8 Patients and families celebrate birthday for ‘home away from home’
9 Doubling our efforts against pressure ulcers
11 Dr Bryon Roberts writes the story of haematology in Leeds
12 Remarkable renal reunion at St James’s
16 Maggie’s Centre to add a new dimension to cancer care in Leeds
17 Staff rise to the challenge of Le Tour
19 Adult Critical Care refurbishment
21 The gift of life
22 Farewell
24 Major drive brings in new nursing staff
25 My job
29 60 seconds

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Cover photo: Easy ordering: The Transplant team are successfully using Order Comms. Read more on page 13
Seal of approval for LTHT’s Nichola

Congratulations to Staff Nurse, Nichola Langdale, who is the first and only nurse in the North of England to be trained in the use of Exoseal, which is used to close vascular punctures in the femoral artery.

The use of Exoseal means that patients have much shorter recovery times and the risk of haematoma and bleeding is reduced. It has been in common use in the South of England for some time, but has so far not been used by NHS trusts in the North of the country until now.

Nichola started training with the device in late 2013 and was fully signed off in the first quarter of this year. Thanks to her success, the Vascular Radiology team is hoping to train more staff in the use of Exoseal.

Nichola said: “It’s a great feeling to gain valuable training like this, especially when it means that I can share my skills and knowledge with my colleagues. Learning and development are really important aspects of the job and I would encourage nursing staff across the Trust to seize any training opportunities that may come their way.

“By using Exoseal, we can help patients have much better outcomes and reduce recovery times, which in turn means better patient experience.”

Charge Nurse Simon Gulliver added: “We’re all really proud of what Nichola has achieved. By becoming the first nurse in the North of England to possess the skills and training to use the new product, she is helping to lead the way in providing better care for vascular patients.”

Stars of Emmerdale call at the LGI to see little Mia

The Children’s Hospital welcomed some special visitors to Ward L10 as stars of Emmerdale Tony Audenshaw, Natalie Anderson and Adam Thomas dropped by to meet some delighted fans.

The stars visited the hospital after reading about Mia Mason, a two-and-a-half year old patient on the ward who needs a kidney transplant after being born with a rare condition called congenital nephrotic syndrome.

Due to the nature of the condition, Mia has spent a lot of her short life visiting the hospital’s renal unit for treatment.

Mia’s mum, Sammi Ramsey said: “It’s wonderful that some of the cast showed up. It’s not only great for the kids, but it helps raise awareness of all the great work that takes place at the Children’s Hospital.”

Actor Adam Thomas added: “Mia’s story really touched us all. It’s great that she’s receiving such amazing care at Leeds Children’s Hospital. We all hope she gets better soon.”

Mia’s family have also been raising money for the renal unit based on ward L11 at the LGI. Her uncle Jonathan Stead took part in the Leeds Half Marathon, while her grandmother’s partner, Glyn Harland braved the Great North Swim.

Golfing tournament raises money for kids’ surgical ward

Cookridge Hall Golf Club have raised £7390 for the Children’s Surgical ward L42 after a golf tournament with rugby stars Danny McGuire and Richard Mathers.

The team on the ward were thrilled to have Cookridge Hall supporting them for the fourth year in a row with this fantastic donation.

The money raised last year has paid for two high dependency monitors and some beds for parents, allowing the ward to accommodate a parent staying with each child at their bedside.
Chief Executive Julian Hartley launched The Leeds Way, outlining our values and culture as a Trust, during an event attended by over 400 colleagues.

The Leeds Way is the basis for how we do things around the Trust and sets out our vision to become the best in specialist and integrated care.

The focus of the event was the introduction of the Trust’s five values:

- Patient-centred: putting patients at the heart of everything we do
- Accountable: taking responsibility for our actions and what we do
- Fair: treating all patients and colleagues with dignity and respect
- Empowered: letting our staff use their initiative and be able to innovate to improve care
- Collaborative: working in teams both inside and outside of the Trust to improve our services

At the event, staff were asked to contribute to the discussion around the changes in behaviours required across the Trust for the values to be fully embedded into everything we do.

At the core of the event was Dr Kate Granger’s #Hellomynameis campaign, which has been warmly embraced by staff right across the Trust, with thousands of people already signed up to it. Each member of the Executive team showed their support by introducing themselves on the day with “Hello, my name is...”

LTHT used the crowdsourcing platform WayFinder to build our values based around the input and contributions of staff, partners and stakeholders. By using this
collaborative approach, the Trust discovered the values most commonly shared by the people most intimately involved with care in our hospitals.

During the event Julian pledged to create a WayFinder Academy within the Trust, opening up access to WayFinder for staff to add their voices to the discussion with the aim of fostering engagement and generating ideas. Each CSU (Clinical Service/Support Unit) will be able to put forward representatives to learn how to use the platform so that it is available locally.

Julian also announced that staff will be able to access social media from Trust computers in order to work more effectively, sharing the work our CSUs, departments and teams are doing with the rest of the world. Social media will also allow people across the Trust to collaborate more fully with each other and partner organisations.

“It’s great to see staff from across the Trust contributing to defining our values.”

Erika McGinnes, General Manager for Head and Neck, said: “It’s great to see staff from across the Trust contributing to defining our values. WayFinder has been really useful in allowing a Trust of our size to collect real-time feedback, and the outputs so far suggest that LTHT is listening to what staff and stakeholders have to say.”

The response to the event was overwhelmingly positive, with some attendees taking to Twitter to praise the organisation and innovative method of developing the Trust’s core values.

On Julian’s pledge to allow access to social media, David Goulding, Business Manager for Neurosurgery & Chronic Pain, said: “We in the @LTHTNEURO [Neurosciences] CSU think it is a really great move by Julian and his team to open up the use of social media. This will allow the Trust to provide speedy, concise interaction with both staff and members of the public. #TheLeedsWay event was another positive step on the journey that we are taking together to ensure that LTHT is the best in specialist and integrated care!”
Royal round-up: two regal visits brighten up our sites and our patients’ days!

Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex delighted patients, families and staff at the Leeds Children’s Hospital when she visited to open the new children’s cardiac ward. The very next day our Motor Neurone Disease clinic welcomed HRH Princess Anne, who came to highlight the new MND Wheelchair Service based at Seacroft.

Children’s Hospital welcomes Countess to open fabulous new ward

The Countess, who is Royal Patron of the Leeds Children’s Hospital, met youngsters who had recently undergone, or who are waiting for, surgery for congenital heart conditions.

Commemorating the ward opening, the Countess cut a giant heart-shaped cake made by Staff Nurse, Louise Murphy. On hand to help with the ceremony was young heart patient, Preston Winterman, aged 7.

Ward L51 is a new 19-bed paediatric cardiac ward with its own 6-bed high dependency unit. The ward has moved from its former location in Jubilee Wing, bringing it closer to the Children’s Intensive Care and Cardiac Theatres in Clarendon Wing.

Dr Mike Richards said: “It was a wonderful day, the children and their families were obviously very excited to see the Countess and our staff were honoured that she agreed to open the new cardiac ward.

“We are very grateful for the support of Her Royal Highness in dedicating what is a fantastic new facility for our young heart patients. We are especially indebted for her sustained support for the hospital.”

The Countess also visited children and families on the children’s kidney and liver units in Jubilee Wing, meeting young participants in this year’s Transplant Games.
Princess Royal opens wheelchair service

As Royal Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Princess chatted to patients, staff and representatives of all the organisations that made the MND Wheelchair service partnership possible.

At the end of her tour, she unveiled a plaque and gave a speech in which she described the facility at Leeds Teaching Hospitals as “a real centre of excellence.”

The wheelchair service has two objectives: firstly to ensure a dedicated MND therapist provides posture and mobility assessments for people with MND, and secondly to work with leading UK wheelchair manufacturers to develop powered wheelchairs that can be modified for patients as the disease progresses (reducing reassessments and the need for replacement wheelchairs while having the ability to integrate communication aids and environmental controls).

During her visit to Seacroft, Princess Anne met the Leeds MND Wheelchair Therapist, Christine Orr, and representatives of the UK’s three main wheelchair manufacturers.

Christine, based at the Wheelchair Service at Seacroft, attends the Leeds Care Centre clinics and works collaboratively with other wheelchair services across the area.

Consultant Dr Agam Jung, who leads the Regional Motor Neurone Disease Care Centre, said: “We’re incredibly proud to have welcomed the Princess to Seacroft. It’s a real boost for both our team and patients to have the MNDA’s Royal Patron officially open this important service.

“Motor Neurone Disease is an incredibly debilitating illness for which there is no cure. The wheelchair service helps people living with MND enjoy more mobility. Chris is doing a wonderful job working with patients and helping them make the adaption to live more independently,” Dr Jung added.

NHSBT Chief praises our record on transplants

Lynda Hamlyn, Chief Executive of our partners at NHS Blood and Transplant, was full of praise for the work of LTHT staff who promote organ donation and undertake transplants, when she visited Leeds General Infirmary.

She spoke of Leeds as an “exemplar” for other hospitals to follow and told staff they had lots to be proud of in terms of their role in helping improve the availability of donor organs, giving more seriously ill people the chance of life.

During the visit she met our Chief Medical Officer Dr Yvette Oade, our clinical leads for organ donation at both LGI and St James’s, and our specialist nurses for organ donation, as well as staff in intensive care.
Patients and families celebrate birthday for ‘home away from home’

Staff, patients and families took part in the fourth birthday celebrations for Eckersley House at Leeds Children’s Hospital.

Eckersley House is a ‘Home from Home’ for many families whose children are currently being treated at the Children’s Hospital. The family accommodation is run by the Sick Children’s Trust and provides a free, high-quality place to stay, as well as emotional and practical support, for families with seriously ill children.

Jane McHale, Eckersley House Manager, said: “It was lovely to stop for tea and cake with so many of the wonderful families we support. It’s a true celebration of the difference that Eckersley makes to the hundreds of families who pass through our doors every year. We were pleased hospital staff, families and friends dropped in and want to say a big thank you to everyone who sent their birthday wishes.”

Adele Fox, who has previously stayed in the house, said: “It’s great to celebrate such a fantastic place. The support that Eckersley has provided has just been phenomenal. As we live in Glasgow, we would have been lost without their help.”

Charlotte Crowther, whose son Oscar has received treatment at St James’s, added: “It takes so much stress out of having to travel back and forward to the hospital from home. Oscar’s treatment is very debilitating, so it’s great to have somewhere where we can stay close by.”

Eckersley House is run by The Sick Children’s Trust charity and is funded entirely by voluntary donations. It costs £28 to provide a room for one family for one night and the house supports families from across Yorkshire and beyond, enabling them to stay by their child’s side during their hospital treatment.

Award for matron dedicated to children’s cancer care

Rachel Hollis, Lead Nurse/Modern Matron for Children’s Oncology and Haematology, has been awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN).

The citation from the Royal College said that: “Rachel is an excellent role model for nurses who are new to children’s nursing and especially children’s cancer nursing. She has been at the forefront of change in this profession for many years and successfully collaborated on NICE guidance and quality standards that contribute to improvements in care for children and young people with cancer.”

Rachel has also chaired two of the RCN’s professional forums, bringing together children’s nurses from across the United Kingdom and steering the work of those groups. In addition Rachel has just led on work and developed guidance on Advanced Practice Nursing for children and young people. These new guidelines were launched at this year’s RCN congress in June. In addition she has also contributed to national policy work in the speciality as well as representing nursing on the Scientific Committee of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology.

Ian Crabtree, Head of Nursing for the Leeds Children’s Hospital, said: “This is a great achievement for Rachel and recognises all of the hard work that she has contributed to children’s nursing especially within the field of Children’s Oncology and Haematology.”

“It is a pleasure to have Rachel’s skills and achievements recognised, not just for her, but for the children and families that we care for here in Leeds. Rachel is a very valued and experienced member of the senior nursing team in the Children’s Hospital.”
Doubling our efforts against pressure ulcers

The Corporate Nursing team has led the way in combating pressure ulcers across the Trust.

The team ran an awareness week in conjunction with the national Pressure Ulcer Prevention Campaign, which aims to highlight the need for good practice in all clinical areas in order to tackle pressure ulcers.

Pressure ulcers are one of the most common causes of avoidable harm to patients in our care. The total cost to the NHS is around £2.1 billion a year to treat, or roughly around 4% of the NHS’ total expenditure.

To combat the problem, the team have introduced the use of Purpose T (Pressure Ulcer Risk Primary or Secondary Evaluation Tool), which is an evidence based pressure ulcer risk assessment framework developed in Leeds by an international team of experts.

Purpose T identifies adults at risk of developing ulceration and makes the distinction between primary prevention (applicable to those at risk of pressure ulcer development) and secondary prevention (applicable to those who already have a pressure ulcer).

Michelle Baker, Pressure Ulcer Prevention Nurse, said: “As a Trust, we can really improve the care of our patients by preventing avoidable harm. Pressure ulcers cause incredible distress to patients, which often result in a lengthy hospital stay on top of the time spent on wards due to the illness they were initially hospitalised with.”

#stopthepressure @ Leeds

Third year adult nursing students at the University of Leeds organised a student conference to promote the prevention of pressure ulcers.

Inspired by the Stop the Pressure campaign, led by Dr Ruth May, students Katy Williams and Sarah Weaver made a pledge, as part of NHS Change Day, to highlight the message of ‘Stop the Pressure’ to Leeds nursing students.

The event was aimed at second and third year student nurses from the University of Leeds who are in placement across the Leeds area, in addition to healthcare practitioners in and around the healthcare economy.

Attendees were given the opportunity to hear about pressure ulcers from the patient’s perspective, to reinforce the importance of understanding this issue from more than just a clinical perspective.

#stopthepressure conference entailed a series of lectures and workshops which allowed students to follow a case study and make appropriate decisions related to pressure ulcer risk assessment and management.

Twitter was alive with comments throughout the day and the conference had an amazing reach of over a million people.

The conference attracted support from a number of high profile speakers and supporters including Ruth May, Chief Nurse, NHS England Midlands and South, a number of trustees from the Tissue Viability Society and specialists from within LTHT and Leeds Community Healthcare Trust.

#stopthepressure worked towards:

- Promoting the prevention of pressure ulcers and the value of accurate assessment of pressure damage
- Offering students new insights into pressure ulceration that encouraged them to challenge poor practice.
- Enabling healthcare practitioners to understand the experience of pressure ulcers from a patient perspective
- Conducting an audit to identify the effects of a one day educational intervention on students’ knowledge of pressure ulcers and pressure ulcer prevention
- Acting as a catalyst for other student nurses across the country to disseminate the messages of the conference within their own practice areas

Sarah Weaver, student nurse, said: “It was a fantastic event and we are grateful for all of the support we received from both LTHT and partner organisations. Everyone who came along left the event feeling very positive about how we can work together as health practitioners to tackle pressure ulcers.”

Leading the way: Katy Williams and Sarah Weaver organised the event to raise awareness
Leeds Learning Disability Awareness Week challenges attitudes to improve care

The Trust took part in Leeds Learning Disability Awareness Week, working in partnership with other health and social care organisations across Leeds.

The week involved lots of fun activities like decorating cakes, as well as information stalls, raising awareness and discussing issues around learning disabilities and support services.

Our Chief Executive, Julian Hartley, alongside hundreds of other members of the public and staff signed the ‘Get Me?’ pledge, committing to challenge preconceptions and create a better understanding of people with learning disabilities.

The week was a fantastic opportunity for people across the Trust and the wider Leeds area to have their views and thoughts about learning disabilities challenged and changed.

Sadie Dunne, Lead Nurse Learning Disabilities, said: “I only started working for LTHT a few months ago but I feel that there have been many positive steps made throughout the Trust to support people with learning disabilities because of Learning Disabilities Awareness Week.”

“A significant amount of the week has involved working with external organisations and support groups taking a collaborative approach towards improving services and tailoring support for individuals with learning disabilities across Leeds and the wider Yorkshire region.”

Following the awareness week, people with learning disabilities visited Hand and Plastics at Clarendon wing, LGI with People Matters (Leeds) Community Integrated Care to offer hand massages to staff.

The event was very popular, with staff commenting on how relaxing it was. The ladies who took part received a certificate from LTHT and are hoping to invite other course groups in to share their work and practice their newly learned skills in the future.

People Matters (Leeds) is an organisation with a commitment to improving the lives of people who experience disadvantage, especially through learning and other disabilities.

If you would like more information or support, please visit the Tenfold website: http://www.tenfold.org.uk/
Dr Bryon Roberts writes the story of haematology in Leeds

The history of haematology in Leeds and the characters and politics behind the scenes at Leeds General Infirmary witnessed during a career of over 40 years have been brought to life in a newly-published book by a former consultant.

Dr Bryon Roberts, who retired as Head of the Institute of Pathology at LGI 16 years ago, has penned the personal memoir called Blood on my hands: A haematological odyssey. All proceeds from the book will help raise money for the Friends of the Leukaemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Unit.

Dr Roberts, who now lives in Roundhay, first came to the Leeds Medical School in 1951, when Leeds was a drab, soot-blackened city where food and clothes rationing had only just ended. The National Health Service was almost brand new but even in those early years the service was struggling for money.

The book brings to life many of the characters Dr Roberts encountered during his training at the Infirmary, particularly the formidable consultants whose gleaming Rolls-Royces were in stark contrast to the austerity at large in Leeds as a whole.

Haematology, the study of blood disorders, was still in its relative infancy at the time Dr Roberts became a registrar in pathology, and the book charts its rise to prominence and the characters who made that possible as well as some key technological developments.

Also tied up with the story is the development of the Infirmary itself, the thwarted plans to knock down the entire building and redevelop it, and the compromise which created the Clarendon Wing.

He takes the story through to the mid-1990s, when he was Director of the recently created Institute of Pathology, and also recounts the history of the Friends of the Leukaemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Unit and the fantastic fundraising they have undertaken over the years.

“I was originally encouraged to write a history of haematology in the city by the department itself, but my initial reaction when I came to consider writing the book was one of slight embarrassment,” Dr Roberts said.

“However, as I got more involved in the planning I realised how few of the people I worked with in those early days were still around and that it was important to write down my memories so they could form a historical record.

“I was originally going to concentrate simply on haematology but I realised the story of its development was tied up with the wider story of the LGI and the people who worked there as well as giving an insight into the first years of the NHS which I hope the general reader will find of interest.”

The book is already on sale on Amazon but locally it can be ordered at a cost of £10 with £5 going to the Friends of the Leukaemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Unit. To order a copy, please email sheila.day@leedsth.nhs.uk or gill.needham@leedsth.nhs.uk.

Top NHS chiefs visit LTHT

Two senior NHS figures, visited the LGI and St James’s over the summer.

The Trust welcomed the Chair of the NHS Trust Development Authority, Sir Peter Carr, to St James’s.

Chief Executive, Julian Hartley and the Executive Team talked him through the Trust’s goals and objectives over a working lunch, before taking him on a tour of our Radiotherapy facilities in Bexley Wing.

Sir Peter was extremely impressed with what he saw around the cancer unit and enjoyed meeting staff along the way.

We also welcomed the Chair of NHS England, Sir Malcolm Grant, to the Trust.

Trust Chair, Linda Pollard and Julian accompanied Sir Malcolm on a tour of cardiac services at the LGI, starting on Ward L51, our new children’s cardiac ward.

He spoke to a range of staff including, Clinical Director, Mike Richards, Lead Clinician, Elspeth Brown, Cardiac Surgeon, Stefano Congiu, Paediatric Cardiologists, John Thomson, Kate English, and Head of Children’s Nursing, Ian Crabtree.

Moving on, he then visited PICU which is co-located with a six bed HDU, and met Paediatric Intensivist, Dr Mark Darowski. The tour ended with a trip to the Cath labs in Jubilee Wing.
Remarkable renal reunion at St James’s

A pioneering procedure undertaken at St James’s has been remembered by the participants – more than 38 years on.

In January 1976 the hospital made headlines when it undertook its first children’s kidney transplant and at the same time did its first operation using a live kidney donor. Both procedures were carried out on the same patient, a teenage girl called Ruth Moorhead, who then lived in York. Her father, Mervyn, was the donor.

Ruth (now Ruth Wright), her father Mervyn (now a sprightly 87) and mother Beryl returned to St James’s from their homes in Plymouth for a special event organised by the hospital’s renal transplant team. They brought with them scrapbooks full of press cuttings, letters and mementoes relating to Ruth’s treatment. Remarkably they were reunited with the former St James’s surgeon who did the operation, Dr Stanley Rosen, who flew from California to attend the event. Also there was a former nurse on the unit who cared for Ruth, Fred Gungaram.

Dr Rosen founded the Renal Unit at St James’s back in 1967 and was the first consultant nephrologist in the country. He spoke at the event of his “immense pleasure” at meeting former patients after so many years, and described the early pioneering years of the unit when kidneys had to be rushed to St James’s in a police car with no method for keeping them fresh, so time was of the essence.

Renal transplantation really got going at St James’s in the 1970s, and the hospital still has four patients alive who have had a transplanted kidney for over 40 years – believed to be a record for any hospital worldwide.

Also at the celebration event, held during National Transplant Week, were more recent kidney recipients as well as donor families plus many recent live donors, who received thank you certificates for their selflessness.

Chief Executive, Julian Hartley, paid tribute to the remarkable track record of transplant units in Leeds, including the liver team as well as their renal colleagues. “We have the largest unit in the UK with some fantastic outcomes for our patients thanks to great teamwork and a very sensitive approach,” he said. “I’d like to say a big thank you to our staff as well as the patient, families and our donors who have made all this possible.”

Healthy future: (L – R) Fred Gungaram, Ruth Wright, Mervyn Moorhead and Dr Stanley Rosen

Successful past: (L – R) Beryl and Mervyn Moorhead and their daughter Ruth with some of the mementoes of Ruth’s treatment

International visit for Transplant Immunology laboratory

The Transplant Immunology laboratory, based at St. James’s, welcomed a group of scientist colleagues from Italy to demonstrate the Trust’s technology.

The visit was organised for the scientists to view the Trust’s LABXpress robotic workstation and was co-ordinated by a technical representative from VH Bio.

The laboratory supports the highly successful transplant programmes at LTHT, and the LABXpress was brought in a year ago to accommodate the increased activity and to help streamline workflows. The workstation was purchased last year, and was generously funded by the St James’s Renal Transplant Trust Fund, the LTHT Charitable Foundation and the British Kidney Patient’s Association.

The Leeds laboratory is one of just three in the UK using the new LABXpress platform, and the only laboratory in Europe using it for both HLA ‘tissue’ typing based on DNA technology, and antibody screening, both of which are principally employed to establish recipient-donor compatibility for organ and stem cell transplantation.

As such, the Leeds laboratory is now viewed as an opinion leader in the LABXpress technology, prompting fellow scientists from Milan and Turin to view the platform and discuss related technical issues with experts at the Trust.

Katherine Mounsey, Senior Clinical Scientist, said: “It was a privilege to welcome our Italian colleagues to showcase the work that is taking place here at St James’s. The visit involved sharing the knowledge and experiences we’ve gained over the course of the last year around validation of the platform, and of troubleshooting and best practice issues.

“It proved to be a valuable two-way learning experience and a useful and informative collaborative opportunity,” she added.

International guests: Staff from LTHT demonstrated the technology to our Italian friends
Order Comms

The Order Comms (ICE) system Leeds covers all our hospital sites, 194 GP surgeries in Leeds and Bradford as well as over 100 other health care facilities.

The ICE system is widely established across the NHS enabling digital requesting of pathology and radiology tests, scans or investigations and a quick turn-around with results.

Over 80% of GPs are already using the system and we have been rolling it out at LTHT over the past two years.

There are many benefits to it including improvements to the quality and completeness of patient information, which helps to identify duplicate testing, reducing unnecessary tests, and removes delays in communicating the request and the risk of losing the paper form.

One area that has been using it successfully at the Trust is the Transplant team. It was introduced in the department earlier this year and since then the team have noticed many benefits.

Julie Jeffrey, Transplant Co-ordinator, said: “Order Comms has been a great improvement to our service. It is time saving, and orders are easily traceable. We are hoping that further service requests in future can be made via Order Comms.”

Ruth Morton, Project Manager for Order Comms, said: “It’s great to see our transplant team benefitting from the new system. We are hoping to see many more departments using it over the coming months.”

To find out more about Order Comms contact ruth1.morton@leedsth.nhs.uk.

International Clinical Trials Day celebrated in style at St James’s

There was a double celebration for International Clinical Trials Day in the Cancer Research UK facilities at St James’s.

In the Bexley Wing, a display of the history of cancer research was enhanced by interactive stalls explaining clinical trials, radiotherapy and personalised medicine. The radiotherapy display included a miniaturised working model of a scanner with a Barbie doll taking the place of a patient. The model is used to help young patients understand what their radiotherapy treatment will be like before they actually experience the real thing.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the hospital site in the research hub, members of different Leeds patient involvement groups came together for the first time to get to know each other and network.

They heard from Dr Clive Mulatero about how his lung cancer research has greatly benefitted from patient input, they worked on responses to the NIHR’s consultative document on patient involvement – ‘Breaking Boundaries’ – and they were treated to a demonstration of the Centre’s hugely impressive ‘powerwall’ by pathologist Dr Nick West.

The powerwall allows the display of tumour images at massive magnification, simply navigated using a video game hand controller.

The CRUK Centre’s Senior Cancer Nurse, Debbie Beirne, said: “It was wonderful to be able to bring members of the various Leeds patient involvement groups together. It was a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and share ideas and it’s something we’d like to do more often in the future. I’m delighted that we were able to mark International Clinical Trials Day with such a genuinely beneficial event, further enhanced by a very interesting historical display and range of activities for patients and staff in our treatment centre.”

OK to ask highlighted at Chapel Allerton

A very successful open day at the Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit (LMBRU) at Chapel Allerton Hospital was held as part of International Clinical Trials Day.

The day was to showcase the Rheumatology and Orthopaedic research at Chapel Allerton and involved the Rheumatology research nurses led by lead nurse David Pickles, researchers including Dr Claire Brockett, Foot and Ankle Research Engineer, and her team.

Also, there were LMBRU Imaging Radiographers and Ultrasonographers and LMBRU Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) members who talked about their experience on being involved in research and clinical trials as well as the PPI group.

State-of-the-art: Patients were shown some of the machinery required for the LMBRU to function fully

Shown how: There was a range of demonstrations of how treatment can affect people
Over 200 nurses and midwives attended the 7th annual Nursing and Midwifery Conference at the Royal Armouries, which was chaired by our Chief Nurse, Suzanne Hinchliffe.

The event was organised around the theme of the 6 Cs (care, compassion, competence, communication, courage and commitment), and introducing the seventh, “collaboration”, aiming to improve working methods and cooperation between individuals and teams throughout the Trust, as well as sharing good practice.

Speeches were delivered by members of staff on topics ranging from supporting carers to how the Major Trauma Centre has worked as a team. During the day, attendees were invited to join seminars to discuss different aspects of care and operations of busy hospitals, helping to progress ideas of collaboration.

Dozens of staff also engaged with and discussed the event via Twitter by using the hashtag #7thCLTHT, sharing photos and key messages throughout the day live from the event.

Chief Nurse, Professor Suzanne Hinchliffe said: “It was a privilege to have been involved with this event. It provided an excellent vehicle for staff across the Trust to reflect on their professions, the challenges they face and how they address problems.

“Listening to the inspirational speakers and discussing how we, as a nursing and midwifery team, can improve care across our hospitals really showed me how passionate staff are about the work they do.

“I feel that nursing and midwifery has a lot to be positive about going forward into the future, ensuring that our services are safe, caring and effective. I am also extremely proud of our staff.”

During the conference, several awards were handed out for care across the Trust. The winners were:

**Hilda Knowles Award**
Winner: Anne Marie Kenny and ambulatory care team
Highly Commended: Ian Anderson and Mary Hall

**Janet Whittaker Award**
Winner: Kirsty Roberts

**Charitable Foundation Awards**
Most Improved: J19 : Sally Rollinson White
Sustained: L24 : Kirsten Leach
One of the key speakers for the conference was Dr Kate Granger, Specialist Registrar in Elderly Medicine, who is living with terminal cancer.

Kate was just 29 when she became ill and was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of sarcoma.

During this time, Kate has developed a unique insight into life as a patient at our hospitals. She couldn’t help noticing that, professional though the staff were, not all of them seemed to remember they were dealing with real people rather than anonymous patients.

Over the next 20 months, Kate experienced a long and unexpected period of stability, beyond the normal life expectancy for her type of cancer. It was during this time, she launched the #hellomynameis campaign.

Kate started by writing an entry on her blog suggesting her colleagues adopt the practice of personally introducing themselves, using a Twitter hashtag #hellomynameis to spread the word. Within days, the idea had gone viral, and Kate was inundated with thousands of supportive comments from around the world.

Kate shared her unique insight with staff attending the conference and talked about the need to “see the person, rather than the disease” and how the way colleagues interact with patients can make the difference between a good experience and a bad one.

Thousands of staff have signed up to the #hellomynameis campaign.

Another highlight of the conference was a stunning talk by Matt King OBE. Matt's life changed forever in April 2004 when he was a promising 17-year-old rugby player with the London Broncos. Just a few seconds into a match against Halifax he was severely injured in a tackle.

He was rushed to intensive care at LGI and 12-days later transferred to a hospital in Luton, before moving again to the national spinal injuries centre at Stoke Mandeville.

Matt spoke movingly of the despair, fear and loneliness of those long weeks in 2004, as a teenager in a body that suddenly no longer worked and hooked up to machines he didn’t understand.

He explained how eventually a nurse helped sow the seeds of a determination to rebuild his life.

He also spoke of a far less positive experience with a nurse who showed no empathy when he was alone and afraid. He asked that all health professionals put themselves in their patients’ position, treat them with respect and think what they are going through.

Matt overcame many hurdles and went back to school, then on to university and is now a trainee solicitor. He has also not let disability get in the way of his sporting ambitions, completing the New York marathon with the help of his powered wheelchair, and enjoying skiing in Sweden.

His emotional story had many in the audience fighting back tears, and he received a standing ovation for an incredibly thought-provoking contribution to the day.

Hilda Knowles Award goes to cancer Ambulatory Care Team

Another highlight of the Nursing and Midwifery conference was the announcement of the winner of the annual Hilda Knowles Award.

Now in its 11th year, the award was set up by Mr Adrian Knowles and family and is for excellence and innovation in the care of adult patients in Leeds hospitals. Speaking at the event, Mr Knowles described the entries as “absolutely marvellous”.

This year’s award went to Anne-Marie Kenny and the Ambulatory Care Team. This innovative, multi-disciplinary, patient focused service for those diagnosed with cancer provides treatment outside a traditional ward setting. Patients are monitored closely during and after their treatment in the Unit, and are given 24 hour contact details should there be any issues.

This means patients maintain their independence and overall wellbeing by spending less time in hospital, and also thereby reduce waiting times for those people whose treatments do require them to be inpatients.

Overall, patients are now receiving their chemotherapy treatment up to five times faster, and there has been a 20% reduction in elective inpatient admissions within haematology.

The team plan to use the prize money to provide wi-fi services to the Ambulatory Care Unit to further improve the patient experience, and to make their time there more comfortable.
Site visit: Thomas Heatherwick discusses the plans for the new centre

Maggie’s Centre to add a new dimension to cancer care in Leeds

In a tremendously exciting development, which will enhance the already high quality cancer care and support we deliver for patients across Yorkshire, a new Maggie’s Centre is to be built next to the Bexley Wing and is planned to open in 2016.

Maggie’s, the charity which provides free practical, emotional and social support for people with cancer and their families and friends, has applied for planning permission for the Centre, which will been designed by the acclaimed Heatherwick Studio, founded in 1994 by Thomas Heatherwick. He is the architect of a number of iconic buildings including the 2012 London Olympic ‘cauldron’.

The Centre is scheduled to open in 2016.

Maggie’s Chief Executive, Laura Lee said: “A cancer diagnosis and treatment brings with it tough questions and difficult emotions which can leave many feeling isolated. The programme of support that we will be offering at Maggie’s Yorkshire will help to improve the physical and emotional wellbeing of people with cancer across the region.

“We’re absolutely thrilled to be working with the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Heatherwick Studio on the project.”

Linda Pollard CBE, Chair of the Trust added: “The emotional trauma of cancer can be just as difficult as the physical effect so we’re delighted that we’re now a step closer to making a huge difference to our patients and their families.”

There are already 16 Maggie’s Centres across the UK, online and abroad and all are designed by leading architects. Each architect offers a unique interpretation of the same brief, based on the needs of a person living with cancer, to create the calm environments so important to the people who visit and work in the Centres.

“A cancer diagnosis and treatment brings with it tough questions and difficult emotions.”

The new centre will significantly enhance the cancer support already offered to people in the region through Maggie’s evidence-based programme of support including psychological support, benefits advice, nutrition workshops, relaxation and stress management, art therapy, tai chi and yoga. The Centre is scheduled to open in 2016.

Dr Jane Minton, Consultant in Infectious Diseases, has been recognised for her outstanding contribution towards research.

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) decided it was timely to recognise the contribution of researchers undertaking commercially sponsored research across the country. Each local research network was asked to nominate a maximum of three investigators who were considered to have made a difference to both the local and national commercial portfolio.

The NIHR industry manager for Clinical Research Network: Yorkshire and Humber, Vee Mapunde nominated Dr Minton as one of the recipients for this award, for delivering the Trust’s first commercial study successfully.

This outstanding achievement was recognised yet further, as Dr Minton was also selected to be the UK’s Chief Investigator for the study after the study’s sponsor was impressed by the clinical research infrastructure, support from the Trust and Dr Minton’s commitment to clinical research in her area.

As a result, Dr Minton has been selected for more commercial studies and is responsible for putting Leeds Teaching Hospitals as the Trust of choice for clinical research in Infection.

Professor Steve Smye, Director for Research and Innovation, said: “It is a privilege to work alongside someone as committed to clinical research as Dr Minton. She has rightfully been commended for her commitment with this award. I wish to pass on my sincere congratulations and those of everyone working in the Research and Innovation team here at LTHT.

“I am also delighted that Jane was appointed as one of the first Honorary Clinical Associate Professors as part of a novel scheme we launched last year with the University of Leeds, which aims to develop and support a cohort of LTHT leaders of clinical research.”
Months of planning across the Trust culminated in early July with staff playing their part in one of the most remarkable events in the sporting history of Leeds: the Grand Départ of the Tour de France.

With the eyes of the world on Leeds and hundreds of thousands of spectators cramming into the city centre to watch the excitement, it was important that our hospitals were fully prepared for any challenges thrown up by this dramatic occasion.

The challenge for LTHT was to ensure all staff could get to work despite widespread road closures and traffic disruption, as well as making sure all our deliveries of everything from blood, drugs, food and fresh linen could get through, particularly at Leeds General Infirmary, which was right in the heart of the action.

We also needed to maintain existing patient services, making access as easy as possible for those patients and visitors who needed to get to us, and be ready to respond to any unexpected developments.

Our Silver Command emergency planning team were in place from the early hours of the morning co-ordinating activities to ensure any problems in terms of access difficulties or peaks in capacity could be quickly addressed.

All the arrangements ran like clockwork and there was a fantastic atmosphere in the hospital, with many staff coming in earlier than normal to beat the traffic congestion. During the race the Yorkshire Air Ambulance flew a number of trauma patients direct to the LGI.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Yvette Oade was one of those in Silver Command during the day, and thanked everyone for all their efforts.

“It was one of those days I will remember, for all the right reasons,” Yvette said. “You and your teams did a brilliant job and did it with a smile. Thanks for being there and for doing such a great job.”

In the build-up to the race, young cancer patients at Leeds Children’s Hospital got their own very special visit from two of the stars of one of the hotly tipped teams, Giant-Shimano.

John Degenkolb and Koen de Kort from team Giant-Shimano chatted to the youngsters, posed for pictures and handed out some team goodies.

Top Macmillan accolade for Radiotherapy team

The Radiotherapy Department in the Leeds Cancer Centre has been awarded the Macmillan Quality Environment Mark (MQEM) which recognises high standards in cancer care.

To celebrate, a presentation ceremony took place in the department with Steve Edwards, Macmillan Development Manager for West Yorkshire, awarding a plaque to the team.

Steve said: “This award reflects the hard work and dedication of the team that designed the department and all the staff who work to make it a welcoming and supportive environment for patients and their families so no one has to face cancer alone.

“To receive the award, environments have to score highly in areas such as use of space, comfort and atmosphere, personal and social interaction and health and well-being - all areas highlighted as really important by people living with cancer who helped develop the award.”

The MQEM is a detailed quality framework used for assessing whether cancer care environments meet the standards required by people living with cancer. The quality mark, the first of its kind in the UK, has been developed by Macmillan Cancer Support in collaboration with people living with cancer and stakeholders including the Department of Health.

The Radiotherapy Department at St James’s is one of the largest in the UK. The MQEM assessment highlighted the “well designed” spaces within the department and overall standard of patient care and support. The development of the Bridge Clinic is an example of this. This is a project set up to tackle the anxiety many patients face after they have finished treatment.

The clinic, a monthly meeting hosted by a range of healthcare professionals, aims to help patients resume everyday life. There was also praise for the department’s user involvement initiatives, which has allowed patients to help shape the department into what it is today.

Julie Owens, Head of Radiotherapy at the Leeds Cancer Centre, said: “This is a fantastic accolade for the whole team here in the Bexley Wing. We are so proud to have this independent confirmation of the quality of the care we offer. All our services are dedicated to providing the best possible experience for our patients throughout their treatment as well as supporting their recovery.”
**New home for Colorectal Outpatients**

The colorectal outpatient facility has moved from three separate areas of the Trust into its new home at St James’s.

The unit, which sees around 10,000 patients a year, can now be found on the first floor of the Multi-Specialty Outpatient (MSO) area.

The team have viewed the move and their final location at St James’s as being wholly positive. The MSO building can accommodate the colorectal specialist nursing and research clinics, helping to facilitate better working practice and collaboration.

The unit recently had a mural painted on a wall in the waiting room to brighten up the area and secured new seating and couches via the Trust’s Charitable Foundation.

Keely Robson, Service Manager for the Colorectal team, said: “Bringing the team together under one roof has been of benefit to both the staff and patients. The move has allowed us to improve patient care because everyone involved is now close at hand and physically working together.”

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**Successful conference for Thoracic team in Copenhagen**

Teams from LTHT attended the 22nd annual conference of the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS) in Copenhagen, Denmark.

It was the first time ESTS hosted a nursing symposium with presentations and posters showcasing thoracic nursing research and good practice to over 1250 delegates.

There was a strong representation from St James’s and both John White and Sandra Dixon, Thoracic Nurse Specialists, chaired sessions at the event.

As an invited speaker, Sandra Dixon presented the Leeds Patient Education Programme for patients undergoing a lung resection. Tatch Dlamini, Junior Sister from ward J84, delivered a 15 minute presentation regarding the establishment of a Thoracic Nurse Lead Clinic, which the Thoracic service runs on ward J84.

Six poster presentations were delivered by Sandra Dixon, Deborah Rowett, John White, Lisa Hill & Simon Bolton (Harrogate District Hospital) with awards presented for presentations.

Lisa Hill, Clinical Nurse Specialist, won the best ‘Poster Abstract Presentation’ award for her poster on ‘Nurse Led Vacuum Assisted Closure Therapy in Pleural Space Infections’.

Mr Papagiannopoulos, senior Consultant Thoracic Surgeon and Lead Clinician in Thoracic Surgery, presented Lisa with her award in his official capacity as the Treasurer of ESTS.

Sandra Dixon said: “Not only was it a fantastic opportunity for the Thoracic Service to market elements of good practice at an international level but a great benefit to our thoracic nurses to exchange ideas and network with international colleagues and gain valuable experience in the overall management and development of Thoracic services worldwide.”
Adult Critical Care refurbishment

Chief Executive, Julian Hartley, officially re-opened the Adult Critical Care unit at St James’s on wards J54 and J53 after a three month period of refurbishment.

The unit first opened around 19 years ago but in recent years it was insufficient to meet the demand for critical care at St James’s and the environment was not best suited to the needs of the patients. Around 1300 patients were treated there last year.

Due to the nature of the clinical work delivered in the unit, and the inability to close it completely, the work had to be done in phases with individual sections being isolated and upgraded one at a time. This was a major challenge for everyone involved including the planning team, estates teams, builders and the clinical staff, ensuring that it was completed successfully on time and with minimal impact on clinical care.

Simon Whiteley, Clinical Director for Adult Critical Care, said: “The result is a much improved critical care unit, with two additional beds, more side rooms, greater visibility and accessibility of our bed spaces and improved privacy and dignity for patients and relatives.”

Andy Bennett, Senior Nurse, said: “I have been very proud of how the whole team on ICU have continued to provide an excellent service while the building works have been going on. The benefits and positive feel to the unit have been a huge boost to our patients, families and the whole team on ICU.”

“It has been a large project but made a lot easier with the assistance of colleagues throughout the hospital, both clinical and non-clinical. A real team approach to achieve a safer, more modern environment from which to provide care,” added Emma Storey, Critical Care Project Manager.

10K success for Leeds Cancer Centre staff

A team of 66 staff, friends and family from the Leeds Cancer Centre took on the challenging ‘Run for All’ Leeds 10k.

Dr David Jackson, Clinical Director and Consultant Medical Oncologist, pulled together the impressive team in an effort to raise awareness of the Yorkshire Cancer Centre (YCC) Appeal and the funding that supports patients at the Centre.

“I’m incredibly proud of everyone who took part.”

Despite the scorching heat, the team showed dedication, perseverance and grit as they completed the course, which took in numerous sights and landmarks around Leeds. With such great numbers the team created a sea of purple runners as they donned their distinctive Yorkshire Cancer Centre Appeal tops to show support.

The Yorkshire Cancer Centre Appeal raises funds to support the work of the Bexley Wing every day, focusing their efforts on funding up-to-date equipment, the purchase of ‘home comforts’ and the on-going art and gardens projects. This is all on top of funding ground breaking research, which is taking place at the leading oncology centre.

So far over £9 million has now been raised and the fundraising team hope to reach their £10 million target by December 2015.

Dr Jackson said: “I’m incredibly proud of everyone who took part. It’s fantastic to see such a massive team effort in order to raise money for our patients and just goes to show the levels of dedication in the department.”

Sheila O’Shea, Yorkshire Cancer Centre Appeal Director, added: “Leeds Cancer Centre staff have already raised over £3,500 and with sponsorship still coming in this will undoubtedly rise to £4k! Supporters can still donate towards the team effort online at www.justgiving.com/DavidsTeamLeeds10K.”

“The YCC Fundraising Team is hugely grateful to David for leading this gallant team and we are indebted to them, their supporters and other YCC participants (104 runners in all), who trained hard and who gave up their Sunday to support their cancer charity - it was a remarkable achievement - thank you all!”
MP’s visit boosts profile of lung cancer patient group

Stuart Andrew, MP for Pudsey, came to meet the Lung Cancer and Mesothelioma Patient Support (LAMPS) group at St James’s in June.

He had expressed an interest to visit the group after meeting John White, Lead Macmillan Lung Cancer Nurse Specialist, at a lung cancer Parliamentary event.

Topics covered included the patient’s own experience of having lung cancer and treatment, their involvement in aiding in the development of the lung cancer service in Leeds and health promotion in Leeds including the early awareness campaign.

Also discussed was the availability of access to the specialist services that the Trust was able to offer such as the Lung Cancer Nurse Specialist team, a dedicated Thoracic Surgical Unit, Stereotactic Radiotherapy and targeted therapies.

The newly developed Survivorship Clinic, the opposition of the LAMPS group to e-cigarettes and the poor amount of resources being offered for lung cancer research in comparison to other cancers were also covered.

Following the discussion Mr Andrew said that he felt better informed of the issues facing lung cancer patients, the pathway of care including treatment and health promotion and will aim to promote these points when in Parliament.

He was also very impressed by the Cancer Centre facilities following a brief walkaround and the commitment of all those involved in lung cancer care.

Mark of success as Stroke Service receives accreditation

The Stroke Service has received a top accolade after an accreditation visit.

The accreditation is nationally recognised and peer reviewed by experts from other Trusts across the NHS, judging the service on over 100 different quality standards. This sets the benchmark for stroke services and is a significant measure of minimum standards for the service.

Alongside this good news, the Trust has also doubled the rate of patients receiving thrombolysis after introducing 24 hour provision of this service in January.

The Stroke Services team will be using the accreditation as a platform from which it will continue to improve quality, safety and patient care.

Dr Sameer Limaye, Lead Clinician in Stroke Services, said: “This is well-earned recognition for everything the team has been doing over the past 18 months. It’s a testament to their dedication and a demonstration of the great things yet to come!”

Birthday celebrations

The Outpatient Sisters met with Suzanne Hinchliffe, Chief Nurse, to celebrate a full year of working together as a full, independent service.

The team enjoyed a relaxed afternoon chatting about Outpatient Services while enjoying a slice of birthday cake and a glass of juice.
The gift of life

Staff nurse Caroline Tse, who works in transitional care at the LGI on ward L36, donated a kidney last year during a procedure to help her best friend and sister-in-law, Annie Tse.

Now she wants to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and how it can save lives.

Caroline and Annie have been friends for over 44 years, and went into nurse training together in the 1970s. Caroline then moved up North and has been working in Leeds at the LGI, while Annie has been working for a mental health trust in Surrey. Despite the distance, the two have remained best friends and regularly visit each other.

In 2012 Annie developed an infection, which rapidly led to kidney failure leaving her requiring dialysis every other day.

Caroline said: “When I saw Annie having dialysis for four to five hours a day, I knew I just had to do something. She was really desperate and I hated seeing her that way.

“It was on a visit to see Annie in April 2012 that I decided to see if I could donate one of my kidneys. I discussed it with my husband and decided to go ahead.”

The friends then underwent the process to see if Caroline’s kidney was viable for Annie at St Helier hospital in Surrey for blood tests and screening. Unfortunately there was a high risk of rejection due to Annie’s antibodies and so a straight donation was not possible.

That’s when they were thrown a life-line from the Kidney Transplant Authority, who offered to include them on the list for a multiple donation procedure, receiving good news several months later that they would be part of a triple donation, with two other couples sharing kidneys.

Caroline commented: “I would have liked to have given my kidney directly, but as this wasn’t a possibility, the triple donation was the next best thing.

“My kidney went to one of the other couples, while Annie received one of theirs. The day after the procedure was Annie’s birthday, so the transplant was the best present she could have been given.”

Annie said: “I feel much better now. It has given me a new lease of life, and I really appreciate everything Caroline has done for me. We both have to stick to restricted diets and keep our salt intake down, but we’re definitely back to how we used to be!”

After the transplant, Caroline received her follow-up care at St James’s. She said: “The Trust has been fantastic in its support, letting me take the time off to donate the kidney and recover. My colleagues have been fantastic too!

“Next year Annie and I will be retiring together, just as we started together. We’re going to go for a nice long holiday travelling. I think we’ve deserved it!”

Caroline had this advice for anyone thinking about donating an organ to a loved one: “You’ve got to have a long hard think about it, talk to people and involve your friends and family in the process, but remember you have to make up your own mind.

“There is nothing more rewarding than knowing that somebody will live because of you, and even if you’re not comfortable donating an organ while alive, you can always sign up to be a donor after you’ve passed away so that someone might have another chance at life.”

New nurse specialist strengthens organ donation team

Tracey Fletcher is now in post as a Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation (SNOD) in the Trust, joining two existing colleagues in the role to provide a comprehensive service supporting organ donation in LTHT and across the Yorkshire region.

Prior to taking up the post, Tracey was a Senior Sister at St James’s Intensive Care Unit and before that St Thomas’ Intensive Care Unit London, so she has a background of experience in critical care nursing, which will be invaluable to her new role.

Tracey will work with existing specialist nurses, Cathy Jordan and Geraldine Holmes, and clinical leads for organ donation on the two main hospital sites, Dr Justin McKinlay and Dr Simon Flood.

The specialist nurses for organ donation are based within LTHT, liaising with staff and families mostly in Critical Care and A&E areas. They also have an important educational role within the hospital and to the public at large about the vital importance of organ donation in saving lives.

In addition to this role, Tracey and her colleagues work within the wider Yorkshire Organ Donation Services Team, which provides an on-call service to liaise with hospitals across the region.

Tracey commented: “Organ donation makes such a difference to the lives of people who need a transplant, but sadly there are still not enough donor organs available to meet the demand. Three people in the UK die every day waiting for a transplant.

“One of our key messages to individuals who support the principle of organ donation is to talk about it with their family and ensure their wishes are known.

“Having a clear indication of a loved one’s wishes makes a real difference to families faced with a tragic incident when they are making a decision about organ donation.

“The role of the Specialist Nurse for Organ Donation is to provide families with information, answer questions and help people make an informed choice about organ donation. On occasions when patients have become organ donors, families often feel comforted in the knowledge that their loved one helped others have another chance of a life.”
Ann Coates (née Oldfield)
Ann trained at the LGI in 1974 after completing a two year pre-nursing course with two other nurses who are also still working in Critical Care.

After qualifying in 1977, Ann staffed on a male Medical / Haematology at the LGI, before moving to working part time on Intensive Care, after the birth of her son.

Ann took a brief hiatus from nursing before returning in 1986 to the Intensive Care unit. She has remained with the same unit, albeit with a different ward name ever since.

Ann has many fond memories of her time in Intensive Care and has seen many advances in treatments, equipment and ways of working. While Ann has many happy memories and has made many friends in Critical Care, she is finally ready to leave to spend time with her husband and her first grandchild.

Senior Sister Janet Wilkinson said: “Ann will be greatly missed by all her colleagues and friends; she has been a ‘mother’ to many of our staff, basing a lot of her work and decision making on common sense.”

Denise Highfield
Denise Highfield, Senior Sister in the Children’s Haematology and Oncology Day Unit, was the longest serving member of the departments, and of the senior nursing team within the Children’s Hospital.

Denise has been with the Trust for all her nursing career (37 years), and for the last 33 of those years has worked within paediatric haematology and oncology. For most of that time, she has been the Senior Nurse within the Day Care Unit.

Throughout that time Denise has led changes to improve the care that we offer to children and young people with cancer and serious blood disorders. She is a key member of the departmental management team, and will be hugely missed by her colleagues, as well as by our patients and their families. The unit gave her a grand send-off, attended by many colleagues, past and present, including Professor Cliff Bailey, the first Paediatric Oncologist in Leeds, and a ‘founding father’ of the specialty.

In recognition of the service she has given to the Trust, Denise was chosen to represent the organisation at a Garden Party held in Buckingham Palace a fortnight ago. She had a fabulous day there.

Matron Rachel Hollis said “We are going to miss Denise right across the Children’s Hospital, but particularly in Haematology and Oncology. We all wish her a happy and relaxing retirement after so many years of tireless dedication to our Day Care unit.”

Lynne Davies
Staff attended a retirement party to say farewell to Lynne Davies, Senior Assistant

The Trust says goodbye to some familiar faces…
Technical Officer, after working for the Trust for 23 years.

She was given a fond farewell and wished the very best for the future by her colleagues. She now intends to travel to Europe visiting friends and spending more time at her second home in France.

Gina McGawley, Head of Clinical Physiology, said “Lynne was a long standing and integral part of the Cardiology team at Wharfedale and will be missed by patients and staff.”

Richard Long

Technical Information Manager, Richard Long is retiring after 21 years working within Informatics. Richard started working for the NHS in 1989 for a 6 month period, then leaving to complete his MSC dissertation. Once completed, he was invited back to Wakefield Health Authority in 1990.

He joined the NHS in Leeds at the end of November 1992 as a Clinical Information Systems Manager, and during the last 21 years has held various informatics roles, most recently being Technical Information Manager.

Caroline Watson, Senior Information Officer, said “He has a wealth of information knowledge which will be missed by the Trust, while his colleagues will miss his wit and wisdom.”

A lifelong supporter of Huddersfield Town FC and the Huddersfield Giants he will no doubt spend countless hours at the John Smith’s Stadium. He is also looking forward to taking up fishing full-time.
Major drive brings in new nursing staff

Hundreds of new nurses have joined the Trust since the launch of a major recruitment drive.

The Trust Board gave the green light for additional staffing on many of our wards at the end of January, with £13.5 million allocated over 30 months, of which £6 million has been allocated for year one.

A series of open days have been held to showcase the opportunities that nursing in Leeds has to offer, which has attracted many newly qualified nurses who have recently joined the Trust. These days have been particularly successful in attracting candidates from across Yorkshire and Humber, though we have also seen candidates from further afield.

The Trust has also been active at Royal College of Nursing (RCN) recruitment fairs in Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester and has had successful trips to nurse fairs in the Republic of Ireland.

Jill Asbury, LTHT Head of Nursing Education and Workforce, commented: “Leeds has a lot to offer to both newly qualified and experienced nurses looking for a new challenge. Feedback from our open days is that we are a friendly, open organisation with staff who want to talk and share information, creating a really collegiate feel.

“As Clinical Service/Support Unit (CSUs) have all been involved in the recruitment process and had their own stalls at the event setting out what they had to offer, it gave everyone who came along a real feeling for the Trust as a whole and what our different CSUs do.

“For most new starters life is all about the ward they are joining and we have been making sure they know it is a fun environment in which to work, giving them a good grounding and a supportive team environment with many opportunities for continuing professional development.”

To ensure new starters feel as confident as they can, wards they are joining have been keeping in touch with them before they start and, where possible, inviting them in to attend meetings and get to know their new colleagues.

In parallel with this work, the Trust is regularly continuing to fill places on its successful Apprentice Clinical Support Worker scheme and is trialling a values-based approach to the recruitment of the current intake.

A new three stage test is helping to improve the care for patients with Clostridium difficile (C. diff) within the Trust, and preventing its spread to other patients.

The first part is performed when a sample is sent to the lab acts as a screening test. The sample is tested for GDH (glutamate dehydrogenase), which is produced when C. diff bacteria are present in the bowel. If the test is positive, this gives the result ‘Clostridium difficile likely present’, but it does not tell our scientists if the patient has the kind of infection which causes infection, so it is important to isolate these patients until the second and third stages of the test are performed.

This is done to ensure that patients are not harbouring the dangerous infection or able to spread it to other people on the wards.

The second test looks for the toxin in the sample. If positive, the result indicates that the patient has an active infection. These patients need to be assessed for the severity of their infection to ensure that they receive the correct treatment and are treated if unwell, ensuring patient safety at all times and minimising the potential for C. diff to spread.

If the result is ‘toxin not detected’ a third test, PCR (polymerase chain reaction), is performed. PCR is where the laboratory look for the presence of C. diff toxin genes (DNA). A positive result indicates that it is the type of infection that can potentially produce toxins.

This new test has only been performed since January and has helped with infection prevention and control as it gives staff more information about the C. diff status of individual patients, allowing them to provide appropriate care.

Infection prevention can now monitor this third group of patients and ensure that the right antibiotics are prescribed, as inappropriate antibiotic use for these patients can predispose them to the active disease.

Kerrie Davies, Clinical Scientist in Microbiology, said: “The new testing procedure is much more rigorous, ensuring that as a Trust we can keep our patients safe from C. diff.”

“We have made many great steps in tackling hospital acquired infection, but would remind everyone that the best way to prevent C. diff is to use soap and water.”
Debbie Smith, Project Nurse for Professional Practice, Standards and Safety in Corporate Nursing

Q How long have you worked at the Trust?
Nine years

Q Summarise the main aspects of your role?
I have three main work streams which I am accountable for, and have other projects that I am currently running or involved with. These include clinical audit, revision of policies and procedures, health check data collections and mixed sex breaches.

At present I am working on devising a new transfer checklist and have chaired task and finish group meetings in order to come up with ideas for the new checklist. I am also working on some laminated patient and visitor information booklets to go at each bed space across the Trust. This has involved updating information leaflets and liaising with the print unit, as well as coordinating a photo shoot!

Q What's the best thing about your job?
I really enjoy the diversity that this job brings. I have a range of long and short term projects that I work on, which keeps me very busy. At times, my role has pushed me out of my comfort zone, which I see as being positive as it helps me to develop.

It is also nice to know that the work I am doing can improve the standards of care that patients receive in clinical areas. I work as part of a fantastic team and I really value having strong and supportive management behind me.

Q What else have you done in your career so far?
I trained at the University of Leeds and qualified in 2005. My first job was in the Adult Haemodialysis at St James’s, which I enjoyed immensely and learnt a lot. In 2007, I moved to the Orthopaedic and Plastic High Dependency Unit at the LGI where my passion for critical care nursing took off.

I loved all aspects of HDU care and enjoyed caring for patients with a variety of conditions. While working in HDU I became a Band 6 Sister and really enjoyed the managerial responsibility which came with it. After six and a half years there, I decided to apply for the project nurse role within corporate nursing and that’s where I am today.

Q What is the one thing you would change at LTHT to help you do your job better?
I think having a better IT system would aid all staff in doing their job more efficiently. This is something that the Trust is currently working on with the introduction of PPM+ and the electronic white boards.

Q What's your best advice to a new starter at the Trust?
Never stop questioning anything that you see or do and always ask if you are unsure of something.

Generous donation to Ward J96

Staff on ward J96 in the Bexley Wing were delighted to receive a cheque for £1050 from Mrs Linda Thorp recently.

The money was raised by family and friends in memory of Mrs Thorp’s late husband, Geoffrey, in appreciation of the care he received on the ward prior to his discharge home.

The money was accepted by Dr Alan Anthoney, who had been Mr Thorp’s consultant.

Dr Anthoney, Consultant in Oncology, said: “We are very grateful to Mrs Thorp. The money she has donated will go towards helping to improve patient care on the ward.”
Hundreds of Yorkshire organ donors who helped give the gift of life to others after their deaths were commemorated with the planting of memorial rose gardens at St James’s and the Leeds General Infirmary.

Fragrant white ‘Soham’ roses were chosen for the small gardens, which are located outside the Chapel at St James’s and just to the left of the Great George Street entrance at the Infirmary.

In both locations is a plaque explaining they have been planted “In loving memory of all those who have given the gift of life to others through organ donation”.

The plaque at St James’s was unveiled during National Transplant Week by a small group including Mrs Fran Peace, from Wakefield, whose son Greg died tragically at the age of 19, six years ago.

His organs were used to give the gift of life to others.

Fran explained that knowing her son’s organs had benefitted others had given her great comfort: “It helped me an awful lot in coming to terms with Greg’s death because it is something very positive to come out of a tragedy.

“Looking back, I know it was a simple thing to do and it saved several lives. We hadn’t talked about it beforehand as a family but we felt it was what Greg would have wanted because of his personality and caring nature.

“My husband Chris and I felt greatly supported by the specialist nurse for organ donation at the hospital who counselled us. We felt very cared about, and that Greg was cared for too with a special person looking after our son.

“I’d urge other families to talk about this issue now and make sure everyone knows their wishes.”

Fran is a member of a group at Leeds Teaching Hospitals which works to increase publicity and awareness of organ donation.
Getting wiggy with it: Staff at the LGI raised money for CLIC Sargent with a cake stall

Staff don wigs to support children’s cancer charity

Staff at the Leeds Children’s Hospital modelled some funky new hairstyles for this year’s Wig Wednesday in support of CLIC Sargent, the UK’s leading cancer charity for children and young people.

Thousands of people across the UK donned wigs for the day to raise funds and show support for children and young people with cancer, many of whom lose their hair during treatment.

In addition to all the fun on the wards, a team raised £266 for Wig Wednesday, selling cakes in the foyer of Clarendon Wing at the LGI.

David Thomas, CLIC Sargent Key worker on the cancer unit at the Leeds Children’s Hospital, said: “It was a fantastic day for both staff and patients. We had a number of different activities including a 6ft Chemo Duck used to explain cancer treatment to young children, pin the wig on the consultant, face-painting and fantastic story boards created by some of our patients on the ward."

Wig Wednesday is a great campaign which gets everybody together having some fun with wigs while raising awareness of and supporting children and young people with cancer.”

Stroke research at Leeds is regional leader

Congratulations to the Stroke Research team, who have been leading the field in clinical trials.

The team have conducted more randomised clinical trials than any other Trust in West Yorkshire, the data from which will go towards a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) portfolio.

Based at the LGI, the team of four are currently recruiting patients to several stroke trials and working well with participants and their relatives, as well as the Multidisciplinary Stroke Team to progress research in the field.

The objective of the team is to advance and improve stroke patient care through the delivery of high quality stroke research, and this requires them to recruit people to both randomised and non-randomised trials.

The research includes hyper-acute, acute and rehabilitation trials and has ensured that LTHT is the highest recruiting Trust in West Yorkshire, and the team is now aiming to exceed national levels.

Hyper-acute Stroke Research Team Manager, Mrs Linetty Makawa said: “It’s great that the team here at the LGI are leading the way in clinical trials. That we are leaders in the West Yorkshire is testament to their tireless work and dedication towards helping patients achieve the best possible outcomes.”

Snug success

The neonatal team on ward L43 at the LGI has received a generous donation of bedding and a cheque from Asda at Crown Point in Leeds.

The unit were in need of new double duvets, pillow cover sets and undersheets for the parents’ rooms, used by those adults who stay in hospital with their new-born babies, when Asda generously stepped in.

Kevin Butcher, the Community Life Champion at Asda Living - Crown Point was only too happy to help, and very kindly supplied all that was requested.

In addition to that, Kevin presented the unit with a cheque for £100, after winning last month’s ‘Chosen by You’ board in which customers vote for the charity they feel deserves the monthly donation.

Warm gift: Kevin Butcher from Asda Living models some duvet covers with Rachel Brooke from the Charitable Foundation

Working together: The team are incredibly proud of their achievement
Dental consultant cycles to fight Motor Neurone Disease

Congratulations to Dental Consultant Peter Nixon, who completed a coast-to-coast cycling challenge to help Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research this weekend.

Peter cycled 150 miles over the Lake District, Dales and the Moors to raise money for one of our partner organisations, the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITrAN), which is an essential development in advancing the understanding of the causes of motor neurone injury, and leading the fight against MND.

Cycling coast-to-coast, riding for 9 hours 15 minutes, Peter faced a hard headwind, rain and the cold. He even fell off on a slippery decent and got a puncture two miles from the end, but made it to the finish line in a day!

Peter said “MND is an issue close to my heart after my Dad sadly died due to the condition. Having seen the effect of MND on my Dad, I am acutely aware of the importance of developing treatments for this devastating disease.

“It was really tough-going, but I’m glad that I made it and I’m happy to have raised the money for such a worthwhile cause.”

Trust welcomes Maltese delegation

Trust Chair, Linda Pollard welcomed a delegation of Maltese visitors to look at how we diagnose and treat cancer at St James’s.

Earlier in the year, a similar visit helped the Trust to win a major overseas contract to train clinical scientists from Malta.

The Trust is currently looking at the possible opportunity to provide support in the commissioning of three linear accelerators (linacs) at their new Oncology Hospital in Valletta, alongside hosting a second cohort of students and other areas of collaboration.

Linda said: “It is so important we continue to develop these links to help build our international reputation as a world class healthcare provider and at the same time identify additional sources of income.”

Eid visits brings cheer to children’s ward

Patients from our Children’s Heart Ward were delighted to be visited by volunteers from the Hamara Centre, who came along to hand out fantastic gifts they had collected to celebrate Eid.

The Centre works closely with our Children’s Heart Surgery Fund and do a fantastic job supporting Leeds Children’s Hospital.

This is the second time they have come in with Eid gifts to celebrate the end of Ramadan, when they use the traditional generosity associated with this festival to think of and help others who are less fortunate.

Toys ‘R’ Us worked with the Hamara Centre on the initiative and the store’s mascot Geoffrey the Giraffe came along too to join in what was a very happy occasion.

Hundreds of toys suitable for a wide range of youngsters from babies to teenagers were lovingly wrapped in gift bags and handed out.

Wonderful donation to support our families and babies

SOFAB - Support for Families and Babies – have presented our neonatal team based at St James’s with a cheque for £500.

SOFAB are a local neonatal charity which help units improve the experience of families as their baby progresses through the unit towards discharge.

The St James’s team will be using money to enhance the environment on the unit, helping parents feel more relaxed and less stressed while in hospital.

Jumping for joy: Little Thomas Osborne holds the cheque for £500 with neonatal staff and ladies from SOFAB
Zaff Hussain, Receptionist based in the Jubilee Wing has worked for the Trust for almost 13 years

What do you do to wind down and relax after a hard week at work?
I like to spend time with my family and my wife. I enjoy taking my three children to Roundhay Park. I find playing football and going to the gym can help with stress and is quite relaxing.

What is your ideal holiday destination and why?
I would love to travel around the world to experience different cultures in other countries, I watched a holiday programme about Australia which appears to be a beautiful place to visit.

What is your favourite food?
My favourite has to be fish and chips with mushy peas, although I do enjoy Indian food.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?
Ever since I can remember, I enjoyed playing football and would have liked to become a professional footballer but then later I realised how difficult an ambition it is to achieve.

What is your favourite film?
I am not a film buff to be honest, but one of my favourite films is The Italian Job starring Jason Statham. Recently I have been watching American drama series called Breaking Bad which has a lot of twists and turns.

Tell us something we don’t know about you...
I am a bit of a computer freak, always love new technologies and innovations.

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