

Health Matters

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



Nilda
knits
to help
us remember

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Issue 158, Friday, January 19, 2018

Welcome from the Chief Executive

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



Embracing new technology and keeping abreast of smart ways of working is very much part of the strategy here at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals.

This week I am delighted to report on three advances which will help our patients.

Our Cardiac Unit is highly acclaimed and the specialist staff have been asked to help devise new machinery to improve heart surgery.

This well deserved honour will put us at the forefront of bypass surgery and allow our staff to be influential in technological decision making.

A new bank system, operable through a smart phone app, is allowing all our doctors to be able to apply for suitable shifts at the click of a button, ensuring safe and effective patient care and staffing levels at all times.

You can also read about how new technology is allowing donors a way to easily give to our Blue Skies hospitals fund charity.

Wendy Swift,
Chief Executive

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Health Matters is also available online at 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

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

Why Nilda is a natty knitter!

A FLEETWOOD retired nurse has made 800 crocheted poppies for a special hospital commemoration, despite never having crocheted in her life!

Nilda Scott, 64, is taking part in #TheGreatBTHKnit to make 30,000 poppies for a unique art installation, and events, at Blackpool Victoria Hospital in November.

She has made this remarkable amount by making a few poppies each night while watching TV and has impressed fellow crocheters and hospital officials alike.

Nilda said: "I saw the 'Knit and Natter' group advertised on Facebook and thought that I would like to see what it was all about.

"I have always sewed and made various things for charities and even the hospital's Oncology Unit, but I have never knitted or crocheted in my life until I came to the group. They taught me how to make the poppies and I've made a few each night. My next target is to make 1,000."

The Knit and Natter group was set up in September last year, and is held every month at Blackpool Victoria and Clifton Hospitals with knitting tutor



Nilda Scott and Ginette Ward

Ginette Ward and crochet tutor Debra Smith who are available to coach novices through the process of making the poppies.

Tutor Ginette Ward said: "Nilda's poppies are amazing. "She always takes time to make them look pretty which is very impressive considering she has only been crocheting since September.

"There are currently around 3,000 already made, thanks to all our wonderful contributors and Nilda's contribution has been a real help towards our 30,000 goal."

The Knit and Natter group dates can be found on the trust's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BlackpoolHospitals/

Grandma helps local patients

A 93 year-old great-grandma has been hailed a star for supporting local patients.

Joan Briggs, helps provide knitted blankets, purses and twiddle muffs, that provide stimulation for dementia patients, for Victoria Hospital.



Joan Briggs

As a member of the Central Library's monthly 'Help Knit a Lifesaver' Joan knits most days to help her keep active.

She said: "Most of my friends have gone, so I like to keep occupied. I'm lucky that I don't have arthritis, in fact there's not really anything wrong with me at all and I can still touch my toes!"

The Help Knit group meets every first Monday of the month at the Central Library, Queen Street, Blackpool.

Paediatric physio
bags place in
London Marathon

Help Gareth pass

the charity finish line



POULTON dad and paediatric physiotherapist, Gareth Troughton, is running his first marathon to help causes close to his heart.

Gareth was overjoyed when he got a place on the London Marathon and set himself a charity target of £3,000 to help the Miscarriage Association and blood cancer charity DKMS.

He is putting in the hours of training to run the marathon, but to get himself over the charity finishing line he needs help to raise vital funds.

Tragically Gareth, who works for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, has first-hand experience of miscarriage and has friends who have suffered from blood cancers. Knowing he can help other people facing such devastating health problems is spurring him on to his goal.

“My wife and I have a beautiful little boy, but he was our fourth pregnancy, so we have lived

through the stress and pressure of miscarriage.

As a paediatric physio Gareth works with children in the Blackpool area who suffer from long-term neuromuscular conditions such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and brain cancer.

“It can be a difficult and harrowing role. Having a child of my own makes me realise what some children go through and what they have to live with every day, 24 hours a day.

“I was delighted when I found out I had a place on the Marathon and I am training hard to meet my time target of four hours. But it’s a bit like having another part time job with all the training, organising, fundraising and publicity. In fact it’s becoming a bit of an obsession,” Gareth joked.

To help Gareth achieve his marathon success, please log on to <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=GarethTroughton&pageUrl=1>

A smart way to help boost charity funds

BLUE Skies Hospitals Fund is celebrating being one of the first charities to use smart technology to boost donations.

Blue Skies, the charity for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, is now offering smartphone users the ability to make a donation by tapping their android phone over a specially-created banner or their iPhone over a QR code.

By simply pressing their phone up to the banner, donors are taken to a webpage on their mobile through which they can make their electronic payment. They are even able to Gift Aid their donation, which will increase the donation at no additional cost.

This is done by Near Field Communication (NFC) which is automatically available on all modern android phones and iPhone 6 handsets and above. It is a wireless connection that tells the phone to open a specific webpage.

For those models which don't have NFC, a QR code which is read through the phone's camera takes the donor to the same webpage.

Head of Fundraising Kila Redfearn said: "This is very exciting for Blue Skies and already we've got a lot of attention from our banner. Eventually we hope to have this technology on our collection boxes out in the community and at charity events to make donating as simple as possible.

"It's important that we keep up with all the changes and development in technology in order



Aaron Jardine and six-month-old Connor Kearney try out the new Blue Skies smart donation point at Blackpool Victoria Hospital

to ensure our supporters can donate in the way that suits them. We will always have our traditional donation methods, but this means that no matter where you are or what technology you have at your fingertips, you can still support Blue Skies Hospitals Fund."



Students thank ward for training excellence

STUDENT nurses have given a massive vote of thanks to Ward 34 at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Students from the North West Universities were asked to nominate a learning environment that had inspired them whilst on placement. The award, which was sponsored by RCN North West branch, was presented to ward 34 in the category of scheduled care.

“We are delighted to have received this accolade which was voted for by the students themselves,” said ward manager Lindsey Kelsall. “We strive to always do an excellent job providing mentorship for student nurses on placement and this has now been publically recognised through the Trust.

“If senior students have a really good placement with us they request to come back to do their internship and from there we can appoint our

home-grown nurses,” she explained.

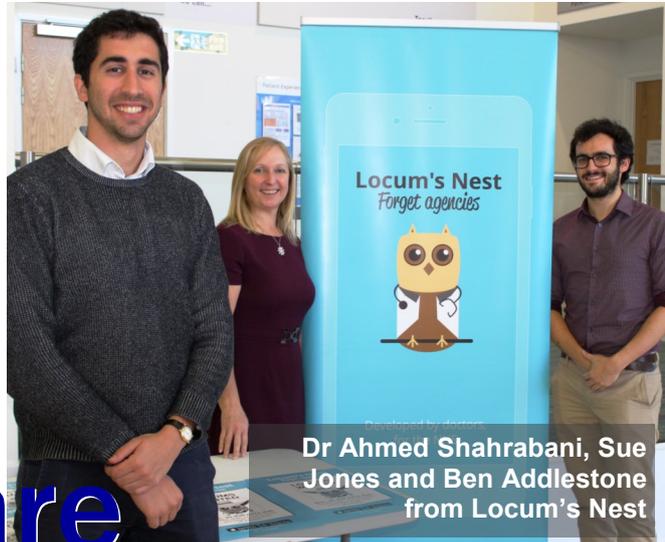
The students can be placed on any ward or clinical area throughout the acute hospital or community and they vote for the area which they believe has enhanced their training and made a difference to their work as a whole.

Lindsey added: “Our ward staff invest a lot of time and energy into mentoring students and this award recognises the work they do.”

UCLAN student, Sharon Meadows, who is on placement on Ward 34, said she believed the staff went above and beyond to help students further their careers.

“It’s a fantastic team and everyone is always willing to help,” Sharon said. “The ward is well organised and the welcome students receive makes a massive difference to what we get out of our placement.”

Phone app helps improve patient care



Dr Ahmed Shahrabani, Sue Jones and Ben Addlestone from Locum's Nest

CO-FOUNDER of Locum's Nest, Dr Ahmed Shahrabani, has been at Blackpool Victoria Hospital to talk to doctors about how they can improve patient care using new technology.

The Trust is the first in the North of England to sign up to the Locum's Nest app which uses smart phones to revolutionise the way staffing shortages are addressed and improve patient care by increasing the pool of doctors available to cover shift vacancies.

"We are very pleased with the engagement from the hospital," said Dr Shahrabani. "There has been a lot of positive feedback from the clinical staff who are keen to cover available vacancies and ensure the best patient care possible."

Locum's Nest was devised by Dr Shahrabani and Dr Nicolas Andreau to help hospitals improve staffing levels, build up a register of doctors able to cover locum shifts and drive savings for affiliated Trusts.

The app has an online bank of GMC registered doctors able to cover shifts at regional hospitals. The hospital advertises available shifts and these can be taken up by doctors with the appropriate speciality who are registered on the app.

The system automatically increases the pool of doctors available to Blackpool Teaching

Hospitals. Since the hospital signed up to Locum's Nest, the number of affiliated GMC doctors has risen from 3,400 to 4,500.

Clinical Lead for Locum's Nest, Ben Addlestone, said: "There is a really good mix of shifts being posted from Blackpool including paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, cardiology, emergency department and general surgery.

"There are so many advantages to this app system which not only ensures safe cover for hospital wards, but also saves money and time."

Dr Nick Harper, Deputy Medical Director of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said: "Locum's Nest is a new and innovative way of covering vacant medical shifts. It is one a number of mechanisms we are utilising to ensure and maintain medical staffing levels.

"One of its biggest advantages of Locum's Nest is the fact the shifts are highlighted to a large pool of doctors, through the App.

"Other systems for establishing cover require us to approach individual doctors and can be both time consuming and labour intensive.

"This system is populated with doctors who have worked previously in the hospital, meaning that they are familiar with the environment."

World first for Cardiac specialists

HEART and lung specialists based at Blackpool Victoria Hospital are playing an important role in devising a new piece of leading-edge technology for patients undergoing Cardiac surgery.

Staff from the Perfusion Team at the hospital's Lancashire Cardiac Centre have been involved in the development of the first British-built Heart and Lung machine for nearly 50 years, using their expertise to assist in the design of a highly innovative machine, called the Quantum.

It has now received its quality mark and the centre has taken delivery of a demonstration unit so perfusionists, who operate bypass machinery during surgery, can pass on their final thoughts before the machine goes into full production.

Perfusion Service Manager, Andrew Heggie, said: "Two years ago I was asked to help in the design of a new piece of equipment that would help perfusionists during operations. The machine supports the patient during heart surgery. It supports the circulation during Cardiopulmonary bypass as well as administering fluids to stop the heart during surgery. It helps us control the temperature of the patient, the patient's blood pressure and blood flow during various forms of cardiac surgery.

"The manufacturers knew we would be looking for new heart and lung machines soon and, with our reputation for innovation at the Cardiac Centre, they asked us to be involved. They didn't just pick us out of a hat, they wanted a centre that had shown itself to be at the forefront of



Tom Dale, Zoe Barrans, Marko Kalamboukas and Andrew Heggie with the prototype machine

innovation and the whole team has had a major input into its development.

"The level of interest has been phenomenal and we have had calls from all over the world from clinicians wanting to know more.

"We have had the first prototype in the world delivered to the Trust for final comments from the clinical specialists and the manufacturers will take our feedback into the final design before the machine is introduced into clinical practice.

He added: "The new machine has huge benefits both for the user and the patient. The big advantage is that instead of there being four or five screens there is now just one clear digital screen where all the information can be clearly seen.

"A lot of studies have shown that concentrating on one screen and not several reduces human risk factors and I am really excited about this development which is putting the centre on the map globally."

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