

Health Matters

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



Blue Skies celebration

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ward staff stage wedding
The power of love shines through as
couple tie the knot — Page 4

Silver jubilee
Hospital fund raisers mark 25 years
of charity — Page 6

Issue 207, Monday, January 27, 2020

Contents

News

Male blood donors needed

An urgent appeal has been made calling for more men nationally and across the Fylde coast to give blood.

Page 3



Wedding bells

Staff at Blackpool Victoria Hospital helped a couple tie the knot on the ward.

Page 4

Thanks for 999 help

North West Ambulance Service have launched a campaign to reunite crews with the people they have helped.

Page 5



▲ Family say thank you to life-saving ambulance crew

25 years of charity

As Blue Skies charity celebrates 25 years of service, they unveil their new offices at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Page 6

◀ Are you looking for a career in the NHS, find out about our recruitment events at Blackpool and Clifton

Hospital needs you

The Trust is holding an open recruitment event this February in conjunction with the University of Central Lancashire.

Page 7

▼ Staff and the public rallied together to arrange a special wedding day for a Blackpool patient

in

Bid to end loneliness

A student nurse is organising events to help improve people's health and wellbeing and bring a halt to loneliness.

Page 9



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

Plea for male blood donors



THERE is a vital need for young men across the Fylde coast to start donating blood because of a serious gender imbalance in new donors nationally.

During 2019, new statistics show that for every 100 women who started giving blood, only 70 men did the same.

Only 41 per cent of new donors were men last year. This is a concern because men have higher iron levels and only men's blood can be used for some transfusions and products. Without more men starting to give blood, blood stocks will come under increasing pressure in future years.

NHS Blood and Transplant now has a 22 per cent increase in the target number of new, first time male donors it needs this year, to get a better balance for the long term.

Men have higher iron levels, so they're also less likely to be deferred for low haemoglobin. That is crucial for helping to maintaining a strong donor base, especially for patients who receive hundreds or thousands of transfusions over their lifetime.

Women can produce antibodies during pregnancy, even during short pregnancies they

03 ISSUE 207

didn't even know about. Antibodies are part of the body's defence system and they make transfusions more difficult.

This means only men's blood is used for some specialist transfusions and blood products.

Only men's blood is used for complete blood transfusions in newborn babies (known as neonatal exchange transfusions).

Men's blood is also preferred for intrauterine transfusions (when the baby is transfused while still inside the womb).

Only men's blood is used for making Fresh Frozen Plasma, which contains clotting proteins. Plasma is used for trauma patients with massive blood loss and rare diseases such as thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP).

Men provide 93 per cent of platelets, which are part of the body's blood clotting system. More than 50 per cent of platelets go to people with cancer, to reduce internal bleeding.

The best places for men start donating are our [dedicated blood donor centres](#).

More information on becoming a blood donor is available at www.blood.co.uk

Hospital staff arrange “amazing” wedding

VIVIEN Stokes and Fred Hartley have been together for 29 years and were planning to get married in June.

But when Vivien suddenly fell ill with pneumonia, they decided to bring their big day forward and tie the knot on a hospital ward.

Staff of the Blackpool Victoria Hospital made an appeal on Facebook and Twitter for help in arranging the big day for Vivien, 56, and Fred, 73, who both have cerebral palsy.

The couple, from Fleetwood, Lancs, had offers of flowers, cakes, decorations, live music and even a selection of five wedding dresses for Vivien to choose from. Vivien walked ‘down the aisle’ in Ward 24 on Wednesday to a guard of honour to the tune of ABBA’s ‘Dancing Queen’ surrounded by friends, staff and fellow patients.

Joanne Connear, Vivien’s niece, said: “The response was absolutely amazing.

“We were inundated with offers of support and we are so overwhelmed by the generosity of people.

“We can’t thank people or the staff at the hospital enough. They have all been absolutely wonderful and have helped make their day special.

“Vivien had wanted to get married for years but Fred had always resisted but last summer they were on a Mediterranean cruise together and Fred proposed.”

04 ISSUE 207



Staff give Vivien a guard of honour



The new Mr and Mrs Hartley

Joanne added: “Of course she said yes and the date in summer was set. ‘It has been so great to see everyone come together to make their day a special one.’”

The couple were welcomed into Ward 24 by smiling guests who’d all pulled together to make sure the newlyweds had the perfect day.

Claire Kelly, ward clerk on Ward 24, said: ‘A few of us put out social media messages in various forms and staff shared those messages and the response was phenomenal.

“We were amazed by the support and the kind messages we received. It was lovely.”

Mum says thanks to 999 crew



Daniel critically ill in hospital following the accident

TEENAGER Daniel Palin, from Chorley, Lancashire was left fighting for his life after being hit by a car.

Daniel, 15, was knocked off his bike by a car. He was critically injured and fighting for his life when ambulance crews arrived.



Daniel meets his 999 saviours

Paramedic Pamela, Emergency Medical Technician Dave and Advanced Paramedic Luke were the first on scene to treat Daniel and knew instantly that he was in a critical condition.

They rushed Daniel to hospital where he was put in an induced coma for four days and, due to the nature of his injuries, came close to losing his fight for survival.

His mum Tara contacted North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) as she was unable to stop thinking about the outstanding care Daniel received and how traumatic it must have been for the crews to see such horrific injuries.

Tara said: "We are so grateful for all their hard work and for saving my son's life. Everybody involved deserves more than I or anybody could ever give. I could never thank them enough.

"We are very lucky to still have Daniel and I

honestly believe it is down to the fantastic knowledge, passion and dedication of the ambulance crews that helped him.

"Daniel is learning to live a new life now.

Physically he is fine, but he has dealt with so much. I can't even put into words what it means to have a brain injury as it's so complex, it's heart-breaking from a mother's perspective, but he is here with his family thanks to North West Ambulance Service."

Daniel and his mum met up with Pamela, Dave and Luke who saved his life to say thank you.

■ **As part of a campaign to educate the public on 999 use, NWAS has launched a heart-warming new scheme to reunite emergency callers with the ambulance crews and emergency call handlers who helped save their lives. In the past year, they received a total of 1,337,175 calls – and one in ten of these were classed as 'immediately life-threatening' scenarios.**

They want to hear from people who have received help from and are encouraging people to say 'thank you NWAS' by sharing their stories on social media with #ThankYouNWAS.

25 Blue Skies celebrations

BLUE Skies patrons Yvonne and Bobby Ball have unveiled a shiny new fundraising office in the main entrance at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Cutting the ceremonial ribbon at the grand opening, friends, family, donors and staff attended in support.

Previously tucked away within the hospital, the relocation is part of the NHS charity's plan to increase their brand awareness and publicise the work they do to enhance patient care across the Fylde coast.

Head of the Blue Skies Hospitals Fund, Kila Redfearn, was thrilled to reveal the new office and said she was looking forward to further promoting the charity.

"Being in such a prime location within the hospital is going to be amazing for us," she explained.

"We've only been here a few weeks and already had so many people pop in to make donations or just simply find out more about us! It is my passion to help Blackpool Teaching Hospitals become world-class in patient care."

Stocked with the latest merchandise and having a donation kiosk sitting proudly on the wall outside to accept any card donations, the modern office is well prepared to help people begin their fundraising journey.

But the celebrations don't end there as the charity is also marking its 25th anniversary.

06 ISSUE 207



Patrons, Bobby and Yvonne Ball, open the new Blue Skies office at Blackpool Victoria Hospital with Head of Fundraising, Kila Redfearn looking on

Originally setup as the MRI Scanner Appeal back in 1995, Blue Skies is celebrating its silver anniversary with a number of events throughout the year.

This will also include the chance for people to make a £25 donation and add their name and dedication to a commemorative anniversary book.

Kila added: "This anniversary is a big occasion for the charity and the team. There'll be plenty of opportunities for the local corporates and community to get involved as well, so keep your eyes peeled."

If you'd like to fundraise for Blue Skies, please contact the office on 01253 957904 or [email bfwh.blueskies@nhs.net](mailto:bfwh.blueskies@nhs.net)

Your Trust needs you!



BLACKPOOL Victoria Hospital is set to host an open recruitment event this February in conjunction with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan).

The event is aimed at the March 2020 intake of student nurses, apprenticeship trainees, registered nurses, registered apprenticeship nurses, trainee nurse associates, return to practice nurses, second and third year student nurses, newly qualified nurses and physician associates.

Louise Paramel, Clinical Education and Quality Manager at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We usually recruit in partnership with UCLan as they provide the academic studies and we provide the clinical placement and support learning to ensure that a quality learning environment is achieved.

"We have been trying to increase our student nurse cohort figures for the last few intakes and we want to attract our local community and in line with our 'Growing our Own Fylde Coast Family' campaign, we want to recruit locally.

"There will be support from all of the divisions and senior staff from across the Trust taking the opportunity to fill their nursing vacancies and showcase the work of teams here at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

"Staff will be providing stands and be present on

the day to welcome potential new employees and showcase their work, giving an insight into the roles and patient care we provide as an organisation.

"The Clinical Skills and Simulation manager has kindly offered to accommodate this event within the Clinical Skills Centre and will be opening the doors to the Simulation Suite showing learning opportunities we provide to students and employees here at the Trust. We look forward to welcoming our visitors."

The event is being held on February 1 between 10am and 2pm in the Simulation and Skills department which is on the second floor in area 2. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided on the day.

The Bench team, who organise shift work, will be present to also recruit staff and students. The Preceptorship Coordinators will also be present. The recruitment team are supporting the event too and will be able to facilitate interviews on the day.

For more information or to register your interest, please email Kristie.Butterfield@nhs.net.

To see the Trust's current nursing vacancies, visit: http://jobs.bfwh.nhs.uk/job_list/s1/Nursing_Midwifery?ts=1 For information about Clifton Hospital recruitment see Page 12 of this magazine.



Members of the microbiology and virology teams at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

Hospital team wins a national quality mark

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

The teams, based at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, have gained and maintained accreditation to internationally recognised standard ISO 15189 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 Clinical Support Division, 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."

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.

Dedicated nurse bids to reduce loneliness

AN INSPIRATIONAL student nurse at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is starting the New Year by helping to reduce loneliness.

Kind hearted Chloe Doherty has been working with Blackpool Victoria Hospital to set up a series of get-togethers for members of the community, incorporating various activities with important information on health and wellbeing.

Chloe will be hosting Coffee and Chats at Mojo Coffee Shop, Red Bank Road, Blackpool, on Mondays from 2.30pm until 3.30pm; Caffe C at Solaris Centre, Blackpool Promenade every Tuesday 9.30am until 10.30am and every Saturday at Costa Coffee at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

She has also received support from the Victoria Community Centre, the Water's edge in Lytham and the Dog and Partridge in South Shore. In order to help fund the sessions, she has set up a fund-raiser on her Facebook page: Chloe Doherty.

Chloe, who is in her second year at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, and works at the hospital in between studying for her nursing qualifications, said: "My mission is to raise money to fund a session once a week to help reduce loneliness and social isolation in younger and older adults.

"This is something I am very passionate about as I feel Blackpool has the highest statistics for those who are socially isolated and suffer with mental health issues.



Chloe Doherty who is trying to reduce loneliness

"The money raised will be used to fund the sessions providing tea, coffee, biscuits, live bands, information sessions, day trips and lots more.

"I feel this would work very well in this area as one of Blackpool Council's targets is to improve social isolation. I am looking to make this a free or low cost voluntary service for people who are isolated and need some company or want to make some friends in Blackpool.

"We will also have district nurses giving information on what is available in the community."

If anyone wants to help or if any businesses want to get involved to offer funding or raffle prizes, email chloedoherty97@icloud.com She also has a website at <https://coffeachatsonline.wordpress.com/>

A GROUP set up for people who have been affected by cancer living on the Fylde coast is looking for singers and non-singers to join them.

The singalong group was developed by the Macmillan team at Blackpool Victoria Hospital, following an idea to engage with the community and with people who care for someone, are a relative, or a previous or present cancer patient.

The group is for singers and non-singers and it will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, starting on the 5th of February at Blackpool Carers Centre on Newton Drive.

The main aspect of the group is to socialise and to tackle loneliness.

Free refreshments and car parking are on offer and there is an opportunity to meet new people who may be in similar situations to each other, from different walks of life who can support each other.

Macmillan cancer professionals will be attending the groups to offer advice and support to people who join.

Helen Bright, Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Manager, has brought the idea to life. She said: "We are very excited to set up this group and hoping to build a regular group of singers who find comfort meeting new people and building their social interaction.

"People who are in cancer treatment or recovery can potentially become isolated and struggle to leave the house and engage in any conversations or activities due to feeling low or being exhausted.

"We wanted to set up this group so we could



Help hospital hit right notes

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

connect the community and form a group of people who have a joy of singing and to increase happiness.

"We have seen similar singing groups to support people living with dementia and there is research to show how much singing can help mental health and make a difference to people.

"Hopefully some hidden singers on the Fylde coast can join us in having a sing-song each month."

The group will meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Blackpool Carers Centre, Newton Drive, FY3 8LZ, from 1pm-2.30pm.

They ask for a £1.75 donation towards the cost of the room and refreshments.



Clifton Hospital Recruitment Day

NHS

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Qualified Nurses & Therapists

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

VACANCIES ACROSS ALL WARDS

**MEET OUR INCREDIBLE TEAMS
HAVE A TOUR & INTERVIEW
SEE ALL THAT THE AWARD WINNING HOSPITAL HAS TO OFFER!**

CLIFTON HOSPITAL. PERSHORE ROAD. LYTHAM ST. ANNES. FY8 1PB

Winners of the Chairman's Award for putting patients at the heart of everything we do & ensuring a happy environment to enhance patient dignity and rehabilitation