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New appointment to End of Life Care Team

We have recently appointed Elizabeth Rees into a new Trust wide role of Lead Nurse for End of Life Care. Our End of Life Care team are here to help our staff provide the best possible care to our patients who are dying. They are keen to continue engagement with our clinical teams and to develop improvement plans and joint working.

“One chance to get it right” a report by Leadership Alliance for the Care of the Dying Person, identifies five priorities to guide the Care of the Dying Person.

This report describes the duties and responsibilities of health and care staff who are involved in caring for dying people and includes guidance on implementation of the five Priorities for Care.

We only have one chance to get this right and our team are empowering staff from across our CSUs to make sure they give the best possible care.

The team consists of Dr Suzanne Kite, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Elizabeth Rees, Lead Nurse for End of Life Care, Chris Stothard and Claire Iwaniszak, End of Life Care Nurses, and Deborah Borrill, Palliative Care Discharge Facilitator. Working with our specialist palliative care team, they provide training for our staff and clinical support to patients and their families on wards.

Over the next few months Elizabeth will be meeting with your departments to develop ward level action plans and address any concerns.

If you are a member of our staff and feel you need more support on your ward or in your department, please get in touch with our End of Life Care or our Palliative Care Team on Ext 64563. There are also a number of education opportunities on the palliative care section of the training calendar.

Frozen visit brings smiles to young patients at Easter time

We were delighted to welcome Princess Elsa and Princess Anna from Disney’s Frozen to Leeds Children’s Hospital to meet some of the patients on our children’s heart and day case wards.

Anna and Elsa made a special Easter visit to wards L51, L52 and L49. The two characters from Dave Anthony Entertainments arrived at our Easter craft afternoon on ward L51, joining the children to make chocolate Easter nest buns. The Princesses (sometimes known as Molly and Charlotte) brought smiles across the hospital to both patients and staff alike!

After spending time chatting with the children and their families the characters visited Wards L52 and L49 to say hello to a variety of other young patients.

Play Specialist Team Leader for Critical Care, Emma Marshall said: “Being in hospital can sometimes be a frightening and daunting experience for a child. Visits like this are fantastic for the children, particularly over a holiday period as it provides an opportunity for them to join in something exciting within the hospital environment. We are very grateful to our supporters who help us to bring smiles to children in hospital at Easter.”

Anna and Elsa, who gave out signed pictures on the day, proved to be very popular with all involved and many smiles and photos were shared.

The Colin Smith Dementia Conference

Our Corporate Nursing team recently led the Colin Smith Dementia Conference at the Thackray Museum, which was the first of its kind at LTHT.

Chaired by Dr Oliver Corrado and Jackie Whittle, the day was aimed at frontline nursing staff, both registered and unregistered, who wanted to learn more about providing better care for this vulnerable group of people.

The funds to facilitate the conference were very generously bequeathed by Colin Smith’s family in memory of Colin, a former Director of Nursing Services at LTHT with a passion for improving services in Elderly Medicine.

Over 100 delegates attended the event to listen to expert speakers from both LTHT and the wider healthcare community present a varied programme. The focus was on education and training, dementia friendly environments and reasonable adjustments to support people with dementia and carers, both in hospital and within the community.

European research study

Our cancer research team have recruited the first patient from anywhere in the European Union into a new international Ulcerated Melanoma study.

This study is being co-ordinated by EORTC, the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer, and hospitals across the EU aim to eventually recruit 1200 patients for this important work which could improve survival rates for a specific group of patients.

The work follows an initial trial several years ago which LTHT also participated in.
Celebrating success at our first Long Service Awards

On Thursday 23rd April we held our first Long Service Awards at Horizon Leeds to recognise the long service commitment of staff who have given 40, 35 and 30 years’ continuous service to the Trust.

Chair, Dr Linda Pollard and Chief Executive, Julian Hartley presented staff with a signed certificate and commemorative pin badge in recognition of their long service and to mark their time with us.

Linda said: “Our staff are at the centre of everything we do and it was great to be able to recognise their achievements at these awards.”

Following the awards ceremony staff shared their often amusing and, in some instances, eye opening stories about days gone by, over a delicious afternoon tea!

Our ‘Get Me Better’ champions also attended the event and we are very appreciative for all their help and support on the day, helping to ensure that everything ran as smoothly as possible.
Julian Hartley said: “Without the dedicated service of our staff we would be unable to provide the high levels of patient care that we do. From estates and facilities workers to clinical and support staff, we are truly indebted to their contribution to the running of the Trust and its services.”

Here we share the stories of some of our long service award winners:

Slinder Gill joined the Trust as a newly qualified radiographer on Monday 4 June 1984, the same day as Jane Bewell, also a newly qualified radiographer, at the time.

Since completing her training at the School of Radiography at Seacroft Hospital Slinder has worked full time at Seacroft, Wharfedale and Chapel Allerton hospitals.

Slinder, who is now a Senior Radiographer based at St James’s, said “I can confidently say that I love my job. My colleagues make me feel appreciated every day but the recognition I received at the long service awards made me feel even more valued and proud to work for this Trust.”

Moira Mohit started as a student nurse back in September 1979 with the Leeds Eastern Health Authority as it was then named. After qualifying as a Sister Moira moved into Community Midwifery.

Moira posted on Facebook the following day and had this say, “I still have a passion for Midwifery and thoroughly enjoy my job. My colleagues make me feel appreciated every day but the recognition I received at the long service awards made me feel even more valued and proud to work for this Trust.”

The Long Service Awards, which was a resounding success, is to become a permanent fixture in the Trust’s calendar.

Leeds Daylighters is a support group for women with gynaecological cancer. The ladies who are currently attending the group have received so much support at their monthly meetings that they recently held an event to raise awareness and funds to continue running the group.

The day was an absolute success and the ladies raised a magnificent £379 which will go towards funding their group activities.

Started in 2008 by Gynaecological Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialists, Alison Craven and Cheryl Downes, the group has an active schedule of meetings that includes guest speakers, fish and chip suppers, crafts and games nights complete with roulette table and pretend money! The group is open to ladies of all ages diagnosed with gynaecological cancer.

Guest speakers are often asked to talk at meetings and so far, talks on genetics, surgery, research and new chemotherapy treatments have been heard. The group also holds fun events such as pampering days where members are able to try out Eastern dancing, Chi Gong, head massages and make-overs.

One group member had this to say about her experience with Leeds Daylighters:

“I joined the Support Group because initially I felt out on a limb after treatment had finished. I’m so glad that I did as it has helped me to keep positive over the last five years. We always have such a good humoured evening - laughter is the best medicine and being with others who know what you’re going through is such a help.”

The group is run in partnership with the ladies and the Gynaecology Nurse Specialist Team; Chris Barber, Care Co-ordinator, facilitates and organises the events calendar, and a Nurse Specialist is on hand to provide emotional or psychological support should it be needed - and to make the drinks!

Leeds Daylighters meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the Macmillan Robert Ogden Centre, 6.30 - 8.30pm and all patients with a gynaecological cancer are welcome to attend.

For more information call: 0113 20 67820 or email Leedsth-tr.GynaeCNS@nhs.net

Leeds Daylighters celebrate seventh birthday with awareness raising event
Breast care nurses pledge commitment to patients with secondary breast cancer

The breast care nurses based in Bexley Wing at St James’s have pledged their commitment to providing the best possible care for our patients with secondary breast cancer.

The team received funding from Macmillan Cancer Support to fund a dedicated Clinical Nurse Specialist to work on this project and they worked closely with patients to evolve the secondary breast care service at the Trust.

Patient feedback showed support for people living with secondary breast cancer was falling short of their needs and this impacted on their patient experience. This feedback was used to redesign the service so it more accurately reflects the support patients need and want.

Significant improvements have already taken place within the service, including the allocation of a named key worker to each patient newly diagnosed with secondary breast cancer so they have a single point of contact at the hospital, however, the team want to do more.

The team were approached by two of the UK’s leading breast cancer charities, Breast Cancer Care and Breakthrough Breast Cancer, to continue this good work by signing up to the Secondary Breast Cancer Pledge.

The Leeds Secondary Breast Cancer Pledge was launched at a special event in Bexley Wing atrium, and was attended by patients, charity partners and representatives from departments across the Trust.

Belinda Archer, Lead Breast Care Nurse and, Mary Hall, Clinical Nurse Specialist for secondary breast cancer, introduced the event and explained the work the team have already put in to developing the service.

Patient, Nina Morton-Brook shared her experiences and spoke very highly of the care she had received from the team, thanking them for taking the time to listen to patients in order to further improve their care.

Julian Hartley, Chief Executive; Professor Galina Velikova, Professor of Psychosocial and Medical Oncology and Consultant in Medical Oncology and; Sylvia Ward from Breast Cancer Care also spoke passionately at the event.

Mary Hall said: “Our patients are at the heart of everything we do and engaging with them on this project from the very start has been invaluable in developing a patient-centred service. It’s important that we know what we are doing well but also where we can make further improvements to ensure that we continue to provide our patients with the very best care. We are all really proud to be representing the Trust in this way.”

Commitment: Clare Robertson, admin assistant; Jayne Ryan, breast care nurse secretary; Jan Makin, patient; Nina Morton-Brook, patient; Belinda Archer, Lead Breast Care Nurse; Mary Hall, CNS for secondary breast cancer; Julian Hartley, Chief Executive; Professor Galina Velikova, Consultant Medical Oncology; Margaret Tordoff, patient and Fiona Dickson, patient.
In our summer edition of Bulletin we are keen to profile the Clinical Support Team (CST). Our CST is a small team and currently comprises of Steph, Paul, Claire and Emma. The team started in December 2013, when they were recruited to work clinically with our ward teams and assist with identified areas for improvement.

Since December 2013, 18 ward areas have been provided with time limited support, the length of which is dependent on the wards need. Our team have supported wards, initially observing the way they work. Following this they aim to identify improved ways of working and support the teams to implement and sustain changes.

Claire Jones, one of the team’s senior sisters, said: “Our vision is to work together with teams to support and empower them to help improve patient experience, outcomes, standards of care and leadership.”

Wards require support for very different reasons; these have included requests from Clinical Service Units, following assurance visits where areas for improvement have been identified or following a review of our “Ward Healthcheck.”

Our “Ward Healthcheck” was launched in December 2013. It is a monthly audit which helps to measure how our in-patient wards are performing. Our Emergency Departments and Theatres are now included each month and work has just started to develop questions for outpatients. The CST supported this and has a role in completing audits, monitoring the healthcheck dashboard and assisting wards with any queries.

Emmanuel Chitongo, who works as one of our Charge Nurses on a ward at Leeds General Infirmary was full of praise for the team. They visited his ward at the end of last year for two months, to help improve documentation.

Emmanuel said: “When they started a lot of people were apprehensive about how they could help. Within the first two weeks my team on the ward had completely changed their mind. We realised what a positive difference they were making and that they were here to help us achieve our goals.”

The ward now scores 90% on our healthcheck metrics, an enormous improvement in a short space of time.

The CST adapt their approach to every ward they visit. Where required they strive to enable teams to consider different ways of working and support them to come up with new solutions.

Emma Dickinson, the team’s other senior sister said, “My role is a challenging one but it is also extremely rewarding. We get to meet so many different people working in a variety of areas, and it’s great to get out, meet many of our hard working staff and improve patient care.”

The team are now developing an accreditation programme for use across our hospitals and to identify and encourage ward teams to celebrate their success.

Great team deliver great results for patients and staff alike
Sarah Rippon, Research Nurse in the Infection Research team at St James’s, has recently returned from six weeks volunteering in Sierra Leone looking after Ebola patients.

Sarah flew to the city of Makeni on 7 December 2014 with a team of volunteers to set up the area’s first Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC). On arrival, they were responsible for organising how the centre would be run day to day and training the Sierra Leonean staff. They spent a number of days unpacking equipment, including hospital beds and medication, and setting up the wards.

The ETC initially received confirmed Ebola patients from government funded holding centres for treatment. Once up and running, the centre also opened a triage unit where people experiencing Ebola symptoms could be properly assessed.

The team would usually work seven hour shifts in 35 degree heat during the day, or overnight when there was very little light for them to treat patients properly. When caring for patients with confirmed or suspected Ebola, the team had to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that covered their whole body to help prevent the spread of the disease.

“We couldn’t wear the PPE for longer than an hour or so at a time during the day. The material and multiple layers along with the heat meant you’d lose too much fluid if you were in them for too long. You had to walk slower and even keep talking to a minimum to conserve energy.”

Sarah has extensive experience working in A&E and infectious diseases, and has also completed a diploma in Tropical Nursing.

“It’s been a lifelong ambition of mine to be able to do work like this abroad. I felt a sense of duty to do this as it’s ideally suited to my skillset. I couldn’t just sit at home knowing I had the skills they desperately needed and not do anything to help.”

After arriving home, Sarah spent 21 days in an incubation period having daily temperature and health checks before she was cleared to come back to work.

“It’s brilliant that NHS employees can go out and help. The Sierra Leonean staff have watched their family members and friends die from the disease but they’re still working hard and putting themselves at risk to stop other people being put in the same position.

“It is the NHS legacy that we can teach these doctors and nurses about infection prevention and control to manage the spread of disease as they are the ones who will be taking care of patients long after we’ve all left.”

As Sarah returned to England, around 9000 children in Sierra Leone had been orphaned because of Ebola. Sarah and some of her volunteer colleagues are taking part in the Royal Parks London Half Marathon in October to raise money for Street Child, a charity which rehomes and educates orphans in the country. You can support them at www.justgiving.com/NHSEbolaFighters.
Supporting World Hand Hygiene Day

May 5th was the World Health Organisation’s World Hand Hygiene Day and to mark the occasion the Infection Prevention and Control team visited every ward across LGI, SJUH, Chapel Allerton and Wharfedale sites that week. Our Chief Executive joined the team one day to help promote the campaign and also verified his own hand washing technique!

The aim was to heighten knowledge around hand hygiene particularly on when to wash hands with soap and water, especially at the entrance to wards where there is a hand wash basin available. The correct technique for decontaminating hands was also addressed by the use of a special ‘light box’. The light box is an educational tool and indicates how good their technique is of washing their hands.

In previous years the team have held a promotional stall in hospital reception areas but as staff are often too busy to visit, the team decided to take the campaign out to the wards this year.

Sister, Geanina Ghircoias, from ward J92 said: “It was good to see such positive support from Infection Prevention. The campaign helped to embed the message around washing with soap and water and the correct technique that should be used. All the staff on J92 used the light box and it was really helpful to understand areas we might miss and how areas of dry skin might impact on the ability to remove organisms.”

In total, over 700 trust staff used the light box to check their hand washing technique and in addition to healthcare workers this included staff from the PLACE team, dieticians, play therapists, social workers, phlebotomists, paramedics, security and medical illustrations along with volunteers and patients.

New Leeds Centre for Women’s Health opens in Chancellor’s Wing

April saw the launch of our new Leeds Centre for Women’s Health in Chancellor’s Wing at St James’s. The new unit will provide better care for our patients with a gynaecology day case unit and a joint early pregnancy and acute gynaecology unit. We are already seeing improved patient pathways and patients having quicker access to theatres, which are located next door.

The day case unit consists of nine beds, with the gynaecology assessment area offering a six bed bay and a side room. More procedures will take place in the unit’s treatment room, which will help reduce the length of time patients stay in hospital.

The event also included an awards ceremony and staff were nominated by other team members for awards linked to the Leeds Way. Dawn Marshall, Director of Nursing (Operations), said “It was a pleasure to present the ‘Care and Compassion’ Award to Liz Holder, our Sister on the unit, who has been instrumental in the journey for the service and puts patients at the centre of everything she does.”

Patient, Mrs Ingham, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony and thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication, which she said, “had changed her life.”
Our Corporate Nursing Team recently held a special graduation event for some of our Assistant Practitioners, to celebrate their achievements and the contribution that they are making to the Trust.

It was great to see Donna Radley, Laura Coates, Dion Major, Amy Dickinson, Mohammed Yusuf, Carmen Craig and Jasvinder Sekhan-Panesa recognised for all the hard work they have put in on the course.

Head of Nursing - Education and Workforce, Jill Asbury, presented the graduates with certificates at the event which was organised by the Education Team for Corporate Nursing.

Jill said: “The graduation was a great opportunity for the Trust to recognise the hard work the graduates put into the program and also to catch up with them and see how they have settled into their new roles.”

Dion Major worked in the Trust for several years as a perioperative assistant in Brachytherapy and as a Radiology Assistant in MRI.

She said: “Training to be an assistant practitioner was a natural progression for me and my career in healthcare. The training program has given me a better understanding of how I can contribute to a positive patient experience and it equipped me with the skills and knowledge necessary to deliver safe and effective patient care. I would recommend assistant practitioner training to anyone wanting to make a difference to the patient experience.”

The Assistant Practitioner training program, run in partnership with Leeds University, is a very demanding course that involves clinically based competencies, exams, academic essays and taught content. It prepares trainees to assess, plan, deliver and evaluate care for their own group of patients.

Jasvinder (Jas) has been with LTHT for three years, she works in the Geoffrey Giles theatres, in Lincoln Wing at St James’s helping patients recover after surgery.

She says, “The role of Assistant Practitioner was a natural step-up from being a Clinical Support Worker (CSW). It bridges the gap between CSWs and registered nurses. It’s great working in theatres as it allows me to work with a fantastic multi-disciplinary team, all supporting one another to get the best outcomes for our patients.”

From September the course will change to a two year program from which Assistant Practitioners will qualify with a Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care.

The graduates are now working in new roles within the Trust and we wish them all well in their careers!

Assistant Practitioners celebrate graduation success

Assistant Practitioners celebrate their graduation success (l to r) Donna Radley, Laura Coates, Dion Major, Amy Dickinson, Mohammed Yusuf, Carmen Craig, Jasvinder Sekhan-Panesar.

International delegation visits Leeds General Infirmary

An international delegation of top military personnel and civil servants visited the LGI recently as part of a senior leadership course to further develop their strategic management and analytical skills.

Members of the Royal College of Defence Studies College delegates included senior military personnel from the Lebanon, Japan, Germany, Korea, Brazil, United Emirates, Tanzania and Ghana as well as the UK. Their visit, part of a week long Yorkshire tour, looked at governance, industry, education, policing, communities and the media.

In order to experience healthcare and the NHS in practice the delegation requested a visit to see our Major Trauma Centre based at the LGI. James Brownjohn, General Manager, Trauma & Related Services and Mr Martin Taylor, Trauma Consultant Surgeon, conducted a tour of the service that included a rare visit to the hospital’s helideck. This was followed by a tour of the entire patient pathway from A&E to ward via Radiology and Theatres, and at the end of the visit a discussion was held on the financial set up and sustainability of the NHS.

General Manager for Trauma and Related Services, James Brownjohn said: “It was a real pleasure to host such an important visit. We are very proud of the interest in and success of the Major Trauma Centre in Leeds.”
Our Trust recognised Nutrition and Hydration Week in March which is a national campaign to raise awareness of the risks of malnutrition and to promote good practices that can help prevent malnutrition and dehydration.

Here at LTHT we take food and hydration very seriously, as good nutrition and maintaining fluid levels helps aid recovery, meaning people have shorter stays in hospital.

Dietitians and the catering team led a week long campaign of activities that included screensavers, mealtime audits, display stands and educational materials to emphasise the importance of food and drink for our patients.

Chief Executive, Julian Hartley, Deputy Chief Executive/Chief Nurse, Prof Suzanne Hinchliffe and Head of HR, Dean Royles all added their support during the week to help raise awareness of this important element of patient care.

Chief Medical Officer, Yvette Oade, joined Dietitian Rachel Carter at a training session for junior doctors which is part of our programme of Priority Training in Nutrition for Doctors, Nurses and Support Workers across the Trust.

The highlight of the week was Worldwide Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 20 March. Afternoon tea was chosen to demonstrate how this simple meal is ideal for promoting and improving nutrition and hydration. From a nutrition and hydration perspective, afternoon tea supports the ‘three meals and two snacks a day’ message, helping to boost calorie intake in patients with a poor appetite. It can also have an important social and emotional role.

Patient catering already provides afternoon tea and cake on the older adult wards and all nutritionally vulnerable patients can access this via our snack menu. On Afternoon Tea day all inpatients were offered a cake in celebration of the event!

The Trust retail catering outlets also joined in by providing free bottled water with meals for both staff and visitors.

The week also promoted the new dementia friendly crockery which will soon be available to patients with dementia across the trust. This specially designed crockery helps to promote independence with eating and drinking and improves the food and drink intake of patients with dementia. The catering and dietetic team showcased the new crockery at the Trust dementia conference during the week.

Clinical Dietetic Manager, Lynn George said: “Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of staff the week’s initiative was a great success. Good nutrition and hydration are very important in improving our patients’ clinical outcomes and this week ensured that awareness of this was raised across the Trust.”

The lucky winner of the ‘nutrition and hydration quiz’ was Damien Hindmarch who is a Senior Technical Manager in the Trust - congratulations Damien!
Working with our charity partners is very important to us so that we can work collaboratively to provide the best possible patient experience.

Recently our Chief Executive, Julian Hartley, visited the new Candlelighters family support centre based on Woodhouse Square, near Leeds Children’s Hospital.

Julian was delighted to meet with Jo Shepheard, Charity Director, Emily Wragg, Centre Manager, and Natalie Kisby, Project Manager, who shared all the fantastic work Candlelighters are doing within the Trust to support families of children living with cancer.

The brand new support centre provides a relaxing environment for the parents of children undergoing treatment for cancer, giving them the opportunity to take some respite with well-being therapies, a coffee and cake lounge and all the emotional support that they need.

Candlelighters offer support to children with cancer and their families right across Yorkshire and have helped to fund many of the much needed additional care facilities at Leeds Children’s Hospital.

Generous donation helps cystic fibrosis patients

Our teams always do their best to provide the best possible care for our patients, and this is especially true for Leeds Children’s Hospital.

This care is complemented by generous benefactors and charity organisations who help to provide us with the latest in technology and equipment.

We were recently visited by Mr York, of Yorkshire Children’s Hospital Fund, who came along to drop off several thousand pounds worth of equipment for our respiratory patients on ward L30.

Physiotherapist, Christine Blackburn, said: “This extremely generous donation has enabled the physiotherapy department to buy a treadmill, static exercise bike and trampoline allowing us to use exercise as part of the physiotherapy treatment of respiratory patients. It is already in regular use and the trampoline is particularly popular with our younger patients!”

We would like to officially thank Mr York and Yorkshire Children’s Hospital Fund for this generous donation!

A big thank you to top fundraiser, Richard

Keen golfer and former patient, Richard Maltby, has raised over £100,000 for Trust charities over the last 12 years.

Richard became a patient in the Trust in 2002 when he was diagnosed with bowel and liver cancer. After several operations he has now been clear of disease for over 10 years.

It was whilst receiving chemotherapy that he started fundraising, setting up an annual golf event at Wetherby Golf Club in 2003. During that time, friends and family have supported Richard through a variety of fundraising feats, such as climbing Kilimanjaro, marathons, a masquerade ball, bowling and several one off donations.

The money raised has been donated to support research into the treatment of patients with bowel and liver cancer.

Giles Toogood, Consultant surgeon in liver transplants, said: “Richard has already exceeded £100,000 in his fundraising and this has required immense time and effort from Richard, and his family and friends. The monies have been gratefully received by the ‘Rays of Hope’ charity at St. James’s and also contributed towards work led by Professor David Sebag-Montefiore at the University of Leeds.”

“Richard continues with amazing energy to raise more money which we admire and gratefully receive.”

Richard’s next golf day is to be held at Wetherby Golf Club, on Thursday the 16th July when he expects over twenty teams of four to compete for prizes to be presented at an evening meal where a raffle and auction will take place.
Peter flies high for Yorkshire Cancer Centre!

Former Leeds Teaching Hospitals Charitable Trustee recently reached for the sky in a bid to raise £100,000 for the Yorkshire Cancer Centre charity.

Having been diagnosed with terminal colon cancer just a year ago, retired Yorkshire stockbroker, Peter Knowles, fulfilled a lifelong dream of taking flight in a Spitfire and all in the name of charity.

Peter, aged 63, who lives in Leeds said: “The cancer diagnosis came out of the blue and was a complete shock but, I decided I just had to get on with it. I’ve always wanted to fly over the White Cliffs of Dover and this was my chance whilst I’m still well enough to enjoy it.”

There are only five airworthy Spitfires remaining in the world today and three of them are here in the UK. Peter is funding the costly once in a lifetime flight himself but hoped that generous sponsors would help him raise lots of money for Leeds Cancer Centre where he has been a patient since March 2014.

Peter served as a Trustee on the board of Leeds Teaching Hospitals Charitable Foundation for fourteen years and is very proud of his association with Leeds hospitals.

Trust Chair, Linda Pollard said: “This is a wonderful opportunity for Peter to share his love of Spitfires and at the same time raise significant funds for the Yorkshire Cancer Centre Appeal. On completing his flight of a lifetime he had already raised nearly 57% of his initial £25,000 target.

Peter’s mother, a former Lady Mayoress of Tamworth, was part of the team that assembled the tails of Spitfires in 1944 and this has made his challenge all the more poignant. “Both my mother and my aunt worked in Castle Bromwich where the planes were assembled and it’s quite likely that the aircraft I’ll be flying in was part-assembled by these two great ladies!” said Peter.

Peter took to the skies from Goodwood Aerodrome on 15th April and fulfilled his dream of flying over the White Cliffs of Dover.

If you would like to boost Peter’s fundraising drive you can donate at his JustGiving web page: https://www.justgiving.com/PPKSpitfire/ or scan the QR Code with your smart phone

Medical Records team raises grand sum

Members of our Medical Records team at St James’s raised over £1,000 for the Sir Robert Ogden Macmillan Cancer Care.

Clerical Officers Wayne McNulty (featured in this edition’s 60 seconds), Karl Rahman, Ryan Thomas and Kenny Gibson held a successful raffle in the build-up to Easter, giving up their lunch breaks to sell over 1,000 tickets.

Marion Darlow, Macmillan Supportive Care Manager, thanked the team for their amazing donation, which will go towards supporting cancer patients and their families. We’d like to congratulate them on their grand achievement.

Still going strong after running to the start line the Leeds Half Marathon begins

Therapist completes marathon challenge for Ward C1

Helen McDonald, remembered colleague and friend Professor Bhakta when she set off to run the Leeds Half Marathon on May 10 and, raised money for Ward C1 at Chapel Allerton Hospital in the process.

Helen, who is a specialist Speech and Language Therapist at the hospital, ran a total of 26.2 miles on the day. Equivalent to a full marathon, she ran 3.5 miles from the hospital to join other runners at the starting line of Leeds Half Marathon before running a further 10 miles on completing the race, eventually finishing her marathon challenge at her home in North Leeds, and all exactly 6 hours and 1 minute, door to door!

Helen says: “This was my first attempt at running a full marathon but I wanted to make it a real challenge as my run is in memory of Professor Bhakta, a very well respected physician, colleague and friend who sadly passed away in December. The run was a real team effort as some of my colleagues acted as support crew on the day and others ran or cycled part of the route with me.”

“All the money raised will go towards equipment for Neuro Rehabilitation Inpatients Ward (C1) that will benefit patients there.”

Professor Bhakta, a pre-eminent academic in Rehabilitation Medicine, was Clinical Director for specialised rehabilitation services within the Trust and his work broadened knowledge in several fields including neurological control, theories of motor learning and the psychology of movement. He will be sadly missed by colleagues.

The day after the event Helen’s fundraising total was £1,000 and still rising. There is still time to boost her fundraising quest by visiting her JustGiving page at: www.justgiving.com/HelenMcDonalds26-2 or scan the QR Code

To scan a QR Code download a free QR Code Reader app from the App Store for iPhone or the Google Play Store for Android
We’re very pleased to announce another UK first for the Leeds Cancer Centre.

Consultant radiologist Dr Tze Wah, who was featured in the media, pioneering an innovative ‘heat and ice’ treatment for kidney cancer, has pulled off another UK first by performing the first image guided irreversible electroporation on a kidney tumour.

Irreversible electroporation (also known as nanoknife) is a type of non-thermal ablative energy that can be used to treat cancer. It works by delivering short, high voltage electrical pulses resulting in permanent microscopic holes in the cell wall leading to the death of cancer cells.

The advantage of this technology is that collagen structures, for example, blood vessels are not damaged during this process.

A specialist in interventional oncology Dr Wah led the team which undertook the procedure on 59-year-old Mr Alan Speight, from Dewsbury. The treatment took less than two hours and after a night in hospital Mr Speight was able to return home.

Dr Wah commented: “With the type of tumour Alan had the options for conventional treatment using heat or ice based energy was unsuitable and may destroy the kidney due to its location. The availability of this new nanoknife or IRE technology has revolutionised the way we can treat the tumour and prolong the life of his kidney.”

“The procedure went to plan and if anything took less time than I expected considering this is the first time I have used this technique. Alan recovered well and there is every indication the procedure has been successful, but we will be reviewing him closely. I am very pleased that we are now able to add the nanoknife and IRE technology to the range of treatment options available here at the Leeds Cancer Centre for these types of tumours.”

The whole procedure was filmed by a BBC news crew and broadcast on both national and local news stations. The patient involved was happy to be interviewed prior to the procedure and next day was filmed going about everyday business at home.

Julian Hartley was present during the procedure and he had this to say: “I was delighted to be invited by Dr Wah to visit her and her team in radiology as they prepared for another UK first. This delicate technique has been used on liver and pancreatic cancer tumours elsewhere before, but is the first time Leeds has used the nanoknife and the first time it has been used on a kidney tumour in this country.”

Alan, who has a genetic condition known as the Von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease, has had a number of surgeries over the years to remove tumours and he had this to say about his experience, “The procedure was routine compared to other surgeries I have had, with very little down time, I was up and about the next day and in no pain. I had surgery on this kidney before and it is only through the use of this Nanoknife technology that my kidney has been saved.”

Alan was delighted to receive such positive news at his follow up scan a month later and is looking forward to taking his family on holiday to Florida before going back to work.
Redesign of breast cancer diagnostic pathway

As part of the Leeds Transformation Programme, called Inspiring Change, and the work we are doing to transform health and social care across the city, we are redesigning the breast cancer diagnostic pathway.

This is one of the areas where we have seen an unprecedented increase in demand for our services and we want to develop a patient-centred service that delivers the best outcomes for patients. Around 98 per cent of people referred to our breast cancer clinic are not diagnosed as having cancer. However, with referrals rising by 40 per cent each year we do need to diagnose patients more efficiently if we are to be able to accommodate this increase in demand.

We are working closely with our partners in primary care and our commissioners to ensure that we engage with everyone affected by any changes in services as a result of this work.

The group has been working hard over the last few months to find out how patients want their service to look in the future and feedback about our current service has been extremely positive. A number of methods were used to gather patient feedback including events, one to one interviews and, an online survey; in total nearly 500 patients were involved.

We also held a series of workshops to find out how our staff and those in primary care think we could improve the pathway to help cope with the rise in demand and so improve patient experience.

The steering group is now working up a number of proposals for change based on the insight gathered. These proposals will then be shared with staff, patients, the public and other interested parties to comment on before any decisions are made.

We are keeping an open mind about what the service will look like and, we are keen to consider new and innovative ways of working. We are open to all suggestions to shape the future of cancer services in Leeds, to make it a better place to work and provide the very best care and outcomes for our patients.

If you have experience working within the breast cancer diagnostic pathway and have ideas on how the service could work better please contact: feedback@inspringchangeleeds.org

New nurse and new campaign to encourage organ donations

Rachel Summers 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 at our hospitals and across the Yorkshire region.

Prior to taking up the post, Rachel worked in intensive care in paediatrics at Leeds General Infirmary. She brings a wealth of experience to our organ donation campaign and is already familiar with our hospitals. Rachel 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.

In addition to this role, Rachel 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.

Rachel commented: “Organ donation makes an enormous 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.”

The team are currently in the process of planning an organ donation campaign, where we will be encouraging Yorkshire residents to ‘Be a hero’ and sign up to the organ donation register. The campaign is set to launch at the start of July.
£1 million robot surgery donation puts Leeds Children’s Hospital in forefront of technology

Leeds Children’s Hospital is now using a £1m Da Vinci robot that is dedicated to children’s surgery thanks to an incredibly generous donation received through the Leeds Children’s Hospital Appeal.

The Trust pioneered robotic surgery in the UK, and we are one of only a small number of centres in the country to have two surgical robots, with one earmarked solely for surgery on sick children. We are the only centre nationally outside London to have a children’s surgical robot.

A philanthropist who heard about the pioneering work being undertaken at Leeds Children’s Hospital agreed to fund the £1 million cost, and they have asked to remain anonymous.

Mr Edward Ziff, Chairman of our Charitable Foundation, said: “Our Leeds Children’s Hospital Appeal complements the brilliant work that doctors, nurses and our clinical staff do here in Leeds to achieve the best possible outcomes for young patients. One priority for us is ensuring access to the latest technology, and when this opportunity came up we were thrilled and delighted when one of our benefactors agreed to buy the surgical robot for us.”

“On behalf of the Appeal and the children of Yorkshire who will benefit from this fantastic gesture I want to say a huge public thank you to the donor. I can assure them they could not have chosen a better cause and the equipment they have funded will make a big difference.”

Trust Chair, Dr Linda Pollard CBE, added: “This is an incredibly generous donation which allows us to build on the internationally important work our surgeons have pioneered in Leeds. A new state-of-the-art surgical robot dedicated to young patients will further enhance care and treatment options and puts Leeds Children’s Hospital at the forefront of this technique globally.”

Surgical robots are a tool which gives an expertly trained surgeon the ability to control the device’s arms with immense precision during keyhole procedures when surgery is taking place within a confined space where pinpoint accuracy is needed.

The technique can potentially be utilised for most children’s conditions, but is particularly useful in undertaking keyhole surgery on the kidney, stomach, pelvic organs, liver and bile ducts.

Between 60 and 90 children from across Yorkshire are operated on annually using the robot, and there is potential to expand this to more than 350.

A number of paediatric surgeons; Mr Naved Alizai, Mr David Crabbe, Mr Azad Najmaldin, Miss Emma Sidebottom, Mr Ramnath Subramaniam, Mr Ian Sugarman and Mr Jonathan Sutcliffe use the new robot as part of their surgical practice and are seeing improved outcomes for young patients as a result.

Mr Najmaldin, who introduced and popularised minimally invasive surgery and robotic surgery for children in the UK and Europe, explained: “Compared to a conventional keyhole operation, the robot offers young patients many potential advantages. The precision of the robot offers the prospect of easier surgery, less bleeding and tissue damage, leading to fewer complications, and there is a reduced infection risk.

“For the young patients and their families the benefits include less pain, a shorter hospital stay and a happier child who make a swifter recovery. There is also less prospect of internal and external scarring from the surgery, boosting the youngster’s self-image after they go home.”

Robot surgery procedures are potentially less costly for the NHS – patients stay in hospital for a shorter period of time and have fewer complications. Fewer staff are needed in theatre, allowing for more efficient use of resources.
Trust partners with Boots UK for Outpatient pharmacy services

Outpatient pharmacy services at the LGI and St James’s are now being run by our partners at Boots UK.

This helps to ensure that patients have more opportunities to collect their LTHT outpatient prescriptions over seven days a week.

Boots UK is committed to supporting us in providing exceptional patient care and have a team of expert pharmacists and technicians who will be available to dispense medicines and share their professional advice.

The Boots UK Outpatient Pharmacy is able to offer a range of services including:

- The dispensing of outpatient prescriptions
- Pharmacy advice regarding medications
- A wide range of over-the-counter medicines and retail products
- Expert advice around a range of community pharmacy services
- Extended opening hours
- A seven days a week service

Opening times and locations

LGI (next to the Martin Wing)
Monday to Friday 
09:00 – 21:00
Saturday and Sunday 
10:00 – 17:00

SJUH: Chancellor's wing
Monday to Friday 09:00 – 20:00
Saturday and Sunday 10:00 – 16:00

SJUH: Bexley Wing
Monday to Friday 09:00-18.00
Saturday to Sunday Closed
Bank Holidays: Closed

Exceptional patient care: The Outpatient pharmacy team at the LGI

Our Trust says a fond farewell to Dr Bryan Gill

This April, we said farewell to Dr Bryan Gill, Medical Director for Quality, who has taken up a new role as Executive Medical Director at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Bryan has been a huge asset to the Trust over the last 22 years both in his role as a Consultant Neonatologist and in the various medical management and leadership roles he has held.

He was instrumental to the integration of the neonatal units in Leeds and the development of the Yorkshire Neonatal Network which has made a massive difference to the delivery of neonatal care in the region. He spearheaded the quality ambition for the Trust too and set standards for education, training and quality, both locally and through his various national leadership roles.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr Yvette Oade said: “We wish Bryan the very best in his new role as Executive Medical Director, his extensive experience in quality and governance will be of great value to Bradford Teaching Hospitals. We are sorry to see him go after 22 years with our Trust and we are grateful for his dedicated work and commitment during his time with us.”

Dr Brian Gill is joined by senior colleagues on the steps of Trust HQ
Donation helps babies keep a cool head

The Leeds Neonatal Unit team were very pleased to receive a donation of new equipment recently. The equipment will enhance our ability to provide the best care to newborn infants born with encephalopathy due to an interruption to oxygen supply during labour.

The equipment was donated by the Friends of Alfie Martin Charity, who have raised significant sums of money for the unit since the sad death of Alfie, who was born in Harrogate in 2002, and transferred for neonatal intensive care in Leeds soon afterwards.

The new equipment, which cost over £32,000 consists of a cerebral function monitor, with seizure recognition software that allows early detection of brain dysfunction and seizures, and a servo-controlled cooling mattress that allow babies’ to be cooled to 32° to prevent secondary brain injury.

Consultant Neonatologist, Dr Lawrence Miall said, “This treatment, which unfortunately wasn’t available when Alfie was born, gives a much greater chance of preventing long term disability after perinatal hypoxic-ischaemic brain injury. Leeds Neonatal Unit now has three cooling systems, allowing us to cool several babies at the same time, or to lend the equipment to adjacent Neonatal Intensive Care Units if needed.”

Men’s health day

In March our nursing team hosted a men’s health open day at our multi-speciality, outpatient facility at St James’s hospital for men in and around Leeds living with learning disabilities. The event was the first of its kind to be held in Yorkshire.

The day, which was facilitated by learning disability advocacy, Leep1, proved to be very popular, with over eighty men attending the event. The men from Leep1 were supported by the outpatient Matrons to work with our partners across Leeds. Our partners included Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Leeds City Council, and the learning disability forum, Tenfold, to facilitate the event.

The focus was around men’s health, as men with learning disabilities generally die much younger than those without and may have difficulty communicating health problems that they are living with.

The open day proved to be very popular and those attending the event had the opportunity to have a health check and take information away about how to look after their health. Some health issues were identified in some men who attended and they were given advice letters to arrange to visit their GP.

Our Lead Nurse for Learning Disabilities, Sadie Dunne, said: “I would like to thank both hospital and community services for their time and support. The partnership working was very successful and helped to form strong links with community services, which will in turn help in the support of future events.”

A local TV crew from MADE in Leeds came along to film the event and interviewed some of the facilitators.
Top research accolade for Leeds children’s cancer consultant

Congratulations to paediatric cancer consultant Dr Bob Phillips, from Leeds Children’s Hospital, who has been named the SPARKS Young Investigator of the Year for his tireless child and adolescent research work.

Presented at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health’s Annual Conference, the SPARKS award, which is funded by Sport Aiding Medical Research for Kids (SPARKS) recognises excellence in research and is offered once a year to an outstanding young medical research worker in British paediatrics.

From social media delivered medical education to research into dietetics, neuropsychology and childhood cancer, Dr Phillips’ research has brought together clinicians and researchers from the UK and overseas. It has also provided clinicians as well as patients and their families, with information on which to make important healthcare decisions and this has ultimately improved the experience of healthcare for children and their families.

Dr Phillips said: “I was delighted and completely surprised to be given this award. It’s great to see that the science of evidence synthesis, where we take the data from existing research studies and combine it, has been recognised by the College and supported by SPARKS. This sort of research maximises the value of clinical study data, not wasting any of the information which the families, children and research teams involved in these studies have worked so hard to produce.”

As well as winning the accolade for his extensive clinical research, Dr Phillips was singled out for another piece of work which specifically looked at reducing hospital admissions for children with ‘febrile neutropenia’, a potentially life-threatening condition developed during cancer treatment. He has recently been awarded an NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) fellowship to build on this important work.

Professor Lesley Stewart, Director of the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York, who nominated Dr Phillips, said: “The research that Dr Phillips undertakes has great potential to impact directly on clinical practice and patient experience. It also has high potential to positively shape the way that health services are configured; an achievement of great importance for child health not only in Yorkshire, but across the rest of the UK and beyond.”

New Education Practitioner Nurse role

Gareth Firth has recently been appointed as Education Practitioner Nurse for Radiology Theatres. This role has been created to provide the specialist training and support needed for nurses new to working in interventional radiology.

Nurses working in interventional oncology are an essential part of a multi-disciplinary team of radiologists and radiographers. However, nurses moving into this area of work with no previous experience of the role need a significant amount of support and training. In recognition of this, the new role of Education Practitioner Nurse for Radiology Theatres has been created.

Gareth will be working closely with both old and new staff to make sure that the comprehensive competency and mentoring process is as robust as possible.

Gareth has worked in radiology theatres since 2007 and has become one of the most experienced intervention nurses in the department.

Nursing roles in interventional radiology are a highly technical speciality that can provide really interesting work in a fast paced, cutting edge, environment.

If you are interested in a career in Radiology Theatres or, would like to arrange an informal visit you can contact Gareth Firth or Charge Nurses Ian Noble, Ian Medlicott or Simon Gulliver on 23311 or 66841.
As part of our on-going commitment to achieving foundation trust status, we continue to run our successful Medicine for Members events.

Medicine for Members events give our members and the public the opportunity to learn more about the services we provide. Each event has a guest speaker, which offers those attending the opportunity to hear more about different specialties and conditions followed by the chance to ask questions.

These free events are designed to engage, inform and educate our membership on a number of conditions and the schedule for 2015 will provide opportunities for expert teams and individuals in the Trust to engage with our members and promote a better understanding of medicine and medical science.

As part of the series Dr Jacqueline Andrews gave a talk on the recent developments in Rheumatology and the advances that have been made over the past decade, treating conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus.

On another occasion, Dr Yvette Oade, Chief Medical Officer and Trudie Davies, Assistant Director of Operations, talked to members on the subject of Patient Safety in Leeds Teaching Hospitals.

We have a full calendar of Medicine for Members events during the year with subject areas from robotic surgery to brain aneurysms and stroke; for more information type this link into your browser: http://tinyurl.com/lvacqgq or scan this QR code with your smartphone:

To scan a QR Code download a free QR Code Reader app from the App Store for iPhone or the Google Play Store for Android

Right road: Staff from the Centre and from Steepers and ERS with some of our service users and one of the vehicles

New Patient Transport Service to meet needs of Specialist Rehabilitation patients

A new Patient Transport Service tailored to the needs of Orthotic, Prosthetic and Wheelchair patients who attend the Specialist Rehabilitation Centre at Seacroft Hospital started work in April.

The Prosthetic and Orthotic contract has been re-tendered and the new contract starts to co-inside with this new initiative. The successful bidder was Steepers who have partnered with ERS Medical to deliver patient transport. They will provide a holistic transport package designed around the needs of patients and clinic staff.

Nancy Rhodes, Rehabilitation Services Manager, commented: “It was increasingly clear that our previous patient transport arrangements were having a negative impact on the patient experience of our services and were creating significant inefficiencies in our outpatient clinics.”

“During 2014 we had an opportunity to address this when our fully managed Orthotic and Prosthetic contract was retendered. We decided to include patient transport services within the new tender and have this as an integral part of our future contract with our preferred bidder, clearly stating desired objectives and the improvements we expected to see from a new patient transport provider.”

“The primary objectives were to improve patient experience and improve clinic efficiencies

“We now have our Prosthetists and Orthotists taking responsibility for booking their own clinic appointments. With our new PTS provider they will have the confidence to book and plan their clinics in the knowledge that they will be able to spend the necessary ‘quality time’ with their patients during assessments, fitting and supply appointments thereby bringing about further improvements in patient outcomes.”

“This type of service sets a new standard for Rehabilitation services across the UK and I am pleased that Leeds is again leading the way.”
**Summarise the main aspects of your role?**

On a daily basis, I co-ordinate the theatre list and nurse staffing of the Radiology department to ensure that staffing skills are balanced appropriately for the cases planned to ensure that the day runs smoothly. This involves liaising closely with my colleagues Ian Medlicott and Ian Noble to ensure that our cross city departments are also running smoothly.

Other aspects of my role include, working within the theatres themselves providing scrubbing support for the radiologists and providing patient care, as many of our patients are awake throughout their procedure. We scrub for angio procedures which can range from vascular and neuro-intervention at the LGI to renal, hepatic and vascular interventions at St James’s. I am also involved with interventional ultrasound in the Bexley wing. Both Ian and I are on call evenings and weekends and so sometimes we receive a call at home to scrub for acute interventions.

Additional managerial tasks include, supporting staff on a day to day basis and working together to ensure that our team is managed appropriately and able to move forward in the ever changing world of nursing and radiology.

**What else have you done in your career so far?**

Since the very beginning when I started as a newly qualified nurse, I knew that radiology was where I wanted to develop my career. Since being appointed charge nurse I feel I have had the opportunity to develop further, both personally and professionally. I have had the chance to attend study days to build on my knowledge and, courses such as ‘cannulation’ and ‘communications’ courses, all of which help to continually challenge and push my continuing professional development.

Radiology theatres are continually developing and introducing innovative, new technologies. My colleagues and I are at the front line working with and learning about these life changing treatments and devices, it’s a very interesting place to be!

I returned to University in May to complete my Support for Learning in Practice course. This course aims to develop the mentoring skills of health professionals who are supporting learners in a practice setting and I’m looking forward to returning to the Trust and putting this knowledge into practice.

**What’s the best thing about your job?**

The team that I work with, Radiology Team V, as we call ourselves. This is truly an exciting, forward thinking and fun place to work and not a day goes by, I don’t laugh. I love having the opportunity to care for patients whether on a one to one basis or for returning patients, where I am able to build long term rapport. Every day is different with new challenges and goals to meet.

**What is the one thing you would change at LTHT to help you do your job better?**

As a department we carry out both elective and acute procedures. The current bed situation means that much of our elective work can be delayed or cancelled, as we have to wait for beds to be allocated to the elective patients. If we were to have allocated or protected beds for the radiology theatres, I feel it would improve the patient experience.

**What’s your best advice to a new starter at the Trust?**

Nursing opens the doors to many different experiences and areas of work. My advice would be to be open minded; ‘they always say the best experiences are off the beaten track’ and one of those unbeaten tracks led to radiology for me and I haven’t looked back!
A fond farewell to our long-serving staff

Linda retires after long dedicated service to the Trust

Linda starting working in the Trust in 1977 and was one of our longest serving members of staff. Linda was the Sister in the Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Day Care Unit, first at Seacroft Hospital, followed by the Children’s Day Hospital on the St James’s site.

Linda became one of our first Clinical Research Nurses, and went on to lead the Paediatric Oncology Research Nurse team, and more recently to support the development of the ‘Medicines for Children’ research team.

Rachel Hollis, Lead Nurse for Children’s Cancer said: “Linda has given many years of dedicated service to the speciality. Thanks to her leadership Clinical Research in the Children’s Hospital is in a strong position to continue to grow in activity and reputation. We wish Linda well for a long and happy retirement - she deserves it!”

In retirement she will continue to be very busy taking care of her granddaughter, and supporting Castleford Tigers Rugby League team - a real passion of hers!

Elaine retires after more than 40 years

Ward Clerk, Elaine Law sadly retired recently after more than 40 years’ service with the Trust.

Elaine started with LTHT back in 1968 as an apprentice cook, and later became Supervisor of the diet kitchen at LGI. She later moved to patient administration and worked for ten years in the breast clinics before becoming ward clerk on Ward L16.

Victoria Bentley, Acting Senior Sister had this to say, “Elaine will be missed by the nursing team on L16 and all the clerks, secretaries, Doctors and other people she had contact with. She was a mine of information and a font of all knowledge and she will be especially missed by Lucia our present ward clerk. We wish her all the best in her retirement and hope she enjoys more time in her garden.”

Janet Firth leaves after 26 years

Janet Firth, who has worked for the trust for 26 years, was treated to no less than two retirement bashes, one at Seacroft Hospital where she has spent most of her time over the years and a second at the St James’s site, where she has worked for the last year as a cashier.

Janet, a passionate gardener, is looking forward to spending more time in her garden and is also eagerly awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild in July, so she is expecting to stay very busy indeed.

David Hay, Head of Financial Services joined many of Janet’s colleagues both past and present to wish her a fond farewell.

Hazel Bosworth had this to say on behalf of the team, “Janet has faithfully served the Trust for the past 26 years, her sunny personality and exemplary attitude towards others will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best for her future retirement which sounds like it is going to be full of gardening, holidays and most importantly, babysitting!”

Hazel Bosworth, Samantha Robinson, Dom Lansdale, Janet Firth, David Hay, Nicola Brooks celebrate Janet’s time at the Trust
Matron, Jenny Asker retires after more than 40 years

Matron, Jenny Asker retired recently after more than 40 years at the Trust. After completing her training at Harrogate School of Nursing, Jenny qualified as Staff Nurse in ‘77 and then Sister in ’81.

Jenny worked in theatres as Staff Nurse working up to Sister then Team Leader and Clinical Nurse Specialist. She soon became Assistant Divisional Manager and started work in Internal Audit as Senior Nurse in 2004. Jenny became Matron in Critical Care working across our sites.

Colleagues thought her to be a very friendly and approachable person who was dedicated to her work and keen to pass on her knowledge to others.

Veronica Maciag has worked in the NHS for 39 years, initially working as a housekeeper at Chapel Allerton Hospital before becoming a Health Care Assistant in elderly care. After six months she moved to Neurosurgery where she has worked since.

Veronica’s team describe her as, “a valued member of the team, who is a massive part of our neurosurgery family. She will be missed, but we all know she will keep in touch.”

Veronica surrounded by colleagues and friends

21st birthday celebrations for our esteemed rheumatology department

Staff and patients alike joined Chief Executive, Julian Hartley, in celebrating 21 years of excellence as the rheumatology department at Chapel Allerton Hospital celebrated its 21st birthday in May.

A day of events looking back over two decades of achievement concluded with a symposium opened by Julian who congratulated staff on the excellent delivery of high quality patient care.

Around 35,000 patients annually from around the region use the service, and the Hospital is also an internationally recognised centre of excellence for rheumatology research.

The service originally transferred to Chapel Allerton from the former Royal Bath Hospital in Harrogate in February 1994 and was the last service to move into the then newly-built Chapel Allerton Hospital, which was opened by HRH the Duchess of Kent later the same year. During her tour HRH visited the ward and the hydrotherapy pool, chatting to patients and staff.

The hospital also has a strong local, national and international reputation which has been built on 21 years of successful service delivery.

Lynda Bailey, Sister on Ward C5, said: “The time has just flown by and this is a great time to pause and reflect on how far we have come and all we have achieved. The skills and scope of the work of the rheumatology department have developed hugely over the last 21 years and we pride ourselves on a friendly service designed around the needs of all our different groups of patients.”

As well as celebrating the service from a patient care point of view, the anniversary day also marked the clinical and research advances made by the team at Chapel Allerton. These include specialist clinics looking at conditions such as inflammatory arthritis, developing links with other specialties both on site and across our hospitals, an expansion of training as well as a big emphasis on research and development.

Chapel Allerton is also home to the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)’s Leeds Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit (LMBRU), which was created in 2008 as part of the NIHR’s initiative to support translational clinical research in priority areas.

Prof Paul Emery speaks at the Rheumatology Department’s 21st Birthday Celebrations
The profile of reproductive medicine and fertility treatment here in Leeds is developing a national profile thanks to Professor Adam Balen, who has started a three-year term as Chair of the British Fertility Society.

Our Leeds Centre of Reproductive Medicine at Seacroft and its 84-strong team is one of the largest such facilities anywhere in the NHS and is led by consultants Mr Tony Rutherford, Mrs Vinay Sharma and Mrs Catherine Hayden as well as Professor Balen.

The unit undertakes around 3,500 private and NHS fertility treatments annually, providing a regional service for couples from as far afield as Cumbria and Northern Lincolnshire. They work closely with colleagues in district general hospitals, providing a range of expert treatment for fertility, as well as assisted conception (IVF), with both NHS and self-funded patients.

The unit has recently reinvested private income to provide five highly advanced time-lapse embryoscopes, each costing around £70,000. They use time-lapse photography in a climate-controlled environment so our experts can better identify which of the fertilised eggs has the best chance of resulting in a successful pregnancy.

The technique avoids the risk of damage to the embryos by temperature change by movement and helps in selecting single rather than multiple embryos. Overall it has helped the unit’s success rate grow significantly to around 50% pregnancy rate per cycle of treatment in women under the age of 37, which is double that of a few years ago.

As well as pioneering the use of more patient-friendly technologies, the Reproductive Medicine team has also been enhancing the skill mix and services they provide to couples, with four advanced nurse practitioners, currently in training (Kathryn Richardson, Jill Bulmer, Vicki Rawnsley and Nichola Sugden).

Professor Balen said: “These are exciting times for our unit and I am pleased that as Chair of the British Fertility Society (BFS) I can ensure we are fully engaged both nationally and internationally.”

“The role of BFS is to represent all professionals involved in reproductive medicine, including clinicians, scientists, nurses, counsellors and all the other members of the multi-disciplinary team who work hard to help families affected by infertility, which has a major impact on the life and welfare of couples who experience it.”

“All couples have the right to start a family if they wish, but societal and economic pressures mean many women are delaying childbearing, and since fertility declines as people get older this is a significant issue. One of the strengths of the department in Leeds, unlike many private clinics, is we provide the full range of infertility services and treatment, of which IVF is only one component.”

Health education and research is important both locally and nationally, and in the BFS role Professor Balen is heavily involved with the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, NICE and Parliament.

One of his tasks is to lobby about the importance of fertility treatment and fair NHS funding, as well as ensuring there is evidence-based patient information available to help couples make informed choices.

In addition to this national role, Professor Balen is a member of the World Health Organization global taskforce steering committee on infertility, which is increasingly being recognised as a health challenge of global importance.

Leeds Centre for Reproductive Medicine

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Reinvigorated Grand Rounds deemed a great success!

Consultant Renal Physician, Andrew Lewington and Dr Morag Arundel have reinvigorated the Grand Rounds with the support of Professor Paul Stewart, Dean of the University of Leeds and, our Chief Medical Officer, Dr Yvette Oade.

Andrew says, “I wanted to reinvigorate the Grand Rounds to provide an educational forum for all members of LTHT and the University of Leeds to attend and share their ideas and knowledge.”

Chief Executive, Julian Hartley delivered a speech to a whole host of staff at a recent Grand Round lecture at St James’s. Speaking from the Clinical Sciences Building his presentation was sent via video link to Littlewood Hall Lecture Theatre at LGI.

In his speech, entitled Shaping the future of Leeds Teaching Hospitals: Culture, engagement, education, Julian provided an overview of work done so far, outlined plans to develop a value based education academy for the Trust, and summarised plans for LTHT over the next five years.

Consultant Histopathologist, Dr Judy Wyatt, commented that, “The Grand Round is an excellent opportunity to hear about much of the exciting work that is being performed across Leeds.”

An educational event, which is open to all employees of the Trust, it provides an opportunity to hear a range of presentations from healthcare professionals and to network with colleagues over lunch.

“Grand Rounds allows us to get an insight into the cutting edge research and care that is occurring on our doorstep. It reminds us what continual determination and team work can achieve.”

Luke McMenamin, fifth year medical student

The Grand Rounds are held on a weekly basis throughout the academic year, open to all members of staff and students and admission is free on the door. Starting at 12.30 with a networking opportunity over lunch, the lectures themselves begin at 1pm.

If you are based at Leeds General Infirmary, you can view the event via a video link at the Littlewood Hall Lecture Theatre in the Postgraduate Centre. The Trust is currently working together with the University of Leeds to improve the IT facilities linking the two sites.

Success for Maltese medical physicist students

A significant milestone was reached recently when the first cohort of medical physicist students from Malta successfully completed their 22-month training programme with the Trust. David Berridge, Medical Director (Operations and International Partnerships) presented the students with certificates to recognise their achievement at a ceremony in the Old Medical School.

Chris Cassar, a trainee from the first cohort of students is soon to take up a role back in Malta in Medical Physics and had this to say about his experience: “The training in Leeds was an unforgettable experience that will ultimately benefit the clinical service in Malta. I would like to thank Prof. David Brettle, who leads the department of medical physics and engineering, for his continuous support during training. The relationship between Malta and Leeds was unquestionably rewarding for both parties and I hope that the partnership will continue to develop still further in the future.”

The students will now take up positions at Malta’s newly-built Oncology wing at the prestigious Mater Dei Hospital. A second cohort of students from Malta is currently in its second year of training with us. This is part of a good and developing relationship that we have with Malta and we hope there may be other international opportunities to promote the expertise we have throughout Leeds Teaching Hospitals.

David Berridge said: “This has been a highly successful training program enjoyed by the trainees and LTHT trainers alike. The enthusiasm and quality of the Maltese trainees has impressed our staff tremendously. We are already training a second cohort of trainees from Malta and we intend to continue developing our international training program in the future.”
Cricketers bowled over by skin cancer initiative

Yorkshire County Cricketers, in association with our partners Yorkshire Cancer Research, recently visited the dermatology department at Chapel Allerton Hospital for skin cancer screening and to help raise awareness of the issue.

First team players, including Andrew Gale, Steven Patterson, Tim Bresnan and Richard Pyrah, were among those attending dermatology outpatients as part of the charity’s Sun Awareness campaign.

Cases of a type of skin cancer called malignant melanoma in Yorkshire have increased by 170% over the past 25 years according to statistics provided by Public Health England. The increase is considered to be linked to changes in sun-related behaviour and more holidays abroad. Cricketers have a particularly high risk of developing melanoma due to the amount of time they spend in the sun.

Yorkshire Captain Andrew Gale said: “As cricket players we spend a lot of time out in the sun in the summer so it’s definitely beneficial for the lads to see the doctors and get checked out. We’re also keen to raise awareness among people at cricket clubs throughout Yorkshire and our partnership with Yorkshire Cancer Research is really helping us spread the word.”

Dr Wal Hussain, Consultant Dermatologist at Chapel Allerton Hospital, said: “One of the things we try and educate people about is the importance of early detection in diagnosing and curing skin cancer and this is where the role of screening is so important. If you are worried the first step is to go and have a chat with your GP - ‘If in doubt, check it out’.”

Dr Yvette Oade, Chief Medical Officer at LTHT and Trustee at Yorkshire Cancer Research, added: “It’s fantastic to see Yorkshire’s cricketers leading the way in cancer screening and setting an example to sports people and supporters across the county.”

“It is extremely important to wear high factor sunscreen when outdoors for a long period of time, be aware of any unusual changes to the skin and see your doctor if you are worried. With skin cancer incidence rates in Yorkshire rising at an alarming rate, it’s vital that we drive home this message.”

International Paediatric urology event

Representatives from nine countries took part in a very successful urology event in March that included live cases, lectures and discussions. Around 50 doctors and healthcare providers from around the world watched Consultant Paediatric Urologist, Mr Ram Subramaniam, conduct surgery by live video link to the Littlewood Hall Lecture Theatre at LGI. The interactive discussions were educational and well received.

One highlight of the second day was a patient story, when Nicky and Andrew Hudson came along to talk about how a Vesicoureteral Reflux (VUR) procedure undertaken by Mr Subramaniam changed the quality of life of their nine-year-old daughter.

She had suffered from recurrent urinary tract infections all her life and was constantly in and out of hospital, regularly missing school and many of the everyday events of childhood.

After being treated elsewhere for some years she was eventually referred from her home in North Yorkshire to Leeds and last August a day procedure was carried out which has changed her life. “Words cannot describe how grateful we are” was Mr and Mrs Hudson’s message.

Consultant Paediatric Urologist and Hon Clinical Associate Professor, University of Leeds, Mr Ram Subramaniam, said: “The annual course in operative paediatric urology (COPU) provides interactive discussions between professionals regarding best practice options for conditions within paediatric urology. Healthcare professionals like watching surgery in action which can throw up surprises but on the whole provides a live experience of decision making. The highlight of this year’s course was that this is the first time a care giver came to talk about their child’s experience. It is encouraging and satisfying to hear that we do make a difference.”

A huge thank you to all staff and trainees who helped in the organisation of the course and to the sponsors who enabled us to waive registration fees for participants.
Wayne McNulty, Clerical Officer, Medical Records Team, has worked for the Trust for 12 Years

What do you do to wind down and relax after a hard week at work?
I enjoy spending time with family and friends.

What is your ideal holiday destination and why?
Australia. I have always wanted to visit and I have a few friends there.

What is your favourite food?
Chinese! I love sweet and sour chicken and beef in OK sauce.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?
An RAF Fighter Pilot. I love aeroplanes and had posters and Airfix models when I was younger. My Dad and Grandad were both in the RAF.

What is your favourite film?
I have so many! If I had to choose it would probably be between Fast and Furious (all 7 films) and Shawshank Redemption.

Tell us something we don’t know about you …
I used to be a fork-lift truck driver before I joined the trust. I play darts and snooker in a league and I used to play Gaelic football at a high level. I also have a lovely 12 year old daughter.

Congratulations to Neill Roberts on his recent appointment to Consultant Radiographer in Breast Radiotherapy at the Leeds Cancer Centre. This is the first such appointment for radiotherapy in Leeds and will hopefully provide momentum for similar posts across other site specialities.

The post is jointly funded by the Trust and Sheffield Hallam University, providing a commitment not only to radiotherapy services but also to on-going education and research in this area.

Neill said, “To be the first person appointed to such a role in Leeds is very exciting. I hope I can shape the role to benefit the service and also provide opportunities for other radiographers wanting to extend their scope of practice in the future. The creation of this post offers career progression opportunities for radiographers who have developed their skills and knowledge at an advanced level.”

The role of the consultant is a multi-faceted one and the partnership with the university will facilitate a mutually beneficial relationship in terms of education provision and research collaboration. Recent developments in breast radiotherapy, both locally and nationally, suggest that the next few years will be particularly busy. Commenting on the appointment, the Head of Radiotherapy at Leeds Cancer Centre, Julie Owens, said, “I am very proud that this appointment has been made and would like to congratulate Neill. It is an extremely positive step for patients and the development of the radiotherapy service itself. I am confident that the strong partnership working between the radiotherapy breast clinicians, Sheffield Hallam University and radiotherapy radiographers will ensure the success of the role.”

Working in partnership Professor David Dodwell (Lead Consultant Clinical Oncologist for Breast Cancer), Neill Roberts (Consultant Radiographer for Breast Cancer), Julie Owens (Head of Radiotherapy) and Denyse Hodgson (Programme Lead for Radiotherapy and Oncology at Sheffield Hallam University)
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