

Date: 16th July 2026

Football fever brings patients together during England's World Cup campaign

Patients across WUTH enjoyed (until the 85th minute, when celebrations turned to disappointment!) the excitement of England's FIFA World Cup match against Argentina last night, with staff screening the game on wards to help create a sense of occasion and support patient wellbeing during their hospital stay.

On Ward 21, older patients came together to watch the match in the ward's dementia-friendly Memories Pub, where decorations celebrating the World Cup helped create a welcoming atmosphere throughout the tournament.



Staff on the ward have organised screenings of every England World Cup match, giving patients something to look forward to while encouraging conversation, reminiscence and social interaction.

The initiative has proved popular, with many patients sharing memories of attending football matches, discussing their favourite teams and reminiscing about past World Cup tournaments.

Celebrating major sporting events is part of the Trust's ongoing commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of patients during their hospital stay. Alongside delivering excellent clinical care, teams continue to create opportunities that support emotional wellbeing and help reduce feelings of anxiety and isolation.

For people living with dementia, familiar activities and meaningful engagement can be particularly beneficial in reducing confusion and distress while maintaining a sense of identity and encouraging connection with others.

The ward's Memories Pub has been designed to resemble a traditional pub, providing a familiar and welcoming environment where older patients can relax, socialise and reminisce. It forms an important part of WUTH's dementia-friendly approach to care, recognising the positive impact that familiar surroundings and shared experiences can have on patient wellbeing.

A huge thank you to all the colleagues across our hospitals who helped patients enjoy the match, creating memorable moments and ensuring they could share in the excitement of England's World Cup journey.