

# Health Matters

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



## Let's play!

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Issue 137, Friday, March 31, 2017

## Welcome from the Interim Chief Executive

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



We're looking forward to the summer in this issue as we have a chance for you to take part in our Trust charity's Summer Solstice Abseil event. You can experience the thrill of abseiling down one of the tallest buildings on our Blackpool Victoria Hospital site as well as raising money for our Blue Skies Hospitals Fund. I hope that many of you will sign up to support this great cause which enhances care for our patients.

We've had some interesting events recently and one of the most important ones was a conference on 'modern slavery'. Delegates came from across Britain to take part in the event in Blackpool. It highlighted the fact that human trafficking and other forms of slavery can be taking place right under our noses and we should 'see it and share it'.

I was delighted to see that our staff have helped to design two new play areas for children at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and that a new patients' panels is working to improve care for cancer patients.

**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: the Communications Department, on 01253 953059, 956875 or 953538 or email [communications@bfwh.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@bfwh.nhs.uk)

# Get on the ropes for charity



Everyone has a chance to abseil off one of the tallest buildings at Blackpool Victoria Hospital

AN opportunity to abseil down one of Blackpool Victoria Hospital's tallest buildings on the Summer Solstice is up for grabs.

Members of the public can sign up to abseil 60ft down the Women and Children's Unit in aid of the Blue Skies Hospitals Fund – the charity of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – on Wednesday, June 21, between 5.30am and 6pm.

Nicci Hayes, Fundraising Officer for Blue Skies, said: "We would love people to come and join us to celebrate the Summer Solstice by abseiling from the roof of the Women and Children's Unit.

"Not only will you have great fun, but you'll be supporting a very good cause.

"Dare to face your fears and see Blackpool from a different angle!"

Managed by professional company Adventure 21,

participants will be in safe hands as they drift downwards on this thrilling journey.

All necessary training will be given on the day.

Places are limited and participants need to register to take part. Spectators are allowed at ground level and fancy dress is optional - as long as it is safe to abseil in.



Nicci added: "Why not make 2017 the year that you do something different!"

Early time slots are available so there will be time to do an abseil, watch the sun rise and have breakfast when the hospital restaurant opens at 7am.

For further information and a registration pack, please contact Nicci Hayes on 01253 957904 or [blueskies@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk](mailto:blueskies@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk) or book online at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-solstice-abseil-tickets-32408466596](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-solstice-abseil-tickets-32408466596)

# Popular medic says farewell to patients



Geoff with some of his colleagues

RHEUMATOLOGY nurse specialist, Geoff Dodd, has retired from the Trust and is bidding farewell to his patients after working in the NHS for 40 years.

Geoff started working as a nurse after qualifying in 1976. He was also the seventh male midwife in the country.

Following a two-year stint in the Voluntary Overseas Service working in Kenya, Geoff worked at South Shore before working in the rheumatology department at Clifton Hospital where he set up the biologic service.

Geoff, along with colleague Janice Booth, also received a Health Champions award by the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society which was presented by Prime Minister, Teresa May, at the House of Commons. They were two of only 10 people to receive an award last year.

At a party held at Clifton, Geoff said: "I'm leaving with sadness, but the time has come. I have no big plans for retirement, but I am going to travel,



Geoff with the Trust's Chief Executive (Interim), Wendy Swift (left) and Director of Nursing, Marie Thompson

take up painting, learn new languages and as a CAMRA member, sample more ale!"

Clifton Clinical Matron, Courtney Bickerdike, said: "The biologic service set up by Geoff has gone from strength to strength and continues to develop, helping more and more patients.

"Geoff will be sadly missed. He was a real expert in his field and his knowledge was vast. His good work will continue through his colleagues Helen Veevers and Louise Bridge."

# Lauren is ready to wrestle with charity challenges



THERE'S a new face on the team at the Trust's charity, Blue Skies Hospitals Fund.

Lauren Codling, 22, from Blackpool, has lobbied parliament for carers' rights, was a national gymnast, is a self-taught singer and guitar player and is also a part-time professional wrestler.

But it is her personal experiences that bring her to her new fundraising role.

As her father was treated in the Cardiac Centre in 2010, Lauren remembers how great the care was and how the staff supported her even though she was only 14 years old.

She said: "Being in hospital can be distressing, not only for the patient, but also for their friends and family.

"I'm passionate about raising awareness of the charity due to my own experiences, in order to raise money to allow patients to have the best possible care.

"I'm really looking forward to working with as many people as possible and can't wait to get into the community and create a buzz so we can aid patient care together."

Interim Head of Fundraising, Ann Hedley, said: "We want to partner with the community and for them to see the Trust as theirs.

"Rather than being so Blackpool-centric we will be working throughout the whole of the Trust's geographic area which encompasses north Lancashire and South Cumbria.

"We are going to be proactive rather than reactive as Lauren's arrival starts the beginning of lots of changes in the charity. We are very excited about our planned events and how much we can help patient care."



Lauren Codling in her wrestling gear and (above) at the Blackpool Victoria

# First ‘modern slavery’ event staged by Trust

HORRIFIC abuse uncovered by ‘modern slavery’ experts was highlighted at a national conference in Blackpool.

One of the many vulnerable victims of this cruel and calculated crime was described as resembling a concentration camp victim due to the years of physical, mental, emotional and sexual abuse he had suffered.

His case was typical as he didn’t have the capacity to understand that he was being treated as a slave and he was being controlled through threats of violence, coercion and physical attacks.

Organised by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Blackpool and Lancashire Safeguarding Boards, the multi-agency conference took place at the Village Hotel in Blackpool on March 13.

Internationally renowned speakers from the National Crime Agency, Home Office Immigration Enforcement, NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre, Newport Police, Lancashire Police and Trident Area Command Metropolitan Police gave presentations at the event. The theme of the event was ‘See It, Share It’ as everyone, including professionals and the public, can help to detect and halt this insidious form of abuse.

Hazel Gregory, Head of Safeguarding for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, said the conference was a great success in raising awareness across professional groups.

She said: “No one organisation can tackle this form of abuse alone; partnership working is the key. The main message from the conference



Hazel Gregory (third from right), with conference delegates and speakers

was, ‘if something doesn’t seem right, it probably isn’t’. If you have any suspicions, please inform the relevant people – see it and share it. In some cases of this organised crime and vile abuse, we only have one chance.”

The Home Office estimates that there are at least 13,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK from more than 70 different nationalities.

Modern slavery involves the recruitment and movement of individuals using threats, deception and coercion for the purpose of exploitation. It takes many forms but the most common are sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude. Victims are forced to work against their will in many different settings, including brothels, cannabis farms, nail bars, car washes and in agriculture. They can also be forced to work in people’s homes.

If you suspect that someone is being exploited, call Crimestoppers in confidence on 0800 555 111 and if you think they are in immediate danger call 999 or go to [www.lancashire.police.uk/modernslavery](http://www.lancashire.police.uk/modernslavery)



CHILDREN now have safe and fun places to play in Outpatients' areas thanks to a health Trust's charity.

Staff helped to design the colourful new areas at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and parents and children have given them the thumbs-up.

Funded by the Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, the Trust's charity, the play areas help to distract children who are receiving treatment for a variety of conditions. The play areas are part of the recent redevelopment of the Outpatients' Department at Blackpool Victoria Hospital which Blue Skies also funded.

Elaine Fishwick, Outpatients' Manager for the Trust, said: "The new play areas make it a better experience for children when they visit our hospital. The play areas can take their mind off what they are here for. It also distracts them from any pain they are experiencing. It calms them down so it's less stressful. People looking after children can be anxious. It makes such a difference to them. We're delighted with the new play areas. Everyone has commented on how good they are. We are so grateful to Blue Skies."

Leanne Lamb, a play specialist from the Trust's Women and Children's Department, and Mandy Sanderson, a Paediatric Nurse in the Outpatients' Department, led the design process. They said they had given the areas a seaside theme so that there was some continuity with the Children's Ward, which has similar artwork.

One of the play areas is in Orange Waiting Area where children attend the Trust's Orthopaedic Clinic and the other is in Lilac Waiting Area where children are seen about various conditions.

Julie Murdoch from Blackpool, whose three-year-old daughter Eva receives treatment in the Orthoptics Department, said: "The new play area is great. Eva doesn't have to sit with the adults. She has been making 'beans on toast' for the staff! She loves it."

Nicci Hayes, Fundraising Officer for the Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, said: "The play areas look absolutely wonderful and we are so pleased that the children are getting lots of enjoyment from them at what can be a very anxious time."



## Giving patients a voice

PEOPLE who have been affected by cancer are working with senior clinicians and commissioners across the Fylde coast to improve cancer care and services.

The Patient Cancer Care Improvement (PCCI) Group was set up earlier this year by NHS Blackpool and Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

PCCI Group patient chairman, David Baxter (pictured), who lives in Thornton Cleveleys, said: "Our group is made up of around 15 people who have, or had, cancer or care for someone with cancer and we're really pleased to be working with both CCGs and the Trust to make things better for patients and their families."

Each month, senior commissioners and clinicians from all three organisations meet to discuss where improvements in cancer care and services can be made – this is the Fylde coast cancer steering group.

Speaking on behalf of all three organisations, Fleetwood GP and chair of the steering group, Dr

Adam Janjua, said: "The steering group decided that if we really want to make improvements, then we need to take on board the views and experiences of people who are, or have been, affected by cancer. After advertising for people to get involved, I was really pleased that we were able to bring together a group of people who are dedicated to making a difference."

The PCCI Group meets bi-monthly at NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG in Wesham and the group's chairperson now also sits on the steering group. So far, the group has been asked to provide feedback on referral letters and end of treatment packs.

Mr Baxter added: "It's fantastic that we can have a real two way conversation with senior commissioners and clinicians across the Fylde coast to improve services."

A 'virtual' PCCI Group is also being set up as an extension of the main group where people can give views and feedback via email. If anybody who has been affected by cancer would like to join, they can email

[lyndsey.shorrock@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk](mailto:lyndsey.shorrock@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk)

# Are you 'up' for the Summer Solstice Abseil?



**Celebrate the summer  
solstice in style by  
abseiling 60ft down the  
Women and Children's  
Unit at Blackpool  
Victoria Hospital!**

**Wednesday  
21<sup>st</sup> June 2017**

**Registration Fee: £25 (£20 for staff)  
Minimum Sponsorship: £100**

**Contact the Fundraising Office for a registration pack:**

- 01253 957904
- [blueskies@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk](mailto:blueskies@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk)
- [www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-solstice-abseil-tickets-32408466596](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-solstice-abseil-tickets-32408466596)

**Gift a gift for Father's Day!  
Fancy Dress optional!**

**Blue Skies Hospitals Fund Registered Charity No 101570**