

# Health Matters

Keeping you informed and views of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals



## Dan opens new unit

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## Welcome from the Chief Executive

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



We are delighted at the news that Blackpool is going to be one of the first areas in the country to benefit from lung cancer scanning trucks.

This is an important innovation and could help to improve survival rates from this type of cancer.

We will keep you updated as soon as we have more news about the project.

The Trust is also pleased to have opened the new pre-operative assessment area which will allow us to see patients booked for surgery in a more timely manner.

We are grateful to TV star, Dan Whiston, for taking time out of his busy schedule to open the new unit.

Our congratulations go to a number of staff who have won or been nominated for awards. It is wonderful to hear of such recognition. Full details can be found on Pages 7 and 8 of this magazine.

**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 [bfwh.trustcommunications@nhs.net](mailto:bfwh.trustcommunications@nhs.net)**

## Baby name honour for devoted nurse

# Mum in near death baby shock



Lisa Davey with Sister Danielle McLardie and baby Danielle

A miracle baby has been named after a nurse at Blackpool Victoria Hospital following a near-death experience.

Ten month-old Danielle Alice Davey was born prematurely to save her and her mum's life and took her name from the Accident and Emergency sister that cared for them.

Twenty-seven-year-old Lisa Davey was brought into A&E with a suspected abdominal infection in April 2018.

Sister Danielle McLardie, 33, had just started her shift and Lisa was her first patient.

In the Emergency Room, an ultrasound revealed that Lisa was actually 26 weeks pregnant and had developed HELLP syndrome - a rare liver and blood clotting disorder that can affect pregnant women. This then led to sepsis and Lisa's organs started to fail.

In a bid to save both mum and baby, doctors decided to take Lisa to theatre for a caesarean section. The baby girl was born 14 weeks early and taken to the Neonatal Unit at Royal Preston Hospital for specialist care. Lisa went onto the Intensive Care Unit at Blackpool Victoria

Danielle said: "Lisa was so poorly, we didn't know if she or her baby would make it. Nobody had a clue when she came in that Lisa was pregnant – including Lisa herself.

"There was only a tiny tummy bump which we thought could be linked to a possible infection. I stayed with Lisa for three-and-a-half hours and visited her each time I was on shift."

When Lisa eventually came round, she was told that she had been very seriously ill and that she was also now a mother.

Lisa said: "I couldn't believe it. I had been working 80 hours a week and lifting heavy boxes. I had no clue I was pregnant. I had no symptoms. When I met my baby girl a week later, I knew I had to call her Danielle after the fantastic care I received from such a wonderful nurse."

Ten months on, both mum and baby are doing well and are enjoying a normal life in Blackpool.

Sister Danielle said: "When Lisa told me the baby's name, I cried I was so overwhelmed – I was just doing my job. But having such a cute bundle of joy named after me is such a huge honour, it's the highlight of my career."

# Life-saving screening trucks to roll into town

Blackpool is to be one of the first areas to see lung cancer scanning trucks in supermarket car parks.

The roll-out of the scanning trucks has the potential to reach around 32,854 people in Blackpool over four years and could save lives by catching the condition early.

The town has a higher rate of lung cancer than the national average, due mainly to the prevalence of smoking in the area. This is a contributing factor to life-expectancy being one of the lowest in the entire country for both men and women.

NHS England has announced that around £70 million will fund 10 projects nationally to check those most at risk.

People will be invited for an MOT on their lungs and an on-the-spot chest scan in the mobile clinics. The Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance will coordinate the service in Blackpool.

The targeted screening will help improve survival rates by going first to some of the areas with the highest death rates from lung cancer.

A recent study showed CT screening reduced lung cancer mortality by 26 per cent in men and



between 39 per cent and 61 per cent in women.

Dr Adam Janjua, pictured, chair of the Fylde coast cancer steering group, said: "This is a great initiative and I am very happy to see Blackpool as one of the first in the country to reap the benefits of the new scanning trucks.

"Lung cancer is a big problem in the region and we know how vitally important the screening process is in catching the disease early and, ultimately, saving lives.

"We will strive to improve our clinical services in areas like lung cancer and will also continue to inform the public of the dangers of smoking," Dr Janjua added.

The NHS Long Term Plan set out an ambition that 55,000 more people will survive their cancer.

To achieve this the Plan also included an aspiration to increase the number of cancers diagnosed at the earlier Stages One and Two from a half of all cancer patients to three-quarters.

The planning process will now begin and details of the official roll-out will be available as soon as possible.

**Mobile screening could save lives by catching lung cancer earlier**



Dan Whiston opens the new patient area watched by staff.

Below, Dan with Elaine Cawley, Emma Whiston and Kila Redfearn

# Dan skates in to open new patient unit



Dancing on Ice star Dan Whiston took a day out of his busy schedule to open a newly refurbished unit at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

The Fylde coast star opened the new Pre-Operative Assessment area at the hospital which will be a huge boost to patients.

He was enticed to the event by his sister, Emma Whiston, an Advanced Practitioner Service Lead in Pre Assessment, who played a major part in the development of the unit.

She said: "We started the work in September and the whole programme took about five months to come to fruition. When I came into post I was aware the area was under utilised and we needed more than two clinical rooms to provide the best patient care.

"The business plan was to turn two rooms into four modern rooms. By doing that we are now able to see patients in a more timely manner and get more patients ready for surgery quicker which is good for patients and good for the service.

"It also means patients can come and have their diagnoses and be listed and have their pre operative assessment on the same day which means everything is done in one journey and they don't have to come back."

The area was developed thanks to the support of Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, the official charity of Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Kila Redfearn, Head of Blue Skies, said: "The charity is here to back schemes that improve patient care and this really does meet that criteria. It is a fantastic new development which will make a massive difference to patients and to the staff who work in the area."

Dan said: "I've got a day off from Dancing on Ice and it's great to be able to come here and open this new unit. It's a very exciting time for my sister Emma and the other service lead Elaine Cawley and their team.

"It's very exciting and it's brilliant for me to part of such a project."

# Friends are in a League of their own...



Dorothy Thomas, Jill Hargreaves and Marjorie Chrisholm with the bed curtains provided by the League

Have you ever wondered why Clifton Hospital feels so warm and friendly?

One of the reasons is there is a league of volunteers supporting the hospital.

The Clifton League of Friends charity was founded when the hospital first opened in 1988 and is still going strong more than 30 years later. The 12 strong team work hard to fundraise to provide items around the Clifton site on Pershore Road, Lytham St Annes.

They provide a trolley service twice a week and have given every in-patient a Christmas present every year for the past 30 years.

Pam Young, a former Sister at Clifton for many years, said: "When I retired after my 40 years nursing career I wanted something to keep me occupied, so I decided to continue my membership with the League of Friends.

"As well as the plants and bed curtains around the hospital, we also support staff to enrol on courses and so much more. Over the years we have funded many projects such as the original garden and the conservatory."

The group meets regularly to discuss fundraising ideas and what projects need funding. The League of Friends has spent more than £36,000 over the past two years to support the hospital and its staff.

Chairman Trudi Woods said: "We have really enhanced the services and facilities over the last 30 years. We are actively looking for new members to help us. We are a friendly bunch and would welcome new faces to the group."

The shopping trolley goes around all wards on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Patients can purchase various items and if an item isn't on the trolley the ladies will endeavour to get it.

Clinical Matron at Clifton Hospital, Courtney Bickerdike, said: "The League of Friends are valued members of the team here at Clifton and they make so much a positive difference.

"We are truly blessed to have such enthusiastic support to help us raise awareness and funds to enhance patient care."

If you would like to be part of the League of Friends, you can contact Trudi on 01253 736594 for further information.

# Honour for helping young get work



Workforce Coordinator, Michelle Pearson, has received an award from the Prince's Trust for her work and dedication getting young people into work at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

A scheme, set up by the Prince's Trust and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, offers programmes across Lancashire to young people aged between 16-25. Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has backed the scheme in an effort to support and accommodate young people into a variety of roles.

Michelle said: "I received this prestigious award on behalf of the Trust for the commitment and work that goes into supporting young people into appropriate roles in the hospital.

"I'm very proud to have made a difference. I'm passionate about my work with young people getting them on the right path into employment," she added.

"I help develop their CVs and teach them how to use our recruitment system. I also help some youngsters overcome confidence issues by providing them with support and guidance into employment.

"People who are not in education or employment are eligible to apply to the programme and

information is provided from the job centre or through counselling services."

The Prince's Trust helps young people get their lives on track through support and equal opportunities. From medical students, university graduates to the unemployed, the Trust aims to provide equal opportunities to all.

The placements vary between clinical and administrative roles. The aim is to provide people with the skills they require for employment.

Now a permanent member of staff, Luke Hall, has grown from strength to strength since joining the Prince's Trust programme.

Luke said: "I signed up for the programme after spending six months searching for jobs with no response. This had started to damage my confidence. I wanted to work at the hospital after being offered work placements in various administrative roles by Michelle Pearson.

"She set everything up and during that time a medical records apprenticeship came up which she recommended I apply for. The Prince's Trust programme helped me by giving me many opportunities to grow in confidence and polish my skills. It is a huge success and I am grateful to be here thanks to the Prince's Trust and Michelle."

# Unsung hero award nominees



Volunteer, Jo Haythornthwaite with her nominator, Derek Quinn

Blackpool Victoria Hospital is celebrating after seeing several members of staff shortlisted for a national award.

Following a number of nominations submitted to the Unsung Hero Awards, three have been shortlisted for their inspiring work at the Trust.

The Unsung Hero Awards are national awards for non-medical and non-clinical NHS and healthcare staff and volunteers who go above and beyond the call of duty.



Nigel Fort and Alma Stewart

The Facilities team was nominated for its Cloak of Poppies campaign that saw 28,000 handmade poppies cover a 5:1 model of the Menin Gate in the hospital's main entrance, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War One.

Associate Director of Facilities, Nigel Fort said: "We are very touched to be nominated for this award and with the support of the wider public – it really struck a chord. I am also delighted with all the great teamwork and collaboration to bring the project to fruition."

Volunteer Jo Haythornthwaite was nominated for her tireless work to promote organ donation.

Jo is so respected in her field; she chairs the Organ Donation Committee at the Trust and has

made an immense difference to raising the profile of donation including being heavily involved in the installation of the Organ Donation artwork at Blackpool Victoria.

She said: "I'm over the moon to have been shortlisted for these fantastic awards.

Also nominated is Communication Officer, Alma Stewart who helped organised a Dementia Awareness Day, devised and ran the Trust's NHS70 campaign and was involved in organising and promoting The Great BTH Knit, the year-long knitted poppy campaign as part of the centenary of WW1 commemorations.

The winners in the 18 categories, will be announced at a ceremony in Manchester on March 1.