

Health Matters

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



Adam's magic mural



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Wonder wall

Artist transforms access area to wards — Page 3

National honour

Innovation and determination are rewarded — Page 8

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Contents

News

Magic mural brightens wards

A leading Fylde coast artist has become an internet sensation after a video of him painting a magic mural at Blackpool Victoria Hospital passed 69,000 views.

Page 3



Poster honour for doctor

A Blackpool paediatrician was honoured by having a poster presentation accepted for a prestigious conference in Boston USA.

Page 4

Tree of hope

A tree has been planted at Blackpool Victoria Hospital to mark the Rotary Club's international fight against polio.

Page 5



Nurse recruitment

Our Unscheduled Care Division, which includes such areas as the Emergency Department and ITU, has held a recruitment day to try to attract more nursing staff.

Page 6

Cash boost for prescriptions

The Trust is one of 25 nationally to receive a major cash boost to introduce digital prescriptions.

Page 7

Digital innovation rewarded

An innovative, digital system, which has revolutionised patient care and improved effective use of time and resources, has won a top national award.

Page 8



▲ Adam Salisbury surveys his wonder wall

◀ Display boards at Unscheduled Care's nurse recruitment day

▼ Teamwork pays off as digital innovation wins technology award

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Adam shows off his hospital wonder wall

A LEADING Fylde coast artist has become an internet sensation after a video of him painting a magic mural at Blackpool Victoria Hospital passed 69,000 views.

Adam Salisbury, who has been called the Bispham 'Banksy' for his incredible creations, has just completed a Blackpool-themed mural that takes pride of place outside Wards 34 and 35 at the hospital.

It is a piece that he says is dedicated to his late Grandad, the man he says kick started his career.



Adam Salisbury shows his mural to ward staff

Adam said: "When I was younger, people said I would not make anything with my art. I believed them and went into retail for years, but four years ago I decided to take my Grandad's advice and went into art full time.

"The experience of designing and executing murals like this is wonderful. I am so glad my Grandad believed in me and encouraged me to follow my heart.

"I used to spend school holidays with him in Newton-Le-Willows and he would draw and paint with me. He really encouraged me. Because of his personality he lived a rich man's life because he was so loved. He helped me so much and I had to dedicate this mural to him."

Gail Bewick, a Sister on Ward 34, was the person who asked Adam if he would be willing to provide the artwork. She said: "I think it is absolutely wonderful. We have had patients sat on the chairs opposite the mural reminiscing and some of them showing it to their children and grandchildren and talking about Blackpool.

"It's amazing and we absolutely love it."

Gabby Webster, a Matron at the hospital, added: "We have a lot of patients with advanced cognitive impairment and we bring them here, out of the clinical area, to help them relax.

"The hospital has an amazing dementia corridor but it is a bit far away for some orthopaedic patients to walk to so to see the pleasure they get from this and how it calms them has been really humbling.

"As well as the mural, which is the icing on the cake, we have put in new lighting and new flooring in this area and it has made a huge difference to the environment."

The work was funded by the Trust's charity, Blue Skies Hospitals Fund. Kila Redfearn, the Head of the Charity, said: "When we saw the bid we were thrilled as it really does enhance patient care which is the charity's main goal. Adam has been incredible and it will be a talking point for many years to come I'm sure."

Adams's video can be seen by clicking [here](#)



Dr Taher Kagalwala with his Boston Conference poster

Conference honour for Blackpool doctor

A BLACKPOOL paediatrician was honoured by having a poster presentation accepted for a prestigious conference in Boston USA.

To produce the clinical information poster, Dr Taher Kagalwala, researched records going back 20 years looking for patterns and trends in children and young people with Type 1 diabetes presenting to the Paediatric Department at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

His research, guided by consultant, Dr Rabin Mohanty, showed a drop in the age of children presenting with diabetes and an increase in older children having diabetic emergencies such as very high sugars.

The staff-grade doctor also found evidence to support the recommendation that an expensive, routine, blood test, HLA-typing, was not always helpful in diagnosing or excluding coeliac disease, a frequently associated condition in diabetic children.

Traditionally the test has been used as a marker for coeliac disease, but research showed that

although 70 percent of children and young people tested positive, only ten per cent had coeliac disease at the time of analysis.

"This tells us there is a high false positive rate for coeliac disease and we need to question whether this expensive blood test is necessary at all," Dr Kagalwala explained. "We can eliminate this test from routine testing because the antibody test for gluten will give us the same result."

"This will reduce the anxiety of patients and families who have had a positive result and reduce costs without jeopardising patient health."

Dr Kagalwala was asked to prepare a presentation poster from his findings for the 45th annual conference of the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD), which was held in Boston.

Dr Kagalwala said: "I was extremely pleased the poster was accepted for display at the conference and I was very grateful for the assistance I received from my consultant, Dr Rabin Mohanty and Trust statistician, Rebecca Taylor."

Rotary tree helps polio fight



Angela Butcher and Pearce Butler

A TREE has been planted at Blackpool Victoria Hospital to mark the Rotary Club's international fight against polio.

The Acer tree has been placed outside the hospital's Women and Children's Unit and symbolises Rotary's hopes for a polio-free world.

For more than 40 years Rotary International has helped immunise more than two billion children in 122 countries as part of their commitment to eradicate the crippling disease that could paralyse 200,000 children every year if left uncontrolled.

Angela Butcher, President of Blackpool Palatine Rotary, performed the ceremony with Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Chairman, Pearce Butler.

She said: "In 1985 Rotary launched its Polio Plus programme to vaccinate all children under the age of five as part of an initiative to eradicate

polio and today there are only 88 cases worldwide, confined to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"The success of this project is the result of decades of concerted and sustained fundraising and effort by Rotary and its partners and we are now tantalisingly close to eradicating this disease through vaccination.

“ The success in the fight against polio has been amazing. I am delighted the Trust is involved in this project... ”

Chairman, Pearce Butler

"This tree is in remembrance of those who live with the effects of this irreversible disease and a symbol that with continued effort, no child in the future will ever have to live with the symptoms and we are really grateful to everyone at the hospital for their support."

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Mr Butler added: "I am delighted the Trust is involved in this amazing project. The success in the fight against polio has been amazing over the past few years and it is important that we keep it up."

Open days help boost nurse recruitment



Carla Jackson with one of the recruitment displays

ANOTHER successful recruitment event has been held recently at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to give staff an opportunity working in one of the busiest areas in the hospital.

The Unscheduled Care Division manages patients with unplanned care and covers areas such as Intensive Care, the Emergency Department and the Acute Medical Unit.

Helen Sherlock, Recruitment Sister for Unscheduled Care said: "The event was hugely successful. Our senior nurses were able to interview 22 potential recruits during the open day which will enable us to get staff on the shop floor quickly."

"It was great to have so many nurses representing our division and giving students the answers they need about what it is actually like working in these areas."

Carla Jackson represented Ward 10 as a staff nurse. She initially joined Blackpool Teaching

06 ISSUE 203

Hospitals following a recruitment event two years ago when she was a student.

She said: "When I attended an open day I had my heart set on working in the Acute Medical Unit. But before I could work there, I worked on Ward 10, a respiratory ward, to gain some experience.

"After a year working on this ward I felt really settled and I'm so happy there! I'm so pleased I came to the recruitment afternoon and I think it's such a good opportunity to come to an informal and approachable event."

Director of Nursing, Pete Murphy, attended the event to welcome new nurses to the workforce and to thank current staff for their efforts to make the event the success it was.

He said: "It's so lovely to be part of successful events and to give our nurses the opportunity to inspire future nurses to join our teams. I look forward to seeing new faces around our wards very soon. These events really do prove this is a great way to recruit nurses to our Trust."

£1.25m boost for digital prescriptions

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is to receive £1.25M to introduce digital prescriptions.

The Trust is one of 25 nationally to receive a share of Department of Health and Social Care funding to replace outdated paper systems, improving patient safety and reducing errors.

The funding will enable the Trust to deploy an Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration (EPMA) system, digitising the entire process of prescribing and administering medication to patients.

This system will introduce numerous safety benefits for patients and reduce the time clinicians and nurses spend dealing with prescriptions enabling them to spend more time with their patients.

It will be rolled out to all hospital wards over the coming two years, ultimately, allowing all patients and staff to benefit from this national funding.

The upgrade to more efficient systems will save the NHS time and benefit patients by reducing medication errors by up to 30 per cent compared with the old paper systems.

It will ensure fast access to potentially lifesaving information on prescribed medicines and building up a complete, single electronic record to reduce duplication of information-gathering.

Trust Chief Executive, Kevin McGee, pictured, said he was delighted with the announcement.

“This is excellent news for the Trust, our patients and our staff. The benefits of electronic prescribing are well known in terms of improving patient outcomes and will support the Trust’s drive to deliver safer and more efficient care.”



Team honoured for taking care of staff

THE Trust's Occupational Health & Wellbeing department has been recognised for the high standard of service it provides to staff with a nationally recognised re-accreditation.

The team was awarded with the Safe Effective Quality Occupational Health Service (SEQOHS) Accreditation following a formal, independent assessment.

Launched in December 2010, the standards cover areas such as staff competency, safety and accessibility of facilities and equipment, and meeting specific NHS standards.

Sue Wild, Head of Occupational Health at the



Trust, said: “Looking after staff, making sure they are healthy and well, is a priority for the organisation and essential to making sure the Trust is able to deliver safe and compassionate care to patients, every time.

“This accreditation proves our commitment to providing a high quality service, as we believe that a well looked after workforce is one that provides better care and support to patients.”

National honour for innovation

AN innovative, digital system, which has revolutionised patient care and improved effective use of time and resources, has won a top national award.

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals' Digital Health Team developed a remote end-of-life care programme with Clifton Hospital and Trinity Hospice which has scooped the Nursing Times Technology and Data in Nursing Award.

Judges said this collaborative team "exemplified passion and innovation to deliver the best they can for patients in their care."

The trail-blazing system, which allows specialist nurses to give remote end-of-life care to patients via an iPad link, has meant more frequent consultations and has resulted in an 88 per cent increase in productivity.

The system allows clinical staff to speak to patients remotely rather than requiring either clinicians or patients to have to travel to appointments.

"This accolade and the success of the project shows what a group of local clinicians can do when they have an idea and act upon it collectively. Team work and collaboration is at the heart of everything we do," the Trust's Digital Health lead, Veronica Southern, explained.

During a 12-month period, 360 patients were contacted using a weekly one hour virtual clinic at three pilot sites. Only seven patients required a face-to face follow up which resulted in more than 867 clinical hours saved and more than £21,000 reduction in costs which shows increased



Front: Steven Bloor and Veronica Southern, behind, Helena Palin from Clifton Hospital, Sarah Roberts and Katie Selby from the Digital Health Team

efficiency of 91 per cent.

Trinity Hospice community service manager, Sarah Roberts, said: "Patient feedback has been extremely positive as they have found the interactions fun and convenient. Patients at the end of their life don't want to wait all day for an appointment to talk about death and dying, they want to be making the most of the time they have with their loved ones.

"This technology has been the catalyst to a new way of delivering our services which better meets the needs of our patients and our organisation," Sarah added.

Chief Information Officer for the Trust, Steven Bloor, said: "In informatics we are delighted to help clinicians enable great clinical change for the health of our patients. This award is the recognition this scheme deserves for the dedication, passion, inspirational leadership and sheer hard work shown by the collaborative team and the nursing leaders. It shows what we can achieve by working together."