

Life and faith in rural Britain...

COUNTRYWAY



Saying thank you

'We just want to say thank you for all you do for your patients, the endless care and compassion that you show. Please know that you are hugely appreciated, your hard work has not gone un-noticed and your community would like to say thank you.'

Saying 'thank you' is simple but can mean so much and goes such a long way especially in this difficult time in the NHS. At Heart of the Health Service, we are committed to showing our gratitude and giving others the opportunity to say thank you to NHS staff. One of the ways in which we do this is through Thank You Dinners which we host in partnership with local communities.

Our last dinner was held for the staff of Nettleham Medical Practice that serves villages around Lincoln in Lincolnshire, and they work best when we collaborate with all areas of the community that they serve. We approached all the local churches – Nettleham Methodist Church, Threshold and All Saints Church, in this case – and businesses, giving them an opportunity to be involved and contribute if they wanted to.

In preparation for the event we had an Afternoon of Thank Yous, where members of the community came to The Hub community space in the village to write in a huge Thank you card and record video messages to show at the event. A local pre-school designed a thank you banner for the staff, a local cake baker made and donated a gorgeous cake, and another local lady donated a picture of the village. Each of these tokens of gratitude were taken back to the surgery after the event to share with staff who were unable to attend.

The dinner itself, hosted by a local pub, was a huge success! Over thirty members of staff came, including GPs, housekeepers, Nurse Practitioners, and dispensing and administration staff.

They walked in to see a huge Thank You banner made by children of the village, were greeted by a beautifully dressed table with individual hand-written thank you cards and favours on the name places. They were able to order whatever they wished to drink throughout the evening, given a delicious three course meal and were waited on hand and foot. They were shown a video of messages from patients and presented with gifts from the local community. They did not pay a single penny as this was simply to say thank you for all they do for their community.

Gratitude sparks more gratitude.

The cost? The whole night cost just over £1,000, of which £730 was raised by the community. If you'd like to run one in your area, please get in touch; we'd love to partner with you.

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