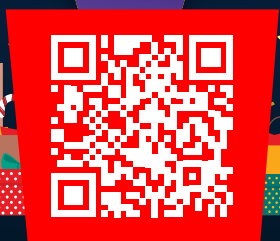
Win a Grand for Christmas

Be in the draw for a chance of winning £1,000 or a £250 Millercare voucher.

You're not only in with a chance to win some fantastic prizes but you're also helping us bring enhancements to our hospitals.



Enter here



Scan for all our latest Christmas events or visit us online at elhtandme.co.uk/events



Dedicate a Blue Ribbon

Pay tribute to someone special with a blue ribbon dedication.

Your loved one will be part of a poignant blue ribbon display that offer a meaningful way to honour those much loved and dearly missed.

There will be a dedicated space at each hospital site – Royal Blackburn, Burnley General, Clitheroe and Pendle.

All blue ribbon dedications will decorate the hospital grounds throughout November and December and will be featured in our online blue ribbon remembrance book. Attend our organised gathering held at each site to remember and reflect.

To dedicate your blue ribbon and choose a display site, please complete the online form, available here:



Looking ahead to 2025

Make your milestones matter

A new year is the perfect time to reflect on personal milestones and how we can make a lasting impact.

Whether you're celebrating a special anniversary, a milestone birthday, a wedding or perhaps you're planning a fitness challenge, 2025 is a great opportunity to turn those moments into something truly meaningful.

Everyone has the power to make a difference. Whether it's a department that has touched your life, a service that's close to your heart or a ward that was there for you – your fundraising efforts can be there for someone else.

Is 2025...

- ... the year you run that marathon, cycle the coast or climb that mountain?
- ... the year you celebrate a big birthday or anniversary?
- ... the year you do it with passion for the area of care that means the most to you?

Stay up to date

New events are added to our calendar all the time. Please keep up-to-date by checking regularly on our website: elhtandme.co.uk/events



Be part of our journey in 2025



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Mobility Specialists



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Blackburn · Blackpool · Bolton · Bury · Heywood
Leyland · Manchester · Oldham · Oswaldtwistle
Preston · Southport · Stockport · Warrington · Wigan

Get in touch

If you've done something you want to shout about, have a fundraising idea or would like to discuss how ELHT&Me could get involved with something you're doing, we'd love to hear from you.

To keep up with the very latest developments and news from ELHT&Me, follow us on social media.



@ELHTandMe

www.elhtandme.co.uk

fundraising@elht.nhs.uk

01254 732140

ELHT&Me Charity Hub
Main Entrance
Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital

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