

# Health Matters

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



## Bringing smiles to children

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◀ A new defibrillator box has been installed near Whinney Heys Road

▼ Clifton Hospital gets its own Orangecoat to bring fun and laughter to patients



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# Box which could save a life

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals, in conjunction with North West Ambulance Service, have arranged for a defibrillator machine to be located on an approach road to Victoria Hospital.

When deployed, the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) can increase someone's chance of survival from a sudden cardiac arrest by 70 per cent.

The machine was sited by the Atlas Office on Whinney Heys Road because of the high foot-fall in that area from patients accessing the Emergency Department or using the multi-storey car park to staff deployed in the surrounding area and neighbours living in the vicinity.



Anthony Freestone with the AED box



Anthony Freestone, Trainee advanced clinical practitioner at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, said: "The hospital and ambulance service identified this area as being a risk for someone going into cardiac arrest on the street.

The Defibstore kindly donated the cabinet which allowed us to

allocate a machine to this area."

If the machine is needed, a passcode will be given by the 999 operator to access the AED and the device is able to give verbal instructions for use meaning it can be used by someone who has had no training.

# Bringing laughter to the Children's Ward



Taylor McGregor with Barrington



Barrington and play specialist, Gemma Probin

A VISITOR to the children's ward at Blackpool Victoria Hospital brought the best medicine possible.

Entertainer, Barrington Powell, brought his magic to the unit and was rewarded with the sound of laughter.

Six-year-old Taylor McGregor from Bispham, was mesmerised as Barrington made balloon models and performed unbelievable sleights of hand to bewilder and amuse.

Taylor had been in hospital three days and mum, Lyndsay, said he had been very downhearted as he was missing home and his dog.

"Today was the first time I have heard him laugh since he became ill. It was such a lovely sound;



Taylor Wright-Smith and mum Elisha enjoy Barrington's visit to the Children's Ward

Barrington's visit has made a world of difference to Taylor," Lyndsay said.

"I think it is great to have someone spend time on the wards cheering the children up," she added.

The former Pontin's Bluecoat, who works for children's charity, POD, said: "I have been doing this for more than 20 years and it is so wonderful to see the delight on the children's faces.

"To be able to spread the magic of entertainment changes the whole atmosphere of the ward and we are rewarded with the smiles of children."

# Minor injury turned to tumour shock

A BLACKPOOL man has praised local NHS staff after having a life-threatening tumour removed.

Steven Hackwood, a 57-year-old civil servant, was shocked when he was found to have the tumour last year. He had no symptoms and only went to the doctors after believing he had suffered a minor injury while exercising.

He said: "I was doing some press ups one night on some press up bars that I found and I felt a bit tender for a few days after.

"I booked an appointment with my GP, Dr Waqass Yousaf, a few days later and wasn't going to go to be honest as the pain had reduced a bit, but I'm so glad I did as he sent me to the hospital for a precautionary scan.

"I didn't really think anything of it, but while I was there they scanned my kidney which showed



Steven Hackwood



there was a seven to eight centimetre tumour there.

"I was shocked as I had no symptoms of any illness at all. That scan literally saved my life, if I had left it much longer it may have been too late."

Steven had his tumour removed on October 8, 2019 and was back at home a day later.

He said: "My GP and the staff at Blackpool Victoria Hospital were fantastic. My Consultant, Mr Jawad Islam, was amazing and I can't thank him enough for what he did."

Mr Islam, a Consultant Urologist, said: "We performed an operation called Laparoscopic radical nephrectomy and I am delighted to see Steven is recovering well."



Nicholas Bevan holds his new-born son, the first baby born in the new decade at Blackpool Victoria Hospital

# Baby Jullian gets his place in history books

AS soon as he was born, baby Jullian Christopher Bevan made history.

The tiny tot arrived in the world at 11.41am on January 1, 2020 and became the first baby born at Blackpool Victoria Hospital in the new decade.

Proud dad, Nicholas Bevan, a builder from Blackpool, said he was overjoyed to meet his first child and praised mum, Chloe Howell, and the staff at the maternity unit.

"I am so looking forward to a New Year and a New Decade with baby Jullian, he is absolutely perfect.

"Both baby and mum are doing well and we hope to go home today to start our new lives together.

"Jullian was a couple of weeks late and we hoped he would be born on December 28<sup>th</sup>, my late dad's birthday.

"But we cannot ask for more than him making history as the first baby born at Blackpool Victoria Hospital in this decade," Nicholas added.

Jullian, who was born weighing 8lbs 13oz, was given the middle name Christopher as a tribute to his late grandad.

# Specialist chairs help enhance patient care



Head of Fundraising for Blue Skies, Kila Redfearn, tests out the special chair surrounded by staff at Blackpool Victoria Hospital

AN NHS charity has funded specialist chairs to help reduce anxiety and isolation for dementia patients at Blackpool Victoria and Clifton Hospitals.

Blue Skies Hospitals Fund has purchased a number of day beds and recliner chairs to help families and carers stay by the bedside of patients suffering from dementia who need help to cope with unfamiliar surroundings.

Eleanor Walsh, Head of Patient Experience at Victoria Hospital, said: "These chairs will allow a relative or carer to stay with them for longer or even overnight, giving the patients some familiarity to their routine, reduce anxiety and increase their wellbeing to help them recover more quickly."

The provision has come as part of John's Campaign, an initiative based upon the experience of Dr John Gerrard who died in

hospital with Alzheimer's in 2014 and whose family believes his decline was due in part to limited contact with loved ones.

Blue Skies, the charity for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, provided the £26,320 funding as part of their work to enhance patient care across the Fylde coast.

Keith Muller from Blackpool, visited his mother Barbara, 85, in Victoria Hospital and, along with other members of the family, he was to be by her side during the final few days of her life.

He said that having the ability to use the chair was wonderful for the person watching over Barbara. "The chair was just so valuable for the 'long staying' family who needed to be by her side continually during the last five days of her life. It is hard enough, being in such a situation, but having the comfort of this facility really helped us all."

# Holiday camp fun for Clifton patients

A ST ANNES hospital is turning its patient day room into a holiday camp complete with its own 'Orangecoat' entertainer.

Clifton's Holiday Camp, based at Clifton Hospital Lytham St Annes, is a new regular entertainments programme based on activities from Pontins and Butlin's by one of their former employees.

Alma Stewart, a Communications Officer at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals, is a former Redcoat and Bluecoat. She said: "I look after the PR and marketing for Clifton so am a regular visitor. I love it here. A couple of months ago, I decided it might be fun to host a patient singalong, which went down really well with both patients and staff.

"As a former Redcoat and Bluecoat, I came up with the idea of becoming an 'Orangecoat' to host some activities like bingo, hoy, cine-racing, quizzes and game shows. This gives patients an opportunity to get out of bed, off the ward and have good old fashioned fun so they can forget they are in a hospital for a couple of hours."

Clifton Ward 1 Manager, Linda Broadbent, said: "We are delighted to be able to offer this entertainment along with the other patient activities. Many of our patients would have stayed at a holiday camp and so these entertainments can evoke lovely memories as



Clifton's Orangecoat, Alma Stewart

well as giving patients a chance to get up and dressed and out of the ward environment.

"As a rehabilitation facility, we encourage the patients to be as active as possible and socialising and having fun in the day room helps with any mental health issues that may arise from being in hospital."

Head of Clifton Hospital, Jason Flannigan-Salmon, said: "The introduction of Clifton's Holiday Camp encourages the patients to socialise with one another and get involved in activities that help them as part of their recovery. We encourage patients to get dressed in their day time clothes while with us and not spend each day in their night wear."

One patient, David, 76 from Blackpool, said: "We've been playing hoy today and I really enjoyed it. It's sometimes horrible to be in bed so it was great to come into the day room and join in with something different. It made me feel a lot better."

Clifton's Holiday Camp runs every other Tuesday at 2pm in Ward 1. Visit [tiny.cc/cliftonhidehi](http://tiny.cc/cliftonhidehi) for more information.



# Clifton Hospital Recruitment Day

**NHS**  
Blackpool Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust



## Qualified Nurses & Therapists

**WEDS 29TH JANUARY 2020  
3PM TO 7PM**

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