

Health Matters

Keeping you informed about the news and views of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals



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Welcome from the Chief Executive

WELCOME to the latest edition of our public newsletter, **Health Matters**.



This edition features the fantastic news that the new main entrance to Blackpool Victoria Hospital is now open. It really is an impressive sight and with the car park now in operation as well the transformation of the site is now almost complete. The feedback we have had from staff and the public so far has been excellent and we really do now have a focal point for the site that we can all be truly proud of.

Central to the new entrance are the new volunteer navigators who will direct patients and visitors around the site. They have been through a training programme in preparation for this and will be a great asset to the Trust.

Don't forget you can sign up to receive our electronic bulletin directly to your inbox by completing a short form via the [following link](#) or you can access it from our website, Facebook page or through Twitter. We would also urge you to pass the newsletter on to your friends or colleagues so they too can keep up to date with what is going on. We would welcome your comments at communications@bfnh.nhs.uk

Gary Doherty
Chief Executive

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Diary Date

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Every month we hold members' seminars on a range of health topics. To book a place contact Jacinta Gaynor, membership officer, on 01253 306673.

Date & Time:	Venue:	Details:
Friday, March 14 th 2014, 3 – 4 pm	Education Centre Lecture Theatre, BVH	Dr Saleh, Consultant Ophthalmologist Seminar on "Glaucoma" during Glaucoma Awareness Week.

Health Matters is also available online at www.bfnh.nhs.uk

You can sign up to receive our fortnightly news bulletin directly to your inbox by clicking on the following link: www.bfnh.nhs.uk/healthmatters

Any comments ideas or suggestions? Please contact:

The Communications Department on 01253 306941 or communications@bfnh.nhs.uk



Retired Squadron Leader Drew Steel with a selection of the volunteer navigators.

New navigators are now ready to fly

AS the new entrance at Blackpool Victoria Hospital opens its doors the squadron of navigators who will direct patients and visitors around the hospital are ready for take-off after completing their training and getting their wings.

All 60 of the volunteer navigators were awarded certificates and badges to show that they had completed their six week training course. They were awarded their wings by retired RAF Squadron Leader Drew Steel who took great delight in congratulating them for their work.

He said: "Us Brits don't tend to show off their pride in themselves and their achievements but this team of people really should. It is great that the Trust has put on this recognition event for them to celebrate their hard work.

"I'm happy to be involved in congratulating them both for their efforts in passing the training and

for the work they are about to embark on. They will be making the experience of visiting hospital better for everyone and will help people more than they think."

Striking in their new bright orange uniforms, the new navigators could be walking up to six miles a day as they expertly guide those who need their assistance, around the site from the new entrance.

Gary Doherty, Trust Chief Executive, said: "People coming to the hospital often feel anxious or under stress. If they are late for appointments or not sure what they are supposed to do then a friendly face offering help and support can mean the world to someone and make a real difference.

"They are not just helping with the experience of coming to hospital they are potentially helping with patient's clinical care by putting them at ease."

New entrance marks new era for hospital

A NEW era has dawned at Blackpool Victoria Hospital as patients and visitors are now able to use the impressive new entrance area.

Visitors will be directed through to the facility from the Trust's new car park and can access the majority of the hospital from the area guided where necessary by one of the Trust's new band of volunteer navigators.

The entrance hall currently includes Costa Coffee, Marks and Spencer and W H Smith retail outlets and when fully opened will have a reception area and access to the first floor of the hospital.

Trust Chairman, Ian Johnson, said: "It is fantastic to see the new entrance hall now being used.

"It is a wonderful area that will make a huge difference to our patients, visitors and staff."

The entrance hall is the final stage of a scheme to provide improved access to the hospital and a multi-storey car park and has cost a total of £16.5m. The capital has been borrowed from the Department of Health and will be paid back from income generated through retail and parking charges.



The new entrance area at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Could you lend a helping hand?

DO you have a few hours spare to help make a difference for local hospital patients?

If so then members of staff at Clifton Hospital would like to hear from you and are holding

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an open day tomorrow, Saturday, February 22nd, to advise people on how they can provide much needed support.

Matron at Clifton Hospital, Courtney Bickerdike, said: We already have a number of

fantastic ward volunteers who provide an invaluable service to the benefit of our patients."

All members of the public are invited to the open day which takes place at Clifton Hospital between 10am and 2pm.

Your chance to be a public Trust governor

THE Trust wants you to help it shape the future.

The Trust is seeking 11 new public governors across the area it covers and wants to hear from as many people as possible interested in having their say on how healthcare should be provided locally. The elections will be held in July/August 2014.

Those interested in hearing about the work of the Trust's governors, and how they can stand for election, are invited to attend one of two seminars on Governor Elections hosted by Mr Ian Johnson (Trust Chairman) and members of the Council of Governors.

The seminars, entitled "Public Governor Elections 2014", will be held on Monday, February 24th 2014, between 6.30pm – 7.30pm, in the Education Centre Lecture Theatre at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

The vacancies are as follows:

Constituency	Vacancies
Blackpool	4
Fylde	2
Wyre	2
Lancashire/South Cumbria	2
North of England	1

The seminars will be directly followed by a workshop which is for those interested in finding out in more detail what the election process involves and will also give guidance on writing a Candidate's Election Statement.

Trust governors are required to be



Ian Johnson.

members of the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and their role is to represent their respective local constituencies, provide advice and support and help influence the Trust's decision-making in terms of how it develops services for the people of Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre and beyond.

The seminar will include background information on the Trust, the role of governors, their statutory duties and details of the election process in order to give those considering standing for election a fuller understanding of the governor role.

Mr Johnson said: "Governors bring a wealth of expertise, experience and ideas which are essential to ensuring the effective development of our NHS Foundation Trust moving forwards.

"They ensure that the Foundation Trust is managed appropriately and they have a number of key responsibilities including the appointment of the Chairman, Non-Executive Directors and External Auditors, and holding the Board to account. Governors are also required to approve any significant investment decisions and they are vital in representing the interests of our patients and the public."

To book onto the seminar please contact Jacinta Gaynor, Membership and Governors Officer, on 01253 306673. You must be a member of the Trust to attend.

Membership is free and there are numerous benefits for the Trust and the local community alike. Details are on the Trust's website: www.bfwh.nhs.uk.

Your application can be received via the website, by post or by telephone.

Plaster staff receive a sweet surprise

Thank yous are always so sweet to receive.

But they don't come much sweeter than the fantastic bright blue cake presented to the plaster technicians at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Sarah Leaman, a grateful patient, wanted to say thank you to the staff in the plaster room – and decided to present them with a cake designed in the shape of a leg in plaster.

“I was astonished when she brought in the cake,” said senior plaster technician, Peter Ireland. “No one has ever gone to so much trouble to show their appreciation before.

“There was nothing extra special about the treatment the patient received, but we had got to know her quite well and had built up a good rapport with her.”

And the patient even added a bit of a joke to the presentation – making the icing plaster in blue with a Preston North End football badge – and then presenting it to Peter, a committed Blackpool FC fan!

“I wanted to do something to say thank you and this was a fun way to do it, especially as I'm a Preston football fan and I could take the mickey out of his love for Pool,” explained mum of two Sarah.

“I broken three bones in my ankle in December and have been coming back to the Vic every week since and the staff have been absolutely wonderful.”

But for Sarah it was a triple thank you. When **06 ISSUE 56** her 17-year-old son Kieron broke



Peter Ireland and Audrey Kayley with the thank you cake.

his arm as a toddler 15 years ago, it was Peter who did the plaster work. Seven years later Kieron broke his arm again.

This time the injury put a family wedding in jeopardy. “My mum was getting married in Greece and we could not fly out to the ceremony with Kieron's arm in plaster. But Peter did a special type of cast so we could go and I never forgot his kindness.

“When I broke my ankle in December Peter was still there and he and the team were fantastic putting me at ease when I was scared.

“I wanted to do something special to say thank you to everyone who has helped me at the Vic from the staff on Ward 35 to the doctors, clinics and plaster room staff,” Sarah added.

Plaster technician Audrey Kayley said Sarah's gift was appreciated by all the staff. “It makes the job really worthwhile and reminds you why you are there to receive thanks like this,” she added.

Extra time to enter sport awards

THERE is still time to enter an event recognising Blackpool's sporting talent.

The Altogether Now – a Legacy for Blackpool Community Sports Awards 2014 will showcase the successes of both individuals and teams across the town in nine separate categories.

Formerly known as the Community Sports Awards which have been held in Blackpool for 25 years, the event will honour the dedication and commitment of coaches, teams, and volunteers as well as recognising outstanding achievement. It will culminate in a presentation ceremony in the Sponsors Lounge at Blackpool Football Club on Thursday April 3rd.

Altogether Now – a Legacy for Blackpool is a partnership between the NHS in Blackpool (Clinical Commissioning Group and Hospitals Trust); Blackpool Council and Blackpool Football Club. The programme is aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of people in Blackpool, irrespective of age, race, gender or ability through increased physical activity, lifestyle changes and an awareness of the role mental health and wellbeing play in overall health.

The event is being backed by Blackpool's British Light-Middleweight and World Intercontinental Champion boxer Brian Rose. He said: "I am proud to support these awards and the inspirational people they are recognising. There are some extremely dedicated and committed people in our local community who give their absolute all to help and support others take part in the sports they love.

"Add that to the growing group of extremely talented home grown sports men and women, and we have some real local sporting heroes."

Dr Amanda Doyle, Chief Clinical Officer of NHS

Blackpool CCG, said: "These awards are not just about achievement but also commitment. Given the importance of community sport in maintaining a healthy lifestyle, I am delighted that **Altogether Now** is supporting this event as it plays such a key role in promoting healthy living."

The awards have nine categories, recognising individuals, teams and sports clubs whose achievements and commitment to sport in Blackpool during 2013 has been outstanding. These are: Coach of the Year, Community Club of the Year, Team of the Year – Ted Schools Award, Disability Award, Young Volunteer of the Year (Age 14-24 years), Adult Volunteer of the Year, Young Achiever of the Year (Age 14-24 years), Lifetime Achievement Award, Wilkinson Sword – for outstanding achievement

Anyone can nominate an individual or team for an award. A nomination form can be completed online at www.altogethernowblackpool.com or downloaded and returned completed to: **Altogether Now – a Legacy for Blackpool Community Sports Awards 2014**, Lee House, Layton Depot, Plymouth Road, Blackpool FY3 7HW.

Forms are available for collection at the three main Blackpool Council leisure facilities – Palatine Leisure Centre, Moor Park Health and Leisure Centre or Blackpool Sports Centre. You can also follow on Twitter and Facebook @sportblackpool. Nominations close on March 1st 2014.



Life saving equipment is donated

LIFE saving equipment is now being used across Blackpool Victoria Hospital thanks to charity funding.

Trust charity, Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, has funded more than £30,000 for three LUCAS mechanical chest compression devices which are used on patients during prolonged cardiac arrest.

Head of Resuscitation, Anthony Freestone, said: "These devices provide life saving mechanical chest compressions. They can be used to provide prolonged CPR to resuscitate patients, for example, in patient groups where we have given thrombolytic drugs who will need CPR for 90 minutes or more.

"We do have one existing machine in the cardiac catheter laboratory but this can take a long time to get to a patient, especially if they are in the Emergency Department, and there may be more than one patient needing it at the same time. This means that our clinical staff would be performing manual chest compressions until the device was available.

"You cannot guarantee the effectiveness of manual CPR in the same way that you can with a machine of this nature. The LUCAS device performs consistent chest compressions at the



Left to right: Assistant Resuscitation Officer Lucy Ansell, Head of Resuscitation Anthony Freestone and Clinical Resuscitation Officer Heather Jordan with the new machines.

correct depth and speed as recommended by the Resuscitation Council (UK).

"We are one of the few hospitals in the North West locality to offer this enhanced mechanical service to our patients. We are a tertiary cardiac centre and it is imperative that we do everything we can to offer our patients the best chances of survival.

"I would like to say thank you on behalf of the resuscitation team for the fantastic opportunity that Blue Skies Hospitals Fund has given the organisation in providing us with this advanced life saving equipment."



How you can get all the latest news and views from the Trust

The Trust's official Facebook page can be found at:
www.facebook.com/BlackpoolHospitals

The Trust can also be found on Twitter
[@BlackpoolHosp](https://twitter.com/BlackpoolHosp)