

Monday 30th December

Eileen returns to hospital to help make Christmas and New Year special for recovering stroke patients

This time a year ago Eileen Bailey was in hospital; barely able to move and recovering from a stroke. A year later and she's been back to visit, but this time for all the right reasons.

46-year-old Eileen, from Tipton, has given up her own time to run craft sessions for patients on ward A3 to help bring some Christmas cheer and brighten up the ward for festive period.

Eileen was admitted to hospital in November last year after suffering from a stroke just two weeks before she was due to start her new job at Russells Hall Hospital as a Discharge Co-ordinator.

While recovering, Eileen spent time hand making beautiful Christmas decorations to help staff decorate the area.

After hearing about Eileen's festive efforts Paula Clark, Chief Executive visited the ward.

"Paula Clark visited me when I was a patient last year and asked me to come back.

"It truly inspired me and the benefit I felt from keeping myself busy was great, so I promised the staff that I would come back this year," Eileen said.

Despite still battling with the effects of her stroke, Eileen stayed true to her promise and came back to visit the ward. She held three craft sessions with patients recovering from strokes to tell them of her recovery so far and her determination to carry on.

Paula Clark said "Eileen has kept her promise to come back and help other patients make decorations and to get involved in dressing the area."

"Her fighting spirit and determination was once again humbling and made us all feel determined to appreciate and enjoy the festive season all the more."

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