Celebrating Nursing and Midwifery

Four-year-old patient, Eleanor Coneybear, and Play Specialist, Klarissa Burrows, relax in the new sensory garden at the Oxford Children’s Hospital.
Security awareness: Car Crime

The safety and security of our patients, staff and visitors is very important and we urge people to be security aware.

To help prevent car crime and reduce the risk of your vehicle being targeted by opportunist thieves, please think about the following precautions and security measures.

As the warmer weather approaches always make sure you close all car windows and the sunroof. Do not leave any electronic or valuable items such as sat-navs and phones on display in your vehicle. Ideally, take your valuables with you when you leave the car. If that is not possible make sure they are locked out of sight, in the boot.

Oxfordshire has seen an increase in the number of car registration plates reported stolen. Thieves transfer these onto their cars, using them to steal fuel and commit other crimes.

To help prevent this, using number plates secured with manufacturers adhesive or tamper proof screws is recommended. A small supply is available from the Trust Security Manager.

For further advice please contact Rachel Collins, Trust Security Manager/Local Security Management Specialist via O Uh email or ext 23313.

A pilot programme set up to help girls and women who have had cancer to later have a child has proven a success.

A collaboration between the Trust and partners has found the service is feasible and meets a clinical need. We are now looking to develop a national programme.

The programme is offered prior to chemotherapy or radiotherapy, which is likely to damage the ovaries.

A pilot programme set up to help girls and women who have had cancer to later have a child has proven a success.

Pioneering fertility programme offers hope

The procedure involves collecting ovarian tissue, that has a large number of immature eggs, through keyhole surgery and then freezing it to ultra-low temperatures, techniques known as cryopreservation and vitrification.

The frozen material is stored until the patient has recovered and wants to try to start a family, when it will be thawed and re-implanted.

The Oxford Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation Programme is the only service in England and Wales licensed to carry out tissue and egg collection and storage.

The first baby born from the cryopreservation technique was recorded in Belgium in 2004 and there have been more than 50 live births to date in 19 countries.

The Oxford programme has recently been given a further boost by the news that the first birth using tissue taken from a young, pre-pubescent girl has been reported in Belgium. The Oxford programme began collecting tissue in 2013 and now stores tissue from about 30 people, from ages two to 31, in the Heart Valve Bank at the John Radcliffe.

Until now, the only treatment available was in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) using hormonal stimulation and egg collection, and these techniques are unsuitable in a number of circumstances such as in prepubertal girls.

Programme clinical lead Dr Sheila Lane said: “This programme is very important, it gives girls and young women, at high risk of ovarian failure and sterility, hope for the future and a realistic chance that after cancer treatment they will be able to enjoy as full and normal life as possible, including the potential of having their own family. We must now make this programme available nationally.

“The collaborative nature of the programme, involving several departments across the Trust, the University of Oxford and Oxford Fertility Unit, ensures that the clinical work is embedded in an active research programme enabling Oxford to remain at the forefront of this exciting work.”
Trust appoints new Chief Executive

Dr Bruno Holthof has been appointed as Chief Executive of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

The appointment, which commences on 1 October, was announced by the Trust’s Chairman, Dame Fiona Caldicott, in May.

On completion of his medical training, Dr Holthof attained an MBA at Harvard University and a PhD in Health Economics from the University of Leuven in Belgium. During his highly successful earlier career as a Partner with McKinsey’s Global Health Care Practice, he acquired significant experience and expertise in advising medical and health organisations across Europe and in the United States.

He has worked extensively with major pharmaceutical, life science and medical equipment companies, where he advised on organisational strategy and design, and integration and innovation in healthcare provision.

For the past 10 years Dr Holthof has been Chief Executive of ZNA, a network of general and specialised hospitals in and around Antwerp. Under his leadership, ZNA came to be recognised as one of the best performing healthcare systems in Europe.

Commenting on his appointment, Dr Holthof stated: “I am honoured to be appointed as Chief Executive of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

“Oxford has the talent and technology to create breakthrough innovations that will improve the health of the local population and also have a global impact.

“Over the next decade we will see unprecedented change in the way healthcare is delivered, through the application of digitalisation, robotics and personalised medicine. Together with colleagues at Oxford University Hospitals, the University of Oxford and other partner organisations, I look forward to ensuring these technologies are used to support the Trust as we continue to provide compassionate and excellent care to our patients and service users.”

In order to take up his appointment from 1 October 2015, Dr Holthof will be relocating to Oxford from Belgium, with his family.

Dr Holthof takes over the position from outgoing Chief Executive, Sir Jonathan Michael, who is retiring from the position which he has held since 2010.
Magical Disney surprise for young patients

Young patients and their families received a magical surprise when Elsa from Disney’s ‘Frozen’ visited the Oxford Children’s Hospital in May.

Arriving with toys, games and books to give to children on the wards, the special visit was arranged by local charity Rosie’s Rainbow Fund to mark its twelfth anniversary.

Rosie’s Rainbow Fund was founded by Carolyn Mayling, in memory of her 11-year-old daughter, Rosie. Since the charity began it has provided thousands of hours of music therapy to seriously ill and disabled children in Oxford, Aylesbury and Reading in an effort to fulfil Rosie’s wish of helping others.

Christine Turner, Senior Play Specialist, said: “The children really enjoyed seeing Elsa from Frozen today and we really appreciate all the support that Rosie’s Rainbow Fund gives the Children’s Hospital. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the music the team played and we’re all very grateful for the lovely gifts donated by Rosie’s Rainbow Fund.”

New cancer support group meets

The first Oxford-based support group for patients affected by a rare type of cancer has been held at the Churchill Hospital.

The NET Natter Group offers patients with neuroendocrine tumours (NETs), a rare and complex group of tumours that develop mainly in the gastrointestinal tract, the opportunity to meet other people in similar circumstances.

Oxford is a European NET Centre of Excellence and the group started to give patients from across the region the chance to meet in an informal setting, share stories, swap advice and also for healthcare professionals to provide focussed information and additional support.

If you would like information about the NET Natter Group, including the next meeting date, please contact Sian Davies via email: sian.davies4@ouh.nhs.uk
New sensory garden opens

A new sensory garden, to be enjoyed by young patients and their families, has been opened at the Oxford Children’s Hospital.

The garden offers a tranquil space where all children and young people, whatever age or ability, can experience different smells, sounds and textures in a safe and stimulating outdoor environment.

The project was led by Senior Play Specialist, Erica Watson, who developed the idea after visiting a similar garden at Sobell House Hospice and realising the benefits for patients. Erica found that offering a space for children and parents to relax together can help them cope with difficult and stressful situations and enhance their overall patient experience.

Tony McDonald, Divisional General Manager for Children’s and Women’s Services, said: “The sensory garden is a wonderful space for children and their families to access fresh air and tranquillity. It provides a space for learning, enhancing their wellbeing and experience at the Oxford Children’s Hospital. This garden would not have been possible but for the hard work and efforts of the team, particularly Erica and her vision and design reflecting different parts of the world.”

From the initial idea to its official opening, the garden took nearly two years to complete, costing approximately £33,000. It was funded through the Trust’s Charitable Funds department, the West Wing League of Friends and with support from patients’ families and friends.

Starlight storytellers entertain children at JR

The Oxford Children’s Hospital was visited by the Starlight Children’s Foundation earlier this year, bringing a dose of sunshine to poorly children with their Storytellers Tour.

They performed Beauty and the Beast, the Jungle Book and the Wizard of Oz to children across the wards on 29 April.

Starlight is a national charity that grants wishes for seriously and terminally ill children and provides entertainment in hospitals and hospices across the UK. The group has visited the Children’s Hospital at the John Radcliffe Hospital, and the Children’s Ward at the Horton General Hospital, many times over the past couple of years.

In total, the Starlight Storytellers Tour will visit 96 children’s wards across the country and is funded by Heinz’s ‘Get Well’ Soup campaign which ran in January and February this year.

The Starlight Storytellers

Play Specialist, Klarissa Burrows, and four-year-old Eleanor Coneybeare in the sensory garden
The Oxford Kidney Unit Trust Fund has been given a large charitable contribution thanks to the fundraising efforts following a successful Charity Golf and Exercise Day. In total, £21,000 was presented by Carly Bosher, Lady’s Captain at Bicester Golf Club, to OKUTF.

Dr Phil Mason, a Trustee of OKUTF, received the cheque. From left to right: Dr Phil Mason, Carly Bosher, Michael Jakeman (Men’s Captain) and Robert Ansell (Senior’s Captain).

Oxford Kidney Unit Trust Fund

Newly elected non-clinical Staff Governor, Raymond James, gives some early thoughts on how the Council of Governors can make a difference. Raymond and the rest of the Council of Governors were elected and appointed in February 2015.

“The NHS is set to change. Most of us, I’m sure, would readily agree that some change at least is necessary, if we are to continue to provide a comprehensive health and care service free of charge at the point of use. So soon after the recent general election, it is too early to know in detail what that change will involve but of a certainty it will come. In its recent document ‘The NHS belongs to the people: a call to action’ NHS England clearly states that, “Doing nothing is not an option – the NHS cannot meet future challenges without change”.

“While it is essential that we recognise the challenging environment in which we have to operate, we also need to recognise the opportunities it brings.

“The creation of a Council of Governors allows, for the first time, staff to engage with a formal body within the Trust that can have some influence in the way it operates. The effectiveness of the Council, however, is to a certain extent dependent on the level of engagement given by our members – both staff and the wider public. With a council 29 members strong, we have yet to determine our ‘modus operandi’, but, with such a diverse group of people all committed to the Foundation Trust being a success, the varied talents and interests they can bring to ensure this success will also be valuable.

“Effective means of communication between the governors and our constituents are also essential for such an outcome and, so, the Foundation Trust team is looking at ways this can be achieved.

“This aspiration however can only be met with your engagement and cooperation. The opportunity to invite a governor to departmental meetings, or indeed, just to meet with staff members has already been posted on the Trust intranet. I would encourage you all to respond positively to this invitation; informed governors make the most effective governors which, in turn, will make us an effective council.

“Together, let us make our Foundation Trust status a change that brings positive benefits to both our patients, and you, our staff and members.”

For more details on the Council of Governors see our website www.ouh.nhs.uk/foundation-trust/governors
Virtual technology helps young patients manage pain

A high-tech virtual gym at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC), believed to be the only one of its kind in the UK, is being used to help young patients manage complex conditions such as chronic pain, juvenile arthritis and neurological conditions.

The gym features an interactive cardio wall, virtual screens and games consoles (Xbox Kinect and Nintendo Wii) and is fully equipped with a treadmill, rowing machine, cross trainer and exercise bikes. Each piece of equipment is connected to a computer screen, which displays an avatar of the patient exercising with the speed of the avatar controlled by the movement of the patient.

Julia Smith, Specialist Paediatric Physiotherapist at the NOC, said: “The interactive equipment adds a new dimension to exercising and acts as a distraction for patients who can focus on the screen and what their ‘character’ is achieving, rather than focusing on any pain, stiffness or fatigue that they may feel.

“Making exercise enjoyable, and encouraging patients to participate regularly, not only helps them increase their strength and manage their condition, but can also help increase their confidence, which is really important for many young patients.”

Young patient, Bryn Baber-Day, was referred to the paediatric pain service at the NOC in 2014 after being diagnosed with complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS). Part of his treatment included using the equipment in the virtual gym and now, one year on, the ten-year-old is almost pain free.

His mother, Alison Day, said: “Over time and with the amazing support of the staff, the treatment has allowed Bryn to get back to doing and trying all the things he used to do and has given him his life back. We really cannot give enough thanks to all those involved in Bryn’s care from OUH, for what they’ve done for Bryn and our family.”
Trust staff came together in May to celebrate Nursing and Midwifery at OUH during a week of events to mark International Midwives Day and International Nurses Day. Nurses and midwives from all four hospitals took part in the celebrations, which aimed to recognise those working in nursing across the Trust, and included an awards evening to acknowledge the long service contribution of nurses who have been registered for 40 years or more.

During the awards evening, eligible nurses and midwives were presented with certificates and long service badges by Sir Jonathan Michael, Chief Executive of OUH. There was also a presentation by guest speaker, Squadron leader Charlotte Thompson-Edgar, a military nurse based at the John Radcliffe Hospital who recently received an Associate of the Royal Red Cross for her medical service in Afghanistan.

The week culminated with the launch of the Trust’s inaugural Nursing Research and Innovation Conference for nursing and midwifery staff. The conference, which will be held annually, aims to reflect Oxford University Hospitals’ goal of being internationally recognised for excellence and at the forefront of nursing research and innovation globally.

To support this goal, the Trust also unveiled its new Nursing and Midwifery Strategy for 2015-2018 in which it outlines five strategic themes, which reflect contemporary nursing and midwifery practice and establish the foundations of clinical excellence, leadership, research, innovative models of care and education.

Catherine Stoddart, Chief Nurse at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: “Our aim is to be internationally recognised for the Nursing and Midwifery we provide. Nurses and midwives at OUH have always aimed to provide excellence in care and 2015 marks the start of an exciting era in which we aim to build a strong future for new and emerging professionals whilst supporting and encouraging experienced staff.

“We have the opportunity to lead the direction for Nursing and Midwifery both locally and nationally. Success will require a commitment at all levels of the Trust to drive forward some of the fundamental practice changes, leadership development, education, training and research requirements needed to meet our strategic goal of an outstanding Nursing and Midwifery service that is internationally recognised for excellence.”
OUH marked Dementia Awareness Week (17 - 23 May) with the introduction of memory and orientation boxes to help enhance the treatment and experience of dementia patients.

The orientation boxes contain bright, primary coloured objects, including a clock, blanket and iPod as well as some tactile objects, to offer comfort and stimulation to patients.

The memory boxes, individual boxes for patients, are a creative way to bring together special memories which can provide comfort and generate discussions. Families and friends are encouraged to bring in personal items for the box, including photographs and small objects, as well as perfumes or smells that are familiar, to evoke happy memories.

Lynda Huard, Dementia Leader, Acute General Medicine, said: “The boxes are a fantastic way to give patients an anchor of familiar objects whilst they are in an environment that is so unfamiliar to them.”

As well as this, eight new reminiscence machines, which consist of a large touch screen monitor with optional wireless keyboard and mouse, were also introduced to help patients feel more comfortable during their stay in hospital.

The machines are preloaded with music and photographs from the 1940s/50s/60s as well as some games and clips from television programmes. They give patients a chance to relax and focus on something other than their stay in hospital.

Jilly Heath, Dementia Leader, Trauma, said: “The reminiscence machines are a great distraction for patients who suffer with dementia to focus their attention on something other than being in hospital. We have already found this to be the case in the Trauma Ward. It makes a real difference to their wellbeing as patients are more comfortable in consultations and they are more at ease in their surroundings.”
EPOCH:

Cancer treatment with radioactive glass microspheres is being trialled for the first time in the UK at Oxford’s Churchill Hospital.

The Trust is using patient volunteers as part of the global EPOCH clinical trial of selective internal radiotherapy for bowel cancer which has spread to the liver and become resistant to chemotherapy.

The EPOCH trial will investigate the use of tiny glass microspheres in patients with liver metastasis from colorectal cancer and whose cancer has progressed after first line drug therapy.

The glass microspheres are about a third of the width of a human hair and contain the radioactive isotope, yttrium-90.

Using a thin flexible catheter inserted via the groin, the microspheres are delivered directly into tumours in the liver, through the tumour’s own blood vessels.

The radiotherapy destroys tumour cells, with minimal impact to the surrounding healthy liver tissue, for weeks after the treatment.

The trial compares the new radiotherapy treatment combined with standard drug therapy (chemotherapy) to standard drug therapy alone.

Professor Ricky Sharma, Honorary Consultant in Clinical Oncology at the Trust, said: “We are pleased to be able to offer our patients in Oxford the chance to participate in this clinical trial.

“It offers a new radiotherapy treatment option to patients with colorectal cancer that has spread to the liver, when chemotherapy has not worked.”

Clinical Trials Day

Shoppers learned about medical research at an event in Templars Square Shopping Centre, Cowley, Oxford to mark International Clinical Trials Day.

On Wednesday 20 May, researchers spoke to patients, their relatives and NHS staff about how they can get involved in ground-breaking research for conditions like dementia and diabetes.

Diabetes study

Men with Type 2 diabetes are being recruited for a study looking at a new treatment to correct low testosterone levels.

Volunteers aged 18-60 are receiving injections of a hormone which researchers from the Churchill Hospital have found can boost the body’s production of testosterone.

Testosterone levels are often low in men with type 2 diabetes and this is linked to increased risk of cardiovascular problems; symptoms include tiredness and decreased libido.

Research has shown a man-made long-acting version of kisspeptin hormone can increase testosterone levels.

Now researchers are carrying out a further study to decide on the amount of the hormone to give and how often to give it, so it can be evaluated further.

The research is supported by the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), a collaboration between the University of Oxford and the Trust.

Dr Jyothis George, principal investigator for the BRC’s translational research group, said: “Current testosterone treatments increase the blood levels of testosterone above normal, often with side effects. Our approach aims to avoid this.”
Trust quick to put clinical trials underway

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (OUH) has been ranked among England’s best for the time taken to begin clinical trials involving new medicines and treatments.

OUH is now ranked second most research-active NHS Trust by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) for a key measure of how quickly clinical trials can be started.

The figures show 95 percent of OUH studies analysed by NIHR recruited their first patient within 70 days from processes beginning to the trial being underway.

The score covers the 12 month period to 31 December 2014. It is an improvement on the 12 month period to 31 December 2013, when 35 percent of patients were recruited within 70 days.

Prof Keith Channon, director of R&D at the Trust, said: “Getting studies started quickly is a vital step towards ensuring new discoveries are swiftly applied in clinical practice and can attract more research studies in future.”

Cash boost for Africa clubfoot treatment

Oxford medics have received a £246,000 grant to lead improved care for children in Sub-Saharan Africa with clubfoot.

Staff from the children’s orthopaedic surgery team at Oxford’s Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (NOC) are to help develop a single set of training materials to ensure care is the same across Sub-Saharan Africa for treatment of the condition. Children with clubfoot are born with their feet pointing down and inwards and with the soles of the feet backwards.

Treatment should start within a week or two of birth using the Ponseti method, where the foot is gently manipulated into a better position and put into a cast for five to eight weeks.

The number of healthcare professionals trained to treat clubfoot in east, central and southern Africa is less than five percent of the number of those in the UK, and there are few clinics.

Without treatment, the condition becomes ‘neglected clubfoot’, a painful and severely disabling deformity.

The new Africa Clubfoot Training Project will be led by Professor Chris Lavy, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at the NOC, with £246,000 from the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET) and the Department for International Development’s Health Partnership Scheme for 2015 to 2017.

The project aims to train 80 new clubfoot treatment providers and 60 new key trainers who will go on to deliver further local training, benefiting about 10,000 children in the next three years.

Prof Lavy said: “Clubfoot can be treated very inexpensively, straightforwardly and successfully by using the Ponseti method, which can change the lives of thousands of children who would otherwise face a lifetime of disability.”

A further £248,000 has been given by THET to extend an Oxford-based training programme led by Chris Lavy and Hemant Pandit for trauma and orthopaedic care in Africa, which since 2012 has seen John Radcliffe Hospital doctors help to train more than 1,800 local health workers to treat serious injuries.

The Primary Trauma Care course was developed in 1997 by JR anaesthetists Doug Wilkinson and Mike Dobson.
The Oxford Mail 2015 Hospital Heroes campaign for exceptional care and service by staff across the John Radcliffe, Churchill and Horton General hospitals and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre started in July.

Patients are being invited to nominate an individual staff member or team who they feel have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The nominations form part of the Trust’s annual staff recognition awards at the end of the year and the nomination may also be featured in the Oxford Mail between July and September.

Please email your nomination to hospitalheroes@ouh.nhs.uk giving your name and contact details, the name of the person you wish to nominate, where they work, and around 300 words on why you are nominating them.

Multidisciplinary teams involved in children’s major trauma care were given the opportunity to come together and receive specialist simulation training in managing paediatric trauma cases.

The Oxford Simulation Training and Research Centre (OxSTaR) based at the John Radcliffe Hospital provided simulation-based scenarios for doctors and nurses from across different departments to enable them to work together in practising how they would handle a major trauma case involving a child.

Paediatric major trauma patients bring a large team of specialist doctors and nurses into the Emergency Department which means that familiarisation through simulation training is essential for the team to be well prepared.

Dr Rebecca Whiticar, ED consultant and joint clinical lead for the course, said: “As a Major Trauma Centre it’s vital that we have a good, consistent standard of care when looking after paediatric trauma patients. The course provides a unique opportunity for all specialties involved in paediatric trauma care, from the arrival of the patient in the ED and beyond, to come together to learn how we can improve patient care.”

OxSTaR has been nominated for a Patient Safety Award in the Education and Training in Patient Safety category.
Stoma care open day well attended

An annual open day held by the Stoma and Colorectal Nursing Team at the John Radcliffe Hospital was attended by nearly 400 patients from across Oxfordshire.

A stoma (or ostomy) is where a surgical opening is made on the abdomen which allows waste products, either from the intestines or from the bladder, to pass out of the body.

The open day provided an opportunity for patients with stomas to meet other people and families in similar circumstances, talk with the Trust’s Stoma Care Team and view new ostomy products.

Various companies and national associations, including Chron’s and Colitis UK, the Colostomy Association and the Ileostomy Association, also attended the event to provide additional support and information for patients.

A representative from the Ileostomy Association said: “It is such a great opportunity for us, as a charity supporting people going through bowel surgery, to help them back in to life at a very vulnerable and difficult time. It’s always helpful for people to have a very knowledgeable nursing team present to answer any quick questions that come up given people are opened up to a huge range of relevant ostomy products that they may, up until now, have had limited exposure to and can seem a minefield.”

Blood ordering system saves money

The Real-Time Blood Transfusion Data and Decision Support project has been nominated in the Technology and IT to Improve Patient Safety category for the Patient Safety Awards 2015.

It is part of an electronic blood ordering system using barcode patient identification on wristbands, bedside handheld computers and electronically controlled blood fridges to simplify the transfusion process and improve practice.

The new electronic blood ordering and decision support process provides the most recent blood count results and transfusion guidance to clinicians when ordering blood and alerts them to inappropriate orders.

Its intention is to avoid unnecessary transfusion, and in the last year it has helped to reduce the use of transfusion by 11 percent, a saving of £500,000 for the Trust.

The entire transfusion process at OUH is now paperless, a first for the UK, and is part of the Trust’s electronic patient record (EPR) system, which is digitising patient records.

The national Patient Safety Awards, in their seventh year, are to recognise and reward outstanding practice within the NHS and independent healthcare.
The Supported Hospital Discharge Service (SHDS), set up in December 2011, helps patients return home from hospital, before their care packages are ready.

Before the patients are able to leave our hospital, the SHDS team assesses their needs and home environment to make sure they are fit and well enough to leave. Most patients start with three visits from the team a day, allowing them to be comfortable returning to their home surroundings. Once a patient shows signs of being able to do tasks on their own, visits are reduced. Preferred times are agreed with the patient when initially assessed and, if at any point the patient would like the times changed, the team will try their hardest to accommodate this. It is extremely important to the SHDS team that the patients’ choices and preferences are taken into consideration at every point.

Liz Hobbs, Service Manager for SHDS, said: “Our number one aim throughout is patient care and happiness. If the patient is anxious about leaving hospital or unsure if they will be able to do certain activities without support, we make sure the support is provided.”

Mrs Shirley Webb, a previous patient at the John Radcliffe Hospital, said: “I would not have been able to leave hospital when I did without the support of the service. The people involved in making sure I was ready to go home were superb! They checked that I would be able to do my daily routine at home without any additional support, and they made sure I was happy to go home and able to do my daily activities.

“I felt like the team really did care. From the hospital staff on the ward right through to the team who brought me home and helped me readjust to my home life – they were all just so great!”

Some facts about SHDS:
• 5,483 bed days have been saved from October 2014 to March 2015
• 821 patients were able to leave hospital earlier from October 2014 to March 2015 thanks to the scheme
• 3,500 visits are delivered each month by SHDS.

Liz Hobbs said: “SHDS is a unique service that OUH offers and we are very proud of the level of care we are able to provide our patients. We are committed to making sure that our patients are 100 percent happy before any changes are made to their care package.

“Our dedicated team will always go the extra mile to ensure that the patients’ needs are met. We also have excellent links with our community colleagues to ensure that the care and excellence provided by SHDS is maintained.”

Performers from the Oxford Music Festival gave an outstanding concert at the Cancer Centre Café, Churchill Hospital on Wednesday 27 May.

The youngest musician, Eleanor Voak, aged 10, started playing the recorder when she was four, the bassoon at seven and more recently, the much larger contrabassoon on which she performed the Clown of the Orchestra to the delight of the audience.

Eleanor was accompanied by Priya Berks aged 12, who gave a superb performance on the violin, and local pianist, Peter McMullan.

The concert was organised by artlink, the arts and music programme for Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, whose aim is to use the visual arts, performance, music and literature to make the hospitals welcoming and attractive environments and to help reduce stress and anxiety for those visiting.

Further information on artlink is available from Ruth Charity at ruth.charity@ouh.nhs.uk

Eleanor Voak plays the contrabassoon at the Churchill Hospital
Volunteers’ success makes for a cracking good read!

To mark Carers Week last June, wards across Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust spent time supporting and listening to carers.

As part of the week, the Trust, along with Carers Oxfordshire and Carers Voice, has created a new questionnaire for carers to fill out.

The questionnaire is being piloted for the next three months, allowing carers to be open and honest about the way they feel when they visit our hospitals.

Rachel Taylor, Public Engagement and Patient Experience Manager, said: “We want carers to feel more welcome on our wards – and that includes feeling more physically comfortable whilst on the wards, as well as part of the team.

“In Acute General Medicine, we have relaxed the visiting hours for carers, meaning entry to the ward is provided at all times for carers to help their loved ones feel less vulnerable and stressed. We also hope this helps them be able to be more involved in their patient’s care.”

The volunteer-run book stall at the John Radcliffe Hospital has raised more than £8,000 to help buy equipment to benefit patients and other items for the hospital – and they need more books!

The stall sells a range of second-hand books, games and puzzles which have all been kindly donated by patients, visitors and staff. Over the past year, the stall has raised £8,663.27 to buy equipment to benefit patients such as chairs for waiting areas and wall-mounted digital calendar clocks to help patients in the early stages of dementia.

Funds raised by the stall are also used to purchase flower arrangements that are supplied by a local florist each week in the main reception areas.

Yvonne Blencowe, Voluntary Services Manager at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: “Volunteers are an essential part of the Trust and the contribution and commitment that they make each day is greatly appreciated by patients, visitors and staff.”

The weekly book stall is held every Thursday morning between 8.00am and 4.00pm on Level 2 of the John Radcliffe Hospital.

If you have any books that are in good condition and would like to donate them please drop them off at the book stall on a Thursday. Alternatively, please contact Voluntary Services at ouh.volunteers@ouh.nhs.uk or on 01865 220140 to discuss collection.
Mapping the way in paediatric brain surgery

Thanks to a very special fundraising dinner at Le Manoir aux Quat’Saisons, children with brain tumours can now be treated using the world’s most advanced surgical equipment.

Sterling efforts to fund the equipment took place last year at an exclusive event hosted by Raymond Blanc. The evening, which raised £180,000, was organised by Cherry Jones, Felicity Waley-Cohen and Helen Mortimer – all long-term supporters of the Children’s Hospital.

The new technology uses a surgical navigation system alongside ultrasound to enable better planning of brain surgery in children. Nicknamed the ‘brain satnav’ because of its use of satellite navigation systems just like those found in cars, it means surgeons are able to make smaller incisions and take a shorter line to the tumour. Since its installation in the Children’s Hospital this year, the equipment has already been used many times.

Jay Jayamohan, Consultant Paediatric Neurosurgeon at the Children’s Hospital, explains the benefits: “This new technology means we can reduce the chances of life-long damage, improving the future quality of life for our young patients. I am thrilled to have this pioneering equipment here in the Children’s Hospital. In one of our first operations using it, we were able to remove a deeply placed tumour in a young boy and save his eyesight at the same time. Without this equipment, he would almost certainly have lost a significant amount of vision in both eyes.

“We all want our kids to have a functional, independent life. I am incredibly grateful to all those who contributed to our new equipment, meaning we can help more children have precisely that.”

Given the clear benefits of this system within children’s neurosurgery, we are now hoping to raise funds for additional probes meaning this equipment could be used for adults too. Two probes would cost approximately £20,000 in total. To find out more about this next fundraising drive, please contact lucy.budgett@ouh.nhs.uk

Eighty abseil for hospital causes

Eighty abseilers took to the ropes this June, including a plethora of penguins and a multitude of midwives – raising over £23,000 for some very special hospital causes.

Johanna Dodd led a team of thirty abseiling for Childhood Cancer Research Fund, also known as William’s Fund, in memory of her son. The group raised over £11,000 to support research into some of the rarer childhood cancers.

Cancer facilities for adult patients were also supported during the event, along with the Oxford Heart Centre, Wantage Midwives and the I.M.P.S. fund that teaches first aid skills to Oxfordshire children.

Our next abseil takes place on Sunday 20 September supporting the Oxford Children’s Hospital, Heads Up (head and neck cancer research), Cancer and Haematology Day Fund, and the Silver Star Society, which helps mothers through complicated pregnancies.

To take part pick up a leaflet, visit our website www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/abseils or call 01865 743444.

Also coming up

Sunday 20 September – Abseil for your hospital charity. Visit www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/abseils for info.

Saturday 7 November, 7.45pm – Radcliffe Orchestra concert, in support of the hospital charity. Tingewick Hall, John Radcliffe Hospital. Programme includes Mendelssohn’s Italian Symphony and Mozart’s Flute and Harp Concerto.

Sunday 11 October – Oxford Half Marathon: if you would like to run in support of our hospital causes please get in touch. 01865 743444.

Thanks to a very special fundraising dinner at Le Manoir aux Quat’Saisons, children with brain tumours can now be treated using the world’s most advanced surgical equipment.

Sterling efforts to fund the equipment took place last year at an exclusive event hosted by Raymond Blanc. The evening, which raised £180,000, was organised by Cherry Jones, Felicity Waley-Cohen and Helen Mortimer – all long-term supporters of the Children’s Hospital.

The new technology uses a surgical navigation system alongside ultrasound to enable better planning of brain surgery in children. Nicknamed the ‘brain satnav’ because of its use of satellite navigation systems just like those found in cars, it means surgeons are able to make smaller incisions and take a shorter line to the tumour. Since its installation in the Children’s Hospital this year, the equipment has already been used many times.

Jay Jayamohan, Consultant Paediatric Neurosurgeon at the Children’s Hospital, explains the benefits: “This new technology means we can reduce the chances of life-long damage, improving the future quality of life for our young patients. I am thrilled to have this pioneering equipment here in the Children’s Hospital. In one of our first operations using it, we were able to remove a deeply placed tumour in a young boy and save his eyesight at the same time. Without this equipment, he would almost certainly have lost a significant amount of vision in both eyes.

“We all want our kids to have a functional, independent life. I am incredibly grateful to all those who contributed to our new equipment, meaning we can help more children have precisely that.”

Given the clear benefits of this system within children’s neurosurgery, we are now hoping to raise funds for additional probes meaning this equipment could be used for adults too. Two probes would cost approximately £20,000 in total. To find out more about this next fundraising drive, please contact lucy.budgett@ouh.nhs.uk

Eighty abseilers took to the ropes this June, including a plethora of penguins and a multitude of midwives – raising over £23,000 for some very special hospital causes.

Johanna Dodd led a team of thirty abseiling for Childhood Cancer Research Fund, also known as William’s Fund, in memory of her son. The group raised over £11,000 to support research into some of the rarer childhood cancers.

Cancer facilities for adult patients were also supported during the event, along with the Oxford Heart Centre, Wantage Midwives and the I.M.P.S. fund that teaches first aid skills to Oxfordshire children.

Our next abseil takes place on Sunday 20 September supporting the Oxford Children’s Hospital, Heads Up (head and neck cancer research), Cancer and Haematology Day Fund, and the Silver Star Society, which helps mothers through complicated pregnancies.

To take part pick up a leaflet, visit our website www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/abseils or call 01865 743444.
Paediatric therapists experience sport from patients’ perspective

Paediatric physiotherapy and occupational therapy teams from Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust took part in a disability sports taster session at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre in Oxford.

The aim of the session was to create a chance for therapists working with children with physical difficulties to have a go at a disability sport, so that they might better understand what level of physical ability is required and help empathise and promote disabled access to sport in Oxfordshire and the surrounding catchment area.

Working in conjunction with the Oxford Eagles Wheelchair Basketball Club, the session was coached by Oxford Brookes University students, Olivia Marriott and Kieran Calvert, who volunteered their time to help give therapists the opportunity to try a disability sport.

Hayley Ramjattan, Paediatric Neuromuscular Physiotherapist at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, said: “I would like to take this opportunity to thank charitable funds for their contribution towards hall hire and the time volunteered by the Oxford Brookes Students, who so patiently gave their time, energy and expertise to a novice team of players.

“We hope to organise other events like these so that therapists can continue to have an improved insight into disability sports and how best to promote them to patients.”

Fundraising for Clic Sargent with Wig Wednesday

Staff from the Surgery and Oncology Division donned weird and wonderful wigs to raise money for children and young people with cancer.

The Division would like to thank Diane Huckings, Medical Secretary in Oncology, for organising the event.

The team has so far raised £105 and there is still time to support this amazing charity.

For more information about the charity please visit: www.clicsargent.org.uk
Absence reporting system records fall in days off work

In April 2014 the Trust contracted FirstCare, an absence management service, to log sickness and non-medical absences for all fixed-term and permanent members of staff at OUH.

The integration of the FirstCare service into working practices for staff and managers went smoothly and is now thoroughly embedded into the absence reporting regime for all staff.

Since FirstCare services were introduced, days off relating to stress, the number one reason for absence, have reduced by 30 percent, with an average duration for this reason reducing by four days. Additionally the service has reported at the end of March this year the number of days lost per employee has reduced by nine percent to 7.21 days.

We would like to remind staff that:

• the FirstCare absence reporting line is available 24 hours a day, every day of the year (including Bank Holidays and weekends)
• all OUH staff must call FirstCare on 0333 321 8086 (local absence reporting arrangements may also apply in some departments) – all absences of over two hours must be reported to FirstCare
• fit-notes are required for all absences that are eight calendar days or longer in duration – these must be given to your line manager to ensure you are paid correctly during your sickness absence
• once you have reached the ‘estimated return to work’ date you MUST contact FirstCare again, to either close your absence if you are returning to work, or extend your absence if you are still unwell.

Separate sickness absence reporting procedures apply for RoE (Retention of Employment) staff working for Carillion and G4S. Carillion and G4S do not use FirstCare services; therefore RoE staff who work for Carillion and G4S are not required to report their absence to FirstCare. If you have any queries regarding these separate sickness absence reporting procedures, please speak to you Carillion or G4S manager in the first instance.

### Attention OUH staff

**Got Good News?**

Let’s get it out there!

If you’ve got a story, don’t keep it to yourself.

You may have improved your service, ward or clinic. You or one of your team may have been recognised for an award. Or perhaps you’ve opened new facilities for patients? Whatever your good news, we want to hear from you.

We now have a brand new email address, so contacting us couldn’t be easier!

ouhnews@ouh.nhs.uk
OUH Annual Staff Recognition Awards 2015

Celebrate the huge contribution our staff make every day across our Trust

Nominations are now open for OUH staff to nominate their colleagues and teams!

The Trust is proud to recognise the contribution our staff make to the success of our organisation. Through Delivering Compassionate Excellence, our people and our teams go the extra mile to make Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust the special place it is.

The OUH Annual Staff Recognition Awards are designed to mark the outstanding achievements, hard work and dedication shown by our staff every day of the year. They are about celebrating the amazing people who work here and the contribution they make. The Awards provide a fantastic opportunity for us to shout about the great work undertaken at the Trust and in the community.

Award Categories
- Award for Excellence
- Award for Care and Compassion
- Award for Improvement to Services
- Award for Working in Partnership
- Award for Supporter of the Year
- Award for Leadership
- Award for Team of the Year
- Award for Outstanding Achievement

Nominating couldn’t be easier
- Staff Recognition Portal – visit the Trust’s Recognition Portal (information on the intranet)
- Online Form – via the intranet
- Interactive Form – via the intranet
- Complete the Annual Staff Recognition Awards paper nomination form – pop the completed form into one of the drop boxes which can be found at reception desks on all sites or send to: Staff Recognition Awards, Organisational Development and Workforce Team, Block 229, Carillion Building, JR or email staff.recognition@ouh.nhs.uk

“...It’s an amazing feeling and I didn’t know what to expect. It shows that if you’re enthusiastic and it means something to you to do your job then it will show through”

Pamela Roberts, Myeloma Clinical Nurse Specialist

Why not make someone’s day by nominating them in this year’s OUH Staff Recognition Awards
Kewal (George) Masih retires after 44 years

A member of staff who has served over 1.1 million drinks and 395,000 meals to patients over a career spanning nearly 43 years has retired.

Kewal Masih, known as George to his friends, started working in the staff restaurant at the John Radcliffe Hospital on 13 November 1972. He also met the Queen Mother when she visited Oxford a year later to officially open the hospital.

Throughout the majority of his career George worked as a ward host, serving lunch, supper and refreshments to patients, working on ward 5B for over 10 years. He has trained hundreds of staff members during his time at the hospital and will be greatly missed by all of his colleagues and friends.

Jenny Saxton, Carillion Patient and Retail Catering Manager, said: “All of the catering team and Carillion management would like to thank George for his continued service to the NHS for over 42 years. We wish him good luck, good health and good fortune for the future.”

Staff support for Nepal

Nepalese nurses based at the Churchill Hospital held a fundraiser in early May to raise money for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

The nurses put on a wonderful Nepalese spread, including a variety of home-cooked dishes from their culture.

The event managed to raise £983.75 for the affected people of Nepal.

Colleagues say farewell to Viv

HR Business Manager, Viv Shorrock, has left the Trust after more than 25 years service.

Viv started work in 1990 at the Radcliffe Infirmary and has worked in various roles across the Trust since then.

Colleagues from all four hospitals joined the HR team at the end of April to wish Viv luck in her new job and to congratulate her on such a long and outstanding service at OUH. Viv is taking a new role with NCAS, the National Consultants Advisory Service.