



**POPPY'S  
FUND**

# POPPY'S FUND NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

## Thank you! Celebrating five years of incredible support for our maternity services

On 12 October 2017, Carly and Roo Hodgson received the heartbreaking news that their unborn daughter Poppy had sadly died.

No-one should experience the pain that comes with losing a child, but during this traumatic experience Carly and Roo received incredible support from the maternity staff at Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital.

Specialist bereavement midwives helped them come to terms with their loss and supported them in the weeks and months that followed.

Moved by their experience of extraordinary care, Carly and Roo joined forces with Imperial Health Charity to set up Poppy's Fund



and ensure excellent care for many more families at Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea and St Mary's hospitals.

In the last five years, Poppy's Fund has raised an incredible £187,912 for maternity services across the two hospitals. This has helped us fund specialist equipment, training and

vital improvements to the hospitals' facilities, making a huge difference to maternity staff, patients and families who visit the maternity wards. Below are just a few examples of the amazing projects your donations have helped us deliver over the last five years ...

### None of this would have been possible without your support ...

On behalf of Imperial Health Charity, thank you so much for your generous support over the last five years. I've seen the positive difference your donations have made - from new equipment that means we can offer specialist care to newborns, to refurbishing the hospital environment and creating more welcoming spaces for families. We've also been able to support our hard-working maternity staff, and they've told me how Poppy's Fund has made them feel so well looked after - and, in turn, better able to care for their patients. None of this would have been possible without your support. Thank you!

*Tracy*

**Tracy D'souza**  
Senior Fundraising  
Manager



### Since 2018, your generous support has helped us fund ...

**Three 'Lifestart' mobile resuscitation units**, allowing maternity staff to perform life-saving care for newborns at the bedside.

**Equipment to treat babies with jaundice**, providing non-invasive light therapy using special pads wrapped around the baby.

**New outdoor furniture for staff on our labour wards**, transforming the outdoor terrace into a relaxing break area.

**Reclining chairs**, enabling family members to spend a restful night's sleep on the post-natal ward.

**THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR  
AMAZING  
SUPPORT!**



## New television screen shares baby feeding information with waiting parents

Thanks to your generous donations, we've funded a brand new television for the discharge lounge at St Mary's Hospital.

As well as helping to create an informal and relaxing atmosphere in the lounge, the screen is being used to share important information with parents before they leave the hospital with their newborn.

Midwifery Matron Mahmoud Dabo said: "This TV has transformed the waiting area - it entertains parents after a birth when waiting for their support person to collect them from

hospital. And it's also a source of information, playing infant and baby feeding videos and explaining what to expect in the first few days and weeks after having a baby."

With your support, we're helping to make sure the discharge lounge is a calm and peaceful space for mothers and partners away from the wards where they can unwind, feed and find a cool, relaxing place to rest in the warmer summer months.

Thank you!

## A welcome away day for our maternity teams

Our maternity colleagues work round the clock to look after parents and babies at our hospitals - which means taking a day away from the wards is a precious commodity

Alongside vital medical equipment and facilities at the hospitals, your generous donations have enabled us to support an away day for the maternity team, providing time and space for them to consider important challenges without the immediate pressures of the front line.

We were pleased to cover the cost of food for the away day, ensuring staff could enjoy a nutritious meal to support their learning and development.

Matron Jenny Badoe said: "Food always brings people closer, so we appreciate and value this donation. It's a way of saying thanks to staff



and showing how much we appreciate them."

The away day was part of the Happier Working Lives project, an initiative within the maternity service which helps improve staff morale.

The day created a reflective space where the

team learnt new strategies to navigate challenging situations on the wards and enhance patient safety.

This would not have been possible without your generous support.

Thank you!

## Dates for your diary ...

### WALK FOR WARDS July 2023

Team up with friends, family and colleagues to take on our virtual sponsored walk and raise money for Poppy's Fund. Sign up today at [imperialcharity.org.uk/walkforwards](https://imperialcharity.org.uk/walkforwards)

### SWIM SERPENTINE 16 September 2023

Make a splash in Hyde Park's iconic Serpentine lake to show your support for Poppy's Fund. Find out more at [imperialcharity.org.uk/swim](https://imperialcharity.org.uk/swim)

### ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON

8 October 2023

Soak in the autumn colours as you run through four of London's eight Royal Parks, passing famous landmarks along the way. Find out more at [imperialcharity.org.uk/royal-parks](https://imperialcharity.org.uk/royal-parks)



# Three cheers for Trigon!

## Rounders fun raises £2k

Got a bright idea to raise funds? Get in touch today!  
Email [fundraising@imperialcharity.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@imperialcharity.org.uk)



We'd like to say a very special thank you to everyone at Trigon DM who teamed up with their clients and partners to host a fantastic rounders tournament and raffle, raising over £2,000. There was a fantastic atmosphere on the day, with teams 'batting' it out to be crowned the winners - despite the pouring rain!

Thank you Trigon!



### Runners race to finish line

Huge congratulations to the amazing team of six runners who completed the Royal Parks Half Marathon for Poppy's Fund last October. They set an initial team target of £2,400 but smashed their goal, raising a staggering £7,203. This will make a massive difference to staff, patients and families at our hospitals. Thank you all for your incredible support!

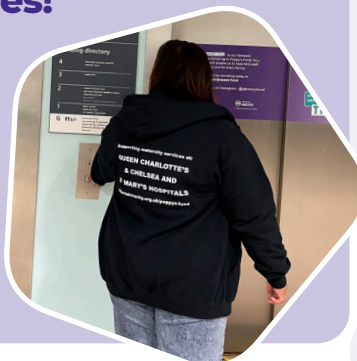
### Wellbeing gifts for our staff

Many of our amazing maternity staff were treated to special wellbeing packages to mark Maternity Support Worker Celebration Day in November. Our teams at Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea and St Mary's received goody bags containing a hair scrunchy, a candle, hand sanitiser, sweets and an uplifting message to highlight how much their efforts are valued. Hear hear!

### Check out our Poppy's Fund hoodies!

Have you seen our new Poppy's Fund hoodies? These snug sweaters have been keeping maternity staff cosy over the winter months while helping to raise awareness of Poppy's Fund among patients and visitors.

All profits raised from the sale of our hoodies is going straight back to supporting staff and patients on our maternity wards.



Thanks  
to your  
support,  
we've  
raised ...

**£187,912**  
as of  
18 May  
2023

### Simple ways you can help

#### 1. Donate online

To make a donation, please visit [imperialcharity.org.uk/poppysfund](https://imperialcharity.org.uk/poppysfund)

#### 2. Send a cheque

Please make your cheque payable to Imperial Health Charity and send it to: Poppy's Fund, Imperial Health Charity, 178-180 Edgware Road, London, W2 2DS

#### 3. Raise money


You can support our work by taking part in a fundraising event or organising one of your own. To find out more, please visit: [imperialcharity.org.uk/fundraising-events](https://imperialcharity.org.uk/fundraising-events)

#### 4. Get in touch

To speak in confidence with Imperial Health Charity's Director of Development, Hayley Pannick, please call 020 3857 9852.

**Imperial Health Charity**  
178-180 Edgware Road  
London  
W2 2DS

[imperialcharity.org.uk/  
poppysfund](https://imperialcharity.org.uk/poppysfund)

 @poppysfund

T: 020 3640 7766

E: [fundraising@  
imperialcharity.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@imperialcharity.org.uk)

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