PATIENTS’ CHOICE AWARD — YOUR CHANCE TO PRAISE GREAT SERVICE

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UNIQUE VASCULAR STUDY REACHES LANDMARK

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

Winter flu campaign — more on page 7

September 2016 Issue 27
Nominations are now in for governor vacancies in South and West Oxfordshire constituencies

We are delighted with the response from our members to our call for nominations for two governor vacancies – one each in South and West Oxfordshire.

We have 13 candidates standing for election from our South Oxfordshire constituency and 12 from West Oxfordshire. Names of the candidates who have put themselves forward can be seen at www.uk-engage.org/ouh

Ballot papers will be issued by UK Engage to public members living in the South and West Oxfordshire constituencies from Tuesday 30 August.

Votes must be cast by 5pm on Thursday 22 September and the results will be declared the following day. You will be able to see these at www.ouh.nhs.uk/about/governors/elections.aspx.

Are you a public member in one of these constituencies?

Have you moved or changed your email address recently?

Don’t lose your right to vote – make sure the Trust has correct details for you. Your ballot paper will be sent to the home or email address held on the membership system. Send your new details to ouhmembers@ouh.nhs.uk so that we can ensure you receive your ballot paper.

To be eligible to vote in the election you must have been a public member living in either South or West Oxfordshire before Friday 28 July.

TEDDY BEARS PROVIDE SOLACE TO BEREAVED PARENTS

Maternity staff are working with national charity Aching Arms, which aims to bring comfort to those who have suffered pregnancy or baby loss, on its teddy bear donation programme.

The charity provides midwives at our hospitals with comfort bears to give to bereaved parents.

The bears are all donated in memory of another baby lost too soon and are given as a gesture of comfort to parents who have lost their baby. Each bear comes with a label giving the name of the baby it is dedicated in memory of and directs grieving parents to the charity’s website where they can find further bereavement support.

The John Radcliffe and Horton General hospitals are the latest to team up with Aching Arms, which currently gives bears to 46 hospitals across the UK.

Kim Paul, Bereavement Specialist Midwife at the John Radcliffe Hospital, said that the bears had been warmly received by bereaved mothers since the programme started here in June. She added: “We are always striving to support bereaved families in as many ways as we can and are very grateful to Aching Arms and all charities for helping us with this.”

Leanne Turner, founding trustee and charity co-ordinator, said: “We are delighted that Oxford University Hospitals has come on board with us to help those grieving a lost baby not to feel so alone.

“Losing a baby is a devastating time and we hope that by providing bears for recently bereaved parents we can reach out and offer them some comfort.”

Aching Arms was set up in 2010 by a group of bereaved mothers and became a registered charity in August 2013.
A THANK YOU from you means the world to us.

Taking a few minutes to nominate amazing staff for a Patients’ Choice Award really makes a difference.

Every day, across our hospitals, dedicated teams and individuals go to extraordinary lengths to provide the very best healthcare and fantastic service for our patients.

Our Patients’ Choice Award is a chance for patients and their loved ones to nominate these outstanding members of our healthcare teams. This new award category will form an important part of this year’s Staff Recognition Awards.

These Awards are part of the Trust’s commitment to recognising and celebrating these examples of best practice to help us improve our services further. Saying ‘thank you’ to our staff and showing them how much they are valued is vital for their wellbeing and that of our patients, as we know the positive morale of our staff leads to excellent patient care.

If you or a loved one have received outstanding care or treatment at the John Radcliffe, Churchill, Horton General or Nuffield Orthopaedic Hospitals, we want to hear from you.

Nominations are open from 12th September to 30th September and an independent judging panel of patients will select the overall winners. These will be announced at the Trust’s Staff Awards Evening on 7th December.

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION:
online at www.ouh.nhs.uk/patientschoice
Or e-mail the details to staff.recognitionawards@ouh.nhs.uk
or call us on 01865 223348.
DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR THE FUTURE

The **NHS in Oxfordshire** has started **discussions with the public on how to deliver care and treatment differently**, using resources more efficiently, and providing quality services **within the budgets we have**.

We face increasing demands on our services. While the amount of money received is increasing year on year, the cost of delivering services is growing at a faster rate. If we don’t change anything, the **NHS in Oxfordshire faces a potential funding gap of £200m by 2020/21**.

A vision for Oxfordshire

A Transformation Board made up of senior leaders from health and social care organisations has been set up to accelerate system changes in Oxfordshire over the next five years. The vision is that a joint plan for Oxfordshire will extend the range of services available in community-based centres, supported by the specialist skills of hospital clinicians.

The OUH story

As part of this vision, we have begun a review of our Trust strategy, mapping our patients’ experiences to design better services and patient care across all our hospital sites. We particularly want to use new digital health applications, many being developed in Oxford, to revolutionise the delivery of healthcare, reducing the reliance on hospital-based care.

Vision for the **Horton General Hospital**

We want to develop the Horton General Hospital into an innovative health campus and a centre of excellence for selected services.

Plans are being considered for a £150 million redevelopment to make it “a general hospital fit for the 21st Century”, said OUH Chief Executive Dr Bruno Holthof.

The Horton is one of the smallest district general hospitals in England and the Trust has focused for some years on developing plans for its sustainability. The vision includes:

- expanding outpatient facilities to increase the number of outpatient appointments available at the Horton, reducing the number of patients who need to travel to Oxford to be seen;
- increasing day case surgery and improving outpatient diagnostic services like radiology to reduce the need for patients to travel to Oxford’s hospital departments for tests and scans.

This could lead to an additional 100,000 patients being seen at the Horton.

Recent developments at the Horton include a refurbished radiology department, and work is now starting on a £3.6 million investment to replace the CT scanner. Work is also nearly complete on a £2.6 million refurbishment of the Endoscopy Unit.

**“We have invested in the Horton in the past and will continue to invest in it in the future.”**

Dr Bruno Holthof

After discussions with clinicians, we are looking at different options for specialist care, diagnostics, urgent and emergency care, maternity and children’s services. No decisions have been made and there will be formal consultation with the public, led by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, later in the year on any proposed changes at the Horton, alongside proposals for shaping Oxfordshire’s healthcare services.

**Horton maternity unit and recruitment of obstetric doctors**

In the short term, the Trust has struggled to recruit enough obstetric doctors for the maternity unit at the Horton, to the point that there will be just two middle-grade doctors in post by early October. The Trust’s contingency arrangements are for the maternity unit to become midwife-led while efforts continue to fill the vacant posts.

Dr Holthof, pictured said: “We understand there will be concerns about the possibility of the maternity unit becoming midwife-led. However, our first priority is to manage births safely at the unit. If you do not have enough doctors, it is not safe to run an obstetrics unit.”

Midwives will continue to provide home births and low-risk births at the Horton maternity unit. Antenatal and postnatal clinics will also continue. But high-risk pregnancies, for example women with multiple pregnancies, high BMIs, or expected complications will give birth at the John Radcliffe Hospital where obstetric care is available.

The Trust will continue to advertise with the intention to staff these posts at the Horton.
The Endoscopy Unit at the Horton General Hospital is in the final stages of an impressive and comprehensive refurbishment.

The whole endoscopy building has been redeveloped, with only the windows and structural walls remaining. The new bespoke facility will bring the Horton Endoscopy Unit up to the highest national quality standards, provide greater privacy and dignity for patients and significantly improve their experience. It will also mean the Trust can offer Bowel Scope screening at the Horton to residents in north Oxfordshire.

The project has cost around £2.6 million and has taken just under a year to complete because of the complexity of fitting a modern and expanded service into an existing building with limited space.

During the project all Horton patients have been treated on the John Radcliffe site. Despite the logistical and operational challenges this has presented, none of the 20,000 patients at the JR or Horton sites has breached the six-week diagnostic waiting time target. This is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of all the endoscopy staff involved, many of whom have had to significantly alter working patterns to accommodate the project.

One of the biggest challenges the project team has faced was integrating a completely new plant room into a tight loft space. This entailed building a dormer and access to the loft and optimising space so that many miles of cabling and pipework, highly specialised ducting, extractors, building management and electrical systems could be installed in a carefully worked-out sequence.

When the new unit opens later this year, patients will have no idea of the work that has gone into the refit as all the pipes, cables and ducts will be hidden from view. Rather, they will encounter a bright new ward with a revamped accessible reception and vastly improved facilities.

OUH TO BID FOR CENTRE OF GLOBAL DIGITAL EXCELLENCE STATUS

OUH is one of 26 acute trusts, and five in the South of England, invited by NHS England to apply for funding to become a centre of global digital excellence and champion better use of technology in health.

The Trust was chosen because it was already regarded as being advanced in its use of technology in hospitals; last year, it was named Digital Hospital of the Year in the E-Health Insider Awards.

If successful with its bid, a possible funding of £10 million to invest in digital infrastructure and specialist training is on offer. The winning bids, to be announced in September, will need to demonstrate that they can deliver in the fields of: use of electronic patient records; information sharing across the local health and care system; and robust data security.

It is envisaged that the chosen centres will act as trailblazers, pushing the whole health and care system to adopt better information technology, in order to share learning and resources with other local organisations and deliver benefits for patients.

The first wave of global digital excellence centres will be selected from the acute sector but it is anticipated they will soon be established in community, mental health and ambulance settings as well.

OUH adopts pioneering digital imaging system

The Trust has moved to a new state-of-the-art digital imaging system, entailing one of the largest data migrations ever in the UK.

In just four months, more than 100 terabytes of historical data, or half a billion images dating back to 2004, was transferred by Insignia Medical Systems ahead of OUH launching the company’s InSight picture and archiving system (PACS) in July.

The new system will allow OUH to share images with other neighbouring trusts, support home reporting and incorporate images from different departments.
MICROBIOLOGY LAB:
NEW TECHNOLOGY PRODUCES FASTER AND MORE ACCURATE RESULTS

A laboratory automation system at the John Radcliffe’s microbiology department is playing a vital role in better diagnosing conditions and improving patients’ treatment.

The Kiestra allows microbiologists to automate traditional techniques, standardise them and speed them up to make it easier to process samples throughout the day and night, rather than dealing with them in batches.

The system can be set up to process all kinds of samples – particularly those the department has high volumes of – such as urine samples, of which it has 600 a day, and screens for MRSA, which run into several hundred a day.

It provides precise incubation times and takes multiple photographs of culture plates so that everything is viewed in a standardised way.

“The Kiestra positively identifies the patient’s sample right the way through the system. That gives us increased security that the right results are going out to the right patient, and they’re going out much more quickly, because the machine is working around the clock,” says Katie Jeffery, Clinical Lead, Microbiology.

“Some of the technology, particularly the photographing of the final results, does add something compared to what the human eye can see by just looking at a plate because the culture’s results are magnified, allowing us to see things in much more detail.”

The microbiology laboratory is also using a MALDI-TOF system, which uses mass spectrometry to identify within minutes organisms that would normally require several hours. This allows serious infections, such as those resulting in septicaemia, to be identified and characterised much more quickly, and appropriate treatment initiated.

“Achieving really high levels of accuracy and reliability in these simple processing tasks is fundamental to our vision as a healthcare organisation,” says Dr Tony Berendt, the Trust’s Medical Director.

“This chain of automated activities is a fantastic achievement from the lab team. It means, for example, that if sepsis is suspected, results from cultures will be available to clinicians much faster than ever before, and this will allow us to fine-tune and optimise the treatment more quickly.”

WANTED – your ‘twiddle muffs’!

As autumn approaches, you might be thinking of knitting a jumper or a pair of woolly socks; but how about trying your hand at something a bit different this year?

OUH is putting out a call for enthusiastic knitters to make ‘twiddle muffs’ for our elderly patients.

Originally devised in 1997 by Margaret Light for her grandmother, Lily, the twiddle muff is essentially a knitted ‘tube’, large enough to slip your hands into comfortably, and decorated with large buttons, ribbons, keyrings and pompoms.

This variety of shapes, colours and textures offers elderly patients a soothing occupation, keeping them distracted from the anxiety of a hospital admission.

Lynda Huard, Dementia Lead for OUH Acute General Medicine, says: “These twiddle muffs are permanent gifts that our patients take home with them. As elderly people living with dementia now make up our largest patient group, we are always on the lookout for keen knitters to make us more.

“They are going like hot cakes, and we now need twiddle muffs in a range of colours to appeal to both our male and female patients. Two members of our staff have already got their mums involved, and I have even been contacted by a young woman who is knitting them as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award!”

The twiddle muff’s popularity has soared via social media, with community groups all over the country getting involved. We already have dedicated knitters providing blankets and hats for tiny babies; this is another way you can show how creative you are!

For more information, and to find out where you can donate your Twiddle Muffs, please contact lynda.huard@ouh.nhs.uk
Every Wednesday after work for the past two years, around 30 staff from the Emergency Departments at the JR and the Horton have played touch rugby – and are encouraging other OUH departments to form their own teams.

The mixed team, the ED Stingers, was set up by consultants Sachin Mandalia and Phil Hormbrey and consists of doctors, nurses and operational staff. It competes in a local ‘O2 Touch’ league at the Stratfield Brake sports ground in Kidlington.

“It’s a great antidote to a hard day in the ED,” Sachin says. “It’s also an excellent way to build team spirit outside the hospital environment – especially when we go for a drink afterwards.”

Phil adds: “There’s a social aspect that you don’t always get with more solitary sporting activities like jogging or cycling. It’s a fast, tactical game, and we’ve certainly improved. We’ve even won a few games.”

The ED Stingers are keen to spread the word about the benefits of touch rugby to colleagues in other parts of the Trust.

What better way to unwind after a stressful day working in the Emergency Department than to play a bit of sport?

With the flu season almost upon us again, the Trust is determined to help its staff stay well this winter and make 2016/17 the year it achieves its highest rate of staff seasonal flu vaccinations.

The flu vaccination is available free of charge to OUH employees. Getting immunised will enable staff to do their best to protect themselves, their patients, family and colleagues from this year’s strains of the virus.

Patricia Poole, Head of Occupational Health, said, “We strongly encourage all of our frontline staff to have their flu vaccination to help prevent the spread of flu. Not only is this a quick and simple procedure, with normally minimal or no side effects, it can also save lives, as flu can have serious consequences for vulnerable people.

“We would like to see seasonal flu vaccinations become commonplace every flu season in the Trust. Looking at last year’s immunisation figures, it’s good to see that the majority of our staff found the time in their busy days to seek out this voluntary vaccination.”

The OUH staff flu programme begins on Monday 26 September. Trust staff will be encouraged to get their flu vaccination as soon as they are able, to maximise their protection. Those wanting more information can find full details on the staff intranet.
Unique research project welcomes 10,000th participant

A research project that studies all acute vascular events, such as strokes and heart attacks, has recruited its 10,000th Oxfordshire participant.

The Oxford Vascular Study (OXVASC) began in 2002 and involves University of Oxford staff at the John Radcliffe Hospital collecting health data and blood samples, and carrying out scans. The study, which involves eight GP practices, is the first in the world to assess and follow up all vascular conditions at the same time in the same population.

The research has provided data on the frequency, trends, causes and outcomes of heart attacks, strokes, transient ischaemic attacks (TIAs or mini-strokes), aneurysms and other circulatory problems. It has led to changes in care, including how patients with mini-strokes are treated.

The 10,000th participant was Wantage jewellery shop owner Peter Casey, who was referred by his GP after a TIA.

Professor Peter Rothwell, who founded and directs the study, said: “It is a good example of how simple clinical research can still provide insights that substantially improve patient care.”

HIV DRUG RESEARCH FINDS ‘LAST HIDING PLACE’

Oxford research has shown that a new drug can remove HIV from its ‘last hiding place’, offering hope for a viable treatment.

Laboratory tests using cells from HIV patients showed a new drug was able to ‘recruit’ HIV-killing cells to direct them to cells infected by the virus.

They were able to kill dormant HIV cells that can ‘reactivate’ and spread the virus in four out of five cases. Commonly used antiretroviral therapy drugs have not been able to kill those cells.

The University of Oxford worked with Oxfordshire biotechnology company Immunocore to develop the drug with funding from the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, a University/Trust partnership.

Prof Lucy Dorrell (pictured right), who led the University team, said: “These positive results are cause for optimism.

“There is still work to do. This research was carried out in the lab but an effective cure has to take place in the patient.”
Artist Anna Dumitriu encouraged patients and visitors at the John Radcliffe to use their artistic skills to better understand antibiotics and infections. She hosted a stand in the West Wing foyer that invited people to inscribe metallic plates to create images of infectious cells. Microbiologist Dr Nicola Fawcett was on hand to explain the challenges facing global healthcare systems as antibiotics become less effective against infections. The completed plates will be part of an artwork to be displayed in Oxford’s Museum of the History of Science and Cornwall’s Eden Project.

Minister hears about digital innovation

Digital technology to improve patient care at Oxfordshire’s hospitals was showcased during a visit to the John Radcliffe Hospital by Government Minister Lord Prior. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health was shown the System for Electronic Notification and Documentation (SEND). This involves staff inputting patients’ vital signs into tablet computers instead of bedside charts so they can get instant feedback on how to manage their care and share information instantly around the Trust. Lord Prior also heard how clinicians are using data from SEND and computerised medical records, the Electronic Patient Record (EPR), to improve management of sepsis.

Lord Prior said: “I was very impressed by the innovative work I saw being carried out by staff at the John Radcliffe Hospital.”

NO SINGLE GENE FOR DIABETES RISK

Most type 2 diabetes cases are not caused by a single faulty gene but by genes common throughout the population, the largest study of its kind has found.

Some researchers had previously thought the genetic risk of type 2 diabetes was due to genetic variants unique to individuals and their families.

But an Oxford-backed global study analysing DNA samples from 120,000 people found that most cases are down to changes in DNA which are common throughout the wider population. Lifestyle factors such as diet also play a role in type 2 cases.

Co-author Prof Mark McCarthy, of the University of Oxford, said: “We have been able to highlight, with unprecedented precision, a number of genes directly involved in the development of type 2 diabetes.

“This represent promising avenues for efforts to design new ways to treat or prevent the disease.”

Funders of the study included Oxford BRC and The Wellcome Trust.
HOME FROM HOME FOR PARENTS OF SICK CHILDREN APPROVED

Fundraising to build new on-site accommodation for parents of children and babies being treated at the John Radcliffe Hospital can begin in earnest after planning permission for the new Ronald McDonald House was approved by Oxford City Council in July.

The cost of developing the new facility is estimated to be between £11m and £13m. This will be raised through fundraising and donor appeals organised by Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) and the Trust’s charity.

Fundraising efforts are due to get under way on 10 September with a sponsored walk by members of the project team up Mount Snowdon.

The new purpose-built, 62-room Ronald McDonald House will be located next to Woodlands Road. Building on the existing partnership between the Trust and RMHC, it will replace the existing 17-bedroom accommodation situated in the Children’s Hospital.

In 2015, the house provided a ‘home from home’ for 600 families whose children or babies were being cared for at the JR. But the need for this kind of support is far greater; like all specialist children’s hospitals, Oxford Children’s Hospital provides life-saving services to families from all over the UK.

The new House will be able to better meet current and future demand for this vital free service.

PLAUDITS FOR DIABETES SPORTS CLINIC

The service, for young people involved in competitive sports at a regional or national level, is a finalist in the QIC (Quality in Care) Diabetes 2016 Awards, in the Team Initiative of the Year category.

The benefits of physical exercise for children with type 1 diabetes are well documented; it helps maintain both physical and mental health. The Oxfordshire Paediatric Diabetes Service realised that its young patients included a significant number of elite sportspeople.

Staff there decided to create a service that nurtured their talent, giving them more independence to manage the challenges they faced.

After a pilot in 2014 received positive reviews, the concept took off and now Diabetes Sports Clinics run by a multidisciplinary team are held twice a year. Each patient gets a personalised care summary offering advice on exercise, diet and managing insulin doses.

There has been a 73% reduction in hypos among young people attending the clinics, and families now have greater confidence to support their children in taking part in high-level sport. Such has been its success that the team are looking to expand it to the wider Thames Valley region.

So far, 18 families have benefited from the service. They include 16-year-old squash player Nick Harbour (pictured), who has had diabetes since he was 11.

Nick, currently ranked 36 in the country and unbeaten this season in the Oxfordshire men’s league, has played at the English Championships for the past two years and this year competed at the British championships. His success has resulted in him being named Oxfordshire’s young person of the year in 2015.
DELAYS EXPECTED ACCESSING CHURCHILL HOSPITAL BY CAR

People visiting the Churchill Hospital by car during peak times later this year should expect delays as a result of two major sets of roadworks.

The first is the initial phase of Oxfordshire County Council’s Access to Headington project, designed to improve traffic flow in the area. This initial phase is planned for October and November 2016, when the Churchill’s Roosevelt Drive exit, at the junction with Gypsy Lane, will be widened, with a dedicated lane for right turns, ‘smart’ traffic lights and improved cycle and pedestrian flow.

The second set of roadworks will be linked to the Trust’s own Hospital Energy Project, which will affect the Churchill and residential roads linking it to the John Radcliffe.

This innovative £14.7 million project will upgrade both hospitals’ ailing heating and lighting systems. Once complete, it will deliver annual savings of £460,000, funds the Trust can reinvest in the hospitals and clinical care.

Part of the project is the Energy Link, a district heating pipe that runs between the Churchill and JR. The County Council will decide in September whether to approve the excavation of public roads that is needed to lay the pipe. If permission is granted, work is due to start in October, beginning with Sandfield Road and London Road, which will slow traffic coming in and out of Headington for two weeks.

As things stand, work on Churchill Drive is due to start on 4 December 2016 and run for seven weeks, although there will be no work on the pipeline over Christmas and New Year.

Plans have been put in place to re-route buses and ensure that traffic circulates as smoothly as possible. Local residents will be kept informed about what is happening once the planning process is completed.

A great deal of preparation has been done to reduce the inconvenience these works will have on local people, but it is inevitable that there will be delays. To minimise this disruption, please consider using public transport and allow extra time for appointments if you are travelling to the Churchill at peak times (8-9am and 4-6pm) during this period.

You can find more information about the Access to Headington project on the County Council website; and about the Hospital Energy Project on the Trust website: www.ouh.nhs.uk/energy

AYLESBURY FREEMASONS SUPPORT RENAL UNIT

Aylesbury Freemasons have generously donated to the Oxford University Hospitals’ satellite renal unit, based at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Malcolm Summers, Master of Aylesbury Lodge No. 4534, presented a cheque for £1,060 to Senior Consultant Dr Richard Haynes and Consultant Dr Naim Ahmadouk to support the life-saving work carried out by the unit, which treats kidney disease patients from the Aylesbury area and provides support facilities for patients holidaying with relatives.

This donation comes at an important time as a new patient/carer group, affiliated to the Six Counties Kidney Association, has just been formed in support of the Stoke Mandeville Renal Unit.
We are very grateful to everyone who supports the charity – whether by taking part in physical challenges and organising fundraising events or making donations to support our special causes. The charity received a fantastic £4.5 million last year, thanks to the generous support of families, friends, local businesses and organisations.

Gifts in wills are particularly important, regularly accounting for over a third of our income. They build on an historical tradition of legacy donations to Oxfordshire healthcare, dating back to benefactors like Dr John Radcliffe and Mary Ann Horton.

Today, patients continue to benefit from improvements across the trust, made possible by the kindness of individuals who have left legacies to their hospitals.

Although many people give to charity on a regular basis, currently just 7% of the UK population include a charity in their will. It’s something many of us intend to get round to, but never quite manage. Nevertheless, gifts in wills, which can be so tax-efficient to donors, are still the foundation of many of charities like ours.

This year’s Remember a Charity Week will take place from 12-18 September. If supporting your hospitals is a cause close to your heart, why not pop the date in your diary as a reminder to talk to your solicitor?

To discuss supporting the hospital charity in your will, or any fundraising questions, please call us on 01865 743444 or email charity@ouh.nhs.uk. You can also visit www.hospitalcharity.co.uk.

The charity is called Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Charitable Funds and our registered charity number is 1057295.

Looking ahead:

Sunday 25 September – The Hospital Abseil

see below left for more details or visit www.hospitalcharity.co.uk/abseils

Sunday 9 October – The Oxford Half Marathon

Why not run for the hospital charity? Sign up at www.oxfordhalf.co.uk and then create a fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/oxfordradcliffe

Charity Christmas Cards

You can support our hospital charity this Christmas by sending friends and family our charity Christmas cards. Our catalogue will be available from mid-September, so pick up a leaflet from around the hospitals or see them on our website www.hospitalcharity.co.uk and order over the phone – 01865 743444.

Dorchester Christmas Concert

The Dorchester Abbey Christmas Concert is a fabulous evening of song and readings. Since the first event in 2006 the concerts have raised over £250,000 for the Oxford Children’s Hospital, helping to provide extra medical equipment and new facilities for young patients.

The concert takes place on Thursday 1 December, starting at 7.00pm. Tickets, priced at £25 to £70 per person, are expected to sell out very quickly. The Choir of Winchester Cathedral will be performing once more, and will be joined by a number of high-profile readers. Call 01865 743444 to reserve your place.

Are you up for a challenge?

Our abseils raise thousands of pounds for our hospital causes and are guaranteed to be a day you won’t forget.

The next abseil takes place on Sunday 25 September at the John Radcliffe Hospital and is supporting the following hospital areas:

- Oxford Children’s Hospital (including children’s causes across the Trust)
- Oxford Eye Hospital
- Silver Star (supporting parents through complicated pregnancies)
- Adult Emergency Assessment

This fun event – open to anyone aged over 18 and medically fit – costs £20 to join. You can enter on your own or in a group; we just ask you to aim to raise £150 or more through sponsorship.

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

Registered Charity: 1057295
To say that Kevin Smees and his family have had a difficult time is an understatement. When his partner Nicola was 41 weeks pregnant, she collapsed and was transferred to the John Radcliffe’s Neuro Intensive Care Unit.

Her baby, Lexi, was delivered safely, but Nicola, who had suffered a major bleed on the brain, spent four weeks in an induced coma while clinicians fought to keep her alive.

Kevin travelled in every day from Aylesbury with Lexi, unsure of what he would face: “It was touch and go. Nicola was on so many machines and had round-the-clock care. But throughout it all the staff in Neuro were quite simply amazing. They kept me calm, kept me informed and their care was incredible.

“I always knew they were doing the best for her and they really felt like family. I can’t put into words how much they went above and beyond every single day.”

Nicola slowly improved and after four weeks was well enough to move to her local hospital.

Kevin was so appreciative of the care Nicola received at the JR that he started a fundraising page for the ward, even while caring for a sick fiancée and new-born baby. “I could see how much the hospital staff – from receptionists to consultants – were doing,” he said. “They weren’t just looking after Nicola, but me and all my family too. They are superhuman in my eyes, so I wanted to say thank you in a constructive way – raising some money that they can use for the extras.”

Kevin, his mum and Lexi recently returned to the hospital to hand over a cheque for £3,000 for the Neuro ICU.

Sarah Vaccari, from Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Charitable Funds, said: “We are incredibly grateful to him and his family for thinking of the hospital charity and wanting to thank the amazing Neuro Intensive Care team in this special way.

“Donations like these help us to fund the very latest specialist medical equipment and create more welcoming environments for hospital patients and their families, allowing us to go above and beyond the NHS standard.”

Sarah Vaccari, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Charitable Funds.

To find out more about our hospital charity or make a donation visit www.hospitalcharity.co.uk
TRUST RECOGNISES CONTRIBUTION OF OVERSEAS STAFF

All our staff bring professionalism, skills and care to the Trust and the NHS, which is valued and welcomed

Understandably, the decision of the United Kingdom in the EU referendum created concern, both for our staff and for our patients, about our ability to recruit and retain staff.

To reassure them and show the Trust’s support for its staff from the EU and other countries overseas, a get-together lunch was held recently where staff from overseas chatted about how they came to join the Trust and proudly showed where they had come from before joining.

“We appreciate the massive contribution that staff from across the world make to the Trust and the wider NHS, and are pleased that the Government has said there will be no immediate changes in the circumstances for international citizens living in the UK,” said OUH Chief Nurse, Catherine Stoddart.

“This event was our way of thanking our overseas staff for the vital role they play in delivering compassionate care to our patients, and restating our appreciation of their professional skills.”

DELAYED TRANSFER OF CARE NUMBERS FALL

The number of people delayed in Oxfordshire’s hospital beds when they no longer need to be there has fallen by more than 45%, bucking the trend elsewhere in the country. Nationally, the number of Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC) cases rose by 25% between May 2015 and May 2016.

The improvement in Oxfordshire is the result of a joint £2m initiative launched in December 2015 by the NHS partners in the county to move people out of hospital more quickly when they have been appropriately treated and no longer need to be there.

This has entailed funding extra temporary care home beds where people can stay until they are ready to return to their own home or move to a permanent care home; and the recruitment of more home care staff to support people in their own homes.

Paul Brennan, OUH’s Director of Clinical Services, said: “This is good news for these patients who have received assessment and care in a more appropriate environment than an acute or community hospital while their ongoing care plans are arranged. Feedback from patients and their relatives has been very positive and overall this demonstrates the need to focus on service provision rather than beds.”

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will hold its Annual General Meeting at the John Radcliffe Hospital’s Academic Centre on Wednesday 28 September from 5.30pm to 7.45pm.

The meeting, hosted by Trust Chairman Dame Fiona Caldicott, is an opportunity for staff, the public and Trust members to find out about the Trust’s performance over the past year and its plans for the future, and to give their feedback.

There will be a number of displays and stands outside the main meeting where people can pick up information and put questions to a range of experts.
Life-changing surgery for little Ethan

A three-year-old boy from Ghana has received life-changing treatment at the John Radcliffe Hospital to correct a condition that meant his abdominal organs grew on the outside of his body.

Ethan Suglo was born with exomphalos, which is routinely treated in the UK but can be fatal in countries like Ghana where doctors do not typically have the resources to perform the necessary surgery.

Doctors David and Jacquie Williams from the Cotswolds were visiting their daughter, who was doing voluntary work in Ghana, when they were approached by Ethan’s father. They thought they would be examining a normal child with a swollen tummy or malnutrition, but it became clear he had a major abdominal defect.

The Williamses began a fundraising campaign to raise the thousands of pounds needed to fly Ethan to the UK for the treatment he needed.

His father, Charles, said that the treatment was “a great relief” and it would enable Ethan to start school when he gets home to Ghana.

New nurses’ and midwives’ achievements recognised at presentation day

A named member of staff – or Preceptor – guides them through topics ranging from clinical supervision to stress management and preventing pressure ulcers.

The programme includes a Quality Improvement Project, to encourage skills such as problem-solving, planning and team working.

On 20 July, 54 nurses and midwives who had completed the Foundation Programme presented a poster showcasing their project and received a certificate from OUH Chief Nurse Catherine Stoddart. Another 90 are due to ‘graduate’ over the next four months.

“While some of our new nurses and midwives admitted to feeling anxious at the start of their Preceptorship year, their achievements have been impressive,” says Vicky Currer-Briggs, OUH Nursing and Midwifery Foundation Programme and Skills Coordinator.

“Even more encouraging, 30% of our ‘Preceptees’ say they are planning to stay with our Trust for five years or more. With staff retention an important issue for all NHS trusts, that can only be good news.”

Newly-qualified nurses and midwives at the Trust benefit from a Foundation Programme, when they get the support they need to help them develop their skills in that all-important first year.
ONLINE TOOL FOR CHILDREN WITH FACIAL PALSY LAUNCHED

The world’s first online therapy resource for children with facial palsy has been launched at OUH.

Consisting of a ‘Know my Face’ game and a demonstration video about how to do facial exercises, the new resource can be found on the Oxford Facial Palsy Clinic website www.ouh.nhs.uk/facialpalsy The programme can be customised for a child’s individual needs by a Facial Rehabilitation Specialist.

The innovative use of a video and game is intended to help parents and children to engage in therapy activities at home and encourage the whole family to join in. If the facial exercises become an everyday activity, it makes it more likely that the patient will stick to their programme.

“Children who attend our clinic travel from all over the UK to access our expertise and the use of an online therapy programme permits me to monitor their progress remotely and reduce valuable time missed from school,” says Sarah Kilcoyne, a Facial Rehabilitation Specialist at the OUH.

The online resource includes features such as subtitles for children and parents with hearing impairment and an auto-translate facility that allows the subtitles to appear in another language.

Launch of Facial Palsy online resource. From left to right: Facial Rehabilitation Specialist Sarah Kilcoyne; Emily McAndrew, who appears in the game and video, and David Johnson, Clinical Lead, Oxford Facial Palsy Service.

Charity names room after Trust Chairman’s son

Cancer charity CLIC Sargent has named a room at its ‘home from home’ near the John Radcliffe Hospital in memory of the brother of its former Fundraising Director Lucy Caldicott.

The unveiling of ‘Richard Caldicott’s room’ at CLIC Court was also attended by Lucy’s parents, Dame Fiona Caldicott, Chairman of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and Dame Fiona’s husband Robert.

CLIC Court is part of CLIC Sargent’s home from home scheme which provides free accommodation to families of young cancer patients in Oxford.

Lucy raised £25,000 to mark 25 years since Richard died in a car crash. She completed a number of fundraising challenges, including walking 150 miles around London, in a tribute to her brother, who was 19 when he passed away.

She said: “I wanted to do something that said ‘out of sadness can come positivity’.”

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My transplant journey

Since the age of seven, I have had a complex and difficult medical history, starting with type 1 diabetes and progressing to a heart attack, five stents, open-heart surgery, vascular disease, neuropathy and renal failure.

In 2012, I was referred to the Oxford Transplant Team at the John Radcliffe for consideration for combined kidney/pancreas transplant, but my fitness test results were extremely poor and I was declined. It was felt that I was too high risk.

Unknown to me, my surgeon, James Gilbert, had not given up and he continued to put my case forward. In 2013, he arranged for me to have further assessment in Oxford and, after lengthy discussions, it was agreed that as long as I was aware of the risk, I would be put forward for transplant. My hopes were reignited.

I waited two years for a donor, feeling the effects of decreasing kidney function. A benign lung tumour and a serious foot infection both meant I was suspended from the list. I was fearful my case would be denied.

I struggled with anaemia, extreme tiredness and vomiting. My diabetes was extremely difficult to control. I felt bloated and my urine output was low.

I tried my utmost to keep myself as well as I could by losing weight and trying to gently exercise. I was taking copious amounts of medication and was told that getting a transplant before dialysis was going to be my best outcome.

In November last year I received my call; a donor had been found. Although terrified, I felt a calmness going into theatre. This was my one chance and I was going to embrace it. I had total confidence that I was in the best hands.

Both organ transplants were a success. I had some setbacks and spent a month in hospital, where my care by everyone there was incredible.

I am doing so well. It is wonderful not to have the effects and fears of renal failure and diabetes. I still hold my breath when checking blood sugar! I am grateful for every day and about to study a degree in psychology and psychotherapy. I am continuing the renal support group I set up and facilitate with the team at the Royal Cornwall Hospital.

There are no words to express my feelings to my donor and their family for my precious gifts.

There are a very personal set of emotions knowing someone has done something so miraculous for you. My deepest gratitude goes to Sanjay Sinha for performing this amazing surgery; Simon Northover, Advanced Nurse Practitioner, for his continuous support and understanding; but most of all to James Gilbert, who did not give up on me. I am eternally grateful and certainly would not be in this position today without him.

The love and support of my family and friends was invaluable, as my illness had a huge impact on them too. My message to other renal patients is don’t ever give up hope as miracles do happen!

Organ Donation Week from 5 to 11 September provides an opportunity to promote the importance of organ donation and celebrate those who have saved lives. Here, Jacqueline Heather, from Cornwall, tells of her transplant experience at OUH.
The Trust has started a new security contract that will see enhanced security at our hospitals and greater flexibility in dealing with incidents. Our existing contractor, MITIE Security, won the contract to continue to provide security services at the John Radcliffe, Churchill and Horton General sites. It means they will now provide dedicated 24/7 security at the Churchill, where previously there was a gap covered by staff from the JR.

The larger pool of trained officers gives the hospitals greater resilience and ability to scale up our response in the event of a major incident or increased threat level. It also gives us greater flexibility in dealing with incidents, especially when they happen simultaneously.

The Horton will continue to benefit from a 24/7 presence, supported by trained porters when required. A round-the-clock CCTV operator based at the JR has access to cameras across all three sites.

Security officers will be wearing new uniforms, making them more easily identifiable to staff, patients and members of the public.
Joyful celebration as OUH staff mark Eid

On the evening of Monday 18 July, staff, patients and visitors joined OUH Muslim Chaplain Imam Monawar Hussain at the John Radcliffe Hospital’s League of Friends Café to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The event was generously supported by friends and well-wishers, including Hamira Ghafoor and colleagues from the Royal College of Nursing, who contributed decorations and desserts; Adeeba Asif, who organised henna and music; Debbie Wilde, who leads the intercultural calendar for OUH Chaplaincy, and many other volunteers. A special treat was the food provided by Oxford’s renowned Aziz Restaurant.

Fasting during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, is the third ‘pillar’ of Islam. It is a time of contemplation, meditation, reflection and application, encouraging an empathy with all those in the world who suffer. It’s also an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, especially sharing a meal to break the fast.

The conclusion of Ramadan takes the form of the Eid celebration, which begins with a donation from each person to the poor and needy, followed by an Eid prayer.

“This has been a number of months in the planning and I want to thank all the people who have contributed huge energy and time to make this evening happen,” said Monawar Hussain. “It’s a real honour to be part of such an amazing organisation and be working with colleagues who provide the most amazing service to humanity.”

New digital chief wants to turbocharge digital revolution in healthcare

The Trust has appointed a Chief Information and Digital Officer to help shape it into one of the foremost healthcare organisations in the world.

Peter Knight will build on significant recent investment in technology infrastructure to help transform healthcare, research and education. The Trust – which won a national ‘digital hospital of the year’ award last year – has taken big steps towards establishing fully digital hospitals.

It is recognised as one of the most advanced NHS Trusts for implementing electronic patient records (EPR), with over 1.2 million daily transactions via EPR. The Trust also administers more than 20,000 drugs every day using electronic prescribing and medicines administration (ePMA).

Mr Knight – previously Deputy Director at the Department of Health for Research Contracting, Information Intelligence and Stakeholder Engagement – says the Trust’s digital foundations are solid.

“The building blocks are there. It’s now a question of how we can innovate to focus on delivery, on excellence and on improvement – making sure that we use the assets we have to their fullest, and improve them by putting new technology alongside to work in a complementary way.”

Knight wants technology to enable people to better monitor their health from the comfort of their own homes, citing the popularity of internet banking: “Twenty-five percent of the population would rarely go into a bank now. If you give people devices and apps connected to their mobile phone and to a centre of excellence, such as Oxford, you end up in a situation where you can allow self-management, with patients more in control of their own care.

“Technology should never be just for technology’s sake. It should be driven by need. The question is: what is the need, what is the best way to do it and what is the best technology for it?”
League of Friends stalwart retires

The Vice-President of the League of Friends at the Churchill Hospital, Margaret Hughes, has retired after more than 40 years of tireless and dedicated volunteering.

Margaret was originally Treasurer of the Cowley Road Hospital League of Friends and, when that hospital closed, she helped set up the League of Friends at the Churchill.

In her many years of service, Margaret volunteered on the Help Desk for 18 years and was Vice-Chairman for four years. She set up the League’s original coffee shop and helped raise over a million pounds for the hospital. In recognition of her voluntary work, Margaret was awarded an MBE in 2006.

Now in her 80s, Margaret said: “Volunteering kept me very busy. I have many happy memories of my time with the League, including attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace in 1983 when I met the Queen. I enjoy meeting people and still continue to keep myself busy.”

Roger Matchett, Vice-President of the Churchill Hospital League of Friends, said, “Margaret has been a tireless supporter of the League of Friends and her dedication over the years has been very much appreciated. We wish her well in her retirement.”

League of Friends stalwart retires

Parents back genetics project at one year milestone

Parents who want to understand the cause of their daughter’s immune deficiency are among more than 1,000 people who participated in the first full year of a ground-breaking NHS genetics project in Oxford.

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Kevin and Corinne Kirk hope a simple blood sample from their two-year-old daughter Evie could help unlock the mysteries of her condition, combined immunodeficiency, which leaves her susceptible to infections and means she has to take antibiotics and a regular infusion of antibodies.

Parents who want to understand the cause of their daughter’s immune deficiency are among more than 1,000 people who participated in the first full year of a ground-breaking NHS genetics project in Oxford.

The couple, from Chinnor, are among those who contributed to the 100,000 Genomes Project, a national project funded by the Department of Health, which went fully live in Oxford in August 2015.

Eligible patients with rare diseases and cancers are being invited to provide health data and blood and tissue samples for whole genome sequencing, where a complete set of a person’s genes is decoded to look for genetic mutations.

This will allow researchers to compare results from thousands of different people to develop new tests and treatments and, in some cases, provide better diagnosis and treatment for those who give samples.

Corinne said: “If we can pinpoint which gene is affected the doctors will be able to better predict what this will mean for Evie’s future, from the risks involved in having her own children to whether this will mean she is more at risk from developing more serious diseases or cancers.”

The project covers more than 190 rare diseases, as well as breast, bowel, ovarian, prostate, lung, renal, bladder, endometrial and sarcoma cancers.

For information ask your consultant or email oxford.gmc@nhs.net