

# Health Matters

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



## The great charity bake off

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## Welcome from the Chief Executive

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



It has been a busy couple of weeks for the Trust with a number of positive stories highlighted in this issue of Health Matters.

One event we are all looking forward to in October is the unveiling of a ground-breaking Poppy Memorial being launched in Blackpool Victoria Hospital's main entrance to recognise the Centenary of WW1.

As part of the Memorial campaign the Trust asked for 30,000 handmade poppies to feature in the structure and local groups such as the South Shore Community Partnership have provided great support and we are all excited to see the piece in place.

While we are set to welcome one attraction we said goodbye to another as the Camerados tepee was taken down. The tepee provided a comfortable place where anyone could go, on good days and bad, to be around people, make connections and enjoy being out of the house, office or ward and was extremely successful.

**Wendy Swift,**  
Chief Executive

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# Hospital takes the biscuit for charity



LEFT: The ENT and Audiology departments with a specially made cake as a raffle prize

BELOW The Lancashire Suite and Coronary Care sale included gluten free bakes

BLACKPOOL Victoria Hospital has played host to a number of World's Biggest Coffee Mornings raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Cancer Support team, based in the Windmill Unit, were the first to host a coffee morning using some amazing home baked cakes donated by staff around the Trust.

Kerrie Newsham, Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Officer at the Trust said: "It is lovely for so many people around our Trust to make the effort to support people with cancer.

"A great effort has gone into making the cakes especially our big Macmillan cake made by Cardiac sister, Jennifer Ireland."



The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's biggest fundraising event for people facing cancer. They ask people all over the UK to host their own Coffee Mornings and donations on the day are made to Macmillan. Last year alone they raised over £27 million



# Blackpool craft group backs WW1 project

A COMMUNITY based craft group has supported a hospital Remembrance project by making 250 poppies.

The ladies from the South Shore Community Partnership on Highfield Road, Blackpool, have donated the poppies to the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's #TheGreatBTHKnit campaign.

The Trust's special campaign has asked for 30,000 handmade poppies to feature in a ground-breaking structure, the Poppy Memorial, to be revealed in Blackpool Victoria Hospital's main entrance on October 26, to recognise the World War 1 Centenary.

One contributor, Maureen Heginbotham, 79, said: "As a young girl, my family were evacuated from Singapore when my father was killed on a route march in the jungle fighting the Japanese in World War 2.

"My mother was widowed at only 32 and I remember a Brigadier Williams from the Loyal Regiment helping my mother adapt to life back in Preston.

"My mother could not have coped without this help and there are still many people suffering today. If making poppies helps them in any way, I'm all for it."

The craft group was keen to get involved in this special project, recognising the importance of remembering all those who have served in the Armed Forces.

Anyone who has contributed poppies to #TheGreatBTHKnit is invited to the Poppy Memorial unveiling at the hospital on October 26, with coffee and cake on offer in the Restaurant from 10am, before the unveiling at 11am.

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TOP: The craft group; ABOVE: Maureen Heginbotham with some handmade poppies

# Trust wins award for Services support



Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust signs the Armed Forces Covenant

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has received a special award for its support to Defence and the wider Armed Forces community.

The Trust is one of 16 organisations from across the North West to receive a Silver Award under the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme for its support to services personnel such as reservists, cadets and volunteers.

The Employer Recognition Scheme was launched to reward employers who support this with a services background and encourage others to do the same.

This includes employing serving and former members of the Armed Forces community and demonstrating flexibility towards training and mobilisation commitments for Reservists and

Cadet Force Adult Volunteers.

The Trust realises the importance of supporting their staff who serve in the Armed Forces and gives them two weeks paid leave per annum for training purposes. When returning from active duty they are reinstated with no loss of position or status.

Wendy Swift, Chief Executive at the Trust, said: "We are proud of the work in the Trust to ensure that members of the Armed Forces community are supported.

"Our HR policy allows flexibility for both Reservists and Cadet Force Adult Volunteers for training requirements and deployment, and we work with the Career Transition Partnership to support the employment of service leavers.

# Rosemere supports research at Blackpool

CLINICAL research has been given the green light after funding was secured for two new research nurse posts.

The £63,208 funding has been provided by the Rosemere Cancer Foundation charity to Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The money will allow the Trust to cover the nurses' salaries and other associated costs for a year.

The Trust is recognised as a highly performing active research centre and a key contributor to scientific breakthroughs.

Jo Howard, the Trust's Clinical Research Nurse Manager, said: "We believe all of our patients should have the opportunity to consider taking part in research at our Trust, but we cannot offer the range of studies we would like due to research nurse capacity.

"The funding from the Rosemere Cancer Foundation enables us to recruit two more research nurses, one of which has just started with us.

"It means we can open both the studies in set up waiting to open and those studies on hold, allowing us to offer cancer patients access to innovative therapeutic approaches, which have the potential of improving their clinical outcome or treatment management."

The charity works to bring world class cancer services and treatments to cancer patients from throughout Lancashire and South Cumbria.

At the end of 12 months, it is hoped both positions will have become self-financing via income generated by the research work



Supporting world class cancer treatment locally

Registered Charity No. 1131583



Clinical Research Nurse Manager, Jo Howard

# Stroke patients will benefit from legacy

FYLDE coast stroke patients will benefit from a charity legacy thanks to the work of a nationally recognised former nurse.

The Blackpool Jubilee Stroke Association (BJSA) was formed in 1977 by nurse Ethel Dobbins and her colleagues at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Ethel retired from the hospital but continued to work for the charity, supporting stroke patients and their carers, until she died in 2014 at the age of 99. That year, she had also received the British Empire Medal for her service to the community.



Pauline and Peggy with the staff on the Stroke Ward

the charity escalated.

The BJSA took the difficult decision to shut down recently but not before it celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with members reaching a consensus that the surplus cash, £2,150, would be donated to the Blue Skies Hospitals Fund for the Stroke Unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Treasurer Pauline Westmoreland, who joined a year after the charity was founded, said: "Over the years the charity provided advice and information, as well as facilities for recreation.

"We organised indoor and outdoor activities, including day trips and music evenings in order to improve the wellbeing of patients who have suffered disablement from strokes.

"We also organised fundraising activities, such as summer and Christmas fairs, to meet the costs."

Unfortunately, in recent times, the number of members dwindled, while the costs of running

"When we started off we could get an ambulance for free and didn't have to pay to hire a hall for our Friday meet-ups."

Chairlady Peggy Byrne said: "As a stroke charity, we were obliged to donate our surplus to stroke-related causes. So it made sense to give it all back to where it came from in the first place.

"We are happy that the money will benefit future stroke patients."

Leanne Macefield, Stroke Unit Ward Manager, said: "We can't thank the members enough for the generous donation.

"We will make sure that the money is well spent while doing something commemorative to recognise the work done by the group over the last 40 years."

If you would like to find out how you can support the Blue Skies Hospitals Fund charity you can contact them on 01253 957904.

# Trust says final ta-ta to its terrific teepee

BLACKPOOL Victoria Hospital had said ta-ta to the Camerados teepee.

The teepee was located in the main entrance of the hospital and has been welcoming a host of keen visitors since the end of June.

Founder of Camerados, Maff Potts, travelled from Oxford to bid farewell to the teepee along with Development Manager, Izzy Harriss and gave away special Camerados cupcakes.

The idea behind the teepee, is that it provides a comfortable place where anyone can come, on good days and bad, to be around people, make connections and enjoy being out of the house, office or ward.

This year, there were also pop-up Camerados spaces – comfortable chairs and lamps - in Clifton Hospital and in the Education Centre of Blackpool Victoria Hospital

Maff said: "Huge thanks and respect to Blackpool Teaching hospitals for joining the Camerados movement and providing a space where people having tough times can lean on each other and on strangers

"They've recognised their hospital is a place of stress for staff, patients and visitors alike. The stories and data show that people have stepped up and looked out for one another, sometimes at heartbreakingly difficult times.

"The Teepee has seen around 15,000 people go in and use it for a decent period of time. That's 155 a day."

Patient Experience Lead at the Trust, Andrew



Maff Potts and Izzy Harriss From Camerados with Trust Volunteers

Heath said: "Hosting Camerados and the teepee for a second time has again delivered a positive impact on the experiences of our staff and also our patients and visitors to the Trust.

"It has quite obviously demonstrated that this wasn't about novelty factor and that even though it was here for considerably longer interest was sustained throughout.

"We will continue to work with Camerados to enable them to realise their ambition of improved social connection. Whether that means bringing the teepee back or creating other spaces is still to be decided.

"Camerados will be providing their learning from their work at the Trust's Grand Round meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>."

Camerados started with a belief in a simple but powerful idea: that you beat tough times by getting two things: Friends and Purpose.

# BLACKPOOL TEACHING HOSPITALS



**From October 26 there will be an innovative interactive art installation, The Poppy Memorial, which will be housed in the main entrance at the Hospital to mark 100 years since the end of WW1 but also recognise those who have been killed or injured in any armed conflict since.**

**Anyone who wishes to take part can send in a picture, name or message to be displayed within the installation for the duration of the display. Email [nigel.fort@nhs.net](mailto:nigel.fort@nhs.net) or leave your details at reception in the main entrance.**