

# Health Matters

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



## Hope for the future

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

How a little girl is living up  
to her name

*Giving us all Hope — Page 8*

Celebrating achievement  
and dedication

*Success awards — Pages 3 to 5*

**Issue 179, Friday, November 23, 2018**

## Welcome from the Chief Executive

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



In this issue we are delighted to say thank you for the hard work and dedication of our staff.

Our Celebrating Success Awards saw hundreds of staff pay tribute to colleagues whose innovation, skill and compassion make us so proud of our Trust.

Staff who have been with the organisation for more than 20 years have also been honoured this week. Certificates were handed out to recognise long service and personal achievements.

We are also delighted to report that two more members of our nursing staff have received the coveted Cavell Star Award for their compassion and care of patients, families and colleagues.

The coming Christmas season is a time to think of loved ones who are no longer with us and the Trust has organised two bereavement services to help grieving families during the festive season.

Details of both events are on Pages 6 and 7 of this magazine.

**Wendy Swift,**  
Chief Executive

## Contents

### News

#### **Celebrating the dedication of staff**

Our NHS awards saw standing ovations given to staff who have gone the extra mile to serve patients at Blackpool Teaching Hospital.

**Pages 3, 4 and 5**

#### **Festive memorial services**

A baby memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 2, in the Baronial Hall in Blackpool's Winter Gardens and this year's annual Tree of Lights remembrance service will take place on Monday, December 3 at 7.30pm at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

**Pages 6 and 7**

#### **Living with Hope**

Fourteen months ago, Michelle Ward, was having a normal pregnancy and birth. Hope was her 11<sup>th</sup> child and everything seemed to be going to plan, but then Michelle's world turned upside down.

**Page 8**

#### **Nurses honoured**

Two dedicated nurses have received coveted national awards.

**Page 9**

#### **Cancer testing boost**

Patients are to benefit from new equipment that will reduce lung cancer results waiting times.

**Page 10**



**Meet our staff who were presented with achievement and long service awards — Pages 11 and 12**

**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)**

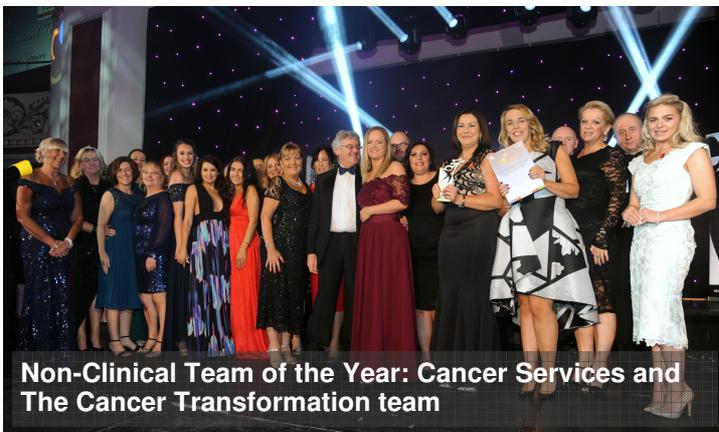
**Any comments ideas or suggestions? Please contact: the Communications Department, on 01253 953059, 956875 or 953538 or email [bfwh.trustcommunications@nhs.net](mailto:bfwh.trustcommunications@nhs.net)**



# Celebrating Success



Clinical Team of the Year: The Stroke Unit



Non-Clinical Team of the Year: Cancer Services and The Cancer Transformation team



Unsung Hero: Allan Badana

HUNDREDS of NHS staff gathered at an awards ceremony at Blackpool's Winter Gardens to honour colleagues who have shown extraordinary levels of care, compassion and innovation to ensure the best possible treatment for patients.

More than 470 nominations were received in just seven categories for Celebrating Success 2018 and the judges had a tough decision drawing up a shortlist.

The Blackpool Teaching Hospitals awards, presented by Blackpool panto star, Hayley Kay, and Andy Mitchell, head of news at Radio Wave, recognised the amazing work done by staff both

in the hospitals and in the community.

Special recognition this year went to the hospital's Emergency Department who were presented with the Chairman's Award.

The team were praised for their efficiency and compassion, even during times of departmental pressure.

Announcing the award, Trust Chairman, Pearse Butler, said: "I chose a group of staff who have been incredibly committed, hard-working and who have gone the extra mile under the most extraordinary pressure."



Chairman's Award winners: The Emergency Department



Innovation and Service Improvement award: Dr Andy Ng

The Patients Award was won by housekeeper Ann Brumfield who was commended by a number of patients for her incredible levels of care and compassion.

Many remembered Ann's soft and welcoming smile and desire to help them make their stay as comfortable as possible.

Runners-up in the Patients' Award category were A&E and student nurse, Karl Lewis.

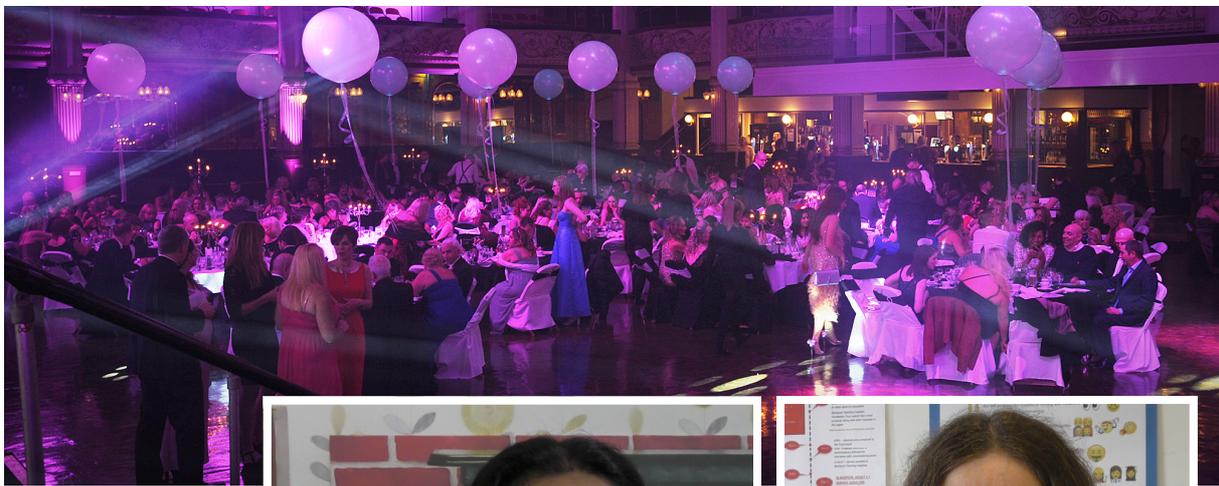
The Stroke Unit was named Clinical Team of the Year. The unit was said to work like a well-oiled machine. Runners-up in this category were the Child and Adolescent Support and Help Enhanced Response Team (CASHER), Learning Disability Theatre Team and Sexual Health Services.



Volunteer of the Year: Left, Jo Haythornthwaite, right, Phil Robinson



Making a massive difference to cancer care within the Trust and improving the quality of life for Fylde coast cancer patients led to Cancer Services and the Cancer Transformation Team being named as Non-Clinical Team of the Year.



The Empress Ballroom decked out for the Celebrating Success Awards. Right, Sabila Johnson and far right, Ann Brumfield



The Mortuary and Bereavement and youth forum, Victoria's Voice, were named as runners-up in this category.

An inspirational health care assistant was named as Unsung Hero. Allan Badana was praised for his work in the PJ Paralysis campaign which aims to get patients up, out of bed and moving. Runners-up in the category were blood banks manager, Elaine Addison and stroke staff nurse, Nikki Roberts.

The Innovation and Service Improvement award went to Dr Andy Ng who was acknowledged for the work he has done to revolutionise the acute pain service. Stroke Unit trainee advanced nurse practitioner, Mark Delabajan, and mental illness team Mums and Minds (MAMS) group were named as runners-up in the category.

Volunteers do a tremendous job enhancing patient experience. The judges could not split two of the nominees and decided to award Volunteer of the Year to both Jo Haythornthwaite, for her work on organ donation, and Phil Robinson for his dedication and commitment to Victoria

Hospital. Runners-up were Clifton Hospital volunteer Barry Evans and A&E volunteer David Knight.

Employee of the Year went to Ward 25 manager, Sabila Johnson, who was described as compassionate about her staff, patients and ward, ensuring the highest standards at all times. Ward 6 manager, Maria Jennings, rehabilitation co-ordinator Nicola Williams and Dr Andrew Weatherburn took the runner-up places.

Wendy Swift, Chief Executive Officer of the Trust, praised the work done by all staff within the Trust saying: "It is humbling to read reports of the care and expertise our staff give to patients both in the hospitals and in the community. We are grateful to our generous sponsors who support this event allowing us to pay tribute to such innovative and caring staff."

Sponsors for Celebrating Success 2018 were; Medstrom Healthcare, JE Harrison Builders, Hempsons, Medirect, G2 Speech, Allcool, Weightmans, CDC Printers, Blue Skies Hospitals Charity, Atlas and Beaverbrooks the Jewellers.

# Service helps grieving parents at Christmas

A CHRISTMAS tree often tells a story of generations of family members.

Decorations may have been given to us by grandparents or bought as mementoes of family holidays. Some trinkets are handmade by children or bought to celebrate occasions such as a first Christmas.

But for some families, a baby who died too soon is part of that story and this year the annual Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's Special Baby Remembrance Service will have Christmas Trees at its heart.

However brief, a baby's life is always cherished and the Trust organises a baby remembrance service every year for parents whose babies were miscarried, born asleep, or lived for only hours, days or weeks.

Organiser, Megan Murray, Bereavement Support Nurse at the Trust, said: "My tree has many mementoes from loved ones who have died. They are part of my family history. When I stand back and look at my tree, I do so with pride, some sadness and with great memories.

"I hope that each year this service plays a small part in helping families cope with their loss and gives them space to remember in a safe and supportive environment. The society we live in today can be very uncomfortable at acknowledging a family's grief for a baby that has died. At the service all the parents, those who lost babies recently or in the past, come together to remember in a supportive and beautiful service."

The memorial service, on Sunday, December 2, in the Baronial Hall in Blackpool's Winter Gardens, helps parents and families feel they are not alone with their grief at Christmas time. The Baronial Hall doors will open at 2.40pm and the service will start about 3pm.

Memorial Christmas decorations will be given to  
**06 ISSUE 179**



Midwife, Pauline Canning, holds the remembrance service poster

families to either put on the remembrance tree at the service, take home, or place on remembrance trees at Fylde coast cemeteries.

Megan added: "The local councils have been amazing by donating trees for all baby areas."

A memorial Christmas tree will be in Lytham's Forget Me Not Garden courtesy of Fylde Borough Council and Wyre Borough Council will put trees in the baby areas of both Poulton and Fleetwood Cemeteries. The tree from the memorial service itself, donated by Blackpool Borough Council, will be displayed at Carleton Crematorium baby area.

The trees will be erected in the first week of December and parents who place baubles on the cemetery trees are asked to collect them, if they wish to keep their decoration, before the trees are removed during the first week of January.

# Tree of Lights service

DECEMBER sees the return of an annual service to remember loved ones that have passed away.

The Tree of Lights Appeal and associated service, is organised each year by Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, the charity for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and the Trust's Chaplaincy Department.

This year, the event will take place on Monday, December 3 at 7.30pm at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

The event enables friends and family to celebrate the life of a loved one in a positive and personal way and is open to everyone, not just those who have been cared for by the Trust. Everyone who attends will be offered a mince pie and refreshments with the opportunity to enjoy music and readings in a warm and friendly atmosphere and will also receive a memento of the evening.

Guests will be able to remember a loved one, have their name recorded in our special Book of Remembrance which will remain open in the hospital chapel throughout December. They can also make a voluntary donation.



Chaplain, Clive Lord, former Blackpool Mayor, Ian Coleman and Head of Fundraising, Kila Redfearn, at last year's Tree of Lights service

Chaplain, Clive Lord, said: "We do hope you will join us for this celebration at what is such a special time of year."

Head of Fundraising, Kila Redfearn, said: "We look forward to welcoming everyone to what is sure to be a really lovely evening."

All monies raised will be used to support those going through bereavement throughout the Trust.

For more information and to book your place, please contact [Nicci.Hayes@BFWHospitals.nhs.uk](mailto:Nicci.Hayes@BFWHospitals.nhs.uk) or ring 01253 957904.

A promotional banner for the Blue Skies Elf Run. On the left is a circular logo featuring a cartoon elf character with the text "BLUE SKIES" at the top and "ELF RUN" at the bottom. The main text in the center reads "SUNDAY 25TH NOVEMBER" in large letters, followed by "WOODSIDE DRIVE BLACKPOOL" and "THE ROAD TO BLACKPOOL ZOO". Below that, it says "12.15PM REGISTRATION 1.00PM RACE". A red banner across the middle says "RUN, JOG, STROLL OR JINGLE ALL THE WAY!". At the bottom, it states "PRE REGISTRATION REQUIRED CONTACT BLUESKIES@BFWHOSPITALS.NHS.UK" and "CHILDREN £5, ADULTS £10, FAMILY OF 4 £25, GROUP OF 5 £40, INCLUDES ELF HAT (GIVEN TO YOU AT THE START)". On the right, there is the "blue skies hospitals fund" logo and another small elf character.

# Living up to her name

LITTLE Hope Ward is an inspiration.

Born with Down Syndrome, transient leukaemia, a hole in the heart, joint hypermobility, reduced vision and hearing and having to be fed through a feeding tube, it would have been easy for her family to despair.

Fourteen months ago, Hope's mum, Michelle, was having a normal pregnancy and birth. Hope was her 11<sup>th</sup> child and everything seemed to be going to plan.



Michelle and Hope Ward

"All my other babies were born without problems and nothing untoward was expected from my pregnancy with Hope," explained mum, who lives with her family in central Blackpool.

"Hope was delivered normally with no issues, in fact it was a quick birth," Michelle explained. "She was delivered looking at me rather than the midwife and I saw the Down mask straight away."

With the support of Blackpool Victoria Hospital's Neonatal Unit, Michelle and Hope are now becoming advocates for children with disabilities and are sharing their experiences.

"Hope may not change the world in her lifetime, but she will change opinions," Michelle said.

After her birth, Hope was immediately taken to the Neonatal Unit and did not come off for 21 days.

"I always presumed the Special Care Baby Unit or Neonatal Unit was for premature babies, but there was my 7lb 10oz baby in an incubator by the side of a baby who weighed just a few grams. While she was there her care was amazing, I cannot not put into words how wonderful the staff were. She could not have been in a better place for treatment."

"I was lost and bewildered I could not understand what had happened to me and my baby," Michelle added. "The neonatal nurses and consultant paediatrician, Dr Alison Simmonett, got me through those first 21 days."

Hope's leaky heart valve has closed and the hole in her heart chamber has not altered and is not giving concern at the moment. She still has to use a feeding tube because her windpipe does not close when she eats or drinks.

"One of my daughters told me that Hope has super powers. When I asked her what she meant she said that Hope made everyone smile and fall in love with her and I think my daughter was right, Hope does have a super power," Michelle said.

"Hope will make a difference during her life. She will be an advocate for people like her living with Down Syndrome and other disabilities. She is on a mission to help others understand and she already has a blog page, a Facebook and Instagram page and has done some modelling to promote disabled children.

"She is also helping other children with their school projects and exams," Michelle added. "We have visited Unity Academy Child Development GSCE class and she is booked to talk to the school's Year 11 pupils."

# Star nurses get their reward



TWO dedicated Blackpool Victoria Hospital nurses have received coveted national awards.

Ann Wimperis, Ward Manager of Ward 26, was nominated by staff nurse Liz Goostry, who praised Ann for her support for colleagues and Clinical Matron, Stephen Mellars was described as “simply the best” as he received his award in front of ward managers and matrons.

Cavell Star Awards, run by the Cavell Nurses' Trust, are given to nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants who shine bright and show exceptional care to their patients, colleagues and patients' families.

Liz said: “Ann is both an excellent nurse and ward manager and is dedicated to everyone on the ward, patients, their families and her staff.

“She is so deserving of the award and we are all delighted that she received this recognition.”

Ann said: “I am extremely honoured to receive this award and totally chuffed and proud to have



Above: Ann Wimperis receives her award from Staff Nurse, Liz Goostry. Left, Stephen Mellars, fourth from right, with his award

been nominated. I have an excellent team on Ward 26 which really makes all the difference to providing first class health care.”

Stephen, who has worked at Blackpool Victoria Hospital since 1982, was nominated by Ward Manager Maria Jennings.

Maria said: “Stephen is incredibly supportive and encouraging towards all staff, he is a real role model. I am always impressed by the time he takes to spend with patients and families. He really is the best.”

Stephen said: “I was totally shocked to receive the Cavell award. This is a huge honour and I am totally humbled by this recognition.”

# £100,000 boost for lung cancer testing

PATIENTS across the Fylde coast are to benefit from new equipment that will reduce the wait to receive lung cancer test results.

The equipment, which means molecular testing of lung cancers can take place on the Blackpool Victoria Hospital site rather than be sent away, was bought following £100,000 of funding from NHS England through projects Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust is undertaking in partnership with Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance.

The funding was provided after the project team of Joanne Sharples, Helen Sanna, Alix Costello and Dr Lipsita Patnaik submitted a bid outlining how they planned reducing the turnaround time of a number of lung cancer tests.

Previously some specialist lung cancer tests were delayed because they were sent to Birmingham, but the team is now undertaking molecular tests in lung cancer for Fylde coast patients on site.

Helen Sanna, Senior biomedical scientist, said: "This change will enable clinicians to have access to complete results sooner than previously. This means treatment decisions can be made earlier, benefiting patients and improving the Trust's waiting times for cancer treatment."

She added: "I have found the project challenging, interesting and rewarding. It has been a lot of hard work as the standards we have to conform to when performing tests are extremely thorough.

"New tests and drugs are being launched all the time and we hope we can continue to offer our patients in the region the most up to date tests in a timely manner which allows them to access the treatment they need as soon as possible."



Project team member, Alix Costello, works on the new machine

Jackie Brunton, Lead Cancer Nurse, said "The teams have worked so hard and were so committed to bringing this service locally. It will make a real difference and it is great to have this type of specialist work developed on the Fylde coast."

These tests will also be performed at BTH for other Trusts across Lancashire in the near future, saving time and money and improving the patient experience.



Staff celebrate 20 years service with the Trust

# Honouring dedication and staff long service

MEMBERS of staff who have worked in the Trust for more than 20 years were awarded for their dedication at a special ceremony.

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals held an annual awards event to honour those with long NHS service and staff who have gone the extra mile and undertaken additional qualifications.

Jane Meek, Deputy Director of Workforce and Education opened the event, alongside Head of People Effectiveness and Development, Sharon Adams, who thanked dedicated staff who have made a difference in their roles and within the hospital.

Trust Chief Executive, Wendy Swift, said: "I always really enjoy this occasion and the chance to meet so many staff in person. It gives me the chance to thank them for their service.

"This year we have more than 200 staff who have been in the NHS for more than 20 years, with 22 people actually working for the NHS for more than 40 years.

"The Board is really proud of our staff, I want to



Non-medical prescribers achievement awards

thank them from the bottom of my heart".

This year the Trust had 153 members of staff nominated for a Staff Achievement Award covering a range of topics ranging from Mentoring, Non-Medical Prescribing and Professional Development Qualifications.

Kevin Hill has worked for the Trust for 40 years and is now in the role of Assistant Cardiac Physiologist.



Professional development achievement awards



Staff celebrate 30 years service with the Trust

He said: “I joined the Ambulance Service in 1979 as a paramedic and in 1999 I undertook a new role as what then was a ‘Cardiographer’.

“I really enjoy my role within the Trust and have noticed a lot of changes over the years, but mainly how much our technology has improved in order for us to make a huge difference to diagnosing patients.

“I love working as part of a team and I think this is what has made me stay in the NHS for so long.”

Trust Chairman, Pearse Butler, praised staff for their achievements.

He said: “As a Trust we encourage people to develop their skills as part of our Great Place To Work programme and this is where events like today come in.

“This celebration is as much for families too as I know they will have provided great support to our individuals in one way or another.

“Everyone should feel proud of their achievements and the event is a chance to celebrate those with friends and peers”.



Kevin Hill and Carol Howley celebrate 40 years service with the Trust

CHRISTMAS STALLS ✳️ TOMBOLA ✳️  
HOSPITAL CHOIR ✳️ HOT FOOD ✳️  
GAMES ✳️ RAFFLE ✳️ SINGERS ✳️  
SANTA'S GROTTA

6th December  
16:00-18:30

*You are invited to the annual*  
**Christmas Markets 2018**  
*Education Centre, Blackpool Victoria Hospital*

RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE... ✳️ A FITBIT ✳️ £50  
STRINGERS VOUCHER ✳️ MEAL FOR 4 AND LEISURE  
PASSES FOR THE VILLAGE HOTEL ✳️ £25 VOUCHER FOR  
SALON 142 ✳️ And many more...

Free Parking  
from 16:45

In association with

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust