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News from around the John Radcliffe Hospital, Horton General Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Churchill Hospital

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NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE
‘HERE TO LISTEN’

The Trust’s new Chief Executive has taken up his post with a message to staff: “I’m here to listen.”

Dr Bruno Holthof began work on October 5, replacing Sir Jonathan Michael, who has retired after five years in the role.

Dr Holthof joins the Trust after 10 years as Chief Executive of ZNA, a network of general and specialised hospitals in and around Antwerp in his home country of Belgium.

He said: “I fully support our mission to deliver excellent and compassionate care. In achieving this mission, I want all of us to constantly look for ways to improve the quality; the quality of our research and the quality of our teaching; the quality of our care.

“This is the responsibility of everyone at OUH and I really encourage everyone to look for new and better ways to deliver that quality and ensure our safety.

“I really look forward to hearing your ideas for how to improve the quality for our patients. What we really should do is invest in clinical leadership and where needed, we will increase the investments because we need many leaders among the consultants, among the nurses and other professionals to look for these ways to improve quality.”

Dr Holthof said integrating care across different organisations in Oxfordshire is one of his key priorities.

He said: “We want to make sure there are no unnecessary hospitalisations and that patients are at home as quickly as possible and be able to work as soon as possible.

“To expand our world-class research, education and care, we can start using mobile technologies to create large databases for research purposes.”

He added: “I am impressed by the quality of the staff that we have at OUH. There have been terrific achievements in the past and we should all be very proud of those. I also look forward to supporting each and all of you in fulfilling your personal ambitions.”

After completing his medical training, Dr Holthof attained an MBA at Havard University and a PhD in Health Economics from the University of Leuven in Belgium.

As a partner at McKinsey’s Global Health Care Practice, where he worked for 15 years, he gained significant experience and expertise in advising medical and health organisations around the world.

Dr Holthof is married with four children and will relocate to Oxford with his family. He is a keen runner and cyclist.

I am proud to have

After 45 years in the NHS, outgoing Chief Executive Sir Jonathan Michael reflects on five years in charge at Oxford University Hospitals.

Sir Jonathan has overseen some pivotal changes and developments at the Trust since coming to OUH in April 2010, including the merger of the former Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust with the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre to create the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust in November 2011.

He said one of his proudest moments was when, in May 2014, the Trust was given a rating of ‘Good’ by the Care Quality Commission following a rigorous inspection process.

“This was a reflection of the quality of our services and quality of our staff. This was an independent assessment and I was really proud of the organisation to receive this rating,” he said.

He believes that the key to an organisation’s success is a strong focus on culture and developing a set of values which everyone is
I am proud to have helped the Trust to fulfil its potential signed up to. One of his first jobs was to help the organisation to review and create a new set of values.

“When you are responsible for 12,000 staff, having people with the right skills and training and the right values enables you let them get on with what they need to do. I am completely confident in the quality and calibre of staff we have at the Trust across all the disciplines – catering, porters, nursing and doctors.”

When he came to the Trust, Sir Jonathan says his priorities were to improve performance, move the Trust into good financial health, strengthen the relationships within the local health and social care system, and become a University Trust providing care supported by teaching, training and research.

“I think the Trust is now performing as well as any in the country and I am very proud of it. I hope my short five years has helped the Trust to fill its potential.”

Sir Jonathan Michael

Foundation Trust Status – WE DID IT!

Becoming a foundation trust is the result of a long process and considerable scrutiny of the Trust’s quality, finances, service delivery and governance by the NHS regulators, as well as an inspection last year by the Care Quality Commission.

The process the Trust had to go through helped us take a look at ourselves and identify areas for improvement in terms of the quality of our care, our performance against key national standards and our financial stability. The Trust is now in a stronger position to take forward the priorities of our organisation, our patients, the public and our staff.

Dame Fiona Caldicott, Chairman of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said:

“Being a foundation trust enables us to continue to improve our services by increasing the involvement of patients, staff and the local communities that we serve through our membership.

“We would like to thank everyone for their support who helped us achieve this and in the future of our foundation trust. We will continue to focus on delivering safe and high quality care, living within our means and meeting national standards.

“IT is an exciting time for us becoming a foundation trust and a vote of confidence in the achievements and capability of our staff.”

Foundation trust status is recognition of the work we have done to improve the quality and efficiency of our services for patients, and the capability we have to continue these improvements. It also provides more local accountability through our membership and Council of Governors.

As an NHS Foundation Trust we have a Council of Governors made up of people elected by public members and by staff members, plus appointed representatives from local organisations. The Trust will be accountable through our membership and Council of Governors to our local communities. Governors hold the Trust’s Board of Directors to account and speak at Council meetings from the perspective of the people in their constituency or the organisation they represent.

In return for this accountability, foundation trusts can take decisions on services and partnerships with other organisations that are not allowed for NHS Trusts. We can choose how to invest financial surpluses and can borrow money if this is affordable.

What does foundation trust status mean for our patients?

Signs were changed and our staff celebrated on 1 October, after the decision was announced by Monitor to award NHS Foundation Trust status to Oxford University Hospitals.

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In June 2015 it was announced by the government that a new medal would be awarded to recognise the bravery and hard work of thousands of people who helped tackle Ebola in West Africa.

The medal has been awarded to over 3,000 people who travelled from the UK to work in high risk areas to stop the spread of the disease. This is the first time a medal has been created specifically to recognise those who have tackled a humanitarian crisis and is in recognition of the highly dangerous environment that workers were required to enter.

The medal is being awarded to military and civilian personnel who have been tackling Ebola on behalf of the UK in West Africa, such as our armed forces, doctors and nurses from the NHS, laboratory specialists and members of the civil service and non-government organisations.

The Trust is delighted that three of our Healthcare scientists have been recognised for their services.

- Bethan MacDonald
- Laura Lopez
- Chloe Eaton

All three volunteered to work with NHS Public Health England to deal with the Ebola outbreak and work for several months in West Africa during 2014 and 2015.

Chloe Eaton, Clinical Scientist, said: “We often take for granted the facilities we have available here in the UK, so to spend some of my time developing diagnostic facilities for the people of Sierra Leone is very humbling.”

Dr Tony Berendt, Medical Director, said: “We are delighted that members of the Trust volunteered their time to deal with the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. As a result of their effort and the efforts of all others who volunteered to help fight the outbreak, many lives were saved and the outbreak contained.”

Since the launch of the Children’s Hospitals Network, Transition was highlighted as an area that we would like to develop across all services. We are fortunate that we can build on the fantastic model Ready Steady Go devised by our colleague Dr Arvind Nagra at Southampton Hospital. Through our passion for Transition we formed a collaboration with the Thames Valley Strategic Clinical Network who were interested in our approach. Through this work we received some funding to support a Transition Project Lead (for a year) to implement this project as a sustainable process at OUH.

Every year we treat thousands of children at our hospitals, mainly at the Children’s Hospital. Thankfully, the majority of children receive their treatment, go home and everything is okay. However, as a specialist hospital Trust, we treat many children with complex and chronic conditions requiring ongoing care and treatment from childhood through to adulthood.

As teenagers approach their 18th birthday, they are moved from children’s health services into adult services. We try to make that transition for our patients as smooth as possible with Ready Steady Go which helps patients and their families feel ready and confident to make the move into adult health care services.

The programme has been set up to help empower young people and adults manage their healthcare by equipping them with skills, knowledge and confidence to manage their condition from children’s services through to adult services.

From the age of 11 our young people are given checklists to go through with their nurse/doctor. This is the ‘Ready’ checklist and includes questions on daily living, health and lifestyle, managing emotions, and school and the future. It gives young people the chance to ask more questions about specific areas of their care and make notes of certain things they are not clear on. Once the checklist has been completed and all questions have been answered with a yes, the patient moves on to the ‘Steady’ checklist at around the age of 14. This, again, includes questions on the young person’s care which they will need to be aware of before they transition into adult services, such as self-advocacy and leisure.

The final stage of the programme is the ‘Go’ checklist which makes sure the young person is 100% confident about their condition including knowledge of prescriptions and appointments, attending clinics, understanding the importance of health, and an active lifestyle, ability for independent daily living, and the meaning of transitioning into adult health care services. The Go questionnaire also highlights the need for the young person and their family to understand their care plan and how the plan will take shape as they move into adult services.
Miss Oxfordshire visits Oxford Children's Hospital

Layla Claridge, crowned Miss Oxfordshire 2015, added a bit of sparkle when she visited the Children's Hospital to show the young patients her crown. Layla spent time talking to the children and families, and joined in games in the play area on the Bellhouse and Drayson children’s wards.

Layla said: “I was keen to visit the hospital which is so important to the local community. I hoped to brighten the children’s day and was honoured to see they had made crowns ready for my visit.

“Meeting the children was a wonderful and enriching experience. I hope they enjoyed my visit as much as I did. I felt very privileged to be there.”

Hundreds more patients receive innovative radiotherapy

The Trust is one of the first in the country to offer patients treatment with stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR), as part of NHS England’s latest national evaluation programme.

This innovative type of radiotherapy delivers a more precise technique which allows high doses of radiation to be administered to patients whilst causing less damage to surrounding healthy tissue. The Trust currently delivers radiotherapy to 3,600 patients a year and, as part of the newly commissioned programme, the Churchill Hospital will be using SABR to treat oligometastatic disease (cancer that has spread to another part of the body), primary liver tumours and the re-irradiation of cancers in the pelvis and spine.

Dr Claire Blesing, Consultant Clinical Oncologist at OUH, said: “It’s fantastic news for us to be selected as a leading centre for this treatment. We have been very fortunate that an extra £2.4m has been invested by the Trust for additional equipment and 12 extra staff. This will allow us to deliver intensity modulated radiotherapy and stereotactic radiotherapy to all patients who would benefit from the treatment.”

Over £15m has been invested by NHS England over the last three years to assess the use of SABR, which will mean 750 new patients a year have access to the treatment across the 17 participating centres. OUH is one of seven centres selected to treat oligometastatic disease (cancer that has spread to another part of the body), primary liver tumours and the re-irradiation of cancers in the pelvis and spine.

In order to receive this specific form of radiotherapy, patients will be identified by their clinicians locally and referred to OUH. The Trust will treat patients in the Churchill Hospital from across the Thames Valley and further afield.
Are you eligible for a flu jab?

The flu season is almost upon us and you may well be eligible for a free flu jab to help protect you against the most commonly circulating strains of flu this year.

The best time to get the flu vaccine is from the start of October to early November as it takes up to 14 days for you to gain the maximum amount of immunity possible for you. It is offered until the end of January but as flu tends to strike from mid-November the earlier you get your flu jab the best chance you have of protecting yourself.

If you’d like to be vaccinated against flu and if you fall into one of the following categories, make an appointment with your GP surgery or ask your local pharmacist about getting the flu jab.

- Those aged 65 years or over
- Those aged six months to under 65 in clinical risk groups (ask your GP if in doubt)
- Pregnant women
- All 2, 3 and 4 year olds on 31 August 2015
- All children in school years 1 and 2 age
- Those in long-stay residential care homes
- Carers
- Primary school children in areas that previously participated in primary school pilots in 2014/15

Even if you are not eligible for a free flu jab, you can still get the jab at selected pharmacies. More information can be found online at www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Flu/Pages/Introduction

In support of the national programme, the Trust is also offering staff a free flu jab during the annual staff flu vaccination programme, which will run from the end of September. Last year 63% of front-line staff were vaccinated – this year we hope that even more will get the jab. It is estimated that one in four front line workers may become infected with flu in a mild winter so having a flu jab can help protect patients, visitors and other staff.

More information on the staff flu programme can be found on the staff intranet.

CNN films at Oxford Gait Lab

As part of a feature on motion capture technology, a reporter and film crew from global network CNN visited the Oxford Gait Laboratory at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre.

CNN’s European Business Editor interviewed Julie Stebbins, Operational Lead and Clinical Scientist at the Oxford Gait Laboratory about how the team deploy their state-of-the-art cameras to improve patient outcomes. The reporter asked questions about motion capture and how it is used to improve diagnostics.

When asked about the advantages of this technology Julie said, “Measuring gait patterns allows us to have an objective record of how a person walks. It also provides information about how their walking patterns change over time, and allows us to measure the outcome of treatment such as surgery, splints and use of walking aids. We can then advise on the best way to manage someone with walking difficulties.”

CNN aired the feature at the end of August on their European Business Show – which reaches over 280 million people around the world.

Further information on the work of the Oxford Gait Laboratory can be obtained by emailing gaitlab@ouh.nhs.uk or by calling 01865 227609 or log on to www.ouh.nhs.uk/gait-lab

Patient Art Exhibition at the OCE

An exhibition, of items made by OCE patients during their Occupational Therapy leisure, pottery and workshops sessions, has opened at the Oxford Centre for Enablement. Organised by the patients, the group decided to present pictures along the corridor outside the physiotherapy gym to offer other patients the chance to share their art and celebrate their achievement.
App launched to reduce fear of MRI scan

Young patients needing an MRI scan at the Children’s Hospital can now use an app to help them understand what the procedure entails. Developed by Siemens, this interactive app aims to reduce children’s fears following referral for an MRI scan.

In October 2010, Sarah Browne, Play Specialist at the Children’s Hospital, approached Siemens with a request to create a miniature toy MRI scanner which she uses to allay children’s fears about scans and show them what is involved.

Sarah’s idea of developing the toy MRI scanner was very successful with her young patients and Siemens has followed this with an interactive app to take the fear factor out of the technology and process of having an MRI scan.

The app enables children to experience a 360 degree virtual MRI scan, with realistic sounds; scan items; find out more about the steps from referral to results; and have all their questions answered about the technology behind the scanning process.

A poll, commissioned by Siemens, asked 2,000 people about their attitudes towards their health, hospitals and medical appointments. It showed that one in seven people have cancelled appointments because they were scared to go. 42% of those surveyed confessed to being afraid of the MRI scan process.

Sarah has a special interest in preparing children for MRI scans. Children are often given general anaesthetics in order to have an MRI scan as it is important for the patient to remain absolutely still for it to be successful. With the help of play specialists preparing children beforehand there has been a notable reduction in the amount of children needing to undergo general anaesthetic.

Sarah said: “The app is excellent and we can see the real benefits of being able to access and use it. It’s great to see the control the app gives the child – an aspect that young people often struggle with whilst in hospital. It will make a big difference.”

Siemens MRI Scan app creator, PR & Government Affairs Manager for Siemens, Laura Bennett, said: “The app is a unique approach to an existing problem. The app is aimed at reducing fears so that patients will be less likely to cancel their appointment, or in the case of a child, undergo an anaesthetic, both of which can be a large cost to the hospital.”

A nursery in Thame has raised £1600 for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital. Little Alfie Hackett, aged 5, and his friends at Lord Williams’ School Day Nursery are pictured holding the giant cheque raised by a quiz night at the school, cake sales, sponsored sports day and Christmas card sales. The day nursery also sent their students home with a full tube of Smarties and asked them to bring it back filled with change from their piggy banks.

Alfie and friends say thank you
The Oxford Mail joined forces with the Trust again this year to search for Hospital Heroes across the John Radcliffe, Churchill, Horton General and Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre.

The search ran from July to September and invited patients, visitors and readers of the Oxford Mail to nominate individual staff or teams who went above and beyond the call of duty.

All nominations will be reviewed by a panel with individual and team winners being announced at the Trust’s Annual Staff Recognition Awards in December.

The newspaper featured many of the nominations received, including Jamie Williams, who nominated Foot and Ankle Consultant Mr Bob Sharp. Bob has looked after Jamie, who has Spina Bifida, from the age of 16 and performed 16 surgeries on her over the years.

Jamie said: “At times my leg has been at risk of amputation due to infection and other complications but each time Bob has overcome the problem. His continued care has let me lead a normal life that otherwise may not have been possible. His skills have also allowed me to remain mobile and enabled me to continue doing the job I love as a ward clerk on the Children’s Ward.”

Her nomination highlighted the value of good care that Bob showed her time after time and praised him for being a dedicated professional with an easy approachable manner.

Jamie also said: “Bob's care and compassion coupled with his straight talking, laid back style along with his skill as a surgeon make him everything you want in someone you are entrusting your health to. He feels more like a family friend than my doctor at times. I have had some amazing doctors along the way but none of them inspired such total confidence as Mr Sharp does. I feel extremely lucky to have him looking after me.”

Nursing Assistant, Tracey Roberts was nominated by Fraser Proudfoot after Fraser’s grandfather was admitted to the Emergency Assessment Unit at the John Radcliffe.

Fraser’s grandfather suffers from dementia and is often confused and disorientated. His admission followed a fall which is where Tracey showed real compassion in her care.

Fraser said: “Tracey treated him sensitively, was very patient and helped him regain some of his independence. She has such a lovely manner with her patients and is bubbly and chatty which really put Grandad at ease.

“When he was ready to move to a ward, Tracey came in early for her shift so that she could say goodbye and hopefully make him feel less anxious.”

Tracey has worked at the Trust for 11 years and said: “It was an honour to be nominated but I was just doing my job. I’m always trying to bring a cheery atmosphere to the unit as no-one wants to be in hospital, so it’s important to make their stay nicer.”
In September the new Welcome Centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital with reception and retail shops opened to all patients, visitors and staff.

Construction started in February of this year to provide a more up-to-date environment for patients, visitors and staff arriving and leaving the hospital via the busy main entrance, used by thousands of people every week.

When fully operational, the Welcome Centre will include a new reception desk, a patient information area, the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), state-of-the-art information screens as well as three retail outlets WH Smith, M&S shop and M&S Café.

The renovation was financed by non-NHS funds through a commercial agreement expected to make a small surplus for reinvestment into services for patients, visitors and staff.
Alternate prostate treatment

A minimally-invasive procedure for enlarged prostate is being trialled at the Churchill Hospital. Trust doctors are carrying out a procedure which is hoped could be an alternative to the current practice of removing part of the enlarged benign prostate gland.

Men with enlarged prostate can have difficulty passing urine and their sexual function can also be impaired.

Around four in ten men over 50, and three out of four in their 70s have urinary symptoms caused by an enlarged prostate.

The new procedure involves inserting a needle into the groin and manipulating tiny catheter tubes to fire blocking particles into the artery to cut off the blood supply to the prostate, shrinking the gland.

Churchill doctors have so far been pleased with the results, with patients reporting a significant reduction in their symptoms.

They were taught the technique by medics in Lisbon, Portugal and the procedures are being run as a trial based in Oxford (STREAM) and also part of a national trial Registry of Prostate Embolisation (ROPE).

Results will be given to The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, which makes recommendations on which treatments should be available on the NHS.

It is being run in Oxford by Churchill Consultant Interventional Radiologists Dr Charles Tapping, Dr Philip Boardman and Dr Mark Little.

Research to tackle a patient’s vision loss using pioneering gene therapy featured on the BBC’s One Show in July.

A film crew recorded Richard Chandler’s journey with John Radcliffe researchers who are trialling a new form of gene therapy to tackle choroideremia.

Mr Chandler, of Reading, was slowly losing his eyesight and was just one of 48 people from around the world to get the therapy that researchers hope can stop or even reverse the condition.

The former carpet fitter, had to give up work eight years ago as his vision deteriorated and he fears grandson Hayden may develop the rare inherited condition.

Sufferers are missing a key gene in their retina and the technique involves injecting a virus to deliver billions of healthy genes to replace the missing gene.

A film crew followed his journey from his home to the JR’s operating theatres, where they recorded the intricate technique to deliver the virus.

Consultant Ophthalmologist and University of Oxford Professor Robert MacLaren was shown using foot pedals to slowly deliver the virus, a skill that takes years to learn.

He told the show: “The results we’ve had so far have been spectacular.

“With gene therapy we have the ability to get right to the very start of the disease, correct the disease at the genetic level and that is very exciting.”

Appearing live on the show with Prof MacLaren, Mr Chandler said he now had more light in his eye and fewer cloudy spots that had obscured his vision.

He said of his hospital eye chart test: “Now I can see the full six letters better than I could before.”

Prof MacLaren said: “It’s a great relief to us with patients like Richard when we have such a good result.”

He said: “Any genetic eye disease could potentially be treated with gene therapy.”

The 100,000 GENOMES PROJECT

A project to collect the entire genetic code of more than 4,000 samples from Trust patients and their families to aid clinical care and research into rare diseases and cancer has started.

Patients with some rare diseases and cancers will be asked if they wish to provide health data and blood and tissue samples (pictured) for whole genome sequencing for the national 100,000 Genomes Project.

The Prime Minister launched the project in 2012 to collect and decode 100,000 whole genomes, complete sets of someone’s genes, from NHS patients and their families by 2017.

It is hoped the national programme – the largest of its kind in the world – will help provide better diagnosis and treatment.

It covers rare diseases such as congenital muscular dystrophy and early onset dementia and breast, colorectal, lung, ovarian and prostate cancer.

The Oxford NHS Genomic Medicine Centre will deliver the project for OUH and partner Trusts.
Youngsters on a two-week residential visit through the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) heard how vaccine research is changing lives around the world.

The NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre hosted the event with the University of Oxford’s Oxford Vaccines Group, Jenner Institute and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

A total 36 students visited the vaccine group’s Centre for Clinical Vaccinology and Tropical Medicine, where they enjoyed tours of its labs.

The Jenner Institute’s Dr Sean Elias spoke on how researchers are working on developing vaccines for malaria, which kills hundreds of thousands of people each year.

Dr Christopher Green talked about a career in vaccine research and how his interest in the topic led to his current role.

The scheme attracts more than 400 of the world’s leading young scientists aged 17 to 21 from more than 60 countries.

Students also made mosquitoes from pipe cleaners and cable ties and played a card game to match vaccines with diseases and a tablet computer game on the life cycle of malaria, developed by the Nuffield Department of Medicine.

The LIYSF is held at Imperial College London and features lectures and demonstrations from leading scientists, visits to industrial sites, research centres, scientific institutions and organisations, including world class laboratories and universities.

International students learned about cutting edge research taking place in Oxford during a visit to facilities at the Churchill Hospital.

Iron and COPD

A potential way to treat one of the world’s commonest lung diseases is being investigated after a study found a link between sufferers’ iron levels and poorer health.

Researchers and doctors at the Churchill Hospital and University of Oxford are giving iron to people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) – commonly caused by smoking – to see if it improves the debilitating condition in a two year study.

It comes after they found that one in five people with COPD had iron deficiency.

Patients with iron deficiency had poorer oxygen levels, more difficulty exercising and more frequent flare-ups. A two-year trial has now started at the Churchill to give iron to COPD patients.

Both have been funded by the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre.

For information visit [http://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/translational/iron-in-copd/](http://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/translational/iron-in-copd/)
Life-saving programme for children celebrates 20th anniversary

The Injury Minimization Programme for Schools (I.M.P.S.) celebrated its 20th anniversary this year with children from Wood Farm Primary School and many long-time friends and supporters.

I.M.P.S. has during the past 20 years, taught over 80,000 year six primary school children across the county to feel safe and help others in an emergency.

Since its launch in 1995, classes of ten and eleven year olds visited hospitals in the county to learn to perform CPR, deal with burns, choking and even how to use automated defibrillators in case of a sudden cardiac arrest.

Children go on to use their I.M.P.S. skills in real life emergency situations helping save lives and reduce injuries.

Lynn Pilgrim, I.M.P.S. Project Manager, said: “We are thrilled that I.M.P.S. has reached this important milestone. Many of our former pupils are now parents themselves and we hope they are passing on the message of making safer choices to their own children. We are confident that many young people avoided serious injury and even death because I.M.P.S. empowered them to take responsibility for managing the risks they take. By equipping them with emergency life skills they are able to be good citizens assisting in emergency situations.”

Professor Keith Willett, founding member of I.M.P.S. and now Director for Acute Episodes of Care at NHS England, said: “I.M.P.S. has made a remarkable contribution to a whole generation of young people in Oxfordshire, teaching them both how to stay safe and know what to do when things do go wrong. The last two decades are defined by the enormous support of many individuals from our health and education services and the generosity of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that has been our host.”

Support Worker Academy and former apprentice praised

Two nurses have been praised during a meeting with Sir Keith Pearson, Chair of Health Education England, for showcasing the commitment of the Trust to spotting talent and developing staff.

Becky Brewer, newly-qualified Staff Nurse, and Aileen Costar, Clinical Practice Educator, were invited to meet with Sir Pearson as part of a programme showcasing work taking place across the country to encourage more people to undertake an apprenticeship; a vocational route into careers within the NHS.

Becky began her journey to becoming a registered nurse in 2011 when she started a one-year health and social care apprenticeship and worked on the Stroke Unit. Becky’s talent and skills were developed by Aileen Costar who now works for the Support Worker Academy within the Trust.

The Academy seeks to develop staff to meet their full potential, boost the workforce supply and ensure excellent patient care. Its latest projects include developing the Care Certificate and young apprenticeship programmes for new staff and adult apprenticeships and development workshops for existing staff.

Aileen said: “It was a great honour to be asked to meet the Senior Team from HEE but Becky is the real star; she worked so hard to achieve her goal and I am very proud to have had a very small part in this development.”
Connecting CARE WITH HOSPICE CARE WEEK

Hospices across Oxfordshire are working together to support families and patients needing end of life care.

During a recent awareness week they highlighted the urgent and growing need for hospice care. The theme “Connecting Care” also celebrated world class palliative care available in Oxfordshire and thanked local communities for their generous and much needed support.

The Trust is one of only four in the country with a hospice on its site. Sobell House Hospice was set up in 1976, on the Churchill Hospital site. It linked with Helen & Douglas House, Katharine House and Sue Ryder Nettlebed for the Hospice Care Week programme from 5-11 October to promote the palliative care services they provide.

Sobell House offers palliative care for up to 400 inpatients with terminal illnesses or life limiting conditions needing continual care each year. It also runs day services for patients requiring extra support and respite care. In the course of a year, around 2,500 visits are made to the Day Centre by patients with their family and friends. The largest part of care provided by Sobell House is through the community team who make over 3,000 visits a year to people’s homes.

Mary Miller, Consultant in Palliative Medicine at OUH and Clinical Lead of Sobell House Hospice, said: “At Sobell House we believe that everyone matters throughout their life right up until they die. It is extremely important to us to make sure that our patients feel comfortable and able to do the things they wish to do, whether that is taking part in activities with other patients or spending time with their loved ones in a more quiet setting. We are very lucky to have such a fantastic service in the Trust.”

ON POINTE FOR HOSPICE

Earlier this year, ballet dancers entertained patients, visitors and staff with an open-air performance of the Nutcracker ‘pas de deux’.

Elmhurst Dance School’s performance at the hospice was organised by Jim Harris, after his wife Tracey, an ex-ballet teacher, who was cared for by the Sobell House Hospice team passed away in March.

Jim Harris said: “As a ballet teacher, Tracey was often talking about how dance can provide solace and calm for distressed people, and I saw the comfort it brought her during her illness. The Elmhurst Dance School has an outreach programme whereby dancers visit hospices around the UK and put on short performances for their patients.

“I wanted a way to repay the love and kindness shown to Tracey and myself when she was a patient at Sobell House Hospice and arranging for the dance school to perform seemed like the perfect way.”

Facts and figures

- Sobell House was founded in 1976 by Sir Michael Sobell and formally opened in 1983
- 10 charity shops, including two warehouses
- 18 bed inpatient unit which provides care 24/7
- Sobell House, Katharine House, Helen & Douglas and Sue Ryder Nettlebed provide care for 10,000 adults and children in Oxfordshire
- Sobell House is the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Palliative Care
Star Wars visit goes down a storm

The Force awakened earlier than expected at Oxford Children’s Hospital when a duo of Storm Troopers descended on to Kamran’s Ward with a generous donation of £5,000 and a trolley full of Lego.

Thane Admire, a five-year-old American patient being treated on Kamran’s Ward and Star Wars super fan, said he was “super excited” by the surprise visit and “can’t wait to tell my friends back home”.

The Storm Troopers are part of the UK Garrison (UKG), a national Star Wars costuming group that attends numerous themed events around the country. The not-for-profit organisation, run entirely by volunteers, uses its movie accurate costumes to raise funds for a number of charities, including the Oxford Children’s Hospital.

The visit was captured by Speechless Films, a production company producing a documentary about the UK Garrison and the work they do. Ginny Tait, PR Officer for the UKG, said: “We are very lucky that we can utilise an immensely fun hobby to make people happy and to raise money for charity. We hope that through this documentary people will gain a better insight into how the bad guys of the Empire can be a Force for good by helping worthwhile causes.”

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The Storm Troopers also spent time handing out Lego to the children on the wards, which was kindly donated by LEGOLAND® Resort Windsor, with whom UKG works closely with.

Christine Turner, OUH Senior Play Specialist for Kamran’s Ward, said: “This was a really enjoyable day for everyone, including the staff! We’re really thrilled that the UK Garrison made the trip to visit our patients. It was great to see so many children in complete amazement as they watched the Storm Troopers parade into their rooms and the play areas on the wards.”
Swindon Satellite Radiotherapy Centre

Patients are celebrating after an agreement was reached to develop a satellite radiotherapy unit at the Great Western Hospital in Swindon.

The unit will be run and staffed by Oxford University Hospitals and once built will mean that patients from the Swindon area will no longer need to travel to Oxford for radiotherapy treatment.

The new unit is much needed in order to meet the increased demand for radiotherapy predicted over the next ten years, as well as reducing the amount of travel for patients from Swindon and Wiltshire.

Swindon and Wiltshire are one of very few parts of the country which do not currently have access to radiotherapy services within a 45 minute travel time.

In 2013/14 around 700 patients made the 70 mile round-trip to the Churchill Hospital in Oxford for their radiotherapy treatment, which usually lasts for four to seven weeks and is made up of daily visits.

“It has long been our ambition to reduce the travel time for patients from the Swindon and Wiltshire area who are receiving radiotherapy treatment in our hospital,” said Paul Brennan, Director of Clinical Services at OUH.

“We are proud of the excellent facilities and services that we can provide for patients at the Churchill Hospital, but we want to reduce the travel time and inconvenience for patients from outside Oxfordshire.”

The planning stages of the project are well advanced and it is hoped that the service could be provided in Swindon by 2017. A fundraising campaign to raise the additional £2.9 million needed to fund the scheme was launched in May.

Trust named Digital Hospital of the Year

The Trust has been named ‘Digital Hospital of the Year’ in the awards run by E-Health Insider on behalf of the UK healthcare IT community. The result was announced on 1 October from a shortlist of five other organisations.

The Trust has a long history of innovation and clinical excellence and has taken a big step towards establishing fully digital hospitals, making patients’ medical history and care requirements available on the Trust’s electronic patient record (EPR) system.

The Trust now administers more than 20,000 drugs daily using electronic prescribing and a medicines administration (ePMA) system linked to the Trust’s pharmacy robot.

Medicine requests are made via computer at the patients’ bedside and are sent to the pharmacy to be automatically selected and labelled.

The awards are the UK’s only dedicated healthcare IT award scheme and offer 12 categories, including digital NHS trust or health board of the year.

Volunteers celebrate another year with Summer Tea Party

The Volunteering Service that helps to run and coordinate volunteers across the Trust has celebrated another year of outstanding service with a summer tea party. Finger sandwiches, teas and coffees, scones and cakes were served to the volunteers by the Voluntary Services Team, with a free raffle afterwards to reward their hard work and dedication to the Trust.
Our latest hospital charity appeal will touch the lives of over 8,000 people every year who have surgery at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford – many for cancer conditions.

Currently almost all of these patients will spend time in the Day Surgery Unit as they wait to be admitted for their operation and while recovering, before they are discharged or moved onto a ward.

The Trust is embarking on a project to expand and redesign the unit and with your help we are aiming to raise an additional £500,000 to help make this new space more welcoming and comfortable for patients.

Dr Mark Stoneham, Clinical Lead for Churchill Theatres, explains: ‘The unit was constructed in the 1980s and was designed to support just five operating theatres. The space can at times be rather cramped and, as patients are separated only by curtains, it lacks the privacy that we would ideally like for them as they discuss the personal details of their surgery.’

‘The new unit, which supports ten operating theatres, will be designed to reduce stress and anxiety, with privacy and comfort in mind. The calm space, which will have separate rooms, will be more suitable for all patients and there will also be a dedicated area specifically for breast cancer patients, for consultations and prosthetic fittings.’

As we launch this fundraising appeal we are delighted to have already secured early support from the local community. Oxford Golf Club, which is located right next to the hospital, has just chosen the Churchill Hospital Day Surgery Appeal as its charitable cause for the year and a new network of professional women in Oxfordshire, brought together by Nicola Poole (pictured) is aiming to raise £100,000 for the cause.

Cancer Benefactor Board Chair, Neil Ashley, also pictured, said: ‘We want to look after patients in a compassionate and stress free environment. Privacy and dignity are key – so this development is something we feel passionate about.’

Jayne Ozanne, Director of Fundraising added: ‘We know that this appeal will make a huge difference to so many patients, particularly at a time that can feel stressful and uncertain. This area is so important to the local community and we would love to hear from local groups and individuals who are interested in supporting this appeal. We have some places at our September 20 abseil and the Oxford Half Marathon available for Churchill Day Surgery supporters. Do get in touch to find out more.’
HEALTH ‘KICK’ FOR HOSPITAL STAFF AS THEY WORK OUT AT WORK!

Hospital staff spent their lunch hour ‘working out’ during **Workout @ Work** which got people moving during their working day.

The national week of awareness saw taster sessions in Nordic walking and Zumba take place on the playing fields on the John Radcliffe site, as well as Health Walks around the John Radcliffe and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and a rounders tournament. The events, organised by the Trust’s Occupational Health and Wellbeing department, were dovetailed by Healthy Hospitals Day which saw Health MOTs and healthy eating awareness sessions delivered to both staff and patients in the hospitals.

Ali Vaughn, Zumba Instructor and Research Assistant at Oxford University, said: “I’ve always loved exercising and so started attending Zumba classes with a few other colleagues from the Trust. However we found that getting to the classes was a bit tricky, so they suggested I become an instructor for the hospital.

“I teach the classes every Tuesday lunchtime and Wednesday evening at the JR and find it a really great way to stay fit and healthy whilst working full time.”

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**Churchill Healthy Hospitals Day**

Healthy Hospitals Day at the Churchill focused on highlighting the importance of health and wellbeing for staff and visitors. The health-driven day provided the chance for both staff and visitors to find out about a range of healthy lifestyle topics and discuss health issues with the Centre for Occupational Health and Wellbeing together with Here for Health Improvement Centre staff.

The key message, ‘how to make small lifestyles changes to improve health and wellbeing’, invited staff to think about their morning snack and ‘have a break, have a banana’. Generous donations from outside organisations offered staff the chance to win great prizes if they entered a health quiz and the pedometer challenge.

External health promoting organisations supported our staff offering smoking cessation advice, a mini health MOT and promoting the benefits of the new Employment Assistance Programme. For more information and advice on being healthier in work, please visit the Health and Wellbeing intranet site.
In June, five students from Magdalen College School were photographed at the Churchill Cancer Centre with artwork they created and then donated to the Trust.

The exhibition was the culmination of work which began in September 2014 when the students visited the Cancer Centre and chatted to staff about the project. They worked to a specific brief – the main being Oxford.

Oscar Tait, who helped create the images said, “We were delighted with the chance to create Oxford related artwork for the Churchill Hospital in the hope of easing people’s minds in times of stress. When making these pieces we tried to create something more than just a photo, something with depth that people could find something new each time they viewed it.”

Ruth Charity, Arts Co-ordinator for the Trust said “Staff have been delighted by the high quality of work produced by the students which will help to make the department feel more welcoming and less clinical in feel, as well as provide distraction to patients.”

This is the third year students from the school worked with artlink, the arts and music programme for Oxford University Hospitals. Further information on artlink is available from: ruth.charity@ouh.nhs.uk.
Staff Recognition Awards 2015

Thank you to all staff who took the time to nominate an individual or team in this year’s Annual Staff Recognition Awards. Over 700 nominations were received this year, the highest total to date. All nominations will be considered by the Divisional Recognition Panels in September, with Divisional Awards taking place in November. Final shortlisted nominees will be invited to the Staff Recognition Awards on Thursday 9 December at the Oxford Town Hall where overall winners will be announced.

Your chance to have your say!

This year you can take part in the National NHS Staff Survey between 21 September and 30 November. At OUH it is important to us that as many of our staff members as possible make their voices heard. An email with the link to the survey will be sent to those eligible to take part via the OUH email address, with paper copies sent to those who do not have an active email account.

Ensuring Confidentiality
Effective and established processes are in place to ensure that all data is completely confidential and doesn’t identify any individual or their responses.

The OUH National Staff Survey is being administered by the Picker Institute on behalf of our organisation.

Thank You

it’s amazing how two words can mean so much

The Trust is pleased to announce the launch of the E-Thank you card – a quick, simple and fun way to thank a colleague who has gone that extra mile at work. This scheme will run all year and is accessible to all members of staff. Sending someone a Thank You card is simple. All you have to do is go to www.ouhstaffrecognition.co.uk or visit the Staff Recognition intranet pages.

Exciting new training opportunities for OUH Staff

These training modules aim to provide line managers and supervisors with the essential resources, skills, confidence and support to more effectively fulfil their role. Whilst training is available to any member of staff, the modules are particularly aimed at those individuals who have direct line management responsibility at all levels within the organisation.

Modules available are:
- Absence Management
- Appraisal Procedure
- Bullying & Harassment
- Grievance Procedure
- Managing Work Performance

For more details regarding specific dates and locations, and to book a place please go to the Electronic Learning Management System. Search for the training you would like to attend and click to book. All sessions are badged under ‘Line Managers’ Toolkit’.

www.ouh.nhs.uk November 2015
YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY

The safety and security of our patients, staff and visitors is very important to us and helping people to be security aware is something we take very seriously. There are, however, times when patients and staff in our hospitals are subjected to abusive, aggressive and sometimes violent behaviour.

We are working hard to try to minimise these issues across the Trust and instil awareness for security among our staff and patients.

If safe to do so, verbal warnings are issued to individuals immediately at the time of an incident; however a written warning will usually be issued following more than one incident, so that any patterns of behaviour can be shown. Each incident is investigated on its own merits and circumstances.

It is vital that all incidents of abuse and aggression are reported to a member of staff or via the Trust’s internal DATIX system.

The Trust is in the process of implementing body worn cameras for security staff which can record such incidents, offering better protection to both the public and staff.

For further advice please visit the Security Office or intranet site, or contact Rachel Collins, Trust Security Manager via OUH email or 01865 221503.

Oxford MND Care Centre Cycle Tour

The Oxford Motor Neurone Disease Care Centre team spent four days supporting the efforts of five staff members as they cycled from Northampton to the John Radcliffe Hospital to raise funds for the MND Association.

The cycling team, which includes Professor Kevin Talbot, Dr Martin Turner, Rachael Marsden and Nicola Gabriel with Jenny Rolfe as the support vehicle, completed a total of 170 miles over four days and raised a total of £2645 for the MND Association.

Donation for CHOX

Pupils from Pangbourne College raised £1500 for Kamran’s Ward at Oxford Children’s Hospital thanks to a number of fundraising ideas. Emily Willis and her team of helpers in the Upper Sixth spent time organising the Flowers for Friends project which saw family and friends buying a carnation for a loved one that was then delivered by one of the pupils. Money was also raised through non-uniform days and a chapel collection.

Nicky John (House Mistress), Izzy Woodhead, George Woodhead and Emily Willis presented the cheque to Dr Wheeler at the Children’s Hospital (CHOX).

An additional £1,650 was raised by Tor Saunders completing a triathlon.

My Life, My Choice donate blankets to NICU

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit received a generous donation of over 40 knitted blankets for newborn babies from local My Life My Choice charity trustee, Jackie Scarrott.

Jackie said: “Knitting for the John Radcliffe gives me something to do that makes a positive difference to the community.”

Jackie, who spends most of her time volunteering for charities around the local area, won awards at the Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards for her contributions towards volunteering.

Natalie Rea, Specialist Newborn Care Matron, said: “We have a lot of generous supporters that donate items to NICU. Donating knitted blankets for the newborn babies is a lovely thing to be able to do.”