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NHS Foundation Trust

# Health Matters

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



# Warm welcome to our new staff

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## Welcome from the Interim Chief Executive

HELLO and welcome to our Health Matters newsletter.



Winter is finally over and hopefully we will all have a spring in our step as we move into the new season.

The Trust is certainly looking at new initiatives and beginnings such as the new ultrasound machine for our heart patients which has been funded from our hospital charity Blue Skies.

We have also welcomed a number of new recruits to the Trust and to support them we have recently held an advice session with the help of the local council and education providers.

The Trust is also working with the North West Ambulance Service and Fylde and Wyre CCG on a project around falls prevention and I am delighted to be able to bring you news about a fall car initiative which means a paramedic and rapid response physiotherapist are mobilised when a 999 call is placed following a fall in or near the home.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Health Matters.

**Wendy Swift,**  
Interim Chief Executive

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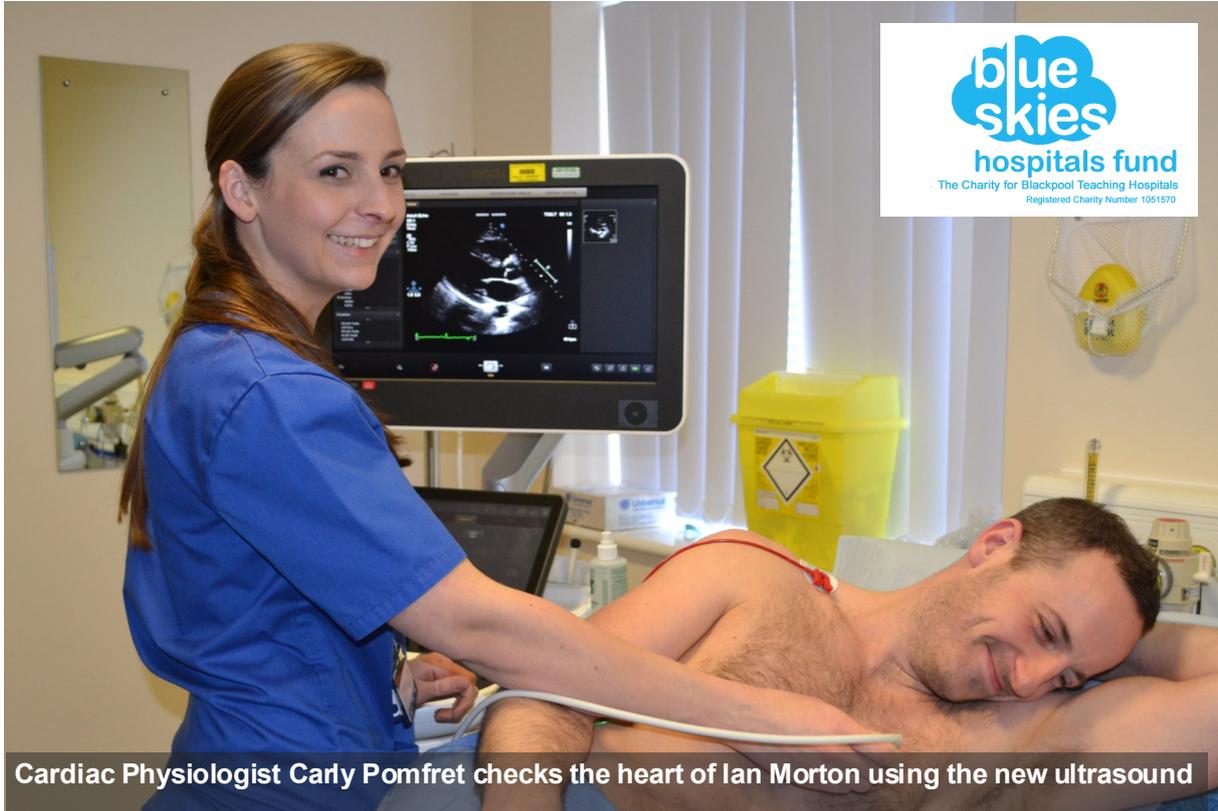
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Health Matters is also available online at [www.bfwh.nhs.uk](http://www.bfwh.nhs.uk)

You can sign up to receive our fortnightly news bulletin directly to your inbox by clicking on the following link: [www.bfwh.nhs.uk/healthmatters](http://www.bfwh.nhs.uk/healthmatters)

Any comments ideas or suggestions? Please contact: Ingrid Kent, Communications Department, on 01253 956 875 or [communications@bfwh.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@bfwh.nhs.uk)



Cardiac Physiologist Carly Pomfret checks the heart of Ian Morton using the new ultrasound

# Ultrasound cuts waits

**HEART patients will see a reduction in waiting times for certain cardiac tests thanks to a new piece of equipment at the Lancashire Cardiac Centre which has been bought thanks to charitable donations.**

The centre, which is based at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, now boasts a brand new portable ultrasound machine which will measure the electronic activity of a patient's heart.

It will specifically be used by doctors as part of a study of the electric impulses which travel through the cardiac tissue, known as electrophysiology (EP).

Echo Service Manager Maxine Lang explained: "This is an extended service we offer at the Lancashire Cardiac Centre which allows us to

look at parts of the heart which would not be visible without this ultrasound.

"This machine has become particularly important due to changes in medication for our cardiac patients undergoing EP studies and who previously would have attended a Warfarin Clinic to check for any clotting."

"We are so grateful for the people who have made donations to the Lancashire Cardiac Centre through Blue Skies' Heart of Gold Charitable Fund," Maxine added. "Often people donate to our charity because of an experience they have had and we have been successful in treating them. It's nice to be able to show everyone what a difference their donations have made for the patients who come through our department every single day."

# Advice sessions give help to our new hospital staff



Members of staff welcomed new employees to the event

**AN advice and support event was held at Blackpool Victoria Hospital to help newly recruited staff and their families.**

Advisors from Blackpool Council, Coastal Housing and Blackpool and The Fylde College attended the session to help answer questions about accommodation, courses and jobs.

The drop-in event was well attended with new starters and their partners able to access advice in a one-stop-shop environment.

Practice Development Sister, Sharon Vickers, said: "In order to look after our staff we want to ensure their families are well supported too. This event will help us with staff retention and ensure we have a happy, well-adjusted workforce.

"The event was open to anyone who recently started working for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals," she added.

"For overseas staff the event offered help with cultural changes as well as practical advice about English classes, accommodation and education. But we hope the session was useful for all new starters who are locating to this area and may

need advice about accessing support services in the area."

■ A warm welcome is being thrown for all newly recruited nurses in the Trust's Unscheduled Care Division.

Practice development sisters, Sharon Ellis and Sharon Vickers, are hosting a getting-to-know-you party for all nurses who started at the Trust in the last nine months.

The event will be held at Stanley Park Cricket Club on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and, in order to celebrate the different countries and cultures of staff, all guests will be asked to bring one small plate of food traditional to their country.

Sister Sharon Vickers said: "This is a great way to get staff to make friends and find out a bit about the social side of working at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Trust. It is important that we do what we can to help new staff make friends and settle into life on the Fylde coast. We are asking guests to bring food from their country and I will say look out to the Brits as I've tasted our European nurses' cuisine and it's pretty good."

# Falls response car will help free up A&E



**NHS Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group has published a video showcasing one of its latest services which is preventing hundreds of patients from unnecessary trips to A&E.**

As part of a larger project around falls and falls prevention in Fylde and Wyre, the CCG has launched a new emergency falls vehicle in conjunction with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

The car contains a paramedic and a rapid response physiotherapist and is called upon when a 999 call is placed following a fall in or near the home.

With the help of the physiotherapist, the risk of falls in the future can be negated to prevent future hospital admissions and, in the first instance, the patient

is treated in their home without the need for an ambulance ride to the local A&E.

The car, which is still in the pilot stage, has already been to more than 600 incidents across the area and is regularly dispatched to five or six call-outs every working day.

In the video, paramedic Steve Bruce and physiotherapist Ben Green show their journey from a 999 call being placed and the falls car being dispatched to the team's response and helping the patient.

And Lytham patient Syd Rowe talks about his real experience of suffering a fall and having been helped to get back on his feet by the falls vehicle team.

To watch the video, visit <http://www.fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk/falls-vehicle-video-launched/>

# Hitting the right note to raise charity funds

**THEY'RE** used to performing to sell-out crowds in some of Blackpool's top theatres, and now Fleetwood singers Ann Cookson and Peter Baldwin are looking forward to appearing in their first orchestra concert in aid of hospital charity Blue Skies Hospitals Fund.

Ann and Peter make up the singing duo Classic Sound, which is set to appear alongside the Fylde Sinfonia orchestra in their upcoming concert at the Lowther Pavilion this month.

Soprano Ann has been singing from an early age, and has risen through the ranks to embrace roles in musicals including *The Boyfriend*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Chess* – for which her audience included Sir Tim Rice.

Peter is a first class tenor and has performed at Blackpool Opera House and at Edinburgh Festival. He recently appeared in *Legally Blonde* at the Grand Theatre in Blackpool and *Sister Act*.

Both have said they are very much looking forward to being part of the Fylde Sinfonia Concert, which is being held in aid of Blue Skies' Peace of Mind dementia appeal on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March. The concert will pay tribute to the orchestra's former conductor John Simpson who died in 2009 after developing dementia.

Speaking at the first rehearsal with the full orchestra at The Drive Methodist Church in St Annes, Peter said: "This is more speciality performing than we normally do and we're really looking forward to singing with live musicians. There are only two pieces on the programme which we've never sung before and it's really different for us not to be performing against a backing track – live orchestral music creates a really different sound."



Ann Cookson and Peter Baldwin prepare for the Blue Skies concert

**blue  
skies**  
hospitals fund  
The Charity for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals  
Registered Charity Number 1051570

The programme includes well known favourites from Elgar, Beethoven and Mozart, as well as a Sound of Music medley and music from *The Phantom of the Opera*.

Ann added: "As well as classical music, there are popular songs which the audience won't be able to help but join in. The bill is full of songs many will recognise. We are both so pleased to have been asked to accompany Fylde Sinfonia to help raise funds for this appeal. We hope as many people as possible join us for a fantastic musical evening."

Tickets are available now from the Box Office on 01253 794221. Adults £12.50, children, concessions and Friends of Lowther Pavilion £10. Discounts are available for group bookings.

# Toy firm donates bags of fun for ward



Gaye McDonald with Playtime Toys donation

A TOY company has made a special donation to help children at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Staff from Playtime Toys, based on Amy Johnson Way off Squires Gate Lane in Blackpool, said the company wanted to give toys to the Children's Ward as a 'thank you' for the care provided by the hospital and its staff.

The family firm, which recently opened a shop and has been in existence for more than 40 years, stocks and sells many of the toys sold along the Promenade in Blackpool and across the world.

Campbell McKean, Playtime Toys' wholesale manager, said the hospital had helped him and his family over the years.



Helen Jelley, patient, Ben Hare, Gaye McDonald and Kerry Hare with the new toys

Retail manager Helen Jelley, said: "We all have children in our company and we know how important it is for children to be able to play."

"We are very community-orientated. We put on free activities, including crafts, for children."

Gaye McDonald, a Play Leader from the Children's Ward, said: "It's lovely that Playtime Toys have thought about us. We are always very grateful because the toys will get used a lot by the children. They have brought a huge variety and they are all new things that the children love and want to play with. It's a fantastic selection."

"We use the toys to help distract the children. We have a playroom and we can take the toys to the children's bedrooms if they can't get out of bed."



Black Lace singer, Dene Michael, with Trust staff members in the Agachoo flu video

# Award bid for video



**flu fighter**

AN innovative campaign to encourage staff to be vaccinated against flu this winter has seen the Trust shortlisted for a national award.

As part of its vaccination awareness campaign the Trust produced a fun video with Black Lace singer Dene Michael based on his group's famous Agadoo song.

Staff from across the Trust joined Dene to produce their own version of the song called Agachoo which has had nearly 6,000 hits on YouTube.

The video was so successful that it has been shortlisted in

the digital/social media category of the national NHS Employers Flufighters Awards.

Head of Communications, Derek Quinn, said: "We are delighted to have been shortlisted for the award. The Trust's communications team always looks to produce an entertaining and thought provoking video every year to encourage all members of staff to have their flu vaccination.

"Dene agreed to perform a new version of Agadoo for free. We wrote some new words and created a bit of a new dance as well which staff really enjoyed."

## Trust wins child health contract

THE Trust has recently been awarded the contract to provide Child Health Information Services across Lancashire and will start to manage the service on behalf of NHS England from April 1, 2016.

Philip Graham, Health Informatics Programme Director at the Trust, said: "Parents will not notice any real changes but there will be changes for staff in terms of the computer systems being used which we hope will provide an electronic children's care record.

"Over time the integrated systems will support a modern Child Health Information Service and support the paperless patient record in time for the NHS's 2020 vision including electronic patient access to information to complement, not replace, the traditional red book."

## Blood donation sessions in and around the Fylde coast in February and March

Here's where you can give blood in the coming weeks:

Venue	Date	Time
St Paul's Church Honister Avenue <b>Blackpool</b> Lancashire FY3 9PF	March 17 and 23	1.45pm — 3.45pm & 4.45pm — 7.15pm
Lowther Pavilion Lowther Terrace <b>Lytham St Annes</b> Lancashire FY8 5QQ	Monday, March 21	1.45pm — 3.45pm & 4.45pm — 7.15pm
Community Centre Mill Street <b>Kirkham</b> PR4 2AN	Saturday, March 26	10am — 2pm

To make an appointment to donate please visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) or call **0300 123 23 23**. If you have any medical or clinical queries about blood donation please call or fill out the 'Medical Query Form' in the 'Contact Us' section of the blood service website above. Please call for an appointment in case times change.