



London's
Air Ambulance
Charity

30th Anniversary Gala: Six Months On

A message from the Gala Committee Chairs



Dear Friends,

In such unprecedented times, it feels almost disjointed to be marking six months since our record-breaking 30th Anniversary Gala. London – and the world – is unrecognisable from that wonderful night in November, when we came together to raise crucial funds for London's Air Ambulance Charity.

One thing that has not changed since that evening is London's Air Ambulance Charity's commitment and dedication – both by air and land – to be where people are most in need. Throughout the CV-19 crisis, the service's exceptional operational crews have remained on the front lines, always there for Londoners in their darkest hour.

None of this would have been possible without your support. Thanks to your attendance and contributions, the 30th Anniversary Gala raised an unprecedented £627,000 for London's Air Ambulance Charity. Those funds have powered the Charity's incredible efforts to save lives and support London's wider health services in these difficult months. We are humbled, pleased and proud to share the impact of your generosity in this update.

Julia Leal-Hartogs with our medical team at the 2019 London's Air Ambulance Charity Gala

Looking forward feels difficult at present – but to safeguard London's Air Ambulance for the future, we must. There are urgent challenges ahead, such as the need to replace both helicopters by 2025. That's why we, and the Gala Committee, are already looking with excitement to the next event in 2021.

We hope you will join us again for another exceptional night in aid of this incredible cause.

With best wishes,

Julia Leal-Hartogs – Gala Committee Chair

Fabiana Ecclestone – Gala Committee Co-Chair

HRH Patronage Announcement

We were thrilled to announce in March that the Duke of Cambridge is to become the Patron of London's Air Ambulance Charity for the next three years.

Last year, The Duke was Patron of our Charity's 30th Anniversary campaign, during which he flew with the crew and met staff and patients from the service. Through this experience and his own work as an air ambulance pilot, The Duke has seen the impact of rapid response treatment for the most critically ill patients first-hand.

Thanks to your wonderful generosity, the 30th Anniversary campaign culminated in our most successful Gala yet. We were thrilled that The Duke could attend, helping to boost awareness of the campaign and setting the tone for our ambitious future plans, including a replacement helicopter fleet for London.

We are honoured that The Duke of Cambridge has chosen to become Patron of London's Air Ambulance Charity after getting to know us last year. He has continued to support our work throughout the current crisis.



During the pandemic and the necessary closure of Battersea Heliport, we have been faced with difficulties in refuelling in central London. We are very grateful that the Royal Household has allowed us to refuel London's Air Ambulance at Kensington Palace, meaning that we reduce our refuelling time and ensure London's life-saving service remains available to those who need it within minutes."

In April, the Duke wrote a personal letter to "all of the staff, volunteers and supporters at London's Air Ambulance" to pass on his support and thanks. We are pleased to share the letter in full here.



8th April, 2020

To All Staff, Volunteers and Supporters at London's Air Ambulance,

I am writing to pass on my support and thanks to all of the staff, volunteers and supporters at London's Air Ambulance.

I am incredibly grateful for the work you do to support individuals and the wider community, particularly at this time of uncertainty. I understand that your workload is increasing as your staff take the burden off other areas of the NHS. And of course you are adapting your services to continue helping patients who need your help the most.

I am sure the last few weeks have been anxious and unsettling. Many staff and volunteers at London's Air Ambulance will no doubt be facing additional pressures on their time as they try to juggle their personal and professional lives.

It is clear that you are already going the extra mile at this time and I would like to personally thank everyone for all they are doing. It is thanks to the hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers like you that so many wonderful charities and organisations continue to exist and provide essential support.

Now more than ever, it will be crucial for people to pull together so we can all be better prepared for the times ahead.

Please do stay in touch and keep the team updated on developments. This comes with my very best wishes for good health to you all and your families over the coming weeks.

London's Air Ambulance and Covid-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, London's Air Ambulance has continued to be here 24/7 for the people of London, while also supporting nationwide efforts to manage the impact of Coronavirus.

- London's Air Ambulance staff have delivered training on compassionate care at the Nightingale Hospital.
- Doctors from the service offered assistance to the London Ambulance Service, to help with transferring COVID-19 patients to the Nightingale.
- The Physician Response Unit (PRU) is a London's Air Ambulance community care service that attends emergency calls in patients' own homes. We expanded its working hours in April, which will free up hospital beds and reduce risks for vulnerable patients by avoiding a visit to the hospital.
- We have registered our second helicopter to the UK Helicopter National Asset Register, to support the NHS in moving medical teams and equipment should it be required.
- Many of our service staff are focused on COVID-19 in other roles, and we are ensuring they have the time and support to do this.



The newly expanded PRU team outside The Royal London Hospital



|| I want you to know that we are thinking of you, our supporters, during these testing times. We want to say a huge thank you for everything you do for us - your generosity plays a huge part in keeping us going. We are also thinking of our patients in recovery and their families – your strength continues to inspire us. And we're thinking of those we may need to help in the future. ||

- Dr Tom Hurst, Medical Director

Your support has saved lives

Thanks to you, we can continue keeping families together – families like Shahid's.

Shahid was on his way home from work when he was stabbed for his wallet. The assailant hit a major artery in his leg, causing him to haemorrhage catastrophically in the street. London's Air Ambulance were on the scene in minutes. Thanks to our ability to carry blood on board our helicopter – a pioneering move that we were the first air ambulance to innovate – our medical team gave Shahid a blood transfusion at the scene, which saved his life.



Shahid, Farhana and their children at our abseil event in September 2019

"My husband has made a full recovery and our daughter who was one at the time has just turned six years old. We also have a three-year-old son who is about to start nursery. London's Air Ambulance Charity saved a husband, a father, a son and our family. We will always be grateful."

- Shahid's wife

A Virtual Audience with London's Air Ambulance: Resilience During Times of Challenge

On Tuesday 19th May, we held our first ever virtual event with our Chief Executive Jonathan Jenkins and Chief Pilot Neil Jeffers, discussing resilience during times of challenge followed by a lively Q&A. Aimed primarily at our corporate partners, our viewing figures peaked at 99, and the event has prompted some fantastic conversations. Watch this space for similar events going forwards!

"We did what we always do: we looked at the most simple thing we could possibly do... Was there a way we could do our job and still be safe, and then add on the complexity?" - Neil Jeffers, Chief Pilot

You can hear Neil explain exactly how we did that in the event recording, [available to view here.](#)



Your support at the 2019 Gala has kept London's Air Ambulance in the skies and operational throughout the COVID19 crisis. Thank you. We hope to see you at the next Gala in 2021!

If you have any questions or would like to set a date for a visit to the helipad, please contact:

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