



## Exhibitions

### Time to Celebrate

In 2023, we took the decision to keep our temporary exhibitions up for a whole year rather than changing them every six months which we had previously been doing. We wanted to enjoy the artwork for longer and it also frees up time for more work on important enhancement projects around our hospitals. The artwork in our 2023-24 exhibition, which is titled Celebrate, can be seen within the main corridors of Royal Derby Hospital and Queen's Hospital Burton until the middle of April.

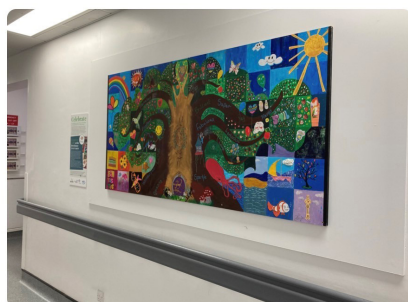
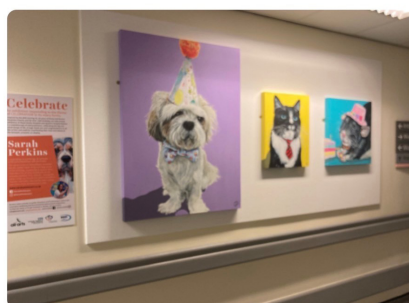
The planning and work that goes into creating an exhibition each year begins almost as soon as the existing one is on the walls! For 2024-25, our theme is Everyday Extraordinary. Our Visual Arts Manager Kate Stoppard was inspired by the special days of awareness and appreciation which have been created to celebrate diverse subjects, both serious and more light-hearted, throughout the calendar year. Some are fairly well-known, such as International Women's Day, which falls on March 9th, while others are perhaps less widely celebrated. Did you know for example that June 4th is the National Day of Cheese? Our exhibition will showcase artworks from regional artists which respond visually to these days of appreciation.

Alongside the exhibition, the new edition of our Fresh magazine will be published. As ever, this will be packed with information on what Air Arts are up to, plus information and images of the artworks on display. You can pick up a copy of the latest Fresh in our hospitals.

For more information about past and present exhibitions, please visit [www.airarts.net](http://www.airarts.net)

## Newsletter Winter 2023

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Artwork from our 2023-24 exhibition Celebrate



# Enhancements

Artists Lynne Hollingsworth revisited and repaired our much-admired mural outside the blood clinic at Royal Derby Hospital. What was supposed to have been a temporary piece over 10 years ago is still very much a permanent fixture. Over the years, it has, naturally enough, suffered some wear and tear damage due to its location in a busy hospital corridor. We are thrilled that Lynne, who created the original mural, has been able to come and make it fresh and vibrant again for patients, staff and visitors to enjoy for many more years to come.



Artist Lynne Hollingsworth repairing a much-loved mural

*'This is so calming, I could stand and look at it all night.'* – patient comment

*'Thank you for making this hospital look so welcoming'* – staff comment

We have many more enhancement projects planned in already for 2024 across all five sites. As the year unfolds, we can wait to share the finished projects with you.





# Music

## Our National Health Stories Project

We were honoured to be a part of the *Our National Health Stories* Project. Together with 19 other NHS Trusts, we shared the words and stories of our incredible NHS staff, using artistic mediums to celebrate their 75th anniversary. There was an array of artforms involved in the project, and our contributions included a five-track EP called *Reflective Voices*, written by Rosie and Jamie Rutherford (track two co-written by Fliss Biacsi) which is a collection of music and songs inspired by and based on words and art created by staff from the University Hospitals of Derby and Burton. Staff also attended workshops to create over 50 ceramic buds with artist Elaine Lim-Newton, which were based on the trees created by EJ Lance and Miles Haplin for a previous Air Arts project *A Choral Forest*. The backdrop for the performance, and the cover of the EP were drawn by artist EJ Lance.

The EP was officially launched in November at Queen's Hospital in the restaurant, and three tracks were subsequently filmed at Royal Derby Hospital for the live stream of *Our National Health Stories*. A large-scale projection of the recording of these tracks being performed and a poetry reading by staff nurse Daniel Bran Griffith were shown as part of the live finale event of *Our National Health Stories* at Aviva Studios in Manchester, where all the trusts came together for a big performance extravaganza, directed by actor and playwright Kwame Kwei-Armah. It was an incredible event, and we are so proud to have been a part of it.

The performance at Manchester's Aviva Studios was featured in The Guardian as their live-stream pick of the month.





# Patient Experience

## Live Music on Six Sites!

Our brand-new, six-month live music pilot programme got started in October with regular live music performances happening on wards and across performance spaces at Royal Derby Hospital, Queen's Hospital Burton, Samuel Johnson Hospital in Lichfield, Sir Robert Peel Hospital in Tamworth, Florence Nightingale Community Hospital in Derby and, for the first time, in Ilkeston.

It has been an epic achievement in scheduling by our Music Co-Ordinator Rosie Rutherford. Rosie also manages to fit in performing for us herself and is thrilled to be back playing her clarinet in the hospitals after such a long break (due to covid restrictions).

Thanks to all of our musicians who have worked so hard to bring the soothing and uplifting power of music to our visitors, staff and patients. It has been so lovely to connect with new musicians, and be able to access places we've not been to before.

We celebrated Diwali and the Sikh festival Bandi Chhor Divas with the amazing sitarist Pete Yelding, who came all the way from Bristol to play at Queen's Hospital Burton and Royal Derby Hospital.

We had a brilliant Christmas programme of wonderful music too, and one of the biggest highlights has been welcoming schoolchildren back to sing carols for us for the first time since 2019. They have been a pure joy to hear and brought many smiles to faces in December. Huge thanks to the children and staff at Wren Park Primary School, Silverhill Primary School, Etwall Primary School, Derby Cathedral School and St Modwen's Catholic Primary School.

We also held two 'Come and Sing' events for staff at Royal Derby Hospital and Queen's Hospital Burton, with the opportunity to join our Staff Wellbeing Choir to sing some Christmas songs. Thanks so much to all who joined us!



Left to right: sitar player Pete Yelding; Air Arts' Rosie Rutherford with Chris and Moussa from the West African percussion duo Toumaranke; Come and Sing event for staff at Royal Derby Hospital, children from St Modwen's Catholic Primary School singing carols outside Queen's Hospital Burton.





# Staff Wellbeing

## Staff Wellbeing Choir

The choir have been going from strength to strength as they get ready for events in 2024! They have been learning a mix of repertoire, including a sea shanty and a Disney medley, and lots of Christmas tunes.

They performed at the Santa Run which was organised by Derby and Burton Hospital Charity at Markeaton Park and sang at Queen's Hospital and Royal Derby as part of the Come and Sing Christmas events.



Left: Come and Sing session at Queen's Hospital Burton. Right: Staff singers on stage at the Santa Run.

## Christmas comes to Royal Derby and Queen's



We have had some fantastic festive workshops for staff in November and December 2023 at Royal Derby Hospital and Queen's Hospital Burton, including glass ornament making, ceramic festive sculptures and wreaths.

This is the first Christmas we have been able to offer workshops for staff and we have been delighted with the positive response. The new creative wellbeing workshop programme for Queen's Hospital Burton kicks off in early 2024 alongside our established programme at Royal Derby Hospital.





## Visual Literacy: Seeing the Skin Project

Our resident visual artist Emma was invited by The British Association of Dermatologists to develop and deliver a bespoke visual literacy training day inspired by the collection of historical illustrations at the Willan Library, a heritage library in London managed by the Royal College of Physicians on behalf of the British Association of Dermatologists.

Dermatology consultants and registrars from across the country attended a fully booked workshop. The feedback has been fantastic and has already yielded new developments for the project.



Photo: Dr Tanya Bleiker

*"Thank you so much for facilitating the Visual Literacy session at the BAD a few weeks ago, Portia and I really enjoyed the session. I think we underestimate the power of art and its impact on our lives. Most importantly just how much fun and liberating it can be!"*

*Dr Padma Mohandas , Consultant Dermatologist, Barts Health NHS Trust*

## UHDB Medical Museum

We are really pleased to announce that this project will be continuing until June 2024. During this time, we will be offering new creative workshops linked to our heritage for our staff and we will purchase six new display cases so that more of the collection will be on show. We will continue to deliver the Museum in a Box sessions on the wards and develop some new anatomical resources for our visual literacy sessions with clinical staff.







## Fresh

Fresh is full of information on our latest projects, exhibitions and news. You can pick up a copy for free in our hospitals.

For more information or to view a digital version of Fresh, please visit our website [www.airarts.net](http://www.airarts.net)

*Air Arts delivers a wide-ranging programme of arts and creative activities for patients, staff and visitors at Derby and Burton Hospitals, to improve the hospital experience and support wellbeing.*

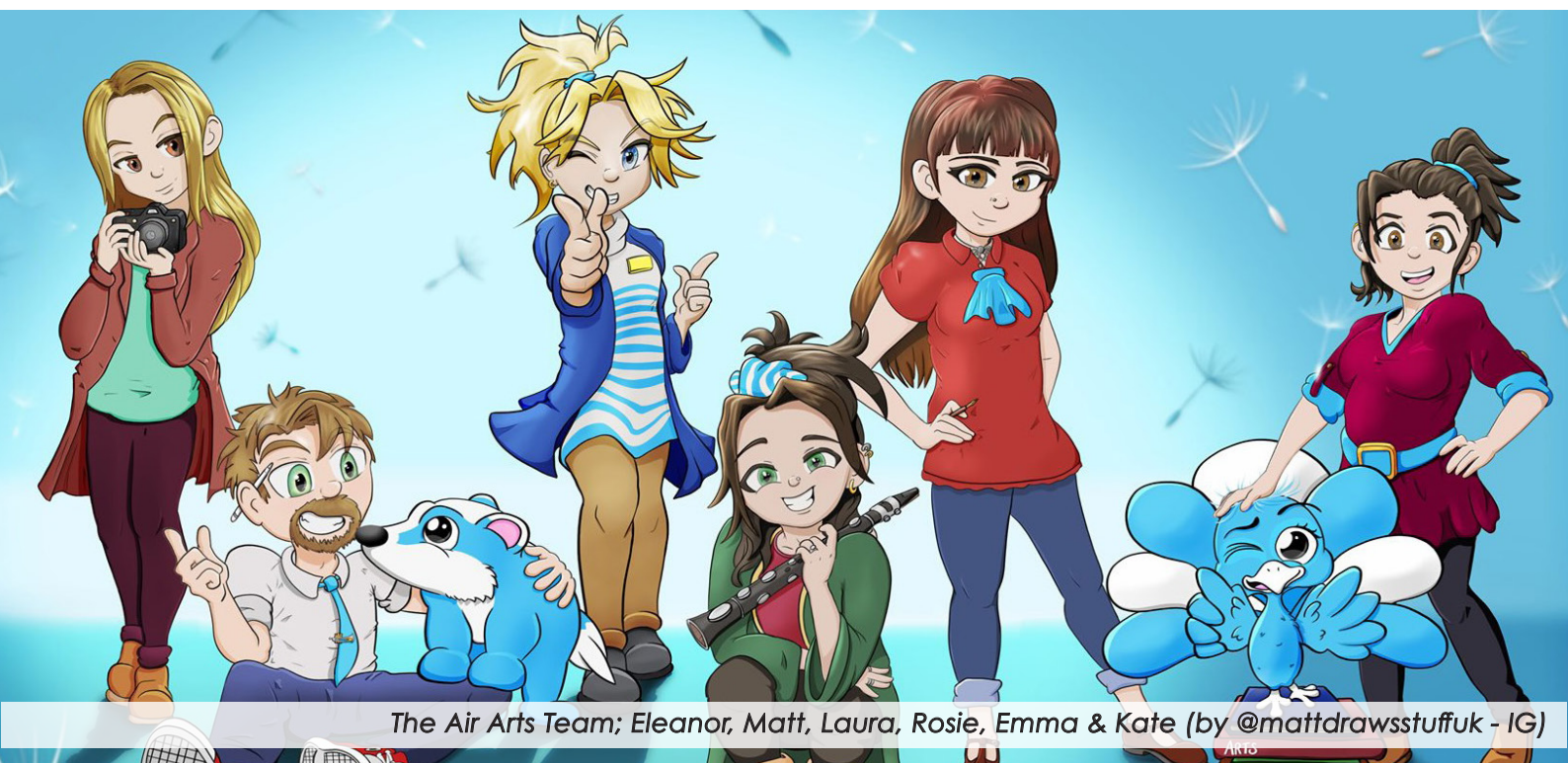


You can contact the team on email or social media:

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