

# Health Matters

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



## Reunited after offering a hug

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Issue 120, Friday, August 5, 2016

## Welcome from the Interim Chief Executive

HELLO and welcome to the latest edition of our Health Matters newsletter.



We spend a lot of time trying to improve the services we provide for our patients and talking to people about what they need from their health service.

This week's newsletter contains examples of this work with a report on a special cancer listening event which we co-hosted with colleagues from the Clinical Commissioning Groups and Macmillan Cancer Support.

We have also been talking to our patient panel about plans to improve and redevelop our outpatient area and their ideas have been instrumental in our redevelopment plans.

It is always lovely to receive praise for the work we do and this week we are delighted to tell you about kind donations from the families of patients.

Money raised in recognition of care has been used to help both our Neonatal Unit at Blackpool Victoria and the Lancaster District Nurses.

Wendy Swift,  
Interim Chief Executive

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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)

# Hospital search for patient's lost lamb



Alison Hayden with her toy lamb 'Minty' and mum Amanda and dad Richard

**A YOUNG cancer patient's desperate plea for help to find her lost toy lamb was answered by hospital staff.**

Eleven-year-old Alison Hayden put up a poster at Blackpool Victoria Hospital saying: "Help me find my lamb 'Minty'. Reward: 25p and a hug because that's all I have."

She'd had Minty since she was born and took the toy lamb everywhere she went.

Staff sprang into action and an epic search for Minty was carried out. Minty eventually turned up in an industrial laundry, much to everyone's relief.

And to celebrate the lamb's return hospital staff organised a tea party for Alison and presented her with gifts from well-wishers.

Alison, a pupil at Hawes Side Academy, was also delighted to receive a Tracy Beaker doll from Nick Sharratt, the illustrator of the much loved children's books by Jacqueline Wilson.

Alison's dad Richard said: "The thing with the toy lamb Minty has been completely unbelievable. Alison put the poster on the wall and when people found out why she was in hospital it inspired them.

"The lamb means the world to her. It made a big difference to Alison to get Minty back. When they were reunited Alison just cried. It was devastating to lose Minty and we thought he might be gone forever.

"It's unbelievable the amount of people who have done something for Alison."

# Listening to help cancer patients



Jason Bottomley who wanted to give a positive message

**A SPECIAL event for patients and carers was held to help improve cancer services on the Fylde coast.**

Patients described how they thought services could be developed over the next few years at the World Café Listening Event at The Hilton hotel in Blackpool on July 11.

Hosted by Macmillan Cancer Support, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Blackpool CCG and Blackpool Council, the event gave patients a chance to say what they wanted and needed from services.

Jason Bottomley, 45, a former primary school teacher from Cleveleys who is recovering from cancer, said: "I had a very good experience of treatment so I wanted to put over something positive at the event.

"It was good to hear what other people thought. I think it's important to remain positive when you have cancer."

The event followed on from a similar event in September where patients said what they needed in terms of care and services.

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Feedback from the September event was presented to participants at the World Café event.

Jessica Jones, Macmillan Cancer Transformation Lead at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, gave a presentation on her role. Katie Rimmer from Fylde and Wyre CCG gave an update on the Fylde Coast Cancer Strategy and Tracy Whitfield, also from Fylde and Wyre CCG, spoke about issues raised at September's event.

Jessica said: "I thought it was a fabulous opportunity to share information with patients about what we are doing to improve services. The good news is that more people are now surviving cancer. We want to let people know where to get the information and support they need to live a healthier life."

Following on from the World Café event, a list of issues that matter to people affected by cancer will be compiled. The information will influence how future services are planned. The feedback will also be used to help complement the Fylde Coast Cancer Strategy.

For more information contact Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group via email at [Tracy.Whitfield@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk](mailto:Tracy.Whitfield@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk)

# Grateful family thank hospital's baby unit

**A GRATEFUL family has said a special thank you to staff at Blackpool Victoria's Neonatal Unit who helped care for their baby when he was born premature weighing just three pounds.**

Little Daniel Hall, now two, spent six weeks on the unit, and his mum Louise, dad Dave, auntie Rachel Hind – one of the hospital's paediatric nurses – and grandparents Nigel and Kate Hind, decided to hold a charity night to raise money in thanks for his care.



The hall family with members of staff from the Neonatal Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital

The event was held at Knott End Working Men's Club in May, and featured the band The Rockits – the resident band for The Cavern Club in Liverpool – as well as a raffle and auction. It raised a total of £2,344.

Nigel said: "This donation is thanks largely to the people of Over Wyre, who gave their support to this event and proved how generous they truly are. They all came out on the night and donated some amazing prizes."

The family used nearly £650 of the money to buy toys for the Children's Ward at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, and the rest – £1,700 – was handed to Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, the charity for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. It will be put towards a project to refurbish the Neonatal Unit's Isolation Room.

Ward Manager Catherine Nash said: "Our Isolation Room is rarely used and we want to open the space up for children who no longer need to be in such a clinical room but still need neonatal care.

"We would like to have a sofa and a rocking chair put in here and to have it redecorated. Then we would like to furnish it with toys and equipment for young siblings when they are visiting their new baby brothers or sisters.

"It will ideally be a space for babies who are a bit more stable and who will benefit from sensory play and bonding with their families. It will also be a quiet space where mothers can establish breast feeding."

The room will still be used for babies who require isolation and the project is expected to cost around £2,000.

Daniel's mum, Louise, 28, said: "Daniel was born at 31 weeks and one day. He was on the unit for six weeks. Honestly, he wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the care and support he received there.

"We can't fault the unit or the staff who work there, so it really does mean a lot that we're able to make this donation."



Dr Adam Janjua

**DO you ever get out of breath doing the things you used to be able to do?**

If the answer is 'yes', doctors on the Fylde coast say it could be a sign of lung disease, heart disease or even cancer.

Medical professionals say identifying conditions early makes them more treatable so anyone who is concerned should consult their GP as soon as possible.

Fylde coast residents are also being urged to see a doctor if they have had a cough for three weeks or more.

The 'Be Clear on Cancer Respiratory Symptoms' campaign will run from Thursday, July 14, to October 16, 2016.

This national campaign is being backed locally by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Blackpool CCG and Blackpool Council.

# Don't ignore your health symptoms



**Do you get out of breath doing things you used to be able to do?**

It could be a sign of lung or heart disease or even cancer. Finding it early makes it more treatable, so don't ignore it, tell your doctor.

**BE CLEAR ON CANCER**  
Search 'Be Clear on Cancer'

Dr Adam Janjua, Chair of the Fylde Coast Cancer Steering Group and a GP in Fleetwood, said: "People who have symptoms such as a cough for more than three weeks, breathlessness or unexplained weight loss, should book an appointment to see their GP.

"Smokers are especially at risk. If you're in the age bracket above 50 and you have developed a cough lasting more than three weeks, you need to see your GP. A lot of smokers think it might be a 'smoker's cough' but it is better to err on the side of caution and get such coughs checked out.

"As Chair of the Fylde Coast Cancer Steering Group, I feel very strongly about this campaign.

"As GPs, we want people to come to see us if they have what we call 'red flag' symptoms of cancer – we don't want people to leave it until it's too late."

# Widower's thanks to caring district nurses



**A WIDOWER from Lancaster has thanked a team of district nurses who looked after his wife at the end of her life.**

Chris Rabbett, whose wife Janet had lung cancer and was cared for by Lancaster District Nurses, described the care his wife had received as “fantastic” and “unbelievable”.

At Janet’s funeral in March, Chris asked people to donate money instead of flowers and more than £1,000 was raised.

He bought nine cameras which the district nurses are now using to photograph conditions such as leg ulcers and other wounds. This will enable them to monitor any improvements or deterioration in patients’ conditions.

Originally from Derry in Northern Ireland, Chris has run Direct Travel Transfers taxi business in Lancaster for 22 years.

He praised one nurse in particular for going the extra mile for the whole family. He said Scarlett

Peat had helped Janet to relax and feel confident in her care.

He explained: “They were all unbelievable. Scarlett came and built up a good relationship with us. You don’t realise how lucky we are to have nurses like these. These girls gave us a service you could not buy.”

Scarlett said: “It has been nice to know Chris. It was nice because at first Janet wasn’t keen for us to go in. It’s rewarding to do this kind of work, especially in situations like this when we can see that what we’re doing is appreciated.”

Louise Sutcliffe, District Nursing Team Leader based at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals’ offices at Slyne Road in Lancaster, said Scarlett had developed a special relationship with the family.

She explained: “A few members of staff were involved but Scarlett was the one who initially developed the therapeutic relationship. When Scarlett met them they felt relaxed and they had confidence in her.”

# Patient panel has say in hospital area

**PATIENTS at Blackpool Victoria Hospital have been instrumental in the development of a new outpatients area.**

In a unique partnership, members of Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's patients' panel have been involved in the new £405,000 building from its initial concept to its final design and members this week took the chance to have a look at the latest stage of the development which is set to be completed in September.

Eleanor Walsh, Patient Involvement Manager at the Trust, said: "This is the first time that patients have been involved all the way through a major new building development and it has been a great experience.

"The group members have been able to have their say all the way along and came up with some excellent ideas such as how high desks should be, how many wheelchair spaces should be allocated in the clinics and highlighted the need to have a check in desk at the central main entrance so those with limited mobility would not



Patient panel member, Carol Neale

have to worry about rushing to get to the other side of the hospital to check in for their appointment.

"These ideas, along with a number of others, have been listened to and introduced which is fantastic and demonstrates how we work with patients as partners in the redesign of services."

One of the panel members, Carol Neale, said: "I think it is a great idea to involve patients this way.

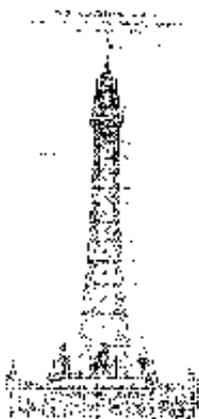
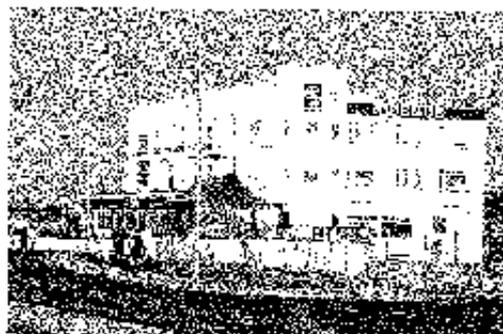
"At the end of the day we are the end users and it just makes sense for us to give the patients' view of things and it has been an excellent experience.

"We have made quite a few suggestions which the Trust has taken on board and I think this is something that should happen with every major development."



# Join us in a Memory Walk

Starting at  
The Venue,  
Cleveleys



To Blackpool Tower  
....and back

Total - 10 Miles

Sunday 14th August. 10am

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

Alzheimer's  
Society

If interested please contact  
TRACY BAXENDALE Ext 4210



# SANDS COMEDY NIGHT

 Raising money for Blackpool and Preston Sands Group  
We are part of the Sands UK-wide network of local groups.



WE ALSO HAVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM 'GOLD DUST',  
DJ, RAFFLE AND CHARITY AUCTION

**1st October 2016 - 6:30pm**  
**@ THE CAROUSEL HOTEL, BLACKPOOL**

**TICKETS £35**

Includes welcome drink on arrival, hot buffet,  
full evening of comedy, entertainment with DJ until late

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Email: [blackpoolprestonsands@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:blackpoolprestonsands@yahoo.co.uk)

Tel: 07938 977676



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