

Supporting Clatterbridge Cancer Charity: Volunteering at their 30th Birthday Celebration

Volunteers from Taranto Systems spent the day at Clatterbridge Cancer Centre's Winter Garden in Liverpool, helping Clatterbridge Cancer Charity celebrate its 30th anniversary. As part of the celebrations, the team worked alongside Clatterbridge staff to run drinks, cake and raffle stalls, supporting the charity's work funding care, support and research for cancer patients and their families across the region.



Nikki Best (Clatterbridge Cancer Charity), with Taranto Systems volunteers Darren Rodmell, Jay (Mengjie Yu), Douglas Selley, Anthony Meade, Joshua Cassidy and Maryam Ali, celebrating Clatterbridge Cancer Charity's 30th anniversary.

"As it's a local service to myself, it means a lot to me personally. I've had family who've gone through their service, so this charity has a special place in my heart. I really enjoyed the experience."

— Anthony Meade

A day selling tea & coffee, cake and raffle tickets

Trade came in waves throughout the day, with quieter periods providing an opportunity to chat with colleagues and Clatterbridge staff, followed by busy bursts when every volunteer was needed at once. Alongside the stalls, the anniversary celebration featured a programme of performances. A poetry reading opened the proceedings, drawing on *LIFT*, an anthology of poems written by Clatterbridge patients about their experiences of cancer and everyday life.

The Liver Bird Choir and Merseyside Choir performed one after the other, while a pianist provided live music inside the hospital throughout the day. Several choir members had their own experiences of

cancer and of receiving care at Clatterbridge, giving the performances a particularly personal and meaningful quality for the volunteers.

"It was a brilliant opportunity to join such a charity event. All six of us worked as a team to serve a different purpose away from our usual daily routine work. The most touching bit is to listen and enjoy the lovely songs performed by the Liver Bird Choir."

— Jay (Mengjie Yu)



The cake and tea stall (left) and the raffle and merchandise stall (right), both under the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity gazebo.

"It took us a little while to find our rhythm, but once we did the whole thing ran like clockwork. A cup of tea and a slice of cake is a small thing, but the conversations that came with it were what stayed with us."

— Doug Selley

The event gave the Taranto team an opportunity to work alongside colleagues they do not usually see day to day, while supporting patients, families and staff at a hospital that holds personal significance for many of the volunteers. At the end of the event, Clatterbridge staff thanked the volunteers for their time by sending them home with any unsold cakes.

Taranto plans to continue supporting Clatterbridge Cancer Charity events as part of its ongoing commitment to making a positive contribution to the local community.

As part of our social value commitment, Taranto provides every employee with two days of paid volunteering leave each year.



REFLECTION

A day worth doing again

Six volunteers, one hospital courtyard, one very good cause.