News for staff, patients and visitors at the Churchill, Horton and John Radcliffe Hospitals

January 2009
An historic day

On 27 November 2008, Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited the John Radcliffe Hospital to celebrate the opening of the West Wing and the Children’s Hospital – an event to remember for the many patients, staff and guests involved.

The Royal party were greeted at the Hospital by a cheerful crowd of flag-waving children from local schools and nurseries. After formal introductions with Dr John Hood, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Sir William Stubbs, ORH Chairman and Trevor Campbell Davis, ORH Chief Executive, the Queen and Duke were taken on separate tours of the new facilities. The Queen met patients, staff and supporters in Kamran’s Ward of the Children’s Hospital, and then watched Professor Tipu Aziz give a short presentation of the benefits of deep brain stimulation for patients with Parkinson’s Disease. At the same time, the Duke visited one of the new integrated operating theatres, and met surgical students being taught with the use of the new technology. Both the Queen and Duke were clearly pleased by the many staff who had volunteered to line the corridors and greet the guests.

Following the tours, the Queen and Duke met guests in the Atrium, including representatives of the University of Oxford, and some of the supporters who had contributed to the Children’s Hospital fundraising campaign. Before departing, the Queen unveiled a plaque commemorating the day.

For those of us involved in managing the event, the visit represented the culmination of weeks of discussion and planning. Many people from the ORH and the University were involved in making it such a success, including a large number of staff who helped to make our Royal visitors feel very welcome.
His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh meeting nurses.

The Queen meeting the Young People’s Executive (YPpEe).
The Queen meeting Dr Anne Thompson, Lead Clinician Children’s Services; and Amanda Middleton, Director of Operations.

Meeting children and their families on Kamran’s Ward.

Libby Turner from Standlake presents The Queen with a posy.

The Duke of Edinburgh meeting operating theatre staff.
Professor Tipu Aziz gave a short presentation of the benefits of deep brain stimulation for patients with Parkinson’s Disease.
Are you a carer?

If you spend unpaid time looking after or supporting a relative, child, partner, neighbour or friend who is frail, ill or who has a physical or learning disability or mental health problem, then you are a carer.

Sometimes people do not recognise themselves as a carer, especially when they are looking after a spouse/partner, close relative or friend.

At the ORH we are trying to identify carers and help them gain access to support through their GP and the Carers Centres in Oxfordshire. Staff are encouraged to record inpatient notes if the patient is a carer or if they have the support of a carer at home.

If you are a carer please make your role known when you, or the person you are caring for, is a patient in one of our hospitals.

If you would like to know more about the help available to carers in Oxfordshire visit www.oxoncarers.org.uk

“Carers Centres provide one-to-one free, independent and confidential advice, information and support for carers of any age, including young carers aged under 18. We can visit people in their own homes, at a time to suit them and offer guidance and emotional support. We are able to put people in touch with other agencies that can help them; we can offer assistance with form filling and the claiming of benefits and allowances; and sometimes we can offer financial assistance.”

Sue Jeffs, Health Outreach Coordinator, South and Vale Carers Centre

Neurosciences say farewell to staff moving to pastures new

With so many people embarking on retirements and adventures, Neurosciences thought they had better celebrate in style – so they had a tea party to say their farewells and launch the leavers off with all the luck in the world.

Back row from left to right: Gill Williams, Ward Clerk, retiring after 6 years; Jenny Tristram, staff nurse going travelling; Beth Forrow, staff nurse has been appointed as Movement Disorder Specialist Nurse; Issabelle Manning, staff nurse going to Australia to work in Neurosciences; Daphne Thompson, staff nurse retiring after nearly 27 years in Neurosurgery.

Front row from left to right: Helen Hamlet, staff nurse retiring after 18 years 6 months in Neurosurgery; Nerissa Bonaventura, staff nurse leaving to work in Neurosurgery in London. Denise Pettifer also retired this year after 15 years 9 months, but didn’t make it to the tea party. She was a healthcare assistant in Neurosurgery.
Anyone interested in becoming a member of the station should contact Kevin on 01865 225522.

Hospital radio is seen as a firm training ground for becoming a radio professional. Radio Cherwell can boast numerous members who have joined the BBC, Fox FM and Jack FM as well as other stations further afield!

Radio Cherwell’s output can also be heard on their website at www.radiocherwell.com enabling relatives and friends to keep in touch by sending messages or requests to any patient in Oxford's hospitals. Call the studios on 01865 225522 or email studio@radiocherwell.com

Radio Cherwell long service awards

Volunteers are recognised for their long service to Oxford’s oldest radio station

Members receiving their long service awards are (left to right) Doug Morris (10 years), Graham Cook (20 years), Dave Brown (30 years), June Snowden (President HBA), Paul Lucas (30 years), Jason Townsend (10 years), Nick Saunders (10 years) and Michael Clark (20 years).

Radio Cherwell saw some of its members, with over a combined total of 130 years of service between them, rewarded with long service certificates at their recent AGM.

The National Hospital Broadcaster’s Association’s president June Snowden presented the awards and said, “I am proud to visit Radio Cherwell again and officially recognise the tremendous and ongoing commitment its members give to the patients of Oxford’s hospitals. Long may it continue.”

The membership of Oxford’s oldest radio station, which first began broadcasting in 1967, is over 70 strong. Membership secretary Kevin Crouch said, “We have people from all walks of life as members, from those retired to students, professionals to police and medical staff to unemployed. It isn’t just about presenting a programme, there are other areas such as ward visiting, IT maintenance and programme production. We welcome anyone wishing to become involved, but they must show firm commitment to our patients and not just come here to become Radio 1’s next top jock!”

Radio Cherwell to broadcast from inside Oxford’s children’s wards

Radio Cherwell’s kid’s programme, the ‘Weekend for everything show’ will be able to broadcast directly from the children’s wards following a £4,000 donation from the Isis Foresters.

The donation will fund equipment that will enable programmes to be broadcast directly from the wards, allowing patients to become fully involved in the production and transmission of its children’s output. The Isis Foresters are also funding prizes for the children who win during the weekly show.

Presenter Jason Townsend said, “This is a fantastic boost to our efforts in entertaining the kids, which now allows them to take part more fully and to hear themselves on the radio.”

Isis Forester President, Denise Parrott presenting the donation to Radio Cherwell Chairman, Neil Stockton.
Key benefits

The benefits an AHSC in Oxfordshire brings to patients and staff, as well as teaching and research, include:

• Delivering better patient care. The AHSC will allow organisations to work collaboratively together to transform the provision and delivery of healthcare, both in and out of hospitals. Patients will benefit from the highest quality clinical services delivered by the highest quality clinical staff, supported by world class research with direct relevance to patient care.

• Strengthening training and teaching. The AHSC will provide a centre of excellence for clinical and academic teaching and training. This will include ongoing professional development for established staff as well as for clinical and other students.

• Attracting and retaining the best talent. The AHSC will bring together high quality clinical, education, research and managerial talent. Innovation and improvement will be nurtured and encouraged. All staff will benefit from association with a world-renowned AHSC, with the additional talent and resources this will attract.

• Measuring and celebrating improvements. The AHSC will provide a vehicle for measuring progress in the transformation of clinical services, in research outcomes and in the achievements of its students and other learners, and for celebrating success.

• Developing the expertise to commercialise innovations. The AHSC will provide the opportunity to further develop business skills to realise the commercial benefits from research and development, so that resources can be created for further investment.

• Sharing infrastructure and more effectively utilising assets. The AHSC will allow organisations to work more effectively together, to share resources, facilities and talent, for the benefit of patients, staff and students.

It is now recognised that accreditation as an AHSC is compatible with the ORH becoming an NHS Foundation Trust, and that most of the NHS organisations involved in AHSCs will already have FT status. The ORH/University Steering Committee has therefore agreed that it is our joint wish to be authorised as an academic FT in the summer of 2009.
Be part of our future

What’s happening with the Foundation Trust application?

Over the summer, the ORH had a formal consultation with the public and key local bodies such as local councils, to ask for views about our application to become a Foundation Trust. The consultation document set out the Trust’s ideas about how a Foundation Trust at the ORH might look, and asked people for their feedback. In particular we were asking for comments on our membership and governance proposals and also our strategic aims for the next five years.

The formal public consultation over the ORH’s application for Foundation Trust status has now been completed. The ORH Board will make final decisions in January 2009 about the shape of the Members’ Council following comments made during the consultation.

Director of Planning and Information, Andrew Stevens said, “Most of the responses to the consultation were very positive and supportive. In addition, we have received some practical suggestions about how we might improve our arrangements. It is also clear that there will need to be further discussions with key stakeholders, such as the Primary Care Trust and the University of Oxford, who have asked for assurances about how Foundation Trust status will impact on our joint working with them. They are very important to us and we want their full support for our plans to becoming a Foundation Trust.”

The Strategic Health Authority will have a formal meeting with the Board of Directors of the ORH to assess their readiness for going ahead with Foundation Trust status in early 2009.

We hope to be able to have elections by late Spring 2009. We will be electing the Council who will hold the ORH Board to account. The Council will be made up of elected public members (who will have a simple majority on the Council), elected staff members and appointed members by key partners.

Expect more news soon on events for staff to inform you in more detail about where we are and how to get involved in the new Council.

If you would like more information about the membership scheme, and our work to become a Foundation Trust, please contact our FT Project Team on 01865 (7)43491, email orhmembers@orh.nhs.uk

Please also get in touch if you want to know more about standing for election.

Joining the Foundation Trust as a member

The ORH has been busy recruiting public members to join the Foundation Trust for the last five months. Either directly, or through other agencies, we have been recruiting in Banbury, Aylesbury, Swindon, Oxford, Witney, Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire.

We have over 13,000 staff members, including the Medical Sciences Division of the University and Carillion staff, and we need to match that number with members drawn from the public.

Membership forms are available at information points in our hospitals and on request from the Foundation Trust membership office:
Tel: 01865 743491 or email orhmembers@orh.nhs.uk

Membership is free and entitles members to receive information about the Foundation Trust (preferably by email so that we can keep our costs down!), be invited to FT events and to participate in elections to the Council.

Foundation Trust Member’s events

Over the last few months members of staff have been out talking to public members of the Foundation Trust about how the application is going and how elections will work. Several hundred members have attended events, to which all public members who have expressed an interest in standing for election to the Members’ Council, have been invited. Events have so far been held in Banbury and Oxford and over the next two months further events will be held in Witney, Didcot, Bicester, Banbury and Oxford.

Similar events will be organised soon for staff members interested in standing for the Council. There has been a good response at these events, with a continued interest in involvement being expressed.

The most common issues raised at the meetings have been the excellence of care received at ORH hospitals and people’s support for them. The issue of cleanliness and health care associated infections has also led to much discussion, with people both pointing out room for improvement and praising areas where we are getting things right.
The role of the Occupational Therapist (OT) is a mystery to most people outside the healthcare environment, so when they are referred to the OT team, it can be bewildering.

To help raise awareness, a group of OTs spent a day in the Clarendon Centre in Oxford, explaining their role to the City’s shoppers.

“We find that when people are referred to us for the first time, they have no idea what we actually do,” OT, Hannah Clarkson, explained. “So, as part of the College of Occupational Therapist’s OT promotion week, we set up a stall to provide information to the public.”

An important part of rehabilitation after an illness is the reeducation and the gaining of new or adapted skills to prepare patients to leave hospital. Occupational therapy is a key element in enabling patients to make the greatest use of their skills so that they achieve as much independence as possible.

“We are referred about 12,000 patients a year within the Trust,” Hannah added. “We work in hospital and various community settings with people of all ages. There was a perception that OTs only work with older people and having the stall in the shopping arcade gave us an opportunity to talk to the public about what we do and also to promote occupational therapy as a career. It’s a really interesting job, especially if you enjoy working closely with other people.”

“I enjoyed my job so much I just kept on working”

Beryle Joyner, Senior Housekeeping Supervisor at the Horton Hospital

Beryle Joyner attended an outpatients appointment at the Horton General Hospital in January 1970 and thought she might pop along to the recruitment office and ask them about job vacancies. “We were saving up to buy our first car and I thought a bit of extra money for a year or two would come in handy,” Beryle told ORH News. “But, I enjoyed my job so much I just kept on working.”

Beryle rose through the ranks and became Senior Housekeeping Supervisor 20 years ago. “Working here has been like having a second family,” Beryle added. “My son and his family live in Dubai and I think I have projected my mothering instincts onto my team. It’s kept me young though and I love the fact that they take so much pride in what they do.”

Beryle retired in December. “I plan to devote more time to my hobbies. My husband also retired recently and he is really looking forward to having me at home. We like to go to the gym and keep busy in the garden so we are not going to be short of things to do. I am not one for sitting about so I think retirement will be just as busy as work,” she said.

Gym discounts

If you have been thinking about New Year resolutions, and gym membership is high on the list of priorities for 2009, you might want to know that Oxford Brookes University is offering discounted membership for NHS staff. Depending on the package you opt for, you can get up to 43% off.

Contact the Centre for Sport on Cheney Lane
Headington, Oxford
01865 484374/484373 or jointhegym@brookes.ac.uk for more details.
The ORH has, for the first time, been given the top rating of 'excellent' for its services to patients.

The Healthcare Commission (HCC) assessed hospital performance against key standards which were then used to calculate the overall quality rating and published its results in November.

**Core standards**
The first part of the health check examines whether NHS Trusts are meeting 44 ‘core standards’, covering areas such as safety, the care environment and amenities, clinical and cost effectiveness and patient focus. The Healthcare Commission has assessed the Trust as having fully met these standards.

**Existing national targets**
‘Existing national targets’ look at whether or not the Trust is meeting a range of standards, particularly focusing on how long patients wait for treatment, including diagnosis and treatment for cancer, waiting times in the emergency department and waiting times for planned operations. Again, the Commission assessed the Trust as having fully met these targets.

In terms of inpatient and outpatient waiting times the Trust met the national targets early. The only targets that the trust did not quite meet in this category were the national target for ‘Thrombolysis: 60 minute call to needle time’ and for waiting times in the emergency department.

**New national targets**
The ‘new national targets’ focus on the ways in which healthcare organisations are helping to improve the health of the population in England. The indicators include diverse factors, such as smoking cessation, drug misuse, teenage pregnancy and obesity, and the treatment of heart and stroke patients. The Healthcare Commission has assessed the ORH as Excellent in this category.

The Trust met eight out of the ten standards, under-achieving on just two indicators, the reduction of emergency bed days, and the participation in clinical audits.

Chief Executive, Trevor Campbell Davis said, “I am delighted that the hard work of staff and clinicians in caring for our patients has been recognised in this rating. The annual health check is a complex set of assessments which considers many aspects of healthcare provided by our hospitals. It is important, as it gives patients a picture of the quality of care we provide, and reassures people that we are managing public resources efficiently. We are really pleased that we have shown such improvement over the previous year.

“I would like to thank staff for their outstanding work for patients during the past year. Our clinicians, and all of the staff who support them, juggle priorities on a daily basis, and work hard to ensure that each of our patients gets the best care possible. Everyone contributes in some way to these targets, and they should be proud to see the improvements made.

“I would also like to thank the patient groups with whom we work, who have helped us improve our services. Their participation assists us in so many ways. They tell us when we get things right and when we get things wrong. They want us to do well.

“Our staff and patients can take pleasure in how far we have come in recent years, and I congratulate them for all they have achieved and look forward to an exciting future together.”

**Use of resources**
The Trust also scored ‘fair’ for ‘use of resources’. This is an improved score for the ORH over the results last year. The Trust reported an in-year surplus of £4.3m for the last financial year – better than the plan agreed with the Strategic Health Authority.

Our continued financial stability supports our planned programme of investment, including the opening of the new Geratology Unit last year, and the Cancer and Haematology Centre and Oxford Heart Centre, due to open soon.

Matrons and managers celebrate the HCC ratings.
ORH nurses were singled out for praise in the report.
New mums Victoria Marcham and Lesley Bain brought their babies back to the JR to celebrate the official opening of the new midwifery-led unit on Level 7. Their babies, Monty and Maisie were both born in the unit on 1 September, the day it opened.

The unit offers women an alternative to the consultant-led maternity service at the JR. Midwifery-led facilities were already available for women at Chipping Norton, Wantage and Wallingford but this is the first time women from the City have had this kind of unit on their doorstep.

Linda Allan, project coordinator, said, “This new midwifery-led unit is a fantastic new addition to our services. Low risk women, who do not want a home birth but who aim for a natural delivery, can now choose an environment which best fits their hopes for their birthing experience.”

The unit has three rooms:

The Wytham Room – has a clover-shaped birthing pool which maintains the water at a comfortable temperature and provides a relaxing environment. It is ideal for women who want a water birth but also good if they just want a comfortable bath to relax in before delivery – something many women find really helpful.

The Knowles Suite – is a sensory room with special lighting effects that can change colour and help to create a relaxing environment. Many women using this room like to bring their own music to add to the calm.

The Burcot Room – is equipped with bean bags, a hammock seat and huge exercise balls. It is aimed at women who want a more active delivery but also has a low level sofa for reclining.

Linda added, “We are really pleased with the way the rooms look and feedback from the mums and dads using them has been great. Staff are enjoying the new facilities too. We have a rota system so that community midwives and midwives working in the main hospital can choose to spend time working in the new unit. So far, we have delivered over 100 babies in the three rooms.”

Monty was the first baby born in the new birthing pool. “I was really pleased to be able to have a water birth,” Victoria told ORH News. “Monty is our first baby and it was great to be offered the chance to use the new facilities.”

The new unit has been named the Oxford Spires Midwifery-led Unit in recognition of the fabulous views from Level 7. Lesley had her baby in the Wytham Room which has a view of the City. “Maisie was born so quickly I didn’t get to have the water birth I had planned, but I did get to enjoy this wonderful new unit. It was a stroke of luck that it was opened on the day I came in. The Wytham Room has the best views. You can see the whole of Oxford from the window near the pool.”

Rosalie Wright, midwifery manager; Linda Allan, project development manager; Victoria Marcham with Monty, Lesley Bain with Maisie, Liz Steven, President of the Royal College of Midwives and Gill Walton, Head of Midwifery celebrated the official opening of the Oxford Spires Midwifery-led Unit.
A great big ‘Thank You’ to the ORH

*Sue Mayes recently underwent treatment for breast cancer at the Churchill Hospital and wanted to share this message with ORH News readers.*

Earlier this year, I was just another late-middle-aged woman attending a breast screening at the local hospital. Two weeks later a friendly letter invited me to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford for another check. I have always taken the opportunity of the free NHS breast screening service. It astounded me to hear that many women simply ignore the appointment they have been given.

Women of the UK, take note! Thanks to this regular breast-screening, I was immediately caught up in the NHS loop which, luckily in my area, is taking me through breast cancer treatment.

My husband came with me to the Churchill Hospital for the second check. It was very scary but a doctor and a specialist nurse called Sarah Babb, talked me through the need for a biopsy: how it would feel, the possible pain afterwards, swellings, bruising and so on. All was explained in a detailed, gentle and very caring way.

An appointment was made for just one week later at the nearby John Radcliffe Hospital. The news was not good - I have breast cancer. The good news though is that the little alien inside me seems to be tinier than a very small pea which, without the screening, might not have been detected for years.

The consultant talked me through the entire procedure and gave me all the time I needed for her to listen and respond to all my questions and when, finally, I had finished, she left us with Sarah. It was as though Sarah had absolutely nothing else to do for the rest of the day except to sit with me and my husband, and calmly talk it all through!

My next visit, again one week later, took me to the cancer ward, where I was shown around and a nurse took me through my lifetime’s health record. I had loads of tests from having my temperature taken to chest X-rays and an ECG. If there is anything else wrong with me, I guess they will have found it!

I had the lump removed at the Churchill Hospital, it all went well and I was discharged the next day. I was incredibly tired and Sarah had to remind me not to do too much – it really is important to rest at this point to help the body heal.

Five weeks of radiotherapy followed and it wasn’t as bad as I had expected, except at the end when it was pretty sore. But, it’s got to be done and with the support of Sarah and the team I managed to maintain my optimism. I will be taking Tamoxifen, the hormone therapy used to treat breast cancer, for several years and will need regular checkups to make sure the breast cancer stays away.

No one would choose to go through this experience but, from the moment the cancer was diagnosed and, once over the initial terrifying shock, it became an amazingly enriching experience. In writing this article, I wanted to express my thanks to everyone who cared for me all the way from April until the end of my radiotherapy treatment last month.

I have been so pleased with the care I received with the NHS I wanted to write and tell everyone. I understand a new Cancer Centre is being built at the Churchill Hospital and is due to open soon. I can see that the new building, with all the fantastic new modern equipment that’s being put into it, coupled with the amazing staff in Oxford, will give us an even better service in Oxfordshire. I feel really lucky to be well now and I want to say a big ‘Thank You’ to everyone involved in my care – from the doctors and nurses I actually met, to the scientists and people working in the background who we, the patients, never see.
Celebrity support hits the news

It’s been an exciting few weeks for the ORH fundraising team with a series of celebrities helping us to spread the message about new developments in ORH services and how the community can get involved.

In late September 2008, newspapers and front pages around the world were full of pictures of Kate Middleton wearing day-glo hot pants and roller boots. She had been taking part in an 80s roller disco event in aid of Tom’s Ward at the Children’s Hospital. The event was organised by Sam Waley-Cohen, the brother of Tom – who sadly died in 2004 – and a team of his friends, including Kate Middleton and Holly Branson.

Director of Fundraising, Alice Gosling, said, “We were immensely gratified by the creativity and enthusiasm that Sam’s committee put into this event. Their help not only raised money, but also the public profile of our fabulous Children’s Hospital.”

Local celebrity, Jason Donovan, is continuing to support the ORH. After last year’s Christmas visit to the children’s ward, he agreed to stage an intimate concert for staff – which took place in December.

Jason’s relationship with the hospital began when he was asked to be a speaker at the 2006 Dorchester Abbey Concert. He subsequently raised thousands of pounds through his appearance on I’m A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here.

Acer nearly missed out on his Olympic dream when, just months before he was due to fly out to China, he lost consciousness on several occasions. Acer, who studied at Oxford, had to prove that he was fit to take his place as the cox in the rowing eight and underwent 10 days of intensive testing with the cardiac unit before being allowed to continue with his dream.

The 31 year-old Olympian said, “The care at the John Radcliffe was excellent and no stone was left unturned. Caroline and her team were amazing, in terms of the patience, kindness, empathy and all-round level of care they gave me and all the others on the ward. It is wonderful to know that I can use my experience to help the Heart Centre Campaign.”

Acer has already made a visit to the cardiac wards to show his medal to patients and is also planning a visit to the ORH with some of his fellow Olympic medallists.

And we mustn’t forget the support from Rowan Atkinson and the consortium behind the Mr Bean films who have been very supportive of the Children’s Hospital.

If you would like to find out more about the work of Charitable Funds or have an idea of a famous face that might be able to help with one of our campaigns please call 01856 743444.
All hands on deck as sensory garden takes shape

The new Geratology Unit at the JR has now opened its doors on the new sensory garden and outdoor assessment area that form an integral part of the facilities design. Wards on the new unit have access to the garden and the open space creates a wonderfully tranquil environment for patients. The project was funded by charitable contributions and cost over £125,000.

Ward sister, Ann Readhead, spearheaded the campaign and has been instrumental in its execution. “The creation of this garden has been a labour of love for me,” Ann said. “It adds something really special to the new unit and I feel very strongly about the contribution it will make to the wellbeing of patients spending time with us at the JR. When the structural work was finished, I couldn’t wait to get the plants in and see things actually growing in the beds. We were so grateful to the Dell Healthcare team who pitched up to help us unload the lorry and bring the plants up to Level 4. They spent the whole day with us in Geratology and it looks great. We have had tremendous feedback already.”

Computers record vital patient data for easy staff access

A new IT system used in our Adult Intensive Care Unit (AICU), which records observations at the patients’ bedside directly into a computer, enables staff to input patient notes and also links to other hospital computer systems. It means that staff, who work one-to-one with some of our most seriously ill patients, have all the clinical information about their patients care on hand, at the push of a button or two, as they need it.

Simon Noel, CIS Nurse Specialist, said, “There is a computer at every bedside in AICU. We are hoping to move away from the days of hand-written notes and make use of the sophisticated software options that can record vital patient data and link to clinical libraries, laboratory and pharmacy services and our existing computer systems. We can then look back through the data so much more easily. We hope that we will also soon be able to connect bedside devices such as ventilators so that more bedside information is automatically charted.”

The new system has proved successful in AICU and it is being installed in other high dependency areas. Clare Williams, Junior Sister, has played a key role in fine-tuning the system and training staff. “Simon and I were pleased to share the benefits of this new system at the British Association of Critical Care Nurses conference in York,” she told ORH News. “I can see this being extended throughout this Trust and to others in the near future.”
Quintuplets celebrate their first birthday

Quintuplets born at the ORH on 10 November 2007, have celebrated their first birthday. Dmitry and Varvara Artamkin, from Russia, came to Oxford to have their babies under the care of consultant obstetrician Mr Lawrence Impey, who specialises in caring for mothers with high risk pregnancies. Under his team’s care, Mrs Artamkin successfully gave birth (by Caesarean Section) to five little girls, 14 weeks early. Their weights ranged from 1lb 13oz to 2lb 2oz.

Thanks to the intensive care the babies received from an expert team of doctors, nurses, midwives and other healthcare professionals, all five girls made remarkable progress and were fit and well enough to leave hospital after three months, returning to Russia in March 2007.

The family returned to Russia to a flourish of publicity, but have happily now returned to normal life. Kate Convery, Neonatal Transport Coordinator, has kept in touch with the family via email and travelled back with them when they returned to Russia. “All the babies have grown considerably. They are all crawling and are trying to walk. The quintuplets have joined a huge extended family who live very near one another in Moscow. I stayed with them for three days while they settled the babies into their new home and I loved it. People were really excited to have them back in Russia and the family were inundated with good wishes from all over the country. I hope I will be able to go back one day and visit them. This has been such a wonderful story and I am really proud to have been part of it.”

The quintuplets were the first to be born in England or Wales for over a decade and their births attracted worldwide media interest. Live births of such a high number of babies are rare and the risks to the mother are considerable. A group of philanthropists from Russia funded their treatment in the UK.

Dmitry and Varvara sent us this lovely recent photograph of the quintuplets. From left to right, they are: Varvara, Alexandra, Tatiana, Elizaveta, and Nadezda. Dmitry and Varvara asked ORH News to pass on their gratitude and best wishes to everyone at the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals and the many friends they made during their time in Oxford who helped look after them and support them during their time here.
Heart attack treatment piloted in Oxford to be adopted nationally

Oxfordshire patients are receiving Government recommended ‘gold standard’ treatment for heart attacks.

A procedure, known as primary percutaneous coronary intervention (PPCI), has been piloted at the John Radcliffe Hospital, where the introduction of a successful round-the-clock service is helping influence the Government’s health strategy. Thrombolysis, the injection of life-saving clot-busting drugs, is today still the most common treatment for heart attack patients. But the results coming out of the JR, and ten other pilot hospitals in England, have confirmed that primary angioplasty provides much better outcomes for patients, provided that it can be delivered quickly.

A conference held in October at the Saïd Business School in Oxford discussed how the treatment can be extended to the rest of England, a country that sees about 110,000 people suffer heart attacks a year.

The JR pilot scheme has involved a close collaboration with the local ambulance service because the new PPCI (primary percutaneous coronary intervention) system gives a vital role to paramedics. They now employ ECG (electrocardiogram) tracing to establish whether a patient is suitable for angioplasty and transmit the information by telemetry to the coronary care unit for confirmation. It means heart attack patients bypass the emergency departments and are fast-tracked to the cardiac catheter lab for ‘the balloon treatment’.

Angioplasty is the procedure of inserting, then inflating, a small balloon in the blocked coronary artery, leaving a rigid support (or stent) to scaffold the artery and restore blood flow to normal.

The clear message from speakers at the Oxford conference was always to call an ambulance, rather than jump in the car and driving yourself to hospital.

The conference heard that it is essential to achieve “an emergency call to balloon” target time within 120 minutes, and a hospital door to balloon time within 23 minutes. While angioplasty works out about £800 more expensive than the clot-busting drugs, it is viewed as being cost-effective because not only does it reduce the risk of complications and further heart attacks, it cuts the length of stay in hospital and also helps prevent strokes.

Dr Bernard Prendergast, one of seven cardiac consultants on the rota, said, “In the fifties and early sixties, bed rest and morphine were viewed as the best treatments for heart attacks. In the seventies, big improvements came with the arrival of the fibrillator for people who suffered cardiac arrest. The next major change was thrombolysis, the use of clot-busting drugs, with Oxford leading the way in this research. We are now seeing the next major change.”

As soon as the blockage is opened, most patients have a dramatic improvement in the chest pain.

“This really offers a significantly better chance of survival. Timely treatment reduces the amount of damage to the heart muscle, reducing the need for surgery for heart failure,” he said.

Government ‘heart tsar’, Prof Roger Boyle, who addressed the Oxford conference, said, “As well as providing further evidence of the efficacy of angioplasty, this report shows that a primary angioplasty can be offered to heart attack patients in almost all parts of the country.”

Dr Prendergast added, “The national report provides welcome support for the project in Oxford. We now hope to extend this life-saving treatment to a larger number of patients and establish Oxford as a regional heart attack centre for a wider geographical area.” A key element of this will be the opening of the new Oxford Heart Centre at the JR next year, built next to the current cardiac facilities and adjacent to the emergency department and the Children’s Hospital.

Both adults and children with heart problems in the region will have access to the new £29m facilities, which are particularly aimed at the growing number of cardiac patients who can be treated without the need for heart surgery.
Statement from Sir William Stubbs to the ORH Board

“The preparations for the transition from an NHS Trust to a Foundation Trust and, with the University of Oxford, to being part of an Academic Health Science Centre are both demanding of time and complex. These changes, which are essential if our hospitals are to continue to provide a high quality service to the people of Oxfordshire and beyond, are likely to take some years to be fully implemented.

As the Trust is currently seeking to add to its expertise by appointing new Board members with business and commercial skills, this would seem an appropriate time also to appoint as Chair a person who will both lead the organisation through the change period and guide it in its early years as a changed Trust.

Accordingly, I have informed both the Appointments Commission and South Central Strategic Health Authority that I will step down from the Board at the beginning of December, leaving the way open to start without delay the procedures to appoint my successor.

My time as Chairman has been enormously rewarding and it has been a privilege to work with so many skilled and dedicated staff.

When I took up my post some five years ago I was given the following main objectives:

To secure the financial basis of the Trust and bring about improvements in its services whilst retaining patient and public support.

As the Trust is now both securely underpinned financially and designated by the Healthcare Commission as providing excellent services, I consider that I can now hand over the leadership knowing these principal objectives have been achieved. It is reassuring that throughout this period, patients when asked tell us that they hold our hospitals in high regard. All of this, of course, is due to the sterling quality of the staff in our three hospitals.

As I hand over to my successor, I do so in the knowledge that the Trust now stands at the threshold of a new era and – with new cancer and cardiac buildings due to open shortly – is well prepared to become one of the world’s leading centres for clinical care, education and research.

I should like to thank all our staff for their efforts and support during my time at the ORH, and I wish them well for the future.”

Sir William Stubbs

ORH Chief Executive, Trevor Campbell Davis, said “On behalf of our staff and patients, I would like to thank Sir William for his leadership during an important time in the development of the Trust and offer our warmest wishes to him and his family for the future.”
Fred Bennett wins Outstanding Achievement award after 47 years in cardiology

Colleagues in cardiology think so much of their cardiac physiologist Fred Bennett that they nominated him for an award from the Arrhythmia Alliance excellence awards for outstanding contribution to device management and he won.

Fred knew nothing of the nomination and in modest style, which we are told is typical of Fred, he told ORH News, “I’ve been doing this for a long time, but I don’t think I am any more worthy than anyone else.”

His colleagues disagree. Jennifer Cole, Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) Services Manager, said, “In 2002, Fred decided to retire, or at least go through the motions of retirement. He collected a few presents on the Friday, but he was back working in a clinic in Stoke Mandeville on the Monday. He still works two days a week at the JR and has no plans to stop. It is this consistency, modesty and care that has gained him respect from patients, parents, carers and colleagues who all understand the quality and value he adds to procedures that may otherwise be routine. Fred has a huge depth of knowledge and his work, particularly with paediatric patients and their families here is fantastic.”

Fred runs the pacemaker clinic. People with pacemakers have to attend the clinic at least once a year for a consultation, so Fred gets to know the patients really well.

Fred’s career in cardiology has spanned more than 47 years with almost 25 years at the JR. Starting his career at Great Ormond Street (GOS), Fred moved wherever the work was. He worked at St Mary’s, Paddington, with a spell in Israel with a research study, then on to a Kibbutz, back to GOS, on to Southampton, back to GOS again and on to Newcastle. Finally he settled in Oxford with his wife, Janet, a nurse in Oxford’s Special Care Baby Unit, in 1984.

When asked what motivates him to continue working, he said “I just love working with the children – I’ve been seeing some of them for 20-odd years, that’s what keeps me going.”

Of course treatment of babies and children with pacemaker therapy in the 1960s was a rare event, but it has been Fred’s ability to adapt and change that has kept him up to date with the new technology, which he says has been the biggest change in cardiology since he began.

Jennifer adds, “Fred hates this kind of attention but sometimes people have to accept that they are respected, admired and liked by their team and we wanted to show our appreciation as well for the knowledge and skill he brings to the job. We are very proud to work with him.”

Irish nurses recruited to the ORH

Ten nurses from Ireland have joined the ORH’s expanding private patient unit.

“The health service in Ireland has had a vacancy freeze recently so new graduate nurses have been struggling to find jobs,” Maura Buchanan, Nursing and Quality Manager for private patients said. “We are delighted that they have decided to develop their careers in the UK. We have also just taken on three Indian nurses who were already working in England. I hear that they are all settling in really well and enjoying Oxford.”
The BBC spent two weeks filming in the Emergency Department (ED) for a documentary series to be shown on BBC 1 later this year. It’s being presented by well-known TV presenter, Nick Ross, who has been out and about in Oxford with his production team, investigating the causes of crime in the UK.

Alice Perman, Series Producer, said that the research work conducted by our ED team on alcohol-related violent crime injuries was instrumental to the BBC’s decision to film part of the series in the city.

“The ORH collects data on violent injuries which provides an important indicator of the extent to which the NHS is drawn into dealing with crime across the country. Sharing this data – as the ORH does – with other agencies is important in joining up crime prevention strategy and tackling the causes of crime,” she said.

The ORH took part in a pilot project last year to collect data about ED attendances related to alcohol consumption. Information about where people had been drinking before visiting the ED was fed back to other agencies so that, where appropriate, action could be taken.

Rob Way, Consultant Nurse in ED said, “The data collection project was really valuable and we have secured funding to continue the scheme. The data, which are anonymised for analysis, tells us the age of patients, the reason for attendance and where they had been drinking.”

Nick Ross visited the hospital several times to conduct interviews and see for himself how the ED works. Alice Perman added, “Filming in hospitals requires the support and understanding of the staff. Confidentiality issues are always a priority for our team. The ORH team were fantastic and we met some great people. We hope the series, when it is finished, will provide valuable insights into crime in Britain. We are grateful to the ORH for taking part.”

The series will be broadcast on BBC 1 in the spring of 2009.
The Big Draw with artist 
Jane McDonald

Artist Jane McDonald came to work at the Oxfordshire Hospital School as a visiting artist with pupils and the stunning results are illustrated here. Jane ran workshops in the school during the The Big Draw, a national event endorsed by author and artist Quentin Blake, with the aim of getting everyone drawing and to show that drawing is the perfect medium for observation, self expression and fun.

The school, which has two classrooms in the Children’s Hospital, is a local authority Special School and works with school age children and young people whilst they are in hospital.

Pupils began by looking at the work of internationally renowned artist Michael Craig-Martin whose large scale images and bold use of colour really appealed to the children who couldn’t wait to start making their own images.

Using a projector, everyday domestic objects were enlarged onto the wall allowing the children to experiment, select elements, change the scale and play with possibilities. After drawing an extra large pair of scissors or a kitchen utensil, they transferred their drawings onto large colourful paper which was then cut out and assembled into a large collaborative collage. ‘That was really cool’ was the comment of nine year-old Stuart.

Anne Stevenson, Art Co-ordinator at the school, said, “Jane’s visit is part of the Oxfordshire Hospital School’s continuing programme of working with visual artists. Projects like these enable pupils to learn new skills and can also help to alleviate stress, increase motivation and raise self esteem. Jane has previously worked with pupils on Melanie’s Ward designing a window for the interview room. We are really appreciative of the time she gives us and I am sure she loves it as much as the children do.”
Virtual reality improves radiotherapy training

Trainee radiographers at the ORH are learning how to treat cancer on virtual patients using Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training (VERT).

VERT is a virtual replica of a radiation therapy room. It gives users the sense of being present in an actual treatment room and offers students the chance to improve vital skills. Prior to its development, radiotherapy training was severely limited and relied on real patients being happy to allow students to assist more senior staff.

The high-specification equipment produces three-dimensional images of both a patient and a linear accelerator treatment machine, which are beamed on to a large screen. The equipment is so intricate that it even lets students view the exact spot in a patient’s body where each radiation dose has been delivered.

Elisabeth Turner, Radiotherapy Service Manager, said, “Having access to such an advanced teaching tool will dramatically enhance our students’ aptitude, giving them a wider variety of hands-on experience than would be possible in a real treatment room. The real machines cost upwards of £1 million and using them can be very daunting for students. With this new system there are no risks to the student, patient or equipment and the opportunity to improve knowledge and skills will be a huge benefit.”

The equipment was funded by the Department of Health as part of a nationwide programme to improve radiotherapy training.

New hand held meters measure ketones as well as glucose

From January 2009 the ORH diabetes team will begin introducing a new meter for measuring blood samples. The Trust has been using a similar hand-held meter to measure glucose in the blood for some time, but the new machine measures ketones as well.

“This is significant because the new meters can do two jobs,” Richard Taylor, Consultant Clinical Scientist, said. “Ketone testing is part of the management of diabetic ketoacidosis and at present it’s done on old-style meters which don’t have the features to enable them to work with our hospital wristband bar codes. With the new Exceed Pro machine the information from the patients’ wristband will be matched to both their fingerprick ketone and glucose tests electronically.”

Richard added, “Ultimately, this will simplify procedures for us. We will start booking diabetes link nurses in for training as quickly as we can and they can then train other nursing staff on their wards. More information about training dates and training support will be posted on the intranet site nearer the time.”

Sad loss of two dedicated ORH volunteers

It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Ken Gomm, a volunteer on the Churchill Hospital Help Desk last September; and Albert Connor, volunteer on the Horton Hospital Help Desk in November.

Ken was instrumental in establishing the Help Desk at the Churchill Hospital and had been a volunteer there for 15 years. Chris Goundry, Volunteer Services Manager said, “I last spoke to Ken just a few days before he died and we had a good chat putting the world right and a giggle as I always did when speaking to Ken. He will be sadly missed by all his colleagues, staff and friends at the Churchill Hospital and he will always be remembered with great fondness.”

Albert was a great asset in establishing the Help Desk at the Churchill Hospital and had been a volunteer there for 15 years. Chris Goundry, Volunteer Services Manager said, “I last spoke to Ken just a few days before he died and we had a good chat putting the world right and a giggle as I always did when speaking to Ken. He will be sadly missed by all his colleagues, staff and friends at the Churchill Hospital and he will always be remembered with great fondness.”

Our thoughts are with Ken and Albert’s families.
Our web officer, Frances Bonney, has been busy on the ORH website, adding loads of new information and updating existing pages. The ORH website is a hugely important communications tool for the Trust so making sure it has up-to-date information is really important. "We are constantly adding new information to the ORH website," Frances said. "There’s a lot of practical information like maps, directions, public transport information and contact details, as well as information about our services and the hospitals run by the Trust. I have recently been promoting the website within the hospital to make people more aware of the content."

Some of the new content on the web includes:

**Oxford Biomedical Research Centre**
The fundamental principle of the OxBRC is to connect different scientific disciplines, health care professionals and patients to advance medical research and healthcare delivery.

The OxBRC has a new home page and an updated section on the ORH website. To find out more, visit: www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/obrc

**The Thames Valley Haemato Molecular Diagnostic Service**
The ORH and the OxBRC have joined efforts to create a comprehensive molecular diagnostic service for a range of haematological conditions.

The new Molecular Haematology section of the website can be found at: www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/molhaem

**OK Links**
OK Links (Oxford and Kilimanjaro Links) is a group of Oxford healthcare professionals who, together with their counterparts at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) in Moshi, Tanzania, are engaged in a two-way transfer of skills.

Read more about this relationship and find out how you can get involved: www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/oklinks

**The Young People’s Executive (YiPpEe)**
Our Young People’s Executive now has its own web page, with links to the poster and booklet that the young people have themselves created. The page was published to coincide with their ‘takeover day’ on 7 November 2008.

Find out more about YiPpEe in their own words: www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/getinvolved/YiPpEe/yippee_home.aspx

or follow the links from the main menu: Get involved / YiPpEe

**The Lionel Cosin Day Hospital**
Lionel Cosin Day Hospital now has a new page on the ORH website.

Access their page via:
For patients / Our departments and services / Acute and Emergency Medicine with Geratology / Geratology.

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch to update their sections of the ORH website; the site is our ‘shop window’ and we aim to keep it as up-to-date and accurate as possible at all times. If you would like your section to be updated, contact Frances Bonney, Web Communications Officer on ext 31474. Email: frances.bonney@orh.nhs.uk

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**Oxfordshire Assistant Practitioner**

Oxfordshire NHS Trusts and Oxford Brookes University have launched a Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care that will also serve as the academic preparation for the new Band 4 role of Assistant Practitioner.

This year, 23 students are on the course and all but one work for NHS Trusts in Oxfordshire – it is hoped to double this number for next September’s intake.

Work based learning is a key element throughout the two year’s of the course. Students have the opportunity to gain essential skills working alongside other pre qualifying health and social care students during their studies.

For any further information contact Sam Donohue (Oxfordshire Assistant Practitioner Lead) Sam.Donohue@orh.nhs.uk or Margie Salussolia (Oxford Brookes University programme Lead) misalussolia@brookes.ac.uk.
Healthcare Scientists promoted their role at the ORH with a poster exhibition in the Academic Street on Level 3 of the JR. Prizes were awarded for the best posters.

The Trust’s Healthcare Scientists’ Board organised the event to celebrate the success of Healthcare Scientists who have recently qualified or attained registration.

Richard Billings, the Healthcare Scientists’ Education Commissioning Manager from NHS Education South Central and Elaine Strachan-Hall, Director of Nursing and Clinical Leadership at the ORH attended the launch of the exhibition in November.

Elaine told ORH News, “I was really impressed with the posters and I thought the exhibition and competition were a great idea to promote the work of Healthcare Scientists. They are sometimes a forgotten service but we want everyone to know how much we value their work at the ORH. It is a fascinating area to be involved in and something we want to encourage people to consider if they are looking for a hospital career. Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to those who have just qualified and good luck for the future.”

For more information about Healthcare Scientists please contact Eileen Palayiwa on ext 21592 or email eileen.palayiwa@orh.nhs.uk

SAM at the ORH

From left to right: PC Chris Miles, Sergeant Claire Grant, PCSO Phil Duthie, PCSO Craig Hunt, Rachel Collins, Security Manager.

In November, the ORH took part in Security Awareness Month (SAM), a national initiative within the NHS to raise awareness about security issues.

This year the focus was on improving safety and security for patients and members of staff. There have been displays and information stands on each site with the opportunity for staff and patients to ask questions about the security issues for busy hospitals like ours.

Rachel Collins, our Security Manager and Local Security Management Specialist was pleased with the interest created by SAM. “We had a lot of people stopping to talk to us on our information stands and outside the main entrance of the JR where we had a mobile police unit. The main issue raised by members of the public and staff was the security of belongings while visiting hospital and questions about restricted access areas. We work very closely with the police and it was really helpful to have their support during the month to help reinforce our messages.

“The key messages we have been trying to get across are; to remind all staff to wear their ID badges in a visible way, which would make the people walking round restricted areas without them much more obvious; and to stop people being allowed to tailgate (follow others) through secure doors. This is a really difficult concept to get people on board with, as we are all very polite and like to hold doors open for people. Unfortunately the thieves take advantage of this, and that’s how they move through the hospital. The majority of thefts that occur on our sites are down to opportunists; therefore we must not give them the opportunity. Everyone needs to take some responsibility for security in their areas, in the same way as we do in our homes. That way we will make our Trust much more safe and secure.”
Share your success at the Health and Social Care Awards 2009

The search to find the best health and social care teams within NHS South Central has begun, with the launch of the 2009 Health and Social Care Awards. The awards, now in their eighth year, are designed to celebrate excellence and innovation, and share ideas that improve the lives of patients, service users, carers and staff. The regional award scheme is run in partnership between South Central Strategic Health Authority, the NHS Institute for Innovation & Improvement and the Department of Health.

To enter, you need to be part of the health and social care system across the region - the NHS, social services, local government, charities, the voluntary sector, patient and carer organisations, care homes, other independent care providers and prison services. Teams can be clinical or non-clinical or a mixture of both: commissioning, social work, nursing, support staff, medical, information technology, management, therapies, paramedical or administration.

To apply
There are 14 Award Categories to apply for this year. All categories are open to teams, with the exception of the Leadership for Improvement category, which will also be open to individuals.

Regional finalists and winners will be announced at ten regional ceremonies across the country in May 2009 and will automatically be considered for the National finals.

All applications should be made online via the website where you will also find details of all categories. See www.healthandsocialcareawards.org.uk The deadline for entries is 6 March 2009.

Blood barcoding wins award

A barcode scanning system, developed at the ORH to make blood transfusions safer, has won a prestigious national award, the Guardian Public Services Award for innovation.

Barbara Cripps, Manager Blood Safety and Conservation Team, said, “We are thrilled to have won this award. The electronic system for blood transfusion developed here is catching on in hospitals all over the world. We are all very proud to have been a part of something so exciting and that the team have been recognised for it.”

The patient’s identification details are encoded in a barcode on their wristband. A small handheld computer is used to prompt staff through the process for collection of a blood sample for blood grouping and cross-matching and also the bedside check before blood is transfused. If there is a mismatch between the patient’s identification details on the wristband and the blood bag the nurse is alerted that this is the wrong blood and it is not transfused. The whole process of blood transfusion from blood sample collection, laboratory testing, collection of blood bags from blood fridges and the administration of blood are electronically controlled.

Barbara Cripps, added, "Giving patients the wrong blood can have disastrous consequences. This system, developed at the ORH, makes the blood transfusion process much safer and less time consuming for nurses."

The other main issue for blood transfusion is to only transfuse blood to patients when they really need it. The electronic system is being adapted to provide doctors with key information to support their decision-making about when to transfuse and when not to. This is one of the initiatives being carried by the new Blood Conservation and Safety Team in the Trust. Other initiatives include a greater use of cell salvage and bedside testing of patient’s ability to stop bleeding as well as encouragement to doctors to reduce inappropriate use of donor blood. These initiatives have considerable potential to reduce the Trust’s costs for blood.

From left to right: Michael Sykes, Commercial Operations Manager, Olympus UK Ltd; Sandie Inness, Project Support Specialist, Olympus; Julie Staves, Blood Bank Manager, ORH; Amanda Davies, Advanced health care Scientist, ORH; Barbara Cripps, Manager, Blood Safety and Conservation team.

Professor Mike Murphy, Consultant Haematologist.
Takeover Day is a national day where children and young people take over organisations. On 7 November 2008 young people all over the country got involved in schools, councils, businesses and politics.

Last year the ORH’s Young People’s Executive (YiPpEe) took over the Children’s Hospital and this year we were back!

In the morning we split into two groups: half of us went to a meeting of the senior leadership team for the Oxfordshire Hospital School, and half went to the Children’s Hospital operational management meeting.

After the meetings we took over the school. We launched our web page which can be found on the ORH website in the Get involved section.

Then we met patients and gave out our Young Voices booklet which is now on all the wards and the web page.
In the afternoon we took over the hospital radio – Radio Cherwell. This was one of the main takeover points for YiPpEe. We made a play list of dedications from patients with some of the latest music. The members also recorded a show to be played on the Saturday. On the show, YiPpEe talked about the group and we are now are looking forward to making more shows and making the children’s show more varied for older children and young people.

Written by YiPeEe members.

Our Annual Report – let us know what you think

Every year we produce an Annual Report, which summarises what we have done over the year, and includes our accounts. We publish the full version of the Annual Report on our website, and also make printed versions available, on request. We aim to ensure that the Report is accessible and we can arrange to have it translated into different languages, and produced in large print.

Following feedback from patients and the public, we print and circulate summary versions of the Report each year, and this year, for the first time, produced DVDs of the full version.

We are keen to have more feedback on both the content and format of the Report, so that we can take your comments into account next year.

You can find copies of both the full and summary Reports on www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/aboutus/reports.aspx#Annual20Report

If you have comments on the Reports, or would like to request a copy in a different format, please email media.office@orh.nhs.uk or write to:

Media and Communications Unit
Level 3
John Radcliffe Hospital
Headley Way,
Headington
Oxford OX3 9DU
All articles/items for publishing should be addressed to Heather Barnett in the Media and Communications Unit, Level 3, John Radcliffe Hospital (01865 231471). Alternatively email heather.barnett@nhs.net

Copies of the ORH News are circulated widely throughout the Trust via special news vendor stands. Copies are also sent to other Oxfordshire NHS Trusts, the local media, patient groups and General Practices. Individual copies are also sent on request.

News for staff, patients and visitors at the Churchill, Horton and John Radcliffe Hospitals