

Your Local Air Ambulance NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2

SKY'S THE LIMIT

Every day our
charity is
changing lives.

Read about how
you are making a
difference for
patients and
their families.

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your local
air ambulance

Derbyshire · Leicestershire · Rutland

Warwickshire · Northamptonshire

WELCOME



Welcome to our supporter newsletter! As the new CEO, I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this incredible team that works tirelessly to save lives every day.

I've spent my career so far helping people in the healthcare and the voluntary sector, serving as a CEO for 25 years. I'm thrilled to be part of TAAS' future, as I have seen the real difference they are making in providing critical care and improving patient outcomes.

In this edition of Sky's the Limit, I am honoured to share with you how your generous donations have been used to make a difference in our mission.

I am so pleased to share with you the recognition which our operations teams have received for their specialised lifesaving skills which you can read more about on page 5. We also have a fantastic patient story which shows just how vital this service is in the local area.

Our mission is made possible by the passion, dedication, and generosity of our staff, volunteers, and supporters like you. Your unwavering support empowers us to transform more lives. We're grateful for everyone who makes our mission possible.

Thank you!

Peta

Peta Wilkinson
CEO, Children's Air Ambulance

OUR VISION, MISSION & VALUES

Vision:

To ensure children grow into adults, for adults to live longer and for families to stay together, as bereavement through trauma becomes rare.

Mission:

Our rapid response services work tirelessly to save lives and alleviate pain and suffering, wherever and whenever needed.

Values: The core values that drive our organisation are:



CREATIVITY



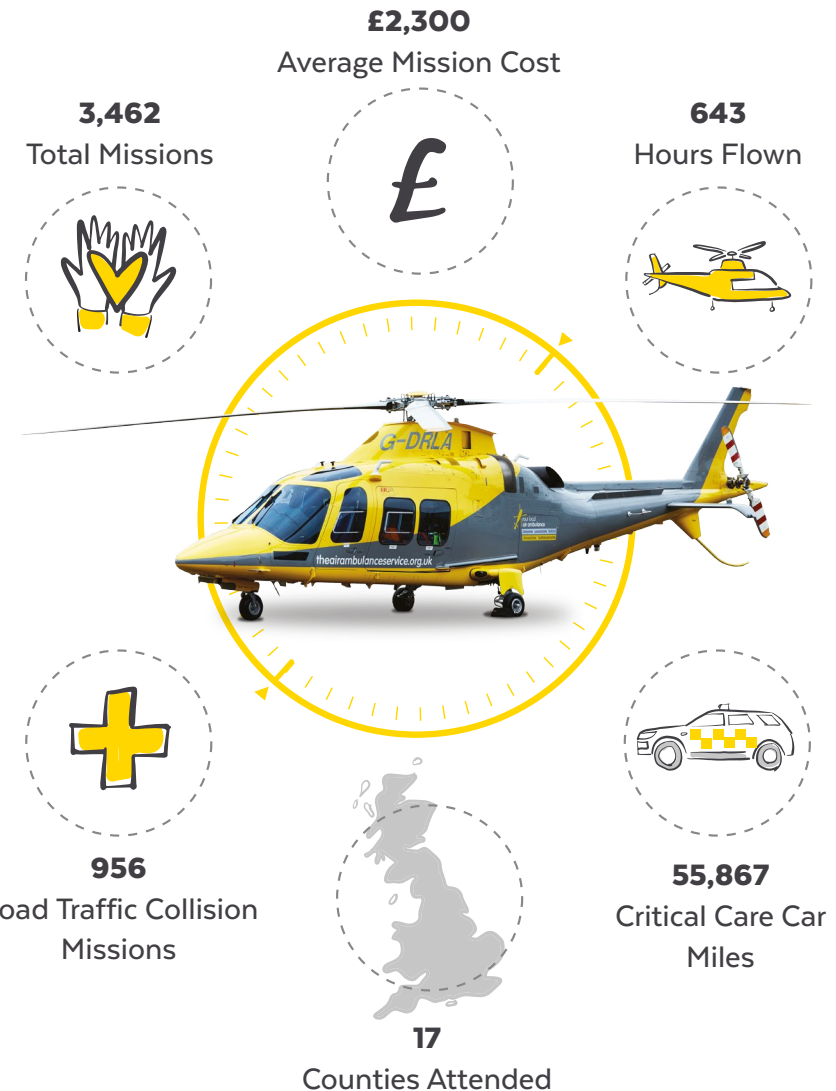
COMPASSION



COURAGE

MISSION STATS FOR 2023*

Reaching a medical emergency in rapid time can be the difference between life and death. That's where Your Local Air Ambulance comes in.



*These figures reflect our missions from 1 Jan 2023 - 30 Nov 2023.

MISSION COSTS UPDATE



Your local air ambulance (WNDLRAA) has increased its mission costs from £1,700 to £2,300 due to an increase in fuel prices and other related costs in delivering its lifesaving service. It is the first time in nearly 10 years the charity has had to raise its average mission cost and the decision has been driven by increases to key elements of the service due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Our critical care paramedics, doctors and pilots attend an average of ten rescue missions a day and within minutes, they can be on the ground delivering lifesaving care at road traffic collisions, sports events, and industrial accidents or for medical emergencies such as cardiac arrest, stroke or accidents in the home.

The air ambulance gives people the very best chance of survival and recovery. Our helicopter can fly at 185mph and carries the very latest lifesaving equipment.

Our air ambulance team is supported by Critical Care Cars, which provide valuable backup for incidents close to the helicopter base or when the weather makes it too dangerous to fly. It also enables our doctors and critical care paramedics to run a night car service so that they are available to reach those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.



We receive no funding from the government or National Lottery for our daily missions and we rely entirely on donations to raise the £2,300 we need for each rescue mission.



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE



We are extremely proud of Doctor Jake Turner, who won the **Doctor of the Year** category at the Air Ambulances UK Awards of Excellence in November 2023, a superb accomplishment given the great nominees within the category.

The annual awards, celebrate and recognise the dedicated professionals who tirelessly contribute their specialised lifesaving skills and unwavering commitment to the air ambulance community.



Dr Jake Turner

Doctor Jake Turner won his award category for his outstanding contributions throughout 2023, which have been pivotal in advancing maxillofacial injury and resuscitative thoracotomy treatments. His proactive approach in acquiring cutting-edge surgical equipment, implementing specialised training, and updating policies based on the latest research has significantly raised the bar in medical care.



To read more about these awards, please scan the QR code or follow the link below.
theairambulanceservice.org.uk/celebrating-excellence

'OUTSTANDING' CLINICAL SERVICES

Both our Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance and our Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance services welcomed the Care Quality Commission's 'Outstanding' ratings of their clinical services in 2023. This is the highest overall rating the regulator awards and takes into account the standard and practice of emergency and urgent care provided.



"It's fantastic that the inspectors were able to see and articulate the passion and commitment that exists within everyone across the wider charity, we can only achieve reports like this because of everyone's hard work, everyone involved should be immensely proud." Richard Clayton, Director of Operations.



To read more and view the full report, please scan the QR code or follow the link below.

theairambulanceservice.org.uk/dlraa-service-achieves-outstanding-cqc-rating

Helen's Story

PATIENT STORY

“Every day I get to wake up and enjoy the world, I celebrate!”

Helen from Loughborough is an amazing example of how your local air ambulance saves lives at the roadside. Over the years, our critical care crew have been tasked with countless road traffic collisions such as Helen's, and it's only thanks to your support, they can perform lifesaving procedures.

“The doctor and paramedic were able to make decisions and perform procedures that made the difference between me surviving and dying at the roadside.”

Helen didn't expect to meet our critical care crews as she set out on her beloved Harley Davidson motorcycle in Hinckley that day, but after a collision with a lorry, her life was hanging in the balance. Helen's bike went under the wheels of the lorry, tossing her to the side of the road in the process. She was knocked unconscious immediately and suffered multiple injuries to her head, neck, spine, pelvis, ribs, right leg, and right arm. Both her lungs were punctured, and she even suffered a contusion (bruising) of the heart. She was bleeding profusely.

The Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance service immediately received the call due to the severity of her injuries and arrived at a nearby field within eight minutes.

The first priority was to ensure she could breathe. Helen's helmet was still on, and her airway was partially obstructed, so the crew had to work fast. At the same time her condition needed to be stabilised: to reduce blood loss and pain, her injuries were splinted, and she was given medication at the scene.



At the roadside, the critical care crew made the lifesaving decision to put her into an induced coma and administered a ventilator to manage her breathing. Her head injury could have meant further damage to her brain, so anaesthetising her was crucial to her long-term outcome. One of her lungs had partially collapsed, so the crew also performed a critical thoracostomy procedure to remove air that had leaked into her chest cavity.

Due to the severity of her condition, they decided to transport her by road to University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire – the nearest major trauma centre – so the air ambulance doctor accompanied her in a land ambulance. On arrival, the doctor handed over to an entire trauma team in the A&E department. Helen's condition was critical, so she was put on a life support machine and spent five weeks in a coma.

During this time, she underwent two major operations, which saved her right leg and right arm.

After waking up, Helen was in hospital for four months while she recovered. She endured intense physiotherapy sessions to help her learn to walk again. She had to learn many basic things again such as using a knife and fork.

When she left the hospital in a wheelchair, Helen was told that it would take her two years to be able to work and drive. Since then, Helen has returned to work and lives every day to the fullest.

“I've been learning to walk again since my accident. I have had to accept the fact that I'm disabled, but I'm alive, and I owe it to all the people who cared for and treated me. Without the crew, I would be dead, simple as that. I raised money for the charity, never knowing I would need it; you never know what's around the corner”

Helen

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Name: Justine Alexander

Job Title: Clinical Liaison Officer



How long have you worked for TAAS?

I have worked for The Air Ambulance Service for just over three years.

What does a typical week look like for you?

No day is the same. With a mixture of working on both bases, at head office and out and about meeting patients and families that have been in our care offering aftercare and support. Arranging base visits for patients and families as part of the recovery process and gaining feedback to enhance our service. In addition, contact with hospitals for follow-ups on patient outcomes for our clinicians. I also coordinate police and coroner statement requests, medical record requests and patient verification.

What has been your highlight so far?

There are a couple of highlights. Being able to speak at our staff conference to showcase a patient story showing the importance of my role for our patients and family's welfare and wellbeing. Enforcing the knowledge that our care doesn't just stop on scene or at the doors of the hospital. The satisfaction of enabling base visits for patients and families that have been in our care, to meet the crew that attended to them. Seeing the positive impact that it has is so rewarding.

What would you like to say to our supporters?

Thank you doesn't seem enough, but we wouldn't be able to do what we do without all your support and efforts. It doesn't go unnoticed.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself!

I am a grandma of two beautiful girls aged two and three.

DID YOU KNOW?

Along with our clothing banks for donating your preloved items, we also offer a **free** IT Asset Reuse collection and data wiping service for donated IT equipment which helps raise vital funds for our life-saving charity.

To find your nearest clothing bank, host a clothing bank, or find out more about our free IT Asset Reuse service please follow the link below, scan the QR code or call our friendly team.

 theairambulance.org.uk/ways-to-give/reuse-recycle
0300 3045 999



GIFTS IN WILLS WEEK

YOUR SIGNATURE CAN SAVE LIVES



Gifts in Wills have a profound impact on our charity, funding 1 in 7 of our missions. This is why we will have a special dedicated Gifts in Wills Week taking place **18th - 24th March**, emphasising the importance of these special gifts.

Legacies were a vital lifeline to our charity during the pandemic when other fundraising activities had to stop, and they remain resilient in keeping our service going through other crises like the cost-of-living crisis. In fact, with the cost-of-living crisis, gifts in wills are becoming an increasingly accessible way for

people to support our charity as it's a way that someone can support us without it costing them anything now.

We receive gifts of all sizes from people of all walks of life. Any gift – however big or small – can make a real difference and support our lifesaving service.

Please call **0300 3045 999**, request more information on the response form and send back to us in the free post envelope or email legacies@theairambulance.org.uk.

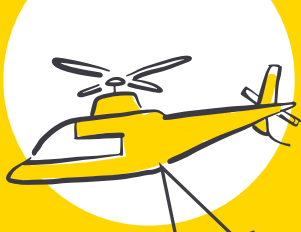
HOW REGULAR GIVING SUPPORTS YOUR LOCAL AIR AMBULANCE

To maintain the bespoke aircraft and ensure the best care is available to the children, we need to be able to plan. Knowing that our supporters have committed to giving every month, even just £1, allows us to keep our service the most effective as possible.

For those who already give regularly... *THANK YOU SO MUCH!*

If you would like to become a regular supporter, or would just like to find out more, please scan the QR code with your smart phone camera or call our friendly supporter experience team on **0300 3047 698**





WE NEED

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VOLUNTEER HELP US SAVE LIVES

- MEET NEW PEOPLE
- LEARN NEW SKILLS
- BOOST YOUR CAREER
- IMPROVE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH
- BE PART OF A TEAM
- GAIN NEW EXPERIENCES
- GROW YOUR CONFIDENCE
- GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY
- HAVE FUN

scan me
to find your
perfect role



VOLUNTEERING

GET INVOLVED

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO HELP US SAVE LIVES

Volunteers are the heartbeat of our charity.

Quite simply, we could not operate our services and continue to save lives without the support of our volunteers. We want to provide our volunteers with a fulfilling and satisfying experience that comes with a range of benefits including new skills, increased confidence, friendships and the opportunity to make a difference to people in need.

If you want to meet new people, support a cause you're passionate about, or have time to spare, why not join our team of volunteers today?



For more information you please contact our team:

EMAIL : volunteering@theairambulance.org.uk

PHONE : 0300 3045 999

VISIT OUR WEBSITE : theairambulance.org.uk/volunteering



OR SCAN THE QR CODE ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE TO FIND YOUR PERFECT ROLE !

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

£10

Could help to pay for a special mask that will be used to help patients when they've stopped breathing.

£20

Could pay for essential pads to be used with a difibrillator when a patient suffers cardiac arrest.

£40

Could pay for a single use pelvic splint. This is applied to all patients with suspected pelvic fractures. Vital for reducing blood loss.

£2,300

Could fly one complete mission for Your Local Air Ambulance.

PLEASE SCAN ME TO DONATE



OR DONATE ONLINE AT
theairambulanceservice.org.uk/donate

PATIENT FEEDBACK?



If you have been airlifted or helped by us, please visit our Patient Feedback page and tell us your story.



or email
clinicallyliaisonofficer@theairambulanceservice.org.uk

All your information will be kept strictly private and confidential and will not be shared with any other parties without your prior consent.

STAY IN TOUCH



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