

Pennine News

TO PROVIDE **THE VERY BEST CARE** FOR EACH PATIENT ON EVERY OCCASION



- Bluebell Birth Centre celebrates one year
- R&D team highly commended in HSJ award
- More openness with Speaking Up Charter
- Annual education awards

BABY JACOB IS FIRST BABY TO BE BORN AT OLDHAM'S NEW MATERNITY UNIT

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Inside News

THE Trust has several communication tools to help keep staff up to date:

- Core brief is sent round monthly, for use in all team briefings.
- Weekly bulletins are emailed on Mondays and contain a range of operational and site information.
- A medical director/nursing director bulletin is circulated monthly.
- Online copies of all the bulletins and core brief, plus more, can be found on the Trust intranet at www.pat.nhs.uk/communications

You can send your stories for either Pennine News or for local media to Trust communications at trust.communications@pat.nhs.uk, or call Nicola Berry on 44284.

If you have any ideas, views or suggestions regarding communications across the Trust, please email staff.views@pat.nhs.uk

Keeping up to date with

The Trust now has 1,000 followers on Twitter. To hear about Trust news and events on Twitter @pennineacutenhs

Please recycle this magazine

New year message to staff

Dear colleague

2012 has been a remarkable year for the Trust. The opening of our £44m women and children's supercentre at The Royal Oldham Hospital and the transfer of ophthalmology services from Birch Hill Hospital to Rochdale Infirmary have marked the final chapters of Making it Better and Healthy Futures respectively.

These two major change and restructuring programmes have resulted in over £100m capital investment in new buildings and facilities and dramatic shifts and improvements in the way we deliver services across the north-east sector of Greater Manchester.

However, anyone who has worked in the health service for any length of time will know that change never ceases. We continue to review, change and improve our services. Change is the only constant. Looking forward to 2013 and beyond we can see the next major change programme on the horizon. The Healthier Together programme being developed across Greater Manchester will focus on how services can be provided in primary care, the community and at home alongside improved access to specialist care in our hospitals. We have already made great progress in this area, but there is more to do. We will know during the early months of 2013 the direction that Healthier Together will take and we will link their plans into the review of our own Trust strategy which is currently underway.

Nationally we are all aware of the effects of the economic downturn – it affects all of us in our daily lives. The public sector, the NHS and this Trust is not immune from these changes. The autumn statement from the Chancellor has predicted that the country will not emerge from the national deficit until 2018. There will not be any let up in the scale of savings we need to make in future years, nor will there be any cavalry coming to our rescue.

Women and children's development at Oldham - Thank you from the Trust Board

Given the number of capital projects this Trust has undertaken in the last few years it is almost becoming routine to see a major development such as our new Women and Children's Unit at The Royal Oldham Hospital rise from the ground and, with all its building and technical complexity, be delivered on schedule and within budget.

The Board is highly grateful to all those involved in the many facets of the planning, development and building stages of this magnificent new development.

The work that has gone on behind the scenes has involved so many of our staff who, as well as carrying on with their 'day jobs', have worked together admirably across the divisions and various disciplines to build, commission, recruit and train staff and equip the new services integrated into this new facility. They have delivered a state-of-the-art facility to the exacting and meticulous standards required of such a building.

This new facility with its new services, including our Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care

It is crucial that all staff understand the explicit nature of these unprecedented challenges and pressures we will face.

We must all work together to deliver sustainable, high performing, high quality services through a sustainable financial position. We have slipped in our progress during 2012 and while we will achieve financial balance at the end of this financial year, we will only do this

at the cost of not being able to generate a surplus to carry forward for 2013/14. We all need to redouble our efforts. By placing quality at the heart of everything we do, by getting things right first time, by listening and responding to what our patients tell us we can and must change our services for the better. There are still too many areas where we are inefficient when compared to similar hospitals and Trusts. Swift, wide-ranging and effective change across all of our services and involving all of our staff will be our touchstone for the coming year and beyond.

As the new year starts we have the opportunity to shape our own future, to change, improve and adapt our services and ourselves. In wishing you all a very happy new year we look forward to your support, involvement and enthusiasm to transform and take forward the Trust as a whole.

John Jesky, Chairman

John Saxby, Chief Executive



John Jesky, Chairman



John Saxby, Chief Executive

On behalf of the Trust Board, I would like to thank all staff involved in the transfer of services for their hard work and commitment in ensuring patients were safe and that...
(Continued on next page...)



New era of maternity and children's care born at Oldham

THE Royal Oldham Hospital's new £44m maternity unit and specialist neonatal intensive care unit fully opened to patients on 3 December, marking the beginning of a new era of women and children's services for Oldham and Rochdale borough communities.

The women and children's facility involves a major new purpose-built four storey building, new antenatal wards, new labour delivery rooms, obstetric theatres, a midwife-led birth centre, postnatal rooms, a children's unit and a brand new Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The new facilities will benefit women, children and families from Oldham, the Rochdale borough, Middlesbrough and surrounding areas. Approximately 5,300 babies are expected to be born per year at the new maternity unit. The facilities include new antenatal rooms and 14 labour rooms all with ensuite, and a postnatal ward with 29 beds.

The Royal Oldham Hospital will also now become one of three specialist regional neonatal centres providing the highest level of intensive care to the smallest and most vulnerable babies. The NICU consists of 37 cots with 9 intensive care, 9 high dependency and 19 special care cots.

The development represents the largest capital investment made to date by the Trust and the development is an integral and final part of the Making it Better

(Continued from Page 2)

...disruption of services was kept to a minimum. That all this happened with barely a ripple at Oldham is a tremendous achievement by all concerned and one in which staff should take great pride.

My personal congratulations and best wishes to everyone involved... including of course our colleagues from Vinci Construction UK Ltd for building such a marvellous facility.

John Jesky, Chairman

programme to redesign and improve children's, maternity and neonatal services across Greater Manchester.

Cathy Trinick, interim director of women and children's services, said: "Our new Women and Children's Super Centre is a £44m development and will provide state-of-the-art facilities for the women of Oldham and Rochdale. It includes new services, new equipment and improved staffing to help ensure that treatment is delivered in a more modern and comfortable environment. It will help us provide the very best possible care for the women, children and their families who will use the unit.

"It's an amazing facility. It's beautiful to walk into..."

"The first thing that the patients and families will find and experience is the new development is very welcoming, it's warm, it's very spacious, it's very bright. It is a five star environment which can offer the best possible care for women and children which is exactly what they deserve.

"It's been a real privilege to work with our local charity, the 'In Your Hands' Appeal which has raised a significant amount of monies, along with support from MedEquip4Kids."

Diane Chadderton, community midwifery matron at the Trust, said: "It's an amazing facility. It's beautiful to walk into. Women will feel as though they have much more space. The care that we deliver will be of a much better standard because we are in a much better standard of building which then promotes better care."

Vivienne Twomey, inpatient midwifery matron, added: "We have a new 24 hour triage contact number and unit open 24/7 for referrals from GPs, A&E or a community midwife. Women will be advised if they should go to the new labour ward or birth centre. All the furniture is new and hopefully gives a contemporary modern feel when they come here. In addition to the new

First baby born in new unit

A DELIGHTED mum believes her baby boy 'held back' so he could make history by being the first baby born in the new maternity development at The Royal Oldham Hospital.

Jacob Leighton Allt was born at 9.03am, just hours after the new maternity unit opened.

Weighing a healthy 8lbs 6oz, Jacob had been due last Thursday, but instead, mum Lynsey McCamphill from Clarksfield went into labour at 5.30am, the morning of the move into the new unit.

She said: "He wanted to wait. He knew his mummy wanted to have him in the newest bit of the hospital!"

"I've been eating spicy curries for two weeks. But it was the bumpy ambulance ride that brought labour on properly, I'm sure of it.

"This is something to tell him when he's older. It's a little bit of history. We'll keep the newspaper cuttings for when he's older. It's a lot better here, compared to the old bit. I'm glad he held on."

Jacob, along with all the babies born on the unit on 3 December, was given a teddy bear on behalf of the Trust. The Trust has also produced a short video showing the new facility which is available on YouTube.

Jacob joins big brother Ben, and is pictured on the front page with dad, Rick Allt, student midwife Heather Bloom and staff midwife Sue Nightingale.

equipment, we have a new Pennine Cuisine catering service where women can order food whenever they like and this can be a full meal or a range of menu options."

Victoria Hall, lead obstetrician on the new labour ward, said: "The new building is a lovely environment. There is a lot of new equipment we have purchased ranging from low risk birthing balls, grab rails, monitors that allow a baby's heart rate to be monitored when women are mobile, to new beds, cots and equipment in our higher dependency rooms."

Mr Sola Amu, clinical director and consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Trust, said: "This new development is the end of point of many decades of carefully thought through improvements of maternity, paediatric and neonatal services across Greater Manchester. With this development we will see significant improvements in the quality of care and facilities for women and children."

Hair-raising moments in Movember!

FIVE members of the pharmacy team at Oldham have had a hair-raising month celebrating Movember!

The previously clean shaven men decided to take part in the men's health awareness month during November by growing moustaches for charity.

Adam Clough, student pharmacy technician; Mark Livingstone, head of pharmacy; Gavin Leahy, principle clinical pharmacist; Gary Westwood, pharmacy technician aseptic services and William (Billy) Darlington, assistant technical officer, all ditched their razors for 30 days to raise money for charities associated with prostate and testicular cancer.

Adam said: "All our colleagues thought that it was really funny seeing us attempt to grow our moustaches. Everyone kept asking me when I was going to start growing mine as I am the baby of the group!

"Our families were generally against our more hirsute look, but thankfully they understood why we were doing it and helped us raise lots of money for charity.



We are still counting how much, but we are confident it will be a three figure sum!"

Come Saturday 1 December, all the men shaved off their moustaches, well at least until possibly next Movember!

Adam had a double celebration that day. As well as getting rid of his excess hair, he

managed to gain himself a fiancée. He proposed to his girlfriend after shaving and she said yes, although he has to promise to keep clean shaven for the wedding!

Left to right: Gary Westwood, Adam Clough, Billy Darlington, Mark Livingstone and Gavin Leahy.

A postcard from Uganda - wish you were here!

A PRACTICE based educator for critical care has just returned from the teaching experience of a life time.

Sharon Whiting, who is based at NMGH went to Gulu in northern Uganda to deliver teaching on the acute illness management (AIM®) course to African medical students, hospital staff and nursing students.

She travelled with two other staff from Greater Manchester – Helen Slattery (practice education facilitator, from the University Hospital of South Manchester, Wythenshawe) and Dr Matthew Jackson (anaesthetist, currently based at Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust).

Sharon said: "I have just had the most wonderful experience. During the two week visit to Gulu we organised and delivered six full AIM courses to local hospital staff, medical and nursing students. We taught in conditions very different to those we usually work under; often calling on the need to present our materials in new ways. There were days when we had no electricity, and course content was altered slightly to take account of local conditions and patient experiences to make the materials more appropriate for an Ugandan audience.

"We travelled between schools with our teaching materials, manikin and equipment; down roads of dust, past mud hut villages and tethered goats. These were hot and long days, but totally inspiring. All our candidates were motivated, interested and eager to participate. The college principals were keen for us to work with their students, changing timetables at short notice to allow us access to their schools.

"It was great to see that application of the AIM principles positively affect patient outcomes in very different healthcare environments and where resources differ widely to our own. The Ugandan people we met were hugely welcoming.

During the visit we shared in the local 50th Independence celebrations. We spent the weekend on safari, giving us opportunity to see more of Uganda and many big game animals. Amazing!"

The AIM® course was developed in Manchester by the Greater Manchester Critical Care Network. It is a one day course offered to all registered nurses, medical staff and allied health professionals in Greater Manchester who work in acute care settings. The course is designed to help clinicians identify, manage and escalate the care of any acutely ill patient in practice, early; through application of a simple, structured, assessment strategy. The courses are run by all local hospital trusts across the city.

For more information on local AIM courses please contact your PAT practice based educator – Sharon (NMGH), Jill Din (Fairfield), Angela Whitehouse (ROH), or the Greater Manchester Critical Care Skills Institute at Trafford on 0161 746 2226.



Making friends and organising DIY, following at trip to A&E

A HOSPITAL'S A&E department is not normally the first port of call you would associate with organising shopping deliveries or going to luncheon clubs. But thanks to a new initiative at The Royal Oldham Hospital, this is exactly what patients over 50 years of age can access.

Patient care is always at the forefront of emergency department care delivery and in the continual strive to improve the care which patients receive, both at hospital and in their discharge home, a new Age UK fax referral document has been implemented.

Vanessa Kenny, emergency nurse practitioner in the emergency department at The Royal Oldham Hospital, has been instrumental in formulating a strong working relationship between the emergency department and Age UK Oldham, and setting up and trialling this new system.

The collaboration has been established to provide a unique service for patients aged 50+ to enhance their psycho-social well being following discharge back into the community.



Over the past few months, representatives from Age UK Oldham have attended meetings of the A&E steering group to promote their services and help to set up the referral system, plus promote it to other members of the multidisciplinary team.

Referrals can be made for patients aged 50+ who attend A&E and who are identified as being suitable candidates for the many services that are available to them from Age UK, which can help them to cope during a time of illness or immobility.

The majority of the referrals so far have come from the emergency nurse practitioners but from July 2012, the fax referral form has been put onto the A&E

patient data programme, SYMPHONY, and so is now available to all staff.

Vanessa said: "The patient is given information on the services available and can give their written consent to the referral which is faxed through to Age UK Oldham, who will then contact them to discuss how they can help.

"The services available include shopping deliveries, handy van service to do small DIY jobs, a telephone befriending service, luncheon clubs and advice on benefits that patients may not realise are available to them.

"At present it is only available to patients residing in the Oldham area and is only being used by the emergency department at Oldham. However, referrals are being monitored to estimate the uptake and the success, and in the future it is hoped that it can be rolled out to wards."

Any further information contact Vanessa Kenny, Dr Tom Leckie, consultant in emergency medicine at Oldham on 0161 627 8916 or Annika Dawson, Marketing Officer, Age UK Oldham, on 0161 633 0212.

Patient Stefan Bilynskyj is pictured with Dr Tom Leckie, Vanessa Kenny and Annika Dawson.

Spreading the knowledge around Europe

AN employee of the Trust is working his way through Europe on a quest to divulge his knowledge surrounding emergency planning!

Allan Cordwell, emergency planning manager, has recently returned from Madrid where he was an expert advisor at a conference in the National School of Civil Protection.

Spotted at an earlier conference in Tel Aviv, the institution in Spain were impressed by Allan's presentation on preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters, and so invited him to participate in work streams relating to hospital management. Allan said: "I had to present the findings and recommendations from the conference to the European Civil Protection Agency which had representatives including the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief, Director General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection European Commission, the Dutch Knowledge and Advice

Centre for Post Disaster Psychosocial Care, the Director General of Civil Protection and Emergencies from the Spanish Ministry of Interior and the German Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance.

"As a result of this I have received a further invite to attend and critique a national German hospital CBRN exercise in Berlin and to present Pennine's emergency response models at the Dutch Hospitals' National Conference in January 2013."

As part of a European CBRN trainers' group, Allan will also develop European

best practice via teleconferencing and annual meetings / conferences, as well as establish links with the Institute of Experimental Medicine RAMS in St Petersburg, Russia.

Working a little closer to home, Allan also presented at the first world congress of clinical safety at the University of London. He joined other Trust colleagues, Dr James Collins who presented on 'Weekend blood sampling on surgical wards at The Royal Oldham Hospital', and Dr Samantha Cox who spoke about 'Recognition of unwell maternity patients.'

Allan is pictured with from the left: Mr Luis Aguilera (State secretary, Spanish Ministry of Interior); Mrs Claudia Schorr (German Federal Agency for Technical Relief); Mr Ralph Tiesler (Vice president, Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance) and Mr Juan Pedro (Director General of Civil Protection and Emergencies, Spanish Ministry of Interior).



X marks the spot, or rather 'J' puts Pennine on the map!

A PROMISE to senior management at the Trust to put Pennine on the world map for inflammatory bowel diseases has come true for a consultant gastroenterologist.

Dr Jimmy Limdi gave a special promise to Trust chief executive John Saxby four years ago, during his consultant interview. He has now delivered on that promise as he has been honoured as a Fellow by the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG).

Appointed to the ACG International Relations Committee, Dr Limdi has also been appointed as UK Governor to the American College of Gastroenterology. In this role he will represent the United Kingdom at ACG developing diplomatic, scientific and clinical links between the United Kingdom and the USA, and also forge stronger links between gastroenterological organisations around the world through the appointment to the International Relations Committee.

Dr Limdi said: "I had a rollercoaster of emotions when it was announced that I was chosen as the UK Governor. I was stunned, ecstatic and in tears of disbelief and joy. It's only now as I begin to realise the mammoth task before me with its great expectations that I feel very humbled, particularly as it is the first time that anyone from the UK has held this position."

Based at Fairfield and North Manchester General Hospitals, but working throughout the Trust, Dr Limdi has a special clinical and research interest in inflammatory bowel diseases such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and he is heavily involved in research around these areas.

He said: "We are in the process of completing several patient centred IBD projects. These include an inflammatory bowel disease health plan and IBD Passport, which we believe is the world's first. These have been adopted by the UK National IBD Quality Improvement

Programme, for hospitals across the UK and wider use across the globe."

Busy lecturing on IBD research around the world, in places such as Prague, Barcelona, San Diego, Las Vegas and India, Dr Limdi is also involved in research work closer to home. He has faculty positions at the Universities of Manchester and Salford, and affiliated research with Universities at London and Surrey, and is affiliated to the School of Translational Medicine and Gut Inflammation Sciences at the University of Manchester.

He said: "I believe that it is important to be actively engaged in research. A research active organisation gains recognition at both national and international levels and demonstrates commitment and expertise. An intellectual exchange of ideas forges better links between Pennine Acute and other major organisations, both in the UK and abroad. This ultimately impacts on the standard and quality of care that we can offer to our patients. Like us, our patients seek the best expertise and will want to be seen at hospitals and in departments which are at the forefront of their clinical field.

"I couldn't have achieved this alone though, as I feel that I am particularly well supported by the division of surgery and all the people that I work with. They have helped to put inflammatory bowel disease at Pennine Acute on the world map. This however, is just the beginning, the first chapter. I'd like to think that the rest of the book is now being written."

John Saxby, chief executive, commented: "I had not forgotten Jimmy's interview commitment and was delighted that he beat me to the punch in telling me that he had delivered on his promise."



Thanks from Jimmy

"I make particular mention of clinical director Dr Prudham and directorate manager Rachel Scott, who have supported and encouraged me, never losing sight of corporate objectives but equally recognising the 'method in my madness.' I look up to my colleagues who are all senior to me for their wisdom and guidance and better expertise. My IBD clinical and research team - Tina Law, Linda Kent, my PA Lisa Nightingale whose indispensable skills I could simply not do without, and my junior doctors. My colleagues nursing, medical and administration who know what they mean to me, and equally that they could rap my knuckles for not naming them here! They pack my parachute, see my success as theirs, share my dreams and know I share theirs... I feel blessed."

Setting the target for getting fit

SENIOR performance officer Mustafa Logde has helped to raise awareness of men's health in November.

Taking part in a 10k run around Heaton Park on 26 November, Mustafa was completing a personal journey of fitness.

Setting himself a target in July of getting fitter and losing weight, he can now stand proud as he completed the circuit in a well respected one hour and four minutes.

He said: "I have been taking part in park runs in Bolton and Manchester which are only 5k, but believe me, way back in July, they could have been marathon length to me, I was that unfit! After working hard on my running and also blowing the dust off my bicycle, I can now run with the best of them and was really pleased to complete the 10k circuit. Thanks must go to my wife, son and family for cheering me on during the Heaton Park 10k and for supporting me in the 11 park runs which I have now undertaken."





New hospital to home alcohol detox service - a first at Rochdale

A SPECIALIST service at Rochdale Infirmary has been set up to help patients who are recognised as having an alcohol dependency.

Recent figures from Alcohol Concern show that more than half a million people a year are being admitted to hospitals within the Greater Manchester area with alcohol related problems, with 51,782 of these at Rochdale in 2010/11.

The new hospital to home detox service has been launched at the Infirmary's clinical assessment unit (CAU), in partnership with Rochdale Borough's community alcohol team - Addiction Dependency Solutions (ADS), and so far six patients have successfully completed their detoxes.

Open to patients over 18 years of age and from Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood, it is hoped that this service will give them a positive and supportive start on their journey to recovery.

Anne Livesey, alcohol practitioner, has developed the service with staff nurse Rachel Whyte from the CAU. She said: "To qualify to go on this programme, patients have to have been admitted to the CAU who are alcohol dependant or who require medical management of alcohol withdrawal.

"With their consent, they are assessed and put on an alcohol withdrawal integrated care pathway, and once they have stabilized they have the option of going on the hospital to home detox, if this is a suitable alternative for them."

As well as freeing up hospital beds, patients also benefit as they are nursed in their own home by community detox nurses who visit them to monitor and supervise their medical regime, monitor clinical withdrawals and carry out general nursing observations.

Patients are free to stop the detox plan at any time and post discharge one-to-one counselling is available at the Infirmary's Urgent Care Centre (UCC).

Lou Harkness-Hudson, clinical manager of the CAU, said: "The new hospital to home detox programme is a very welcome service which we have introduced, as it is estimated that 1 in 26 occupied beds in an acute Trust are alcohol related. This places a considerable financial burden on the NHS, particularly for those needing treatment in a hospital setting. Nationally 13 to 20% of all hospital admissions are alcohol-related, rising to 35% of all A&E attendances."

The definition of an alcohol related hospital admission includes any admission to hospital which is documented as being wholly (such as alcoholic liver disease) or partially attributable (such as accidental injury). When someone is drinking heavily and /or regularly, alcohol withdrawal symptoms may occur when they stop drinking. Physical symptoms can range from mild to life threatening.

Pictured from the left: staff nurse Rachel Whyte; Amanda Tang, service manager ADS; Angela Fetherston and Pat Staunton, ADS community detox nurse/hospital to home detox nurses and Anne Livesey, alcohol practitioner at UCC.

Exam success

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who have completed information technology qualifications with the PAT IT training team.

ECDL advanced

Louise Farley
Julie Carline
Joanne Whitcombe
Melinda Livesey
Nayla Malick
Janet McGovern
Alison Bush
Julie Kane
Andrea Leeson
Joanne Stephenson
Kate Barton
Barbara Green
Siobhan Holt
Patricia Heyes
Lynn Rice
Harriet Nowak
Jaime Sykes
Kim Neill
Andrew Pass
Elizabeth Hilton
Dionne Lowe
Michelle Gregori

Microsoft Office Specialist Training

Gill Ellis
Catriona Hogan
Geraldine Sorrentino
Tina Kulikowski
Maria Bannister
Krishan Sharma

E-type

Dale Sturgess
Susan Campbell

Changes to ENT service

FROM 17 December, all routine adult elective and emergency ENT services at the Trust were centralised and will now be provided from an integrated ENT unit at Fairfield.

As part of the redesign of ENT services, major ENT surgery has merged with the oral and maxillofacial service to form a single inpatient head and neck cancer surgery service at North Manchester, to meet national and cancer network standards.

The relocation and centralisation of ENT services will mean:

- all routine ENT elective services, including day surgery for adult patients, will be provided at Fairfield;
- all adult emergency ENT non elective patients will be treated from one site at Fairfield;
- major ENT cancer surgery will be merged to form a single inpatient head and neck cancer surgery service at North Manchester.

Have you been briefed?

Core brief takes place once a month and is a way of updating you about the latest news from the Trust.



Core Brief

Core Brief becomes Team Talk in 2013

FROM January, Core Brief will become 'Team Talk'. The intention is to emphasise the importance of conversations at all levels in the Trust. Team Talk will be published in the first week of the month after Trust Board and we intend that it is briefed face to face through a cascade system across the whole of the Trust.

The chief executive, John Saxby, will deliver Team Talk every month in a dedicated briefing session to senior managers and consultants over four sessions on four consecutive mornings at each site during that week. Similar cascade briefings will then take place through regular team meetings across the Trust. The face to face element will enable staff to raise questions directly with their managers during the session.

In addition, the chief executive will hold a 'staff conversation' on each site every month (mid month). This will be open to all staff to attend and will take the form of a briefing on topical issues followed by a Q&A session. John will also remain behind afterwards for any staff who wish to take part in an individual discussion with him (surgery style).

If you or your team have any suggestions on what information you wish 'Team Talk' to include in the future, let us know by emailing staff.views@pat.nhs.uk

Divisional directors appointments

DEBORAH Ashton has been appointed to the post of divisional director for surgery.

Joanne Moore, currently divisional accountant/deputy divisional director in medicine, has been appointed to the post of divisional director for women and children.

Medical director retiring

DR SALLY Bradley, medical director, will be retiring from the NHS and will therefore be leaving the Trust. Her last working day will be 31st January 2013.

During the past three years Dr Bradley has made a significant personal contribution to developing the patient safety agenda in the Trust. We wish her well for the future.

The medical director post will be externally advertised before Christmas.

Season's greetings

THE Trust Board would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2013.

Ophthalmology at RI

THE Trust's ophthalmology service at Birch Hill Hospital will transfer to the new ophthalmology department located on Level C at Rochdale Infirmary between Christmas and New Year. The development includes two co-located theatres, refurbished outpatient and support accommodation. The transfer will finalise the completion of the sale of the Birch Hill land and complete Healthy Futures.

Mandatory training records

ALL staff are required to undertake mandatory and essential job related training pertinent to their role within the Trust. All successful training attended via classroom, e-learning, training boards and on site/departmental is recorded on the electronic staff record (ESR).

A database which is populated from the ESR has been available to managers within the Trust to monitor their staff mandatory training compliance since May 2012. This database provides an up to date record to support the monthly reports submitted to Trust Board and divisional directors.

From January 2013, there will be open access to the mandatory training database making it available to all staff from any Trust PC. This will enable any staff member to produce a report of their own training record for their PDR and portfolio and help them keep up to date.

Parking permit expiry dates

THE square design staff parking permits have an expiry date. It is your responsibility to ensure that you renew your permit before it reaches its expiry date. Even if your deductions for parking continue, you need to ensure that you update your details and obtain a new permit. The new permit application and change of vehicle details forms are available on the New Vehicle Parking Policy intranet page.

If your permit does not have an expiry date listed, you can continue using it as long as none of your details have changed. If your permit is of the older round type design, with no expiry date, you should look to get your permit renewed only if your details have changed, or if the permit is no longer clearly readable.

Team focus on catering assistants



The 60 second interview

Louise Kirk is a catering assistant at Fairfield General Hospital.

What are the highlights of your job/service?

Being part of the catering team and providing patients with meals.

What would make your job/service better?

Better communication throughout the site as we all have an important role to play whatever our job is!

What is the one thing you would change about your job/service?

I would like everyone to realise that the role which catering and other support service staff have in patient care is an important and essential role.

What aspect of your job/service is the most rewarding?

Serving a nutritional meal to patients, making sure they receive exactly what they have ordered. Getting the chance to meet patients during the completion of patient questionnaires and having feedback sent back from patients is rewarding. All comments get passed on to the catering team.

What word best describes your job/service?

Food provider.

What don't you like about your job/service?

Communication is the key. Making sure patients get the correct meal every time. Wards having the up-to-date information ready when we contact them helps us achieve this. We do realise they are all busy, but patient feeding is an important part of patients' care and we want to provide the very best care for each patient on every occasion.

How has your job/service changed in the last 12 months?

Part of my role now involves helping patients complete the patient catering questionnaire and I find this interesting and rewarding.

How do you see your role developing?

Service needs change all the time and we have to adapt to them but patients will always require feeding, so my role will only change if the service we provide changes.

What is the current biggest challenge in your job/to your team?

Working with wards to reduce patient meal waste.

A typical day

The first job I have when I arrive at work is to check the sandwich delivery and make sure all sandwiches are packed for the various wards that require them on a daily basis.

I then prepare patient salads for lunchtime and any individual salads or sandwiches for specific diets. Next I check with my supervisor to see if any wards have contacted the kitchen with any extras or changes, then I contact the wards to check meal number requirements. If any patients have gone home or moved wards, then the menu cards for the ward are adjusted to reduce meal waste.

The food belt gets set for service and the lunchtime staff then arrive. All the patient meals are plated into ward food trollies and the porters take all the trollies out to the wards.

After all the meals are served we clean the food belt and once the food trollies arrive back from the wards, they are emptied, cleaned and made ready for the next service.

Time goes fast in my role and it's good to see patients enjoying the food we provide. I enjoy being part of the Fairfield catering team.

Annual education awards 2012



THE 2012 annual education awards event held in the Palmer Auditorium at Fairfield General Hospital acknowledged the achievements of over 400 staff who have achieved nationally accredited awards over the past year.

Awards included IT qualifications, a range of clinical skills, continence care, team leading, certificate in first line management, customer service and advance level apprenticeships, awards in medical terminology and AMSPAR, and preparation for mentorship qualification, with some staff acknowledged particularly for achieving multiple awards.

The learning and organisational development team, assessors, managers, non executives and guests were welcomed to the event to celebrate the success of the award winners by non executive director Chris Mayer.

Pennine Acute Hospitals Trust relies on the knowledge and skills of its staff in meeting challenges, goals and targets and delivering a high standard of patient care. The learning and organisational development team are committed to the development of staff and aim to provide a variety of learning opportunities with the ultimate aim of achieving the Trust mission statement of 'providing the best care for each patient on every occasion.'

The purpose of learning is not just about acquisition of knowledge. It is about action, that means transferring the effects of our learning to patient care and service development. Managers were acknowledged for the part that they play in supporting learners to apply new skills, knowledge and learning in the workplace.

Special thanks go to the students of New Bridge school who helped in the preparation for the event.

Next year's event will hopefully acknowledge the achievements of more of our staff, especially in achieving the new unit that has been developed for dementia care.





Over half of PAT staff get their flu jab in, and counting

- SO far, nearly 60% of the staff working at the Trust have had their seasonal 'flu vaccination in efforts to protect themselves, their patients and their families in preparation for winter.
- Staff include doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, community health care professionals, support staff, receptionists, managers, catering and clerical staff, and Trust volunteers.
- The Trust's annual staff seasonal flu vaccination programme was launched on 1 October by the Trust's director of nursing, Marian Carroll, in an effort to vaccinate as many of its 9,000 staff as possible.
- Marian said: "Influenza is dangerous, highly contagious and largely preventable. As NHS staff, I believe it is our collective responsibility to ensure our patients are safe. We have a crucial role to play in preventing a serious flu outbreak and helping to ensure that everyone understands the importance of the flu vaccination programme here across our hospitals.
- "As clinical NHS staff I believe we all play an important role in promoting the need for both our colleagues and those in our care to get vaccinated. The flu vaccination is safe, highly effective and is being offered free to all our staff."



Dementia training

THERE are currently over 800,000 people living with dementia in the UK.

Dementia is likely to affect everyone, whether you are a person living with the illness, caring for someone, or a professional.

As a health care organisation we have an obligation to improve our knowledge, and support people living with dementia.

The Trust is committed to delivering this information to all its staff, and so a short step one essential training video is now available and can be viewed on the intranet home page.

For further information and guidance, please contact the learning and organisational development team at your education centre.

Pennine Acute highly commended for its research and development in HSJ awards

THE Trust has been highly commended in a prestigious national award for the work it has done to develop clinical research activity across the organisation.

Steve Woby, head of research and development, and the R&D team were shortlisted for the HSJ award which recognises the importance that research plays in developing better patient care.

120 Trusts entered the progressive culture award and PAT made it to the final eight recognised organisations, and was then rewarded with a highly commended recognition.

Clinical research is the way that doctors gather evidence about new treatments, in order to improve patient care in the NHS. Most NHS Trusts do some level of research, but there is a national drive to increase the number of opportunities for patients to take part in high-quality research studies.

Although Pennine Acute serves a population of around 800,000 people, its research activity had reduced over the past few years, with only average recruitment levels into National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) studies taking place.

Following recognition from the Trust Board, there was a complete overhaul of the R&D department, with a clear strategy and R&D priorities set amongst the Trust's medical staff. It was also recognised that the Trust should work more proactively with the Greater Manchester Comprehensive Local Research Network (GM CLRN) and topic-specific networks.

The changes made have meant that patients are now more able to participate in high quality research with a 65% increase into NIHR CRN studies, and 55% of patients diagnosed with cancer were recruited into a high quality cancer study during 2011/12.

Steve said: "We are thrilled to have been recognised in this way. Our staff have worked very hard and have successfully embedded research into the culture of the Trust. People in our region are now more aware that important research is taking place in their local Trust and, as a result, are starting to understand how important research is and how it can help improve healthcare."

Dr Jonathan Sheffield, chief executive of the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network said: "It shows what can be done with a committed and driven Board. The Trust has made excellent progress which will undoubtedly further embed into their clinical services over time."

Dr Christina Kenny, deputy medical director/director of medical and dental education and lead for research and development at the Trust, said: "To be highly commended for research and development at such a prestigious event is fantastic and highlights the enormous progress that the Trust has made over recent years. The dedication of our research teams, combined with the excellent support we receive from Greater Manchester's Local Research Network, means that we are now providing more of our patients with an opportunity to participate in high quality research. This is excellent news both for the patients we serve and for healthcare across Greater Manchester."

Pennine Acute is now the third largest recruiter of patients into NIHR CRN commercial trials within Greater Manchester.



Pictured L to R: Kat Moklak, R&D co-ordinator; Margaret Tyrrell, R&D administrator; Charlotte Lever, R&D monitor; Katie Doyle, R&D facilitator and Dr Steve Woby, head of R&D.

UK border agency visits PAT



STAFF from the UK Border Agency have visited the Trust to talk about identifying forged ID documents during the recruitment process.

Members of the Trust's recruitment team and lead employer team took part in Home Office training awareness to help strengthen the practices around checking ID when recruiting new employees to the Trust.

Carol Kelly, recruitment manager, said: "We have a close working relationship with the Home Office as we contact them fairly frequently to check any concerns we have in respect of ID, such as overseas passports and visas, to ensure eligibility to work in the UK.

"The Trust's counter fraud office has dealt with eight cases between April 2009 and October 2012, where staff have been found to have been employed based on false documentation, either relating to their ID or visa status. All of these staff were employed prior to 2008 when employment checks were not so rigorous as they are now."

The Trust is required to comply with the NHS Employment Check Standards, an integral part of which is the verification of identity checks. The standards state that 'failure to comply with the standards could potentially put the safety, and even the lives, of patients, staff and the public at risk.

Sue Smith, Trust counter fraud officer is pictured with Terry Munro and Iain Drew-Taylor, officers from the UK Border Agency Regional Intelligence Unit.

New Call the Midwife campaign launched in Rochdale

PREGNANT women from Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton are being encouraged to contact their local community midwife as soon as they know they are pregnant in a new NHS campaign launched by The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and the local primary care trust.

The 'Call the Midwife' campaign is being rolled out across Rochdale borough, led by local midwives from Rochdale Infirmary, in an effort to encourage mums-to-be to contact their midwife as a first point of contact to access advice and antenatal care more quickly to help ensure a healthy pregnancy.

The launch of the new campaign coincided with the announcement that the BBC's popular 1950s period drama, Call The Midwife, will broadcast its first Christmas episode on Christmas Day evening. The second series of the drama is planned to air in January and February. The local NHS hopes that the TV drama and local campaign will remind pregnant women to call their local midwife.

By calling 01706 517 223, pregnant women can choose to speak to a local midwife as soon as they know they are pregnant. On calling the new service, women will be put in touch with the team of community midwives closest to where they live to set up an appointment.

According to figures by the local primary care trust, NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale, last year one in five pregnant women (c20%) in the Rochdale borough had not been seen by a midwife or healthcare professional within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

In an antenatal public survey carried out by the NHS Greater Manchester Children's Network last year, 57.8% of women didn't know they could contact their midwife rather than their GP and 66.2% would recommend contacting their midwife during pregnancy, with 20% saying they didn't know.

The campaign, which launched in December, has been designed and developed by a small group of Rochdale midwives and a number of local mums-to-be – many of the staff and women are featured in photographs as part of the campaign's printed marketing material including posters, flyers and local bus adverts.

Midwives are highly visible health professionals within the community. Many are based in local children's centres and health centres, which makes them easier to access.

Shahana Khalid, Rochdale midwife at the Trust, said:

"The first 6-12 weeks of your pregnancy are an important time for your baby's development. The earlier you are seen by a midwife, the sooner we can check that everything is all right for both of you. We also discuss options for your care and antenatal screening, and generally

offer support to you and your partner or family. The care which is provided by Rochdale midwives is available to pregnant women before, during and after the birth of their babies. Our priorities remain your comfort and safety as you look forward to the birth of your baby."

Laura Taylor, another Rochdale midwife featured in the campaign, added:

"This is very much a local campaign aimed at local women who are pregnant. We hope our new telephone service and information will encourage pregnant women to call their midwife as soon as they know they are pregnant to access our advice and antenatal care quickly to help ensure a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby. We encourage women to speak to a midwife as soon as they know as it is better to do it earlier rather than later. We hope the message gets out widely to as many expectant women and their families as possible because we are here to help and offer support.

"Our services have very much developed since the 1950s but our team of midwives are still very much part of the local community and we take great pride in supporting women and families throughout their pregnancy."

The Trust's new £44m maternity unit and facilities at The Royal Oldham Hospital provide services for women from Oldham, Rochdale borough and surrounding areas.

All routine maternity appointments and scans continue to take place at home or in the community and at Rochdale Infirmary including the antenatal clinic and new antenatal day assessment unit.

Call the Midwife doesn't replace direct numbers women might have for their midwife or GP and can't offer direct telephone support for women with concerns about their pregnancy.

For more information call 01706 517 223 go to www.pat.nhs.uk/callthemidwife

More openness with 'Speaking Up' charter

STAFF at the Trust will be encouraged and able to speak up with more confidence regarding any safety concerns and issues at work following the signing up to a new national 'Speaking Up' charter.

The Charter is the first of its kind to outline a commitment by NHS Employers, regulators, health unions, professional associations and bodies to work together to support staff when they raise a concern.

To date, 28 national professional and trade union organisations have signed the new charter, recognising their separate but linked responsibilities for key aspects of the provision and regulation of care, or for supporting members to provide high quality, safe care.

Trust chairman John Jesky signed up to the Charter on behalf of the Trust Board at its October Board meeting. Also signing the Charter was Joanne Heyworth, staff side's

deputy secretary, Roger Pickering, director of human resources and John Saxby, chief executive.

John Jesky, said: "The Charter outlines a commitment for us as an organisation to work more effectively to create a just culture which is open, honest and transparent.

"Safety should be at the heart of all patient care and this can lead to increased reporting, learning and sharing of incidents and best practice. We are committed to working towards ensuring that all individuals are treated in a service which is open to feedback, and encourages as well as supports its staff to raise concerns. Staff should feel free to raise concerns and issues at every level of the organisation."

Joanne Heyworth, staff side's deputy secretary for the Trust, said: "The Speaking Up Charter has evolved from all the health care Unions having concerns about staff not being listened

to when they aired concerns.

"The Charter will support staff and bridge the barriers between themselves and management, thus creating a more honest and open environment in which effective communication can take place without fear of reprisal.

"Staff must be prepared to challenge unsafe practices and feel confident to be able to speak out knowing that they are supported by management in doing so.

"It is fabulous that the Trust has committed to this Charter and I hope this will be the start of the journey to a more creative and open future for staff and the Trust."



Are you Up-to-date?

EVIDENCE-based librarianship meets evidence-based medicine is a new article on UpToDate, a physician-authored clinical decision support tool which is available in all clinical areas across the Trust.

Two Pennine Acute librarians have recently co-authored a research paper in the peer-reviewed journal Health Information Librarians Journal. John Addison and Jo Whitcombe, along with their colleague Steve Glover from The Christie, conducted a survey of North West Trusts with subscriptions to UpToDate in order to see just how doctors used this valuable resource.

The survey asked for real-life examples of staff use of UpToDate in relation to their day-to-day care of patients. The study revealed powerful evidence of how using UpToDate has averted potentially harmful drug errors, changed the course of patient treatment and prevented unnecessary hospital admissions, all of which not only impacted positively upon the patient experience but resulted in cost-savings for the Trusts involved.

It is notable that since Pennine Acute gained access to this highly-regarded evidence-based resource in 2010, the Trust's hospital standardised mortality ratio (HSMR) figures have dropped significantly.

John Addison, library service manager at The Royal Oldham Hospital, has also been busy producing a series of informative and entertaining short videos to help users navigate the maze of evidence-based medicine. You can watch the UpToDate video and others on the library intranet page.



Caring for the sick child - imparting knowledge at conference

DOCTORS from all over the UK attended a paediatric meeting at North Manchester General Hospital, looking at the care of the sick child at the district general hospital.

Organised by Dr K Elzy Kuruvilla, consultant anaesthetist at NMGH, the conference was the first of its kind for the Trust.

Using a multi disciplinary team approach to education, the meeting was chaired by Dr Russell Perkins, consultant paediatric anaesthetist at the Manchester Children's Hospital.

The expert speakers were from three specialities - A&E, paediatrics and anaesthetics, with both national and international experience. The topics were recognition of the sick child

discussed by Mr J Stuart, consultant in emergency medicine; convulsing child by Dr R Levy, consultant paediatrician; pain management by Dr J Barrie, consultant anaesthetist; sepsis by Dr P McMaster, consultant paediatrician; wheezing child by Dr P Kamath, consultant paediatrician; paediatric trauma by Dr B Dhanasekar, consultant anaesthetist; blue baby by Dr G Gladman, consultant paediatric cardiologist at Alder Hey and case presentation on foreign body in airway by Dr S Davies, consultant anaesthetist.

Feedback on the conference was very positive with delegates commenting that they were interesting topics needed for daily clinical practice and it was a good reinforcement of knowledge with more recent advances.

Successful conference on short stay breast surgery

BREAST care nurses at the Trust have recently hosted a successful study day.

Held at Fairfield General Hospital, the 'enhancing patient care - short stay surgery course' covered all aspects of short stay breast surgery (formerly 23 hour length of stay).

Chaired by chief executive John Saxby, presentations were heard from Mr Mohammed Shamim Absar, consultant oncoplastic breast surgeon and clinical lead for the project.

Claire Yates, Macmillan breast care clinical nurse specialist, said: "Delegates from all over the north west were able to speak to representatives from pharmaceutical companies and wig suppliers. We also had representatives from the Trust's pre-op and anaesthetic departments, which

enabled the breast team to discuss with them ways of how to improve the patient pathway for early discharge."

Feedback was positive on the course with comments including, "I found the course very informative and interesting, I have learnt a lot about the care of breast patients and the changes being made regarding discharge and the process and care offered."



Diary dates

1 Reminder



2 Jan - Ophthalmology goes live following its move from Birch Hill to Rochdale Infirmary

18 Jan - Ophthalmology open afternoon at Rochdale Infirmary

26 Feb - Dementia talk, 2-3pm, Postgrad Centre, NMGH

22 March - Stroke talk, 2-4pm Education Centre at Fairfield

Midwives celebrate first year of Bluebell Birth Centre



MIDWIVES at North Manchester's Bluebell Birth Centre have seen the arrival of 766 babies in the centre's first year.

As part of the hospital's maternity and children's unit, the midwife-led birth centre is a small unit caring for women with low risk pregnancies, providing home from home comfort in a relaxed, friendly environment, and includes the whole family.

The birth centre comprises four delivery rooms, two with birthing pools and two postnatal rooms. Modern purpose planned furnishings and ensuite facilities offer privacy and comfort for women and their families.

Denise Woods, community midwifery matron at NMGH, said: "Our staff are extremely proud to work in this modern environment which has increased women's choice regarding their place of birth.

"Almost fifty per cent of our women have chosen to birth their babies in the water. The number of women who have been transferred from the midwife-led birth centre to the consultant-led unit has been well below the national average."

Rose-Marie Newport, midwife, said: "We are always looking for new ways to support our women and encourage an active family approach to birth in preparation for going home. We have received excellent feedback from the questionnaire which we offer to each of our families.

"We will be extending the tours of the birth centre to include active birth workshops and look forward to welcoming more women and their birth partners, who are either already booked or interested in birthing their baby at the Bluebell Birth Centre. It is a good opportunity to meet our dedicated team of midwives, community midwives and maternity support workers, and to see the facilities we offer."

Shelley Bar-Ilan, mother of Adina, aged five and half months, said: "I had a water birth and it was a very positive experience enabling me to feel very relaxed, and this helped the process along. The whole atmosphere in the room was relaxed and it is something I would recommend to other ladies.

"The support from the staff really made me feel at ease and gave me confidence. I think that being mobile in the water speeded up the natural birth experience."

Shazia Ashraf, mother of Zakariya, aged three weeks, said: "I had never thought of having a water birth. I did not want to leave the room as the atmosphere was so calming. It felt more like a spa than a hospital and made a world of difference. The staff were absolutely wonderful and made this such a pleasant experience."

Pictured L to R: Amy Howarth, healthcare maternity support worker; Mandy Platt, community midwife; Shelley Bar-Ilan with Adina; Jane Roach, midwife and Shazia Ashraf with baby Zakariya.

Thought for the month

by Fr David Ryder, chaplain at NMGH

*'Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild:
Sleep in heavenly peace'*

The words of what is probably the most popular Christmas carol of all. A carol that speaks of the peace and calm of the first Christmas night; a peace that is reflected on so many Christmas cards that we send and receive at this time of year. We would love to have a share in this peace yet the reality is so often an anxiety as we dash around to fit things in and make our lists of all that still needs to be done, if all is to be ready for Christmas.

It is strange that the celebrations surrounding the birth of a child should result in a lack of peace for so many people. Can we reclaim some space in our lives this Advent and Christmas so that we can follow Mary's lead as she ponders the birth of her son.

St Luke tells us in his gospel that after the visit of the shepherds to the stable, 'Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. As a Christian I believe if we are to understand and grow in the peace of God, we need, like Mary, to find space to ponder, to open our hearts and to ask for this peace. Peace that fulfils us spiritually, that is gained from many belief and faith communities, a peace that is sought after when working in a busy, stressful working environment. If we achieve that sense of peace we can take it with us and share it with all who we come into contact with.

A medieval poem depicts Jesus coming in gentleness and peace:

*'He came all so still
To his mothers bour,
As dew in April
That falleth on the flower'*

May we find, in the rush of this Christmas season some space for tranquillity and the gift of peace.



Staff noticeboard

Fun, flirty and 50!

DAWN, Jude and Trish in x-ray at Rochdale Infirmary recently celebrated their triple 50th birthdays and would like to thank all friends and colleagues for their cards, presents, buffet lunch, chippy dinner and Bavarian slice days! They also had a fab day out in Manchester with a meal at Jamie Oliver's Italian restaurant.

50 is definitely the new 40!



Signing off from theatres

DAVID Morris has retired from theatres at North Manchester.

Joining the Trust in 1971, David has supported the anaesthetic team since then and has been invaluable with his diligence and reliability with emergency anaesthetic equipment.

He was fundamental in the foundation years of anaesthesia and the development of the role of the modern operating department practitioner. He helped train many of the early anaesthetic practitioners, including the present team manager and practice development nurse.

David has been adaptable to change and proved to be an excellent clinical worker who shied away from academic development, but has been supportive to the department. He has continually met the challenges despite the increasing demands of theatres.

After 40 years' service and an exemplary record, David has certainly earned his retirement and he will be sorely missed. All the best from your colleagues Dave.

Farewell to Lynn

LYNN Barber, anaesthetic PA at The Royal Oldham Hospital, has left the department after seven years' service, although she has worked for the Trust for a total of 23 years.

She was valued and respected by all who worked with her, both past and present. We would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication to the department. I am sure that she will be dearly missed by us all and would like to wish her every success in the future.

Happy 40th

SARAH has reached the big four-0 Looking at this pic, one wouldn't think so! Not a wrinkle in sight - not easy when you work nights!

Sarah, it's your 40th birthday, may it be the happiest and best. Outshining, outstanding, more memorable and eclipsing all the rest.

Diane, Sandy and all your friends and colleagues on ward F6 at NMGH, wish you a terrific 40th birthday.



Well done to the medical secretaries

CONGRATULATIONS to the staff below who have achieved their AMSPAR award. Well done everyone.

Pictured are Louise Stabler, Lisa Aspell, Tracey Kirkbride, Tracey Beardsworth, Susan Higgins, Christine Hough, Kathy Miller, Debra Murphy, Lyn Meziani, Emma-Louise Crony and Joanne Harmer. Sue Forbes also received the award, but was unable to attend the graduation ceremony.



Spooky time at Halloween

THE children attending the outpatient department at Fairfield had a real spooky time on Halloween when they attended for their clinic appointment.

The staff were giving out ghostly gifts and spooky surprises to the delight of the children.

The gifts were kindly donated by Sal Dahouchi who is the landlord of Radcliffe public house, The Hare and Hounds.

Our picture shows Sr Margaret Lerner and student nurse Arifa Shah having fun with Lizzie Turner and her mum, Sue.

Sr Lerner said the gifts were really appreciated and put a smile on the children's faces and helped to show them that hospitals are not always scary places to visit!

