

Health Matters

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



Help for the homeless

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Front page:
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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 bfwh.trustcommunications@nhs.net



Please take **One Moment**



JUST **One Moment** of your time could make a difference to our staff.

Outstanding NHS employees are honoured annually at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's Celebrating Success Awards ceremony – and we are asking patients, carers, relatives and members of the public to nominate staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to care for patients and their families.

The highly coveted Patients' Award category attracted more than 150 nominations last year for teams and individuals working for the Trust. All nominated staff members get a certificate to acknowledge the work they do and the winning contender gets a cash prize to reinvest in their area of the Trust. The category is sponsored by legal firm Weightmans.

Last year the judging panel was delighted so many people took time to nominate members of staff for The Patients' Award and they are looking forward to reading about the care you or your loved ones have received from the Trust. If you would like to nominate staff from either the community or acute hospital who gave you, or someone in your family, an exceptional level of care – we'd love to hear from you.

Kevin McGee, Interim Chief Executive said: "I have only been at the Trust a short time but I

have heard a lot about these awards and how each year the Board is overwhelmed by the quality and quantity of applications received.

"It is always humbling to read reports of the care and expertise our staff give to the patients. I have already seen so much great work and talent across the Trust. It is important that we commend all staff for their hard work and excellent care and recognise those who really stand out to our patients. The number of entries received goes to show how much our staff are appreciated by our patients and their families."

Last year's winner was Ann Brumfield, above, a housekeeper on Ward 3 at Blackpool Victoria Hospital. Ann was nominated by a number of patients who described her as kind, caring, professional, polite, helpful, friendly, compassionate, lovely and fantastic.

You can take **One Moment** to nominate by writing to the Communications Office, Home 15, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool FY3 8NR and requesting a nomination form. Alternatively forms can be filled in online by visiting the Trust's website at <https://www.bfwh.nhs.uk/about-our-trust/celebrating-success-awards/>

Nominations for the awards close at 5pm on Friday, July 26, 2019. The judging panel will then meet in August.



Vicki Higgins
at the
Outpatients
Costa

Training put Vicki on course to help others

A MANAGEMENT course led to a charity mission for HR manager, Vicki Higgins.

As part of her learning development the mum-of-two was asked to take part in a community project for a day and she has now become a regular volunteer and fundraiser.

Vicki, a workforce business partner for scheduled care at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, chose the Amazing Graze Soup Kitchen to complete her community project task.

"I felt this project was going to be the most rewarding for me as I see a lot of homeless on the streets and I have always wanted to do something to help," Vicki explained.

But she was so captivated by the work the soup kitchen does she wanted to help out in her spare time.

Vicki discovered the hospital's Outpatient

Department Costa Coffee distribute left over food to the project and volunteered to collect and distribute the packages twice a week.

She also started a regular collection among her family and work colleagues to buy food for the street packages which are distributed to the homeless by Amazing Graze.

"The people receiving help are the politest and kindest people I have ever come across," Vicki added. "They are so grateful for everything they receive. It is quite emotional working there, but you get a real sense of community and it makes you want to help."

Vicki said her enthusiasm for the Amazing Graze project had now rubbed off on her children and family and they were all getting involved in helping the homeless and families in need. Anyone wishing to donate to the soup kitchen can contact Vicki through the Trust's communications team: bfwh.trustcommunications@nhs.net

Honoured to receive Veteran Aware award



Tina Daniels

BLACKPOOL hospital staff pride themselves on the care they give to members of the Armed Forces community.

And now that commitment has been honoured as Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded Veteran Aware accreditation.

The award, from the Veterans Covenant Hospital Alliance (VCHA), is in acknowledgement of dedication to treating veterans with compassion and empathy.

The Trust is now one of only 33 hospital trusts nationwide to be accredited. This pays tribute to the care shown to servicemen and women treated at our hospitals and community sites.

Professor Tim Briggs, co-chair of the Alliance and NHS national director for clinical improvement, said: "This is a major step towards our aim of ensuring every NHS trust is Veteran Aware."

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Trust Equality Diversity Lead and Armed Forces Champion, Tina Daniels said: "We are honoured to receive this award because we have a lot of veterans living in Blackpool and across the Fylde coast.

"We pride ourselves on our empathy and compassion towards our brave veterans and have always strived to ensure they receive top class care here at the Trust."

The award acknowledges the Trust's commitment to ensuring members of the armed forces community have specific contacts within the organisation who they can talk to if necessary and that staff are trained in understanding veterans' specific cultures and needs.

It also recognises the Trust's support of staff who volunteer in reserve forces and the commitment to ensuring veterans, reservists and service families are aware of appropriate services which could be beneficial to them.



Mike Dickinson, far right, and the Simulation and Clinical Skills team

World class status for hospital training unit

THE Simulation and Clinical Skills unit at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals has become only the third unit in the world to be recognised for the quality of service it provides.

The department, which helps train NHS clinical staff across a wide range of skills, has received the Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare (ASPIH) accreditation award.

The award assures healthcare professionals, educators, regulators and patients that a high quality of simulation-based education and technology-enhanced learning is provided by the organisation or provider who holds the award.

To receive the award the unit had to be assessed by a team from the ASPIH.

In their final report the assessors wrote: "It is obvious that there is a tremendous amount of good work being undertaken both within clinical skills and simulation. Staff are enthusiastic, committed and have a clear vision for the future. Overall, we left very impressed by the centre; both in what they have achieved so far, and in the direction they are headed."

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Unit manager, Mike Dickinson, said: "This is a huge achievement for the department and the Trust. We are only the second centre in the UK to receive accreditation and the third worldwide.

"I'm really proud of the team for all they do to help train our existing and up-and-coming clinical staff which helps them to have a major impact on providing high quality care for patients."

More than 2,000 Fylde coast clinicians attend the rolling programme of clinical training per year in the unit and the number using simulation has increased by more than 40 per cent in the last three years and is set to continue to increase.

The clinical skills side of the unit comprises of seven lecture/practical rooms and a faculty room. The simulation side of the unit comprises of a ward and theatre area, observation areas, a debriefing room and large control room. There are currently seven human patient simulators available for use.

Learners accessing the unit encompass all specialities and all grades. University students are hosted from Liverpool, Lancaster Central Lancashire and the University of Cumbria.

Cardiac expert's mission to heal little hearts



Amal Bose and, below, in surgery

A LEADING Fylde coast cardiac surgeon has been using his skills to save the lives of young children in India.

Mr Amal Bose, a Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at the Lancashire Cardiac Centre at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, recently travelled as a volunteer, with a party of medical experts, to offer free life saving surgery to children in Karimnagar, India.



The visit was arranged by Healing Little Hearts, a children's charity that funds visits by medical staff to perform cardiac surgery on children in remote areas who otherwise would not get access to treatment.

Amal said: "It is the second trip I've been on with the charity and it is an extremely rewarding thing to do. It is quite heart breaking too because you are treating young children who would not normally get access to the care they need because their parents simply don't have the money.

"I was there for 10 days and involved in 15 cases in all. One girl we treated was taken there by a teacher from the orphanage where she lives.

"They found her begging on the streets three years ago. She needed surgery to repair a hole in her heart and remove a blockage and it was so fulfilling to be able to help her like we did.

"It was a fantastic experience for me

professionally and personally and I will definitely look to go back again and encourage others to help too."

He added: "We forget sometimes just how fortunate we are to have the NHS in this country.

"We sort of take it for granted that we will get the treatment we need and forget that this isn't the case in many other areas of the world."

To find out more about the Healing Little Hearts charity go to: www.healinglittlehearts.org.uk



Keep safe in the sun campaign

SKIN cancer experts from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust raised awareness of the condition during a national campaign month.

As part of Melanoma May, Macmillan Skin Cancer Care Coordinator, Michelle Forsyth, organised events which included delivering sun safety presentations to schools, hosting a stall in conjunction with Karen Clifford skin cancer charity, SKCIN, and live skin cancer Q & A sessions on social media.

Michelle said: "It gave us a real opportunity to highlight the risks of skin cancer and promote how to stay safe in the sun."

"I worked with a Layton Primary and Westminster Primary Academy within the month and they really embraced the sun safety message and even made videos to educate others."

In addition to the various events over the month, there was also a specially commissioned patient journey video which followed skin cancer patient, Gemma, through the journey from GP fast track referral to treatment. Gemma also explains and



reflects on her experience at Clifton Hospital, in Lytham St Annes, where the skin cancer service is based.

Lead Skin Cancer Nurse, Heather Baines, said: "Melanoma May enabled us to engage with staff in our Trust and the wider community by having a Q & A on Facebook and Twitter .

"We developed a presentation to show the needs of sun protection and skin cancer and this was presented to a wide range of people in our community including council staff, nursing homes, police, BAE workers and garden centre staff. This continues to expand.

"Michelle is an ambassador for the SKCIN charity which has developed a sun awareness programme for schools and nurseries who can then be an accredited school and have a sun awareness policy."

If you would like to know how you can benefit from the sun safety education sessions, please contact Michelle on 01253 956219 or email Michelle.Forsyth@nhs.net.

Extreme hike to raise cash to fight cancer



Helen Willis with her Macmillan vest and right, at Black Crag on a training hike

THERE is little nicer than a stroll around the Lake District on a summer's day.

But Blackpool finance assistant, Helen Willis, is taking a pleasant walk to extremes by competing in a 26-mile charity hike around Ullswater to raise funds for cancer.

Mum-of-two, Helen, along with her husband, brother, sister-in-law and nephew, plan to raise £1,250 for Macmillan Cancer by taking part in the hike on July 13.

"We enjoy walking, but have never attempted anything as extreme as this," said Helen, a

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technical account assistant at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

"We have a friend and a family member going through cancer treatment and wanted to do something to help raise funds. We have done lots of training for this hike and although it will be tough, I am confident we can do it," Helen added.

Anyone wishing to support the team can donate through Helen's just giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/Robert-Willis5> or click [here](#).



AQUAPARK

Orthopaedic Funday

SATURDAY 6TH JULY 2019

Up to 15 members per team

£15 per person – payable on booking. £5 wet suit hire. Donation on entry for Spectators.



FINAL FEW PLACES LEFT!!



For more information call Louise on 957427 or Natalie on 953435

or email btorthopaedics@gmail.com

Raising money for the Orthopaedic Dementia Friendly Garden Fund BVA

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