



For those of you I have not been able to meet or speak to yet, my name is Steve Fogg and I am Chair of the Trust Board here at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals.

Firstly, I want to tell you how incredibly proud I am to be part of this organisation. This past year has been challenging for everyone, but clearly none more so than the NHS team. To be able to do my bit to support you is an honour.

Since my appointment in January I have heard and seen for myself the relentless effort put in by everyone as part of our response to the pandemic. People in the community recognise this and are grateful, but I don't think anyone outside of the Trust can fully understand what it has really, truly been like. I know the physical and emotional toll has been huge and I want to say thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for our patients and their families, as well as each other.

Please remember there is a wide range of individual and team health and well being support available. If you or anyone you work with needs some help, you only need to ask.

Now the infections levels have slowed and the vaccination programme continues to make the most magnificent progress, I am trying to get out to see you all in person. It's something I feel very strongly about and whilst it's important to do this safely and appropriately, I don't think you can beat seeing someone in person for a catch up and a cuppa.

So, if you find a request in your diary please do accept it if you can. It would be great to see you, hear about your experiences and any ideas or suggestions for how we can do things differently or better. I intend to visit as many teams as possible but also join some clinical shifts including in the evenings and weekends. I'm really looking forward to meeting as many people as possible.

In a previous life I was a Managing Director with BAe Systems and was always known as the kind of colleague who 'walked the floor'. I intend to keep this tradition up here and if you see me 'out and about', please say hello.

I am also passionate about the Fylde Coast and I intend to do everything I can to support our recovery as an area following the pandemic but also by working with the Trust to reduce the health inequalities that are so visible in our communities. I am part of the Pride of Place Board for Blackpool, Chair of the Fylde Coast Responsible Business Network and have recently joined the Board at Blackpool and Fylde College.



I want to use these connections to bring the Trust together with as many other organisations, people and groups as possible, to ensure we play our part fully in improving life for residents in the region. I am keen on the concept of becoming an ‘anchor institution’ – recognising we have a very big part to play not only in providing quality services to local people but also much needed jobs and training which can underpin the economy and an influential and inspiring voice in the community.

To be successful I believe we need to be collaborative and inclusive – encouraging people to work together to achieve key outcomes. This will be key in the next few months as we move to restore our waiting lists. I know this will be hard on you, that you’re still recovering from the past 12 months, but I also know we are as one in our concerns around patient safety and doing everything we can to ensure people don’t get worse, suffer more or be reduced by the worry and stress of waiting.

We all joined the NHS for the same reason – to help and care for people who need us. Though tired, that remains our aim and I’ll certainly do everything I can to support you.

If you want me to pop in or you have something you’d like to tell me or talk about, please do feel free to get in touch.

Steve Fogg, Chairman, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

IN THIS WEEK’S STAKEHOLDER BULLETIN

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Positive

COVID VIDEO UPDATE



In this week’s update, Dr Gardner talks of the positive reduction in Covid cases across the local community and promotes the new Valneva study trial; the website for further information on the trial is displayed in the video.

You can watch Dr Gardner’s video [here](#) and the podcast [here](#): perfect to listen to while commuting.

Did you know around 3000 babies are born each year at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals?

Next Wednesday 5 May is International Midwives Day an opportunity to take stock of all the incredible work midwives and maternity staff have provided in the last year.

It’s worth celebrating our fantastic teams [with this amazing story](#).

DR ISRAEL BREAKS GROUND ON NEXT PHASE OF EMERGENCY VILLAGE

The next phase of the Emergency Village and Critical Care Development at Blackpool Victoria Hospital is underway with building works now focussed on the new three storey Critical Care and Same Day Emergency Care unit.

The existing building, which originally housed surgical theatres and latterly offices and medical engineering, is adjacent and to the rear of the Emergency Department. It will be demolished by the end of May to make way for the new construction.



Emergency Department Lead for the Emergency Village and Critical Care Development, Dr Adeline Israel, said: “Today is another milestone in the progress of the Emergency Village journey.

“With the symbolic strike of the hammer, the old building comes down to pave the foundation for the Same Day Emergency Care Unit and Critical Care Units.

“It also signifies bringing down barriers to progress, change and improvement. Given the need for change and transformation to provide enhanced care and improve patient experience, we are committed to achieving this by providing high quality care through a multi-disciplinary team approach.

“I am indeed honoured to swing the hammer on behalf of all the teams working towards realising this vision.”

Adam Lynch, Senior Construction Manager for construction partner IHP, said: “From June until September, we will be working on the groundworks, with the steel work commencing from early September. We are on programme to complete the new building by July 2022.”

WORLD’S SMALLEST HEART PUMP SAVES BTH PATIENT

A Lancashire man, whose heart condition meant that he went to sleep every night not knowing if he would wake up in the morning, has been given a new lease of life thanks to pioneering new techniques introduced at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals’ Lancashire Cardiac Centre.



Cardiologists at the Cardiac Centre performed a procedure so rare that even though the surgery took place in the spring of 2020, almost 12 months on the technique is yet to be repeated.

Now, almost one year on from the operation, Graham Moran, 62, from Lancaster has praised the teams which helped save his life. Mr Moran's heart was so weak that traditional ablation options were off the table, and with a transplant ruled out, it was the intervention of the Trust's cardiac electrophysiology team and the use of a ground-breaking device which gave Graham hope.

The device, known as an Impella has not been used for an ablation in the UK for several years. An ablation is a procedure whereby a small area of the heart is cauterised to block electrical pathways. Regarded as the world's

smallest heart pump, the Impella is a ventricular assist device that serves as a temporary artificial heart whilst the patient undergoes complex heart procedures. This device allowed Dr Khalid Abozguia to perform the complex ablation without the worry that the patient's heart might fail.

"We were running out of options," Mr Moran said from his Lancaster home as he looks back on the pioneering procedure last May.

"Instead of taking one year at a time, it went down to a month, a week and then one day at a time. Going to sleep I didn't know if my defibrillator would go off, it was a matter of going to sleep and hoping that I would wake up, that is how I was feeling sometimes.

"This time last year I was having quite a lot of episodes of ventricular tachycardia (VT) and it was becoming that every other week I was at A&E getting defibbed.

"If it wasn't for the NHS I wouldn't be here. Right from the very first initial heart failure. I can't fault it."

Reflecting on the innovative surgery and seeing the patient in good health, Dr Abozguia said: "I am very pleased the patient is doing very well. From his point of view, he is happy with his quality of life and importantly he is happy that he is alive and his device is still working and the procedure gave him more hope. He has a good outcome from the procedure."

FOCUS ON CLIFTON HOSPITAL

In the third of our series of interviews with the key members of Clifton Hospital, we hear from one of the ward managers who talks about the variety of working on Ward 1.

Linda Broadbent, Ward 1 Manager, has been at Clifton for a total of 18 years and has worked for the NHS for 44 years. In the past year, all wards were COVID positive throughout the year including Ward 1



Linda said: “We have had a very challenging year, especially keeping our staff motivated throughout. But the team has pulled together and the situation had brought us all closer.

“I’m dead proud of all the team and happy they worked so hard and have supported each other. I can’t wait until we can introduce our activities again: visits from Charlie the Pets as Therapy dog, Barry playing the piano, Armchair Zumba with Andrew Noble, our volunteer gardener helping keep the dementia-friendly garden tidy and the usual Clifton fairs.

“Won’t it be lovely to get back to normal again and be able to give each other a hug.”

People Centred

SIR TOM CORRIDOR OPENS AT BLACKPOOL VICTORIA

Team Top Floor at Blackpool Victoria Hospital celebrated the opening of a new staff and patient area this week, named after fundraising hero Captain Sir Tom Moore.



The link corridor on the second floor has been redecorated, supplied with comfy chairs and painted by two volunteer artists (Karen Grundy and Quinton Rae who work in the Artificial Eye Service at the hospital) with inspirational quotes, portraits and poppies.

It has been named after Sir Tom for his fundraising efforts, some of which have supported staff and patients at the hospital via the Blue Skies charity.

The space can now be used as a rest area by staff, as somewhere different for patients to relax, and is to be used by the physiotherapy and occupational therapy teams.

In a special ceremony the space was opened on Friday, to mark the birthday of the late Captain Sir Tom Moore.

Present at the opening were staff from the Care of Older People wards (wards 23-26), the Trust's Director of Nursing, Peter Murphy, Divisional Director of Nursing, Lisa Horkin, Maria Jennings, Clinical Matron for wards 23-26, Joanna Allitt of Blue Skies and artists Karen Grundy and Quinton Rae.

Excellent

GOING THE EXTRA MILE



A team of staff from across the Trust has been thanked for their work in supporting the Health and Wellbeing team to distribute more than 5,000 Well Packs.

In total, 5,311 packs were handed out to staff teams around the Trust. The initiative was intended to provide staff with a 'pick-me-up' and encourage them to take time to rest, reflect, reconnect and take stock of their own wellbeing.

Packs included gifts like biscuits, a hot drink, mints and moisturising cream and were

delivered to more than 180 teams including community services.

Hannah Foxcroft and Paula Wright of the OD and Engagement team at the Trust, nominated the staff for their hard work, revealing: "We just wanted to say a huge thank you for supporting us with the distribution of over 5,000 Well Packs. We absolutely could not have done this without your support and we really appreciate it."

Colleagues who were recognised with a Going The Extra Mile award were:

- Gabriella Chiodo of the HR team based at Victoria Hospital
- Tania Cockroft of the Lancashire Sexual Health Service based in Urban Exchange, Preston
- Abi South of the Nutrition Support Team based at Victoria Hospital

- Jess Lonsdale and Joanna Allitt of the Blue Skies charity
- Elisa Huyton of the Covid Vaccination Hub
- The Staff Engagement Team from Organisational Development based at Victoria Hospital.

TWEET OF THE WEEK

A Bank Holiday weekend can often be one of the busier periods for the teams within Accident and Emergency, so it is worth knowing that there are many other options to making a trip to the hospital.

Self Care was one of the themes of Dr Jim Gardner's video blog this week, while other options include the pharmacy, your GP and NHS 111.

Please help us by only calling 999 in a life-threatening emergency only.

There is also mental health support for those who need it by calling 0800 915 4650.

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals ❤️ ✓
@BlackpoolHosp

Looking after your health is the best way to make sure you don't need to see a doctor or need to go to hospital.
There are lots of options though if you do need health advice. Make sure you use the right one for your need.
[#HelpUsHelpYou](#) [#HUHY](#) [#NHS](#)

NHS
Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group
Fylde and Wyre Clinical Commissioning Group

Start with self care

Look after yourself so you don't need medical help.
A well stocked medicine cabinet helps.

Fylde Coast
Integrated Care Partnership

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POSITIVE COMMENTS

Sian, a new mum, has sent us this message...

'Big thank you to the midwives Gasia and Laura who helped to deliver my first baby a beautiful little girl Freya on Saturday morning in only 16 minutes.

Thank you to the staff on delivery suite Friday 23rd to Tuesday 27th who have helped with breastfeeding, advice, and anything else we've had help with, including the new born hearing lady and the male paediatrician 😊

It's nice to be home with our beautiful girl.

Sian and Richard xx'

Vicki, a mum, whose daughter was in hospital has sent us this message...

'My daughter was admitted to the children's ward and had a three- week stay back in Feb/March. Either myself or her dad stayed with her and I just want to say thank you for the care and compassion that was given to us all during what was a very stressful and emotional time. We all felt so looked after.

From the doctors, nurses, ward manager, Matron, play workers and house keeper they were all absolutely amazing. Nothing was too much trouble and they all work so hard. Scarlett was going through such a difficult time but they knew how to help and support her and the playworkers were always on hand to make sure she always had something to play with. The support and care she was given was outstanding and I know I could not have got through it without their help.

They all do such an amazing job and are a real asset to the organisation. Thank you so so much from all of us x'

Thank you for reading this bulletin. If you have any comments or questions, or would like to know more about any of our services, please get in touch via telephone on 01253 300000, through our [online contact form](#), or via post at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Trust Headquarters, Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Whinney Heys Road, Blackpool, FY3 8NR

