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Countess of Wessex opens new meeting space for young people at Leeds Children’s Hospital

The Royal Patron of the Leeds Children's Hospital, HRH The Countess of Wessex, met members of the hospital's Youth Forum to officially open their newly created meeting space, The Place 2be @LTHT.

The facility has been created close to the Clarendon Wing main entrance as a dedicated space for teenagers to give them a meeting place and activity centre away from the wards. This was one of the top priorities that Youth Forum members identified at their inaugural meeting two years ago.

Her Royal Highness officially opened the space, which has been developed thanks to a grant from the Leeds Children's Hospital Appeal to provide a bright, modern flexible area for events, socialising and relaxing. Comfortable chairs and high tech IT equipment has been enhanced with wall art funded by the Rays of Sunshine charity.

Louise Porter, Lead Nurse for Transition of Children and Young People, who works closely with the Youth Forum, said: “This facility has been created specifically to meet the needs identified by members of the Youth Forum, and many of the members who came along to meet The Countess of Wessex on this visit were seeing it for the first time since the work begun.

“It was great to for them to see how their ideas have come to fruition and they were delighted with the finished result.”

The Youth Forum is made up of young people who are or have been patients of Leeds Children’s Hospital, many with long-term condition which means they spend a lot of time in hospital.

Later, The Countess visited neonatal unit where she met parents and their babies being cared for in the facility and chatted to staff about their challenging work. She also saw the results of recent investment in the facility to create an improved environment as well as more space for treating some of the poorest babies from across the region.

Celebrating Occupational Therapy Week

A week’s worth of events were held by Occupational Therapists across the Trust to raise awareness of their work.

The week was a real opportunity to provide colleagues, patients and the public with information about their profession and the great work that they do for people both in hospital and the community.

The team also held a good practice event, showcasing research, audit and innovative practice taking place within the Trust.

Victoria Lindley, Occupational Therapist said: “It was great to raise awareness about what we do by speaking to patients and staff across the Trust during the week. Our good practice event was a great success and offered an opportunity for networking with colleagues from other professional groups and OTs from the other health and social care organisations across the city.”

The team raise awareness of their role within the Trust
Artist David brings woodland beauty to Cancer Centre with live painting and exhibition

The beauty and splendour of Britain’s woodlands was brought to the Bexley Wing at St James’s Hospital, where professional artist David Starley held an exhibition and did painting sessions on site.

This was the first time the Bexley Wing – home to the Atrium gallery, a regularly changing exhibition which helps raise money for the Yorkshire Cancer Centre Appeal – had hosted this type of live painting by an artist.

David has previously had his work displayed in a range of galleries and locations and was recently Artist in Residence at the Royal Horticultural Society’s Harlow Carr Garden, near Harrogate. He uses traditional oil paints, applied with a knife rather than a brush, to produce a textured, almost sculpted, image.

David enjoyed the opportunity to bring his art to the hospital and saw a positive response from patients, visitors and staff alike.

He commented: “This is a very large space indeed, but having experienced a joint show with the Aire Valley Arts Group at the hospital some years ago, I was totally bowled over by the response of the public. People who understandably have serious matters on their minds clearly found much pleasure in looking at, and talking about the paintings.”

David is collecting donations for the Yorkshire Cancer Centre Appeal and donated 25% of sales made during the exhibition to the Appeal.

Yvonne Holmes, who organises the displays at the Atrium gallery, commented: “It was a delight to have David as our first live painter and there was a fantastic reaction to his session with many people being fascinated to see his painting technique. The Bexley Wing Atrium is already home to live piano playing and that also goes down extremely well with patients, visitors and staff and helps create a friendly and relaxing environment.”

Patients, staff and visitors enjoyed David’s live painting sessions

LMBRU receives funding to continue world-leading research

The Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit (LMBRU), based at Chapel Allerton Hospital has been awarded funding to be the only dedicated musculoskeletal biomedical research centre in the UK.

The LMBRU is a partnership between LTHT and the University of Leeds. As part of a new package of research funding from the government, the LMBRU will receive nearly £7 million to continue its world-leading research on musculoskeletal conditions.

Professor Paul Emery, Director of the LMBRU, said: “This is the result of many years of international first class research from our team which has secured our world leading position in musculoskeletal medicine and biomedical engineering. This funding will enable future research focusing on preventing inflammatory disease such as inflammatory arthritis, and optimising therapy for osteoarthritis.

“The last round of funding we received allowed the teams in Leeds to research the effectiveness of using ultrasound imaging to diagnose bone damage in arthritis. Following this research, ultrasound is now recommended for patients with arthritis which means pain can be diagnosed and managed much quicker than before.”
Staff from across the Trust took part in the ultimate charity rugby league match - LGI vs St James’s.

The match pitched members of staff from across LTHT against each in other in a battle to win the coveted trophy. Over 300 people spectators showed their support at Stanningley Rugby Club and at the final whistle, LGI celebrated a convincing win.

It kicked off in frantic fashion with SJUH putting LGI under immediate pressure, forcing an error on the LGI try line. A quick pass to John Spreckley saw him go over for the first try of the afternoon, converted by Simon Stephenson 0-6 to SJUH.

LGI soon found their feet in the game with some good passing, and brilliant defensive tackling soon forced errors in the St James’s side. A series of tries and conversions then put LGI in a very commanding position at the half time break leading 30-6.

The second half started just as strong for the LGI with a quick try from Glenn Carr after the restart, converted by Tom Barnes. The scoring continued for the LGI with fresh substitutes rolling the forwards nicely down the field. Further tries put the game beyond any doubt, and James Gledhill scored the last of the LGI’s points with a nicely work set play. Once St James’s got the ball in hand they worked it very nicely out wide, and a cut inside by half back and captain Joe Brook saw him go over under the posts bringing the final score to LGI 56 - 10 SJUH.

While pride was at stake, the match was also held to raise money for Leeds Children’s Hospital Appeal raising over £2,000.

One of the organisers, Estates Officer Rob Head said: “The idea of a charity match spread across the trust very quickly and we were approached by people in a wide array of job roles all wanting to get involved. The LGI v SJUH format has added a bit of spice to the occasion and brought out the competitive streak in people. But the money raised for the Children’s Hospital will make a real difference and we’re hoping we can raise even more next year!

“We’ve also raised a lot of interest from other NHS trusts who are keen to play against us in the future.”
At LTHT nursing teams work hard to ensure that there is an effective flow of patients through the Trust. This is particularly important over winter, when poor rates of discharge for physically well patients can cause real problems for other services. As part of this work, a new discharge lounge has launched in Lincoln Wing to support wards and patients at St James’s hospital.

The discharge lounge accepts patients who are medically fit for discharge so that they can leave their beds as soon as possible, freeing up space for newly admitted patients who need them. On the day of their discharge, if the patient meets the set criteria, they are transferred to the lounge to wait for an ambulance or for their family to collect them.

The Abdominal Medicine and Surgery (AMS) Clinical Service Unit (CSU) nursing team who operate the lounge work closely with wards, transport and pharmacy to ensure that everything is in place for discharge. This has included improving the electronic Discharge Advice Note (eDAN) process so that medications can be delivered to the discharge lounge rather than the ward.

In the first three weeks of being open, the discharge lounge supported the discharge of over 100 patients. This new way of working is creating a better patient experience as patients don’t need to wait for long periods on busy wards and ensures that they are being looked after in the most suitable place for them.

Staff in the lounge are encouraging CSUs to identify those patients that are fit to be discharged and for them to be transferred to the lounge as early as possible in the day to help free up beds for patients who need them the most. The lounge provides a snack box service and can also provide a breakfast to those who need it.

The discharge lounge has nursing and healthcare assistants based on the unit to make patients comfortable and help aid the completion of discharge. There is also a Patient Transport Co-ordinator who fast tracks patients that are in the lounge.

Sister Shanaz Hussain manages the discharge lounge. She said: “Every patient who is using the facility is also helping another patient. It means that their bed can be prepared and made available for someone else who requires admission, helping to reduce waiting times and improving the speed and quality of service we provide.”

“We aim to provide a much better pathway for patients who are medically fit to be discharged and assist in helping to free up inpatient capacity as early on as possible. Crucial to the success of the lounge is for clinical areas to identify patients early and ensure that they communicate as early as possible with the discharge lounge staff.”
A new Elekta Versa™ HD linear accelerator (Linac) has been officially opened, marking the start of a multi-million pound investment and a four year equipment replacement programme at Leeds Cancer Centre.

Seven additional linear accelerators will be replaced with this state-of-the-art technology, with a new Versa HD treatment machine coming online every six months.

A linear accelerator is used for external beam radiation treatments for patients with cancer and delivers high energy X-rays to the region of a patient’s tumour. Importantly, these X-ray treatments can be designed in such a way that they destroy the cancer cells while sparing the surrounding normal tissue.

Julian Hartley, LTHT Chief Executive said: “Leeds Cancer Centre was an early adopter of this technology and was the first cancer centre to implement advanced high-dose rate radiotherapy techniques using Versa HD Linac. The Trust will replace seven clinical treatment machines and three CT Simulators which means that all patients treated in Leeds will continue to have access to world-class, state-of-the-art radiotherapy treatments.”

Equipped with sophisticated technology, the new Versa HD is designed to provide clinicians with the precision and speed necessary to deliver advanced techniques that demand highly accurate tumour targeting and the protection of critical structures. The benefits of this technology also include reduced treatment times, the potential for high dose advanced therapies, custom configurations for unique clinical needs and the ability see soft tissue during treatment.
The Yorkshire Heart Centre Wetlab at LGI hosted a unique cardiac surgical training course, teaching surgeons a range of exercises that can be easily practised at home.

The PAR Excellence Surgical Skills course has been running for 14 years led by cardiothoracic surgeons including David O’Regan from LTHT, and this was the first time it has been held in Leeds.

It offered the opportunity to learn more about surgical techniques in cardiac surgery and delegates were taught how to practice at home and apply changes to their suturing technique to improve their overall performance in the operating theatre.

The hands-on course also involved multiple training exercises on items such as bananas which can be easily replicated at home, helping delegates to continue their training outside of a clinical setting.

David O’Regan said: “The course aims to teach surgeons the ergonomics of operating and how to practice at home on low fidelity systems. Once again we consistently achieved another round of 5/5 for delegate satisfaction across the board - well done to everyone who was involved!”

Two members of the LTHT haematology team won awards at a prestigious international workshop in Amsterdam.

Ruth de Tute, Principal Clinical Scientist, and Dr Roger Owen, Consultant Haematologist attended the 9th International Workshop on Waldenström’s Macroglobulinemia, which this year was held in Amsterdam.

Ruth won an award for the best submitted work for her development of a test for diagnosing and monitoring Waldenström’s, which is a type of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. The disease develops when a type of white blood cells, called plasma cells, become abnormal and grow out of control.

She said: “It was great to receive recognition for the work that we do, particularly among some of the best researchers in the world. We enjoyed the opportunity to showcase the work that we do to improve understanding and treatment of the disease for patients in the UK.”

Roger won the prestigious Waldenström’s award, which is given to outstanding researchers in recognition of their contributions to the myeloma field. He has attended the workshop every year since it started and in 2014 he won the Robert Kyle award when the workshop was held in London.

Prestigious award win for research into Waldenström’s

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The course provided the opportunity for delegates to develop their cardiac surgical skills
Leeds Children’s Hospital team scoops top Nursing Times Award

A team from Leeds Children’s Hospital has picked up a coveted Nursing Times Award for a unique initiative to improve communications with young patients and their families.

Leeds Children’s Hospital TV beat off incredibly tough competition from nine other shortlisted finalists from across the country to scoop the Child and Adolescent Service award in a ceremony at London’s Grosvenor House Hotel.

Launched earlier this year, Leeds Children’s Hospital TV is the first initiative of its kind in the country. Designed around the needs of children, young people and their families, it provides an insight into the wards and departments at the hospital, and what it is like to be a patient there.

Nurse Consultant, Sue Morgan, who collected the award along with colleagues, said: “It was a big achievement just to be shortlisted as the other entries were all of an extremely high calibre. We were absolutely thrilled to be named the outright winner of the category.

“Since the service was launched in May, feedback from young people and families as well as health professionals in Leeds and across the country has been incredibly positive and we are just so proud to be leading the way with this project.

“We know young people want as much information as possible before coming to hospital, but provided in a friendly and accessible way. Leeds Children’s Hospital TV means that at the click of a button they can see for themselves where they will be coming, who they will meet, what the staff are like and what other children and young people say about the hospital.”

Kindly funded by the Leeds Children’s Hospital Appeal, the service is provided in conjunction with Mark Wilkinson of Mosaic TV. As well as films about the hospital, wards and procedures young people may undergo, a video booth enables young patients to make their own films and feedback which is also loaded on to the site www.lchtv.com.

The team celebrate their win at the awards ceremony
Neurology team launch first Dystonia Training Day

The very first National Dystonia Training Day received great feedback when it was held at LTHT.

The course was designed to help those interested in developing their skills in using botulinum toxin (Botox) injections to treat dystonia, a movement disorder that results in abnormal muscle contractions.

In the morning the team welcomed Professor Kailash Bhatia from University College London who spoke about the investigation and management of dystonia. Consultant Neurologist Dr Jane Alty gave an overview of dystonia and Consultant Neurologist Dr Stuart Jamieson described the anatomy of dystonia and the chemistry of Botox. Dystonia Clinical Nurse Specialist Rachael Lally also spoke about her experience using Botox in clinic.

Later, the team used manikins to show the relevant musculature and to practice injection techniques. In the afternoon practical demonstrations were organised with patients from LTHT having their regular Botox injections to the neck and face.

Rachael Lally said: “This was our first Dystonia Training Day and it was a huge success enjoyed by all.”

Gynaecology ambulatory unit opens

A new purpose-built gynaecology ambulatory unit has opened on Level 1 Chancellor’s Wing at St James’s hospital.

The move creates a new, modern setting for gynaecology outpatient procedures, bringing together colposcopy, hysteroscopy, minor ops and uro-gynaecology into one location.

The unit is next door to gynaecology outpatients, helping to improve the experience of women visiting the service by delivering one stop shop style clinics with the assessment and treatment for many procedures in the same area.
Dr Alison Pittard, an LTHT intensive care consultant, has taken up the prestigious role of Vice Dean of The Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM).

FICM is responsible for the training, assessment, practice and continuing professional development of Intensive Care doctors across the country, as well as setting standards for service delivery. Alison has worked with the Faculty for a number of years in training and education but her new role will see her become even more involved in developing intensive care medicine as a specialty nationally.

Alison said: “I am honoured to be taking up the post of Vice Dean of FICM. It’s a really exciting time to be working in intensive care medicine and there is a lot to learn but I look forward to helping grow the specialty over the next few years.

“This is a really exciting time to be working in intensive care medicine and there is so much we can do to improve patient care. We need to work closely with colleagues to support them and ensure they feel valued. This will help our doctors to provide better care for our patients.”

The neonatal team have completed the Abbey Dash in memory of their late and much missed colleague Dr Simon Newell.

Simon was a paediatrician who worked tirelessly for the neonatal service for many years and sadly died in a tragic accident in 2016.

Lead nurse Anne Harrop said: “It was quite challenging with the weather being very cold and very wet but I’m proud that our team (of varying abilities!) managed to finish the course. It was great for morale.

“We were all really pleased at the support we got with people shouting out “Team Neonates” to encourage us and it was lovely to talk to the other participants about Simon, as many of them knew his story and the great work he did and how much he is missed.”

‘Team Neonates’ was made up of a range of staff including consultants, pharmacists and nurses. They smashed through their fundraising target, raising over £1,200 for the Neonatal Trust Fund which helps to provide vital equipment to enhance and support the care and development of the babies on the unit.

‘Team Neonates’ complete the Abbey Dash

‘Team Neonates’ wearing their pink bow ties in tribute to Simon who was a great bow tie wearer!
Generous donation to children’s dialysis unit following kidney transplant

A patient’s family has made a donation to the haemodialysis unit after he received great care from the team on the children’s dialysis unit.

Aqib Ahmed received a kidney transplant in November after a lifetime of care from the children’s nephrology team in Leeds. Prior to his transplant he was receiving haemodialysis from the team on L11 at the Leeds Children’s Hospital three times a week.

Aqib’s father kindly donated a cheque to the unit as a thank you gift for the care the family received. He asked that the money was spent on the remaining children on dialysis by facilitating a trip away for them, possibly to a theme park incorporating a hotel stay.

Sharon Devlin, Renal Clinical Nurse Specialist Team Leader said: “We are all thrilled for Aqib and he is recovering well from his transplant. This donation will be used to provide a great experience for all the children to enjoy and we are very grateful to his family for this kind donation.”

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Commending excellence in the LGI Emergency Department

Staff from the LGI Emergency Department were recognised for going above and beyond in their work in the CEED awards.

Commending Excellence in the Emergency Department (CEED) Awards recognise members of the team who make a difference to patient care and support colleagues in one of the busiest part of the hospital.

The winners recognised were Registrar Dr Ali Merchant, staff nurse Fiona Armitage, Consultant Dr Jen Russell and Major Trauma Case Manager Claire Bassett (who brought her son Ellis along to the handover). A fifth winner, Rachel Kostiuk, couldn’t attend on the day but was warmly thanked in her absence.

The CEED Awards are designed to record great work in a more formal way and celebrate the things that members of the team do every day which make a difference to patient outcomes and work culture, and really highlight The Leeds Way in action.

Ali’s nomination reflected particular praise from a family about the compassion and respect he showed, while Fiona was commended for the difference she has made in her role as a domestic violence champion, particularly in giving one lady the confidence to speak out.

Jen’s award reflected her team spirit and particular how she had helped a colleague in radiology on a particularly difficult day, and Claire was recognised for the care and empathy she showed to a grieving and injured patient in very difficult circumstances.

Rachel was nominated by colleagues for her commitment to the education of the ED team and her work promoting the importance of organ donation.

Nicola Stockburn, Senior Sister, who organised the awards said: “The awards are our way of celebrating the commitment of the whole team to ensure our patients receive the very best care. I wanted to formalise the compliments I often receive verbally or by email about team members who have delivered great service. Our winners are also recognised on a display board in the department and receive certificates to recognise their efforts.”
LTHT welcomed three NHS Graduate Management Trainees to its hospitals.

As part of their induction the new graduates, Fiona Woodhall, Tom Keene and Andrew Hill spent their first month visiting various areas of the Trust to give them a real on the ground experience of life in a busy hospital and the wider care system.

This was organised by the Organisational Learning team who collaborated with staff from across the Trust to go the extra mile to ensure that the trainees had a varied and meaningful learning experience.

As part of the scheme, the graduates can choose one of five career options: general management, health informatics, finance, HR or policy and strategy, allowing them to gain a post-graduate qualification in these areas.

Fiona chose general management and has spent time working in oncology at St James’s Hospital. Fiona said: “I’ve had the opportunity to work on various projects whilst also shadowing staff across the Clinical Service Unit and wider Trust. It has been a great opportunity to learn and develop my skills, and I look forward to becoming more involved during my remaining time at LTHT.”

Tom worked on a number of exciting projects in Informatics. He said: “Working within the Trust allows us to gain real NHS experience, alongside our academic and leadership development programmes outside of LTHT.”

Andrew chose Finance and spent his time with the Financial Services Team in Trust HQ. He said “I have really enjoyed my first few months in the Trust, especially orientation where I was lucky enough to experience first-hand the amazing work carried out by staff across the Trust”.

The NHS graduate management scheme has been running for over 60 years and there are many alumni working across the Trust including LTHT Chief Executive, Julian Hartley.

The FASTest Stroke patient in the North

A nurse specialist at LTHT has administered lifesaving Thrombolysis treatment in just 12 minutes, beating the national average by 40 minutes!

Nurse Specialist Jonathon Britton and Dr Chandran from The Brain Attack Team administered lifesaving Thrombolysis treatment in just 12 minutes, after the patient arrived in the Emergency Department. In this time the patient was assessed, had bloods taken and a CT scan of their brain was conducted prior to treatment being administered.

The door to needle time for administering clot-busting drugs to Stroke patients is critical and can make a real difference to the outcome for the patient.

Alastair Bailey, Lead Nurse for Stroke said: “Achieving a door to needle time of just 12 minutes is an absolutely amazing achievement. I thought the time set last year of 13 minutes would be impossible to break. It is great that we are able to provide such a fast and safe service to patients who are suffering a stroke.”

The national average door to needle time is 52 minutes according to statistics provided by the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) however, the average time in Leeds is 43 minutes according to recent figures released.
Richard adds to his fantastic fundraising total

Former patient Richard Maltby has generously donated a further £14,000 for research into bowel and liver cancer.

Richard was diagnosed with bowel and liver cancer in 2002 and following treatment he has been clear of the disease for 14 years. This motivated him to raise money for research for the Rays of Hope charity at St James’s Hospital and his recent donation means he has now raised a total of £114,000.

Richard and his family and friends organise fundraising events including an annual golf charity event held at Wetherby Golf Club. These have been extremely successful and he has very kindly donated the proceeds of his fundraising to research work led by both Professor Giles Toogood at St James’s Hospital and Professor David Sebag-Montefiore at the University of Leeds and Leeds Cancer Centre.

Professor David Sebag-Montefiore said: “We are very grateful to Richard for his kind donation. The funds raised have supported several Research Fellows who have looked at different ways of improving cancer treatment. It has also supported the key developmental work that has resulted in the design of improved radiotherapy treatment approaches for bowel cancer.”

Sharing learning on healthcare transition with Australian nurse

A nurse from Australia recently visited the Trust as part of a study tour to learn about innovative ideas from clinicians in the UK.

Dana Wright a Transition Coordinator in Paediatric Rehabilitation at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Adelaide, South Australia met with Louise Porter, LTHT Lead Nurse for Healthcare Transition of Children and Young People.

Dana chose to visit six UK hospitals in her study tour, in order to identify programmes and resources that have been successful in helping to prepare and empower young people through the transition process.

She visited the Trust to see the development of transition pathways that create equity in patient experience across all services where transition from children’s to adult services takes place. Dana also met the Neuromuscular Teams engaged in transition from Children’s and Adult services, and the newly set up Baclofen Pump transition service.

Dana said: “I was awarded a South Australia Premier Nursing & Midwifery Scholarship study tour which involves finding out more about what we can learn from established transition teams in the UK.”

Louise said: “It was great to meet Dana and discuss the similar challenges shared across the world in the area of healthcare transition.

“Transition is a particularly challenging area to work in, so it is good to share ideas and solutions to what are often common problems and barriers to providing good support and preparation for young people moving from children’s to adult services.

“Dana has taken some ideas from how we have set up transition pathways, documentation and in particular the use of Youth Workers in some services to help support the young people through the transition process.”
Local cardiac rehabilitation charity donates new exercise machines to Wharfedale

The Wharfedale Hospital Cardiac Club has celebrated its 25th anniversary by making a generous donation of new equipment to the physiotherapy gym at the hospital.

The new exercise machines, which are together worth more than £5600, include a top-of-the-range treadmill, cross-trainer, and rowing machine.

The Cardiac Club is a charitable organisation that helps rehabilitate patients recuperating from cardiology problems. It facilitates evening exercise classes run by professional tutors in the physiotherapy gym at the hospital in Otley.

The Cardiac Club provides phase 4 rehabilitation following cardiac events such as surgical bypass, angioplasty, and heart attacks. The tutors are trained according to standards set by the British Heart Foundation, with which the charity is affiliated.

There are currently around 100 active Cardiac Club members, with ages ranging from 40 through to those in their 80s. The exercise classes are run within a relaxed and friendly environment, allowing members to exercise at their own pace to improve their fitness levels.

A typical class involves around 20 members and lasts for an hour and a half. The session includes a warm-up, circuit-based exercises, work-outs on the new machines, a cool-down, and floor-based stretches.

David Farrow, chairman of the Cardiac Club, said: “We’re very pleased we can make this donation to Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The physiotherapy gym now offers a greater range of exercises on professional-standard training equipment, which will especially benefit patients from the local community.”

Zoe Kirk, Head of Nursing for Wharfedale hospital, said: “Wharfedale has been proud to host the Cardiac Club’s evening classes for the past 25 years, and we are delighted to receive this substantial gift. The high-quality machines will provide a new and improved means of exercise for patients and Club members alike.”

“We’re very pleased we can make this donation to Leeds Teaching Hospitals.”

Zoe Kirk with David Farrow, chairman of the Cardiac Club

Marlene Wilkinson trying out the new cross-trainer
Award winning CSU teams

The Theatres and Anaesthesia, Estates and Facilities and Neurosciences CSUs all have lots of the wonderful people in their teams and the amazing work they complete every day.

The Theatres and Anaesthesia award winners were:
- Unsung Hero - Carol Holmes
- Inspirational Person - Lisa Hackett
- Best Newcomer - James Wilby
- Big Smile - Gail North
- Special Recognition/Making a Difference - Non-Clinical Support Workers
- Improving Patient Experience/Excellence in Care - Admissions Lounge SJUH
- Team of the Year - Liver Transplant/Retrieval Team
- Non-Registered Staff Member of the Year - Michelle Fawcett
- Anaesthetic Trainer of the Year - Dr Eliza Warren (Lizzie)
- Registered Staff Member of the Year - John Ogier

The Estates and Facilities award winners were:
- Enhancing the Patient Experience - Pat Murgatroyd
- Estates Team of the Year - Maintenance Craftsmen
- Facilities Team of the Year - X50 Security Team
- Supervisor of the Year - Robert Head
- Employee of the Year - Helen Perkins
- Estates Unsung Hero - Harvey Senior
- Facilities Unsung Hero - Margaret Hutchinson
- Personality of the Year - Andrew Malcolm
- Learner of the Year - Carol Houlding

The Neurosciences Oscars award winners were:
- CSU Newcomer - Lisa Farley
- Admin Team - Pain Management
- Secretary of the Year - Jayne Winter
- Clinician of the Year - Asim Sheikh
- Clinical Researcher - Ian Anderson
- Unsung Hero - Jeremy Robson
- Outstanding contribution to Nursing - Fiona Corcoran
- The “Leeds Way” - Sarah Bailey-Cain
- Clinical Team - L24 and Brain Attack Team
- Research Nurse - Tracey Crowther
- Patient’s Champion - Claire Lang
CSU teams celebrate success

Award winning CSU teams celebrate success and recognise some of the wonderful people in their teams and the amazing work they complete every day.

Huge donation to support Day One Trauma charity

Day One, the trauma support charity which supports patients treated in the Major Trauma Centre at the LGI, has received a massive boost from an American charity.

The Wyss Medical Foundation, based in Washington DC, has provided a grant of £368,000 after being contacted by trauma consultant Professor Peter Giannoudis, the founder of Day One.

Professor Giannoudis said: “This is an amazingly generous donation and the whole Day One team were absolutely amazed when we heard we had received this sum, which will help us to roll out our ambitions for the next stage of the charity’s development.

“As well as providing further support for trauma patients and their families here in Leeds, we aim to roll out the same model to trauma centres right across the country.”

The Wyss Medical Foundation was founded by Hansjorg Wyss, a Swiss entrepreneur and businessman who has pledged to give away half his wealth to good causes.

Day One is a not-for-profit charity that was launched just over two years ago to help victims of major trauma brought to Leeds to rebuild their lives, provide support for their family and friends, and give them hope in challenging times.
Infection prevention success across the Trust

LTHT’s Infection Prevention and Control team supported a nationwide hand hygiene campaign in the form of a torch tour across the country.

Nationally the campaign was launched by the Infection Prevention Society (IPS) to ‘spread the message, not the bugs’ about the importance of hand hygiene.

The team took the torch on a tour across the Trust and awarded certificates to all wards, theatres and OPD areas that achieved 100% in their hand hygiene compliance since April 2016. In total, 22 wards, 18 outpatient departments and ten theatre areas have achieved these great results!

Dannie Hembra, Infection Prevention and Control Nurse said: “Hand hygiene is a very effective way of preventing the spread of infection and the torch is a fantastic way to share the message across the Trust. It was great to meet all the staff who have demonstrated their commitment to good hand hygiene which makes a real difference to our patients.”

To promote the week, Dannie also took part in the Trust’s very first Facebook Live video where she demonstrated the correct hand washing technique.

The Elective Orthopaedic team on ward C3 at Chapel Allerton are also celebrating infection prevention success, after achieving seven years without an MRSA bacteraemia.

This remarkable achievement could not have been done without the hard work of staff on the ward and infection prevention teams in keeping patients safe and the Trust infection free.

International visit from Pakistan delegation

The Major Trauma Centre team at LGI and Clinical Genetics at Chapel Allerton played host to a visit from a Pakistan and UK Defence Medical Services delegation. This included the Pakistan Surgeon General and three of his senior colleagues, as well as the UK’s Deputy Surgeon General.

At LGI the visitors followed the patient journey from the helideck through Emergency Department, scanning, critical care and ended in the major trauma ward. They commented how impressed they were by the facilities and team working they saw.

They then travelled on to Clinical Genetics to learn about the important work of the team there and were taken through in-depth presentations from LTHT experts.
A support group meeting for patients who have undergone Transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) was held following the success of an earlier event.

TAVI is a procedure that involves inserting a new artificial heart valve inside the old tight valve using a balloon catheter.

At the meeting patients and relatives had the opportunity to share their experiences first-hand and learn about the developments within the service. They also heard about changes the team has implemented to the service from the feedback they received at the first meeting.

Dr Malkin, Consultant in Interventional Cardiology, presented to the group about the evolution of TAVI and the research team talked about the importance of research and current studies at the LGI.

Finally, the TAVI Nurses presented the changes that have been made to the service following feedback from the last meeting. This included bear-huggers (heated blankets) being used during the procedure after a patient commented that the Cath labs were cold, improvements to patient information leaflets and raising more awareness of TAVI.

A patient also said: “The procedure has given me a new lease of life. I arrived at the Jubilee wing being pushed in a wheelchair. Now I walk to the shops daily, potter in the garden, do my own housework and have my independence back”.

Tracey Ware, TAVI Nurse Specialist who organised the event said: “The event was very well attended and greatly enjoyed by staff, patients and relatives - we are looking forward to hosting another one in the future!”

Degrees for Dietitians

Congratulations were passed on to Trust Dietitians Julie Leaper, Julie Ashton, Claire Gardiner, Joanne Scantlebury and Susie Hamlin, after they all completed their Masters’ degrees in Nutrition.

Colleagues from across the department came together to pass on their best wishes to the five, who are based across the Trust and support a range of patients.

Mary O’Kane, Consultant Dietitian, said: “We are incredibly proud of the ladies who have completed these courses.”

“Their learning will go to benefit the people we care for within Leeds Teaching Hospitals.”
Staff on the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Leeds Children’s Hospital have received some very special donations.

Five bed side trolleys were kindly donated to the unit and these were funded by Julia and Steve Greaves (in memory of James Greaves), Mr T Jones, Mr F Hyland and Apperley Lodge Nursery.

On top of these generous donations, Silentnight very kindly provided two double and three single Divan bed bases, mattresses and head boards. These are in use in the four parent bedrooms available to families that have children on PICU. They have been very much appreciated by the families and staff on the unit and help those with children being cared for get a good night’s sleep during what is often a very distressing and stressful time.

Senior Sister Leanne Lane commented: “We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who has donated to the unit. These trolleys and beds will bring a real benefit to our patients and families.”

The team also offered a heartfelt thank you to charity, the Pyjama Fairies, who very kindly has provided 100 sets of pyjamas and surgical gowns to the patients on the unit.

PICU looks after the sickest babies and children from across the region who unfortunately, due to their treatment require lots of lines and tubes during their admission. This donation enables the nurses to ensure the babies and children can be dressed, maintaining their dignity in bright, child friendly garments.

Senior Sister Sharon Coulson said: “This is an absolutely wonderful gift to the unit and will benefit many of our patients. We would like to pass on our thanks to the Pyjama Fairies for their kindness and generosity in this donation.”

Patient who survived the Holocaust receives PhD

Chief Nurse Suzanne Hinchliffe visited ward J82 at St James’s to meet a remarkable patient, Iby Knill, who was receiving care with the Trust.

Iby - a survivor of Auschwitz and educator on the holocaust - was due to collect an honorary PhD from the University Of Huddersfield for her tireless efforts sharing her story and the horrors that took place in the 1930s and 40s.

Regrettably, due to her condition, she could not collect the award in person, but luckily, help was at hand in the form of Head of Chaplaincy, Rev Dr Chris Swift, and Data Network Engineer, Mandeep Lota, who set up IT enabling Iby to watch a live stream of the graduation ceremony and see her granddaughter collect the award on her behalf.

In a speech read by her granddaughter Julia at the ceremony, Iby said: “Each one of us has the potential to make the world a better place. There are two things we must remember: under the skin we are all the same and every one of you can make a difference.”
Chris van D’Arque, Deputy Head of Chaplaincy, SJUH & LGI has worked at the Trust for two months

Summarise the main aspects of your role?
In close partnership with my senior colleague, my role is to support the Team of Chaplains in their day-to-day commitment to deliver high quality unconditional spiritual care responsive to patients, relatives and staff members throughout the Trust, and working together to evolve and develop the Service in order to realise best practice.

Within this remit, I also hold lead responsibility for the volunteer members of The Spiritual Care Team, and very much enjoy working in partnership with our volunteers whose commitment, experience and willingness to learn new skills enhance our care and support for our diverse hospital community.

What else have you done in your career so far?
My early career was as a restaurateur, and I remain a passionate foodie! Everything I have ever learned that has proved true and effective in team-working I learned through the choreography of team-working within the restaurant.

Overlapping this time I became increasingly involved in social action, and the issues facing people with HIV/AIDS.

A later role involved taking on the start-up for a fresh government initiative based in the community in support of teenagers in London and later pioneering the development of a holistic response to the needs of families at that time.

I was ordained in 2000 at St Albans Abbey in Hertfordshire, and worked in a diverse range of communities including Westminster, Doncaster and Chesterfield.

As a Healthcare Chaplain I have worked within Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals and my Tour of Yorkshire has now brought me to Leeds Teaching Hospitals as Deputy Head of Chaplaincy.

What’s the best thing about your job?
The best thing about my job is that I can enable change and development within the service and beyond in support of enhancing patient quality of care and experience! Every day is a fresh adventure!

What is the one thing you would change at LTHT to help you do your job better?
The Database- it needs developing - but we have plans in progress!

What’s your best advice to a new starter at the Trust?
Say hello with a smile to everyone you meet - it brightens their day and yours, and you may make new friends!
A fond farewell to our long-serving staff

Alan Bass

Alan Bass, Clinical Specialist in Neurological Rehabilitation retired after working for the NHS since 1975 and with the exception of 16 months, all at LTHT. Alan has transformed the lives of many patients, families and shared his amazing handling skills and knowledge with countless physiotherapy service staff over the years.

Janice Martin, Head of Physiotherapy said: “Alan was awarded 2016 clinician of the year as voted by staff in Adult Therapies CSU as a mark of the great respect and appreciation we have of him. We wish him every happiness in his retirement and those of us who attended the party will never forget his face when he turned round to see two of his sporting heroes, there to present him with a signed Rhinos shirt.”

Anita Shinners

The team on L25 said a fond farewell to Anita Shinners after 30 years working in neurology and neurosurgery as a clinical support worker.

Anita started her career at LTHT in 1987 working in the IDA hospital at Cookridge before moving to the LGI and ward 26 - the acute neurosurgical ward - in 1991. Anita supported the move of the department to the Jubilee wing when it opened in August 1997. She has worked across the whole department, including a stint in Neurology, and for the past few years has worked within acute neurosurgery, predominantly on nights.

Karen Bowes, Senior Sister, said: “Anita has always been a highly liked and well respected member of the team. Anita has seen a lot of change during her time at LTHT and often speaks about the ‘good old days’ which we all love hearing.

“The team on L25 have said that they will miss all the support and advice Anita gave them and described her as “a rock for all the nurses.”

Dr Neil Penn

Dr Neil Penn retired from his role as a Consultant Geriatrician after 34 years’ service with an unblemished sick record.

During his career, Neil founded the Acute Elderly Admission Unit in Leeds and was the first in the country to deliver MDT assessment. For the last 14 years, Neil has been the Training Programme Director as well as acting as a mentor and role model for the last 30 years for junior doctors and consultants.

As Clinical Director Dr Penn centralised Elderly services from Seacroft Hospital to St James’s and has made great contributions to the care of elderly patients at the Trust.

Neil is a Manchester City football club season ticket holder and is looking forward to attending more matches in his retirement.
Elaine Fox
Elaine Fox, Pathology Secretary at Wharfedale Hospital, retired after a long and successful career of almost 30 years. Elaine progressed to secretary to consultant haematologist Dr Smith, before her administrative expertise grew to cover the entire pathology department at Wharfedale.

Elaine's extensive knowledge and dedication provided a comprehensive and bespoke patient experience, and was well-known to local patients as the face of haematology. Elaine's stalwart presence will be sorely missed by colleagues and patients alike. Elaine has now moved to Spain to spend more time with her family and enjoy the sunshine.

Julie Scarfe
Julie started her career in Barnsley, becoming a registered nurse in 1978. She became a registered midwife in 1983 and went on to be a ward sister on the antenatal ward, senior midwife on the delivery suite and then a community midwife in 1999. From 2002 to 2005 Julie took up the role of the Head of Midwifery at Barnsley Hospital.

Julie moved to Leeds in 2005 to take up the Head of Midwifery role and achieved many service improvements in her time at the Trust including an All Party Parliamentary award.

Emily Griffiths, General Manager said: “Julie will be much missed by everyone in midwifery - she had a warm and emotional send off with her clinical team.”

Maureen Wilson
Maureen Wilson, dietician at Wharfedale Hospital, retired in September after 40 years of committed service. Over her long career, Maureen worked at several locations across the Trust, including Cookridge, Seacroft, and St James’s, before ending up with the dietetics department at Wharfedale.

Maureen's warm and reassuring attitude is reflected in the praise and thanks she often received from grateful patients, and the firm friends she gained along the way. She will be greatly missed by all her colleagues. Maureen's future plans include a cruise through the Norwegian fjords to see the northern lights.

Tina Williams
Tina Williams, Staff Nurse has retired after working at the Trust for 36 years. Tina started her training in September 1980 as an enrolled nurse and she did her registered nurse training in 1996. She started work in the LGI Emergency Department in 1982 and has worked there ever since.

Tina's long-serving contribution to nursing will be sorely missed by her colleagues and she now plans to spend her retirement by continuing her dog walking/looking after business.

Helen Barber, Clinical Educator said: “We wish Tina all the best for her retirement. She always had her patients best interests at heart -her standards were high and if you would have wanted any nurse to look after you when you were ill then it would have to be Tina.”

Michele Goddard and Chris Day
Sister Michele Goddard and Staff Nurse Chris Day have retired from Ward L16 after nearly 80 years' experience between them.

Both nurses started their careers working in the cardiac department at Killingbeck Hospital and moved to the LGI when Killingbeck closed. They then worked on ward 14 and 15 when they were cardiac surgery and later Ward L16.

Michele and Chris have played a large part in the teaching of junior staff and their guidance has supported many of their colleagues through the care of cardiac surgical patients.

Vicki Bentley, Senior Ward Sister said: “Michele and Chris will be missed by their colleagues, patients and medical colleagues and everyone on ward L16 would like to wish them both lots of happiness in their retirement years.”

Melvyn Vickers
Melvyn Vickers, Estates Manager has retired from the Trust after over 40 years.

He delayed his retirement for a number of years to see through to completion the HVLV rewires electrical scheme at St James’s. Mel saw this five year project through to a successful conclusion in the summer.

Jon Craven, Deputy Head of Estates said: “Thanks to Mel and his team, St James's has a safe and resilient electrical supply and we would all like to wish him the very best for his well-earned retirement.”

Emily Griffiths, General Manager said: “Julie will be much missed by everyone in midwifery - she had a warm and emotional send off with her clinical team.”
The Leeds Children’s Hospital held its second annual conference in October in the splendid setting of Leeds Town Hall.

The event was chaired by Dr Mike Richards, Clinical Director of the hospital, and welcomed delegates from Yorkshire and around the country.

The keynote speaker was Anne Longfield, the Children’s Commissioner for England.

Other speakers included Professor Jane Coad of Coventry University; Dr Cheryl Travers of Loughborough University; Mark Wilkinson from Mosaic North (responsible for Leeds Children’s Hospital TV) and Dr Catherine Penrose from Leeds Children’s Hospital.

There were poster presentations and clinically-focused symposia in the afternoon showcasing a broad range of topics and services, with some really important dialogue and learning.

Dr Mike Richards said: “This was an extremely successful event as we were very proud to showcase the good practice here in Leeds and to highlight recent innovations.

“The work we have done with our Youth Forum and the development of our Leeds Children’s Hospital TV service are innovations which put us at the forefront of involving young people and their families in developing and improving care.”

Sophie Blow, an Advanced Clinical Pharmacist at the Trust is the lead author in a new book called The Handbook of Peri-operative Medicines.

The book has been published by the UK Clinical Pharmacy Association (UKCPA) and it is the first national guidance to professionals working in this area of medicine.

Sophie developed and project managed the book, which has also been contributed to by other members of the pharmacy team in Leeds.

Sophie, who specialises in surgery, said: “The handbook has been developed collaboratively by clinical pharmacy experts working in the area of surgery. It will ultimately reduce variations in patient care and improve outcomes for patients undergoing surgery.”
John Dennis

What do you do to wind down and relax after a hard week at work?
After a hard week at work I like to play golf, weather permitting. I usually have jobs to do, so don’t get much time to unwind.

What is your ideal holiday destination and why?
My ideal holiday is Las Vegas, I like a bit of a flutter on the roulette.

What is your favourite food?
My favourite food is Chicken Korma curry.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?
I cannot remember that far back. But I think when I was growing up I wanted to be a soldier and I became a part time soldier for 21 years.

What is your favourite film?
My favourite film is Law Abiding Citizen, it has a great twist at the end.

Tell us something we don’t know about you …
I’m a mixed martial art black belt and I’ve also sat on the back of a live crocodile in Thailand.

John Dennis is a Support Supervisor and member of the Helipad Fire Response Team and he has worked at the Trust for two years and six months.

Ward housekeeper Jayne shaves her head for charity

Jayne Bashforth, a ward housekeeper at St James’s hospital raised over £1,000 for the NSPCC by shaving her head earlier this year.

Jayne has worked at the Trust for over 23 years and currently works on one of the respiratory wards, where she serves meals to patients and assists with cleaning.

She said: “I wanted to raise money for the NSPCC, a cause that does so much good and is so close to my heart. I’ve always had long hair and I thought by my having my head shaved it would make a real statement. Even if this only helps one child it will mean a lot.”

Jayne also donated the long hair that was shaved off to The Little Princess Trust, who will use it to create wigs for children with cancer.
Staff at the Paediatric Emergency Department will be able to purchase new sensory equipment and update apparatus thanks to the Freemasons.

Local members of the organisation presented nursing staff with a cheque for £1,000 to mark a significant milestone in its Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) initiative.

For the last eight years, 17 hospital emergency departments that fall within the Freemasons Province of Yorkshire West Riding – including the LGI – have been receiving cuddly teddy bears to help calm children awaiting treatment.

To mark the 100,000th teddy being handed to a youngster, each participating hospital is being presented with a certificate, plus a monetary donation.

Freemasons TLC representative W. Bro Stuart Burrows, said: “I was delighted to be able to present this cheque for £1,000 to the staff in the LGI Paediatric Emergency department. This was a great opportunity to thank the staff for handing out our teddies, and to explain a little of the charity work undertaken by the Freemasons of Yorkshire, West Riding. We are very proud of our association with Leeds General Infirmary and long may it continue.”

Sandie Barker and Suzanne Campbell, work as Nursery Nurses in the Paediatric Emergency Department and gratefully received the donation.

Sandie said: “Thanks to this very generous donation of £1,000 from Teddies for Loving Care, we are now able to purchase specific multi-sensory equipment, which will help update our existing sensory room and duplicate this in another room. This is a very kind donation and totally unexpected - we would like to thank everyone involved with this project.”

Suzanne added: “Our role is to offer play and distraction to sick or injured children. To help make their journey easier through the department we can offer each child a special teddy bear. We often bandage, plaster cast or pop a plaster on the bears which adds humour and helps the children relax, and a distraction of perhaps choosing a name for their new friend. There are many Teddies in Leeds named after us! The bears give them comfort and something to cuddle which they can take away on discharge.”
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