

Health Matters

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



Why hospital is just child's play

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Issue 148, Friday, September 1, 2017

Welcome from the Chief Executive

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



We are always delighted by the support this Trust receives from the local population, our patients and service users.

Again this month we have been lucky enough to receive generous donations from Tesco supermarket and a cardiac patient.

We are so grateful for the help our supporters give and delighted when that help is generated because of excellent care received from our staff.

We are also hoping that you will help us with your knitting skills.

To mark the centenary of the end of World War One we are appealing for more than 30,000 handmade Poppies for an innovative art installation.

Following the display the poppies will be sold to raise funds for the British Legion.

Please get in touch with our lead chaplain if you can help with this cause.

**Wendy Swift,
Chief Executive**

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Any comments ideas or suggestions? Please contact: the Communications Department, on 01253 953059, 956875 or 953538 or email communications@bfwh.nhs.uk

Pastor praises Poppy power



Chaplain Jonathan Sewell with some of the knitters

VOLUNTEERS have gathered together to support the Trust's new Poppy Project.

Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust hopes to receive at least 30,000 handmade poppies which will be used for an innovative art installation at the hospital to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One next year.

Trust Lead Chaplain, Jonathan Sewell, is organising knitters and crocheters to come together, share tips, patterns and techniques with each other and the group held the first meeting attended by more than 30 staff and members of the public.

Jonathan said: "We just arranged this meeting to test the water and the response has been amazing – I'm astonished. It's lovely to see people mingling and making friends as well as swapping information."

Jonathan will be also learning how to knit, courtesy of haberdashery, Mrs Johnson's Emporium in Bond Street, Blackpool.

Following the art display next year, the poppies will be sold and money raised donated to The Royal British Legion.

Helen Mason, Royal British Legion Community Fundraiser, said: "We are very excited to be involved at the beginning of this project to remember those in WW1 and will rally our volunteers to get knitting.

Knitter, Marlene Cordingley, who is part of the Dorcas knitting group in Anchorsholme, said: "We are here today because our knitting group likes to try to do things to help others.

"The anniversary of the end of World War One next year means a lot as so many of our ancestors were affected. We have a lot to thank them for."

If you are interested in joining in, you can email Jonathan direct at jonathan.sewell@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk, or you can turn up at the next events where there will be instructors to teach both knitting and crochet.

The events will be in:
The Coffee Lounge, The Restaurant, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, every second Monday of the month, starting on September 11 and The Garden Room, Clifton Hospital, Pershore Road, Lytham St Annes, every fourth Monday of the month, starting on September 25.

Bubbles and smiles help a stressful day



Play specialist Gemma Probin

A PLAY specialist has been praised by young patients and families for helping to make operations less stressful.

Gemma Probin from Thornton and her colleagues on the Children's Ward at Blackpool Victoria Hospital often receive special thank you messages from families.

One recent message was from Giseffemae Hackney, whose son needed an operation. Giseffemae thanked all of the staff on the unit and gave Gemma a special mention.

Giseffemae said: "My son came in for an operation and we were greeted with smiles from every single person! The HCAs, nurses, consultant, anaesthetists and everyone in-between explained everything to me.

"Any concerns I had were listened to and I was put completely at ease. The care given to my son was amazing.

"As he was going in for the anaesthetic a lady named Gemma blew bubbles for him. Bubbles

are his favourite thing and calmed him right down ready to go to sleep."

Gemma said: "The children always love the bubbles. That day it was all young children. As with all operations, we prepare the family so they know what to expect.

"The children just sat and watched the bubbles. We use bubbles, books and iPads to distract them. Sometimes they like to listen to music or look at our 'Where's Wally' books.

"Thursdays are 'Children's Day' in the operating theatres. We set up all the toys in the morning and we have stories and colouring books for when they are recovering.

"The families seem to be very happy with the care we give. We get some really good feedback from parents. Everyone is really nice – it's a great team."

Giseffemae added: "I cannot thank everyone enough for making a scary experience much easier for us all."

Mums support each other in global campaign

Latching on to breast feeding



Mums and supporters at the Global Big Latch-on event at Blackpool Victoria Hospital

FAMILIES gathered at Blackpool Victoria Hospital to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week and to take part in an annual international event called the 'Global Big Latch On'.

The hospital's event brought together some of the supporters of breastfeeding in the town and raised awareness of breastfeeding, encouraging the formation of support networks and normalising breastfeeding as a part of daily life.

The mums who breastfed their babies at the event were part of a total of 17,790 who participated in the event worldwide this year.

The theme for this year's World Breastfeeding Week was 'sustaining breastfeeding together'.

Blackpool's event was organised by Infant Feeding Co-ordinator, Dawn Burrows and Baby Friendly Co-ordinator, Shel Banks, who are based at the hospital and work for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Dawn and Shel welcomed back some families who had been in the hospital's Neonatal Unit and others who had had their babies at the Fylde Coast Birth Centre as well as in the hospital's Delivery Suite.

Shelley Watson from Over Wyre, mum to twins Felicity and Scarlett, attended the event with her sister, Heather Parkinson.

Shelley said: "It's brilliant that they are having this event at the hospital because Blackpool's breastfeeding rates aren't great.

"Felicity and Scarlett were premature so I didn't get to hold them for a couple of weeks and it was so hard. When I was first able to breastfeed them I cried and cried. It was that connection I had been missing."

Danielle Camm, a health visitor from Blackpool who works for the Trust, said: "This event is really good. It's so important that we can support each other. If you come from a family where there wasn't breastfeeding, you need that support.

"Breastfeeding is great because it helps the baby's brain to develop. If your baby is ill, you take on the germs and your body creates antibodies which help your child to fight infection.

"I'm not against formula. If it's right for you and your family, that's fine. However, if you want to breastfeed, you need support," she added.



Mr Ronald Bosdet with members of the Cardiac team

Five hundred thanks from Officer Ron



A FORMER RAF Senior Warrant Officer has thanked staff at the Lancashire Cardiac Centre at Blackpool Victoria Hospital by making a generous donation of £500 towards the centre's work.

Ronald Bosdet, 88, from Carnforth, who served in the RAF for 32 years and was a football coach until he was 74, presented the money to the Blue Skies Hospitals Fund – the charity of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Ronald underwent a procedure called a transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) in November 2015 and his health has greatly improved since then.

Ronald said: "Before my operation I was looking after my wife Iris who is disabled. I was doing ok but it was getting difficult. One night, after getting my wife into bed and settling her down, I sat down and couldn't get my breath. I called an ambulance and was rushed into the Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

"From there I was taken to Blackpool where they told me how serious my condition was. I'd had a heart attack in 1988 and doctors had discovered a heart murmur. That resulted in my TAVI procedure. I have felt fine ever since."

Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Mr Amal Bose, said: "A TAVI can be done under a local anaesthetic. It is a good alternative to an operation.

"It's being used more and more. We did around 80 this year and will probably do about 100 next year. It is often used in patients where standard surgery would be more risky. It is very pleasing to see that the treatment has been successful."

Ronald added: "I feel so much better now. I am well enough to go and see Iris every day as well as lead an independent life myself."

Lauren Codling from the Blue Skies Hospitals Fund said: "We are extremely grateful to Ronald for his generous donation."

Residents invited to joint annual meeting

FYLDE coast residents will have an opportunity to hear about the latest developments in local NHS services at a special event.

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which provides services including Blackpool Victoria Hospital, and the Blackpool and Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Groups, which plan and buy services across the Fylde coast, have joined forces once again to stage their annual meetings on the same day at the same venue.

The event will take place on Thursday, September 21, 2017, at Blackpool Sixth Form College from 5pm, with all members of the public and NHS staff welcome to attend.

It will be an opportunity to look back on some of the successes and highlights of the past year and will incorporate the formal presentation of each organisation's annual report and accounts.

A number of exhibitors will showcase the current provision and the future of health and care across the Fylde coast and will provide free health checks. The presentations start at 6pm.

Chairman of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Mr Ian Johnson, said: "Last year was the first time all three organisations had come together to hold their annual meetings and it worked well.

"The joint annual meeting is a sign of the increasing links being made between the groups to provide the best and most efficient health care possible for local residents."

Mary Dowling, Chair of Fylde and Wyre CCG, said: "We have always been good at working



Ian Johnson, Mary Dowling and Roy Fisher

with our partners within the Fylde coast NHS and over the past couple of years those bonds have become even stronger.

"I would urge the people of Blackpool, Fylde, Wyre and beyond to come along and hear how this collaboration has led to real improvements to the services available to local people."

Roy Fisher, Chairman of Blackpool CCG, said: "Our joint working with our partner organisations is having great improvements on health care provision and the lives of patients living within Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. I am very pleased that we are coming together again to provide the public with our annual reports in one event.

"It means the public we serve can see services available to them by visiting the exhibition stands. I encourage everyone to attend."

Anyone who wishes to attend should send their names to: rsvp.fyldecoast@nhs.net or telephone 01253 956361 before Thursday, September 14.

Store ensures every bit helps

A BLACKPOOL Tesco store has gone the 'Extra' mile to support children and babies at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Tesco Extra Community Champion, Lynn Sumner, organised and encouraged fund raising events to raise money for monitors for two children and baby wards.

The money raised is providing an apnoea monitor for the Neonatal Unit and a Masimo Pulse Oximeter monitor for the Children's Ward.

Lee Ross, who worked at the Tesco store on Clifton Park, highlighted the need for the equipment to Lynn through personal experience. His daughter Leandra, was born 10 weeks earlier than her due date of September 3 and is staying in the Neonatal Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Community Champion Lynn put out a call through her community Facebook page and many people responded with pledges of help.

Community Champions act as ambassadors for Tesco within their area, working to ensure that Tesco are a great neighbour that can bring genuine benefit to the local community.



Tesco's Lynn Sumner, second from left, helps raise funds and below, the cheque presentation to the Children's Ward



Lynn said: "I only have to put an appeal out and I get a fantastic response – everyone is so willing to help. I love to connect people together and I love my job!"

Dad Lee said: "All this good work is driven by Lynn. If she didn't have such passion, it wouldn't be such a success – she goes above and beyond.

"The girls in the neonatal unit have been absolutely fantastic – we can't thank them enough,' Lee added.

Neonatal Manager, Catherine Nash, said: "It's great to get such fantastic community support. The monitors we need pick up babies' breathing and can be used on the ward or at home. Thank you to everyone who generously contributed."

Improving cancer care



Jackie Brunton

A NATIONAL survey has shown that cancer patients feel there has been an improvement in the care offered by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and its partner organisations.

As part of the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey, people were asked a range of questions such as whether they were getting their cancer tests at the right time and if they were being involved as much as they wanted in decisions about their care.

They rated their overall care on a scale of 0 (very poor) to 10 (very good), with the national average being 8.7.

Health services on the Fylde coast have seen an improvement at 8.8 from 8.6 in 2015. Results show improvements in areas of information and support being provided.

Jackie Brunton, Lead Nurse for Cancer and End of Life Care for the Trust, said: "I am pleased to see improvements as the teams work hard to ensure people have the care and support needed before, during and after treatment.

"Any cancer diagnosis is life-changing for patients, their families and loved ones so it is vital they feel well cared for and supported during this time."

The Trust has been fortunate to have a funded Macmillan Cancer Support project called 'Living With and Beyond Cancer' (LWBC).

Jessica Jones, Macmillan Clinical Transformation Lead for the Trust, said: "It is great news that more people are living longer and surviving cancer, but unfortunately not everyone with cancer is living well.

"The project will continue to develop the services and information and the feedback we receive from the survey is invaluable and encourages us and also guides us on improvement areas."

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities within the cancer project or if you have personal experience living with cancer and would like to get involved or get further information please contact Hannah McKeaven at hannah.mckearnen@fyldeandwyreccg.nhs.uk