

Health Matters

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



In honour
of our
wonderful
volunteers

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A special thank you
*We are indebted to the volunteers
who give us the gift of time*
— Pages 3&4

National mark of quality
*Hospital staff are praised for their
professionalism — Page 6*

Issue 192, Monday, June 10, 2019

Contents

News from around the Trust

Saying thank you to our volunteers

Our amazing volunteers have been praised for their “extraordinary” support during a special ceremony and they have also been telling us what they get out of volunteering their time to the hospital.

Pages 3&4



Keeping mums and babies together

Blackpool neonatal nurses are reducing instances of mother and baby separation by introducing specialist nurses who can provide nursing and medical care to babies on the delivery suite or maternity ward.

Page 5

Quality mark

The Microbiology Department at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been praised after collecting a national mark of quality.

Page 6



▲ Leanne Humphreys

◀ Volunteers, Rachel McMurdo and Lauren Gowling

▼ Lions Club members who raised money for Clifton Hospital

Facing her fears

Radiology booking clerk, Leanne Humphreys, who was diagnosed with leukaemia a year ago, is facing her fears to go sky diving so she can help a charity which has given her so much help and support.

Page 7

Working together to save lives

Members of the different blue light organisations came together to outline their part in a drowning where a young person was rescued from the sea in January this year.

Page 8



Sitting pretty on the wards

Lytham St Annes Lions have donated £2,000 to Clifton Hospital's Ward 1, via the Clifton League of Friends charity, to reupholster chairs in the day room and on the ward.

Page 9

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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

Meet our fantastic team of volunteers



OUR amazing volunteers have been praised for their “extraordinary” support at a special ceremony at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

More than 80 Trust volunteers attended a celebratory event where they received certificates for their service from Chairman, Pearse Butler.

Mr Butler said: “I want to thank all our volunteers for the amazing job they do, which I think is quite extraordinary.

“We have an incredible number of people who volunteer for us covering a wide range of roles and it is important we thank them for the work they do to support our staff.”

Volunteers receive their certificates



Why we are volunteers



GARRY Kitt loves his role as a hospital volunteer so much that if there were eight days in a week he would simply work another day!

Six years ago Garry's wife, Christine, died and Garry wanted to give something back for the treatment she had received.

"I had seen a leaflet calling for volunteers, so I applied and took up this role as a navigator," Garry explained. "The position has given my life a new purpose.

"It is immensely rewarding, helping others and working with a team of like-minded people," said Garry, a former company director at Daintee Sweet Factory.

"Our role is to reassure people visiting the hospital as much as possible and ensure they know where they are going and how to get there.

"This is a role that ticks all the boxes and one I would recommend to anyone," he added.

SUE Rose is a whirlwind. The retired former personnel manager for Tesco, never seems to keep still, always taking on the next challenge from bodyboarding to helping out at her local church.

But one of the roles she cherishes is as a volunteer for the chaplaincy at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. "I don't have to do this job, I come because I want to do it, I choose to do this great role," she said.

Sue took early retirement, but felt she was not ready to give up work altogether. "I wanted to give something back to the community so I joined the chaplaincy team as a volunteer," she explained.

"My role is about listening to people and responding to their needs while in the hospital. The task is massively rewarding. This is the best thing I have ever done. I would truly recommend hospital volunteering to anyone."



A DAILY walk of more than seven miles is nothing for volunteer pathology lab runner, Grahame Laing.

Grahame prides himself on getting blood samples from Blackpool Victoria Hospital's Macmillan Unit to the pathology lab as quickly as possible so patients can receive timely care.

"It is important for patients to get their results quickly so they can receive treatment," Grahame explained. "This requires me taking the test from the Macmillan Unit to the Path lab, a round trip of half a mile.

"Some days I can do this trip 14 times meaning I cover more than seven miles a day. It certainly keeps me fit."

But fitness is not the only benefit for Grahame: "Volunteering is incredibly fulfilling. It has really filled the void between work and retirement. I would advise anyone to think about hospital volunteering because it is so rewarding."

If you want to find out more about hospital volunteering please call
01253 957994

Keeping mums and babies together



Neonatal specialist nurses, Shauny Godwin, left and Amy Gregory with Stephanie Porter and Neonatal Unit Manager, Catherine Nash, right

BLACKPOOL neonatal nurses are reducing instances of mother and baby separation by introducing specialist nurses who can provide nursing and medical care to babies on the delivery suite or maternity ward.

Traditionally mum would have been separated from her baby while they received treatment in the neonatal unit, but the new system means in many cases baby can stay with mum and still receive treatment.

Blackpool Victoria Hospital is one of the few hospitals nationally which has a well-established Transitional Care Unit within the neonatal unit which allows mums and dads to stay with their baby until he or she is discharged.

But if mum is still a patient and not well enough to be discharged and baby needs routine neonatal care, the two could be separated for periods of time while care is given to baby on the neonatal unit.

Neonatal Unit Manager, Catherine Nash said: "A considerable number of babies were attending the neonatal unit for such routine care as IV antibiotics or blood tests and this resulted in separation for mum and baby.

"We wanted to avoid this and give the best care possible, so we trialled this new system and have been delighted at the results.

"Neonatal nurses are now able to deliver care on the delivery suite and maternity ward which is better for mum and underpins joint working between maternity and neonatal staff," Catherine added.

Parents who have benefitted from this Transitional Care have been very supportive of the new system.

New mum, Stephanie Porter, said she was immensely grateful for being able to stay with her baby while he received treatment at hospital.

"When we were both well enough to come into Transitional Care I felt a great sense of relief," said Stephanie who gave birth to Max in May.

"At first we had to be separated because we both needed comprehensive medical care, but as soon as I was discharged I was able to stay in one of the family rooms with Max.

"That made a world of difference and I think we are very lucky that this hospital has this facility."



Top marks for Vic's microbiology team

THE Microbiology Department at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been praised after collecting a national mark of quality.

The Blackpool Victoria Hospital team, pictured above, has gained and maintained accreditation to internationally recognised standards following a visit from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

Staff were praised for their professionalism after receiving feedback from the team of independent assessors.

Clare Ellis, Quality Manager for the department, said: "This accreditation is recognised worldwide and gives assurance to patients and service users that we provide a safe and high quality service.

"The inspection process is extremely rigorous. Assessors examine all of their scientific processes along with a thorough review of documentation, the quality management system,

staff training and competency, to name but a few areas.

"This is a challenging area to work in and the outcome is testament to the sustained efforts and team work demonstrated by each and every member of staff in Microbiology," Clare added.

Mark Wrigley, Directorate Manager, said: "The assessors were very complimentary of the departments and gave very positive feedback.

"They said staff were professional, knowledgeable and competent with excellent documentation backed up by assurance from audits and action plans.

"The directorate is delighted to have been recognised for achieving such an important quality standard."

UKAS accreditation of medical laboratories provides assurance for commissioners, service users and patients that tests are being verified by an independent, impartial third party organisation to ensure consistency and quality of results.

Booking clerk's bid to help cancer charity

Sky diver with a fear of planes



Leanne Humphreys

RADIOLOGY booking clerk, Leanne Humphreys, is giving a whole new meaning to The Sky's the Limit!

Diagnosed with leukaemia 13 months ago, Leanne, 24, who works at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, is determined to help a charity which has given her so much help and support.

So she has signed up to do a 10,000 foot sky dive – even though she is terrified of planes!

"I wanted to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust and doing a sky dive is something that will really test me," said Leanne. "It will make me feel alive, give me something different to focus on and help raise vital funds at the same time."

Leanne's fear of planes is extremely severe. She got so worked up on her first ever flight she has never been on one again!

But the plucky receptionist is determined to beat her fear to complete the sky dive. "I wanted to feel alive, particularly with everything I've been through. There are so many things I cannot do, but this is something I can achieve."

Leanne will complete her sky dive on September 29th and is hoping to raise £500 to support the work of the Teenage Cancer Trust which organises outings, events and functions for young people living with cancer.

To help Leanne reach her target please click [here](#) to go to her Go Fund Me page.



Stay in touch with hospital and community news

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/BlackpoolHospitals;

www.facebook.com/CliftonHospitalBTHNHSFT

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Website: www.bfwh.nhs.uk

How our 999 heroes are working together

MEMBERS of blue light organisations united to showcase and discuss working together to try to get the best outcome for people who need emergency help.

Organised by Hannah Johnston, a trainee Advanced Practitioner in emergency medicine, based at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, the seminar was attended by members of the NW Ambulance, Coastguard, RNLI and hospital consultants, psychologists and occupational and physiotherapists.

During the session the teams outlined the outcome of a drowning where a young person was rescued from the sea in January this year.

From the rescue by the RNLI lifeboat, through the lifesaving actions of the paramedics and the intensive medical care of hospital staff, the teams discussed how working together can achieve the best possible outcomes.

RNLI Senior helmsman, Shaun Wright, spoke of the trials of trying to rescue and resuscitate someone while on a moving platform the size of a single bed with three adults on-board in the freezing sea.

Senior Paramedic, Brent Kenny told the audience of the emotional problems of such a complex rescue and the importance of getting good, effective CPR started as soon as possible to give the best chance of successful resuscitation.

Mr Kenny paid tribute to the professionalism of the volunteers of the RNLI and the work of the Coastguard who collaborated so well together in

08 ISSUE 192

such difficult and stressful conditions.

Hannah Johnston said drowning was the second largest cause of accidental death with 1,000 people a day dying from drowning worldwide.

“If a casualty is rescued within 10 minutes of submersion there is a good chance of resuscitation,” she said. “But if the patient has been in the sea for 25 minutes the chances of survival are poor.”



Representatives from the blue light teams

The patient in January's rescue was submerged for between 10 and 20 minutes and had a body temperature of 26.7 degrees on arrival at hospital.

Emergency Department consultant, Dr Al Idari, said this was severe

hypothermia and outlined how the patient's temperature needed to be raised above 30 degrees before medication could be started.

A cardiothoracic team were called and the patient was put onto ECMO, a life-support system, to allow the gentle warming procedure to start. The survival rate at this stage was statistically about 25 per cent as the patient also had high levels of sodium due to the amount of sea water ingested.

The patient recovered and, after intensive rehabilitation, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, was discharged.

“Every cog mattered in this patient journey,” said Hannah. “Everyone should be so proud of the part they played in the rescue; we must remember what made the difference was everyone working together.”

Lions ensure patients are sitting pretty



MEMBERS of a Fylde coast club have helped to improve the comfort of hospital patients.

The Lytham St Annes Lions have donated £2,000 to Clifton Hospital's Ward 1, via the Clifton League of Friends charity, to reupholster chairs in the day room and on the ward.

Ward 1 Manager, Sister Linda Broadbent, said: "We are very grateful to the Lions for helping us pay for the reupholstering of the chairs. They are cleaner, more comfortable, and are now dementia-friendly because of the strong colours."

It was through the annual LSA Lions Swimathon that Treasurer of the League of Friends, Pam Young, had a conversation with Swimathon organiser, Joe Woods who told her the Lions would be happy to help Clifton Hospital with some of the money raised through the event.

The Swimarathon is an annual team event organised by the Lytham St. Annes branch of the Lions International club. The event is now in its 33rd year and has raised more than £250,000 for



Clifton Hospital staff with members of the League of Friends and Lytham St Annes Lions

deserving community charities and projects.

Joe said: "Each year, the children swim to raise money to help other children and we all work together to help each other in the community. The Lions' motto is 'We Serve' and we are delighted to be able to serve a vital service in our community for the first time – Clifton Hospital."

Chairman of the League of Friends, Trudi Woods, said: "We really appreciate the donation from the Lions to help us reupholster all the Ward 1 chairs. It is great to see members of our local community helping each other.

"The children who swim to raise money may have grandparents who are cared for at Clifton, so it highlights the support cycle within our local area."

You can find out more about volunteering or taking part in the next Swimathon [here](#).

The Clifton League of Friends will be raising money through the Clifton Summer Fair, to be held at Clifton Hospital, on Pershore Road on June 29, between 10am - 3pm. All are welcome to attend.



Lions president, Martin Chatfield with League of Friends Chairman, Trudi Woods