Thank you to our volunteers!

We celebrated 70 years of the National Health Service

NHS70: Celebrating 70 years of the NHS

NHS70 countdown!

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NHS Big 7Tea celebrations!

The trust held a celebration event with a whole host of activities to recognise the landmark 70th birthday of the National Health Service. In recent years, the trust has really embraced partnership working, especially out in the community, so it was only fair they shared the celebrations too!

We have been celebrating the whole NHS family in the run up to the 70th birthday, including our patients and their families too. Our #NHS70countdown has seen people from all areas share their stories about why they love their local NHS. We even teamed up with a local school inviting hundreds of people along to take an aerial drone shot to really capture the love! The trust’s Big 7Tea celebration on the 5 July was celebrated with staff, patients, members of the community and partners. Local MP, Alex Cunningham, opened the event handing out certificates to staff who he nominated for the parliamentary awards. Neighbouring school Harrowgate Primary gave a wonderful choir performance followed by the annual Staff Olympics! There was live music throughout the day and a BBQ provided free by our catering team for everyone ... and of course some tea and cake.

There was also additional food kindly donated by Asda Hartlepool, Greggs, Aldi and Dominos, who donated an amazing 70 pizzas to mark the occasion! We would like to say how grateful we are for these donations and how much the staff appreciated receiving these complementary treats.

Also a huge thanks to Aldi at Stockton who kindly donated prizes for a raffle at both the North Tees and the Hartlepool site, the raffles in total raised £381.95 for our trust charity, North Tees and Hartlepool Together.

Chairman Paul Garvin said: “70 years of the NHS is such a fantastic achievement and we often forget to take a moment and reflect on all of the hard work. This celebration has been a unique opportunity for our patients to show staff their appreciation, and for staff to recognise just how much their community needs them. Here’s to another 70 years!”
Urgent care award

The trust’s urgent care service has won a prestigious regional award as part of the NHS 70 birthday celebrations. The service has been recognised with the regional Excellence in Urgent and Emergency Care Award in the NHS70 Parliamentary Awards. The service was nominated by local MPs Alex Cunningham, Mike Hill and Paul Williams.

It opened in April last year with centres at both the University Hospital of North Tees and the University Hospital of Hartlepool. It is available to patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It brings together GP out-of-hour’s service and minor injuries.

Chief executive Julie Gillon said: “We are delighted to have been recognised for such a prestigious award. “We are extremely proud of the high quality care we provide as part of our integrated urgent care service. The innovative alliance model we have with the regional ambulance service and the local GP federation has proved to be a huge success.

“Over the last year we have consistently been one of the top performing health trusts in the country for emergency care. This is in no small part down to the success of our urgent care service. Patients are being cared for in the right place at the right time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. “There is so much truly fantastic work going on across our trust as well as across the whole NHS - we are proud to have been recognised and supported by our local MPs.”

The ten individuals and teams chosen as regional champions were invited with other regional winners from across England for a national award to be presented at a special ceremony in the Palace of Westminster, unfortunately we didn’t win nationally but to be nominated was a great achievement.

The NHS70 Parliamentary Awards, sponsored by IBM and Teva, recognise the massive contribution made by the individuals who work in and alongside the NHS.

Launched in February, it asked the region’s MPs to find and nominate those individuals or teams they thought have made the biggest improvements to health services in their constituencies across ten categories. From 217 entries, senior experts have chosen ten outstanding nominations, which exemplify the best of what the NHS and its partners do day in, day out.

NHS England Regional Medical Director, Dr Mike Prentice said: “Picking champions from the dozens of high quality nominations we received from local MPs was incredibly difficult, so all of those going forward to the national ceremony should be extremely proud of their achievement.”

NHS Improvement Regional Medical Director, Dr Vincent Connolly said: “I was impressed by the high standard of all the entries we received in the North, the ones we put forward are really the best of the best.”

Bowel screening

The trust’s bowel screening service featured on ITV news as part of its NHS 70 coverage. They interviewed Tom Boyd-Smith (pictured with lead specialist screening practitioner Kelley Williamson) who was successfully treated for bowel cancer after completing a home test kit he was sent through the post.

Due to the early diagnosis, the tumour was removed during one procedure and there was no need for any further treatment.

Professor Matt Rutter was also interviewed about the success of the service as well as the regional roll out of the bowel scope test.
The trust held its annual sponsored Shining Stars awards evening in June, where staff were invited to celebrate the successes and achievements of both individuals and teams across the organisation. The shining stars awards is a valuable opportunity to recognise all the brilliant things we do for our patients and give staff that much deserved recognition.

The evening was opened by Chairman Paul Garvin, and Chief Executive Julie Gillon who welcomed staff and highlighted the importance of celebrating our successes. This year some changes were made to the categories and a new ‘people’s choice’ award was introduced which was open to the public to put forward any nominations.

We would like to congratulate all those who were nominated, and those who went on to win an award.

The winners were:

**Learner of the Year**
Andrea Ellner – Clinical Educator

**Working in Partnership**
Stroke Unit & Radiology

**Volunteer of the Year**
Cancer Information Centre Volunteer Team

**Developing Quality Services**
Diabetic Eye Screening Programme

**Clinical Star**
Linda Wildberg – Ward matron

**Non Clinical Star**
Janet Metcalf – Pensions officer

**Clinical Team**
Breast Care Team

**Non Clinical Team**
Estates Department Painters

**Unsung Hero**
Kelly Percival – Staff Nurse

**Leadership Award**
Janet Varga – Organisational Development Lead

**People’s Choice**
Kim McCorkell – Paediatric Physiotherapist
Again, well done to everyone who was nominated and won awards, a big thank you to all of the sponsors who supported the event, without them we wouldn’t be able to hold such a lovely celebration for our staff.

Thank you to Big Purple Productions who make the evening look amazing and run smoothly, and lastly Hardwick Hall for the venue and providing top class service.

Congratulations to paediatric physiotherapist Kim McCorkell who picked up her People’s Champion award recently. Kim was the winner of the award at the Shining Stars event recently but wasn’t able to come along on the night to collect her prize. So our chairman Paul Garvin met up with her to personally present it to her.
Health staff from across the country visited the trust’s urgent and emergency care service to find out the reasons behind its success. The special event run by the trust was around sharing learning and good practice. Our Story, held at the University Hospital of North Tees included presentations from a range of expert clinicians, a tour of front of house services and bespoke workshops. More than a year ago the trust launched a new urgent care service in partnership with the North East Ambulance Service and the Hartlepool and Stockton Health GP Federation. Two new centres opened at both North Tees, and at the University Hospital of Hartlepool. Over this period, the trust has consistently had one of the highest performing urgent and emergency care departments in the country. Dr Nick Roper, clinical director for urgent and emergency care, said: “Our Story was an opportunity for us to showcase the fantastic work carried out in our urgent and emergency care department. “The innovative alliance model we have with the ambulance service and the local GP federation has proved to be a huge success. “Over the last year we have also consistently been one of the top performing health trusts in the country for emergency care. This is in no small part down to the success of our urgent care service. Patients are being cared for in the right place at the right time. “There have also been so many other success stories – our front of house service helping frail patients and our Home Safe, Sooner discharge liaison service, to name but two. “This event was a fantastic way of the trust sharing its good practice as well as learning from other health organisations.”

A nursing veteran was among those celebrating the 70th anniversary of the NHS at a special thank you event in Stockton-On-Tees. North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust district nurses joined 87-year-old Sheila Bradley at The Beeches Care Home, on Green Lane. Sheila was an NHS mental health nurse for over 30 years, having trained at Newcastle University and worked at North Tees Hospital. Now living at The Beeches, she presented goodie bags as a thank you gift to members of the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust district nursing team, community matrons, GPs and dentists. The bags contained wine, chocolates, face masks, notepads and pens as well as a personal thank you card to each of the attendees. The home also had a buffet, a homemade celebratory cake and luxury milkshakes from mobile sweet shop Sugar n Spice. Sheila is just one of several residents at the care home who have held careers in the NHS, alongside former nurses Mary Peek and Irene Sanchez and former domestic workers Alwyn Behan, Edith Jordison, Violet Pinnegar and Doreen Flynn. Sheila said: “I really enjoyed celebrating the 70th anniversary of the NHS with everyone. “One of my favourite memories as a nurse was when I used to visit the children with Down’s syndrome, as they were always so loving and used to like to give cuddles.” Philippa Lillie, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust district nurse, said: “I would just like to say a huge thank you to Helen and all the staff for welcoming us and supporting us each and every time we visit your home.” Helen Wood, home manager at The Beeches Care Home, said: “We wanted to say a little thank you and show our appreciation for all our local health service workers doing for The Beeches and the care they provide to our residents.”
The trust held a celebration event to thank our volunteers, with the theme of the NHS 70th birthday. The event, held at the University Hospital of North Tees was hosted by Chairman Paul Garvin, who was joined by chief executive Julie Gillon and other members of the trust board who all helped deliver a wonderful meal to all our fantastic volunteers provided by the trusts catering team.

Paul said: “This year the NHS has celebrated its 70th birthday, 70 years of the NHS is such a fantastic achievement and we often forget to take a moment and reflect on all of the hard work of all the staff and wonderful volunteers like you. “I look forward to this event each year as it gives me the opportunity to say thank you to you all for everything you do, and gives me the chance to meet new volunteers who have joined the trust recently. “The work you do is invaluable and clearly complements the work of our trust staff. We are lucky to have such a range of volunteers in our trust, from the NHS retirement fellowship, chaplaincy volunteers, radio stitch, RVS and league of friends, volunteer drivers, and many more, you all play such an important part.

After the meal, certificates of long service were given out for the volunteers who had 5, 10 or 20 years’ service. A special mention went to Audrey Chappell and Gwen Duddles who have both been in the NHS since it was formed all those years ago! To close the evening the volunteers were entertained by the trusts choir singing a selection of songs related to healthcare and caring for people. There was lots of singing and dancing, everyone had a great time! Paul concluded: “I would like to say one last thank you to our volunteers for everything they do for the trust, I would like to thank Colin and the catering team for holding such a lovely evening and service, thanks to volunteer co-ordinator Paul Wharton who organised the event and finally to all of the staff who came to help out and make this evening the great success it has been!”

The trust is very privileged to have so many volunteers, many who have supported the trust for many years and to be able to continually welcome new volunteers to the team. Volunteers can do as many hours as they can spare to fit in with the lives and the interests of the volunteer throughout many different areas of the trust. People can find out more about the opportunities available to volunteer at www.nth.nhs.uk/jobs/volunteer/ and if you are interested in becoming a volunteer would like to find out more please email volunteers@nth.nhs.uk

Everyone had a great time!
After three years of training, Gayle Smith has been a registered midwife at UHNT for three years. She came to midwifery later than most, starting her working life with the post office: “managing different kinds of deliveries!” Gayle was inspired by the midwives who helped her give birth to her own three children and, following a three year stint in NHS administration, decided it was something she wanted to do.

The day begins at 7.15am with handover, where Gayle is allocated Sarah (not her real name) to look after today. Sarah is in for induction of labour for her sixth child, as baby is small for her weeks of pregnancy. She’s very worried about the prospect of caring for six children and is understandably emotional. Midwife Polly hands over care to Gayle and they agree an appropriate pathway of care to ensure the wellbeing of both mum and baby. Gayle introduces herself to a clearly upset Sarah, and attempts to reassure her and build an early trusting relationship. She takes a blood sample to check iron levels while she gently asks about her home life and support networks, checking her family history. Gayle needs to ask many questions; any pain when you pass urine, are you opening your bowels normally, are you eating well, any nausea or vomiting, pains, headaches, spots in front of your eyes? Do you know what you’re having? A boy? How lovely! Any allergies? No. Are you happy for baby to have a vitamin K injection when he’s born? Feeding choices are discussed and Sarah knows the benefits of breastfeeding but prefers to feed formula milk. Sarah’s asked whether she’d like to be involved in the unit’s OASI trial. Usual birthing practice is at the discretion of the midwife to either have “hands on” or “hands off” the perineum, but OASI is testing the effectiveness of all midwives guarding the perineum with their hands during birth to reduce the risk of tearing. Sarah agrees to be part of the trial, when the time comes. Gayle listens to baby’s heartbeat, first using the doptone (this reassures Sarah who remains anxious) and then again using a Pinnard stethoscope (pictured) which is a traditional method of listening to baby’s heart rate. Then Gayle prepares Sarah for induction, attaching a CTG machine to Sarah’s tummy to monitor any contractions and baby’s heartbeat, and completing routine observations along with an internal “membrane sweep”, before inserting a hormone pessary which will help to encourage labour. She’s talking to Sarah about her plans for the birth; does she want skin to skin? What pain relief? Who’s going to cut the cord? Gayle uses humour to help ease Sarah’s fears and anxieties throughout, helping Sarah relax and developing the mother-midwife relationship further.

Back in the break room, a kind colleague has prepared a plate of hot buttered toast and a huge pot of tea for their break, which the midwives fall on ravenously. Gayle is interrupted by shift lead, Kim. A patient has self-referred to the day unit after her waters broke, and she’s in room 18. Erin has arrived wearing soggy pyjama bottoms; she is with her partner. She’s five days past her due date with baby number five. She’s classed as a high risk mum as she’s very slight (also known as low BMI) and has had two previous caesarean sections. Gayle checks her history and performs a quick but thorough examination. Meanwhile, Sarah’s partner and mum have arrived. Gayle updates her notes: “I like this pen” she comments. Clearly, pens are very important to midwives, who write a lot.

Suddenly, an alarm buzzes and Gayle drops her pen and runs from the room. One of the mums in another room is having post-partum haemorrhage, which is when some women bleed more than normal after delivery, and all the midwives rush to help. As she runs past the nurses’ station (so this is why they wear trainers!), Gayle calls to the ward clerk to bleep the registrar. It’s a hive of activity, with the team calling instructions and responses and mum clearly in distress, but as the bleeding slows, her blood pressure improves, the noise subsides and the normal calm environment returns. It’s 10.40am. At the nurse’s station, a past patient is waiting with her husband and new baby. She’s bearing flowers, so this is why they wear trainers!
chocolates and biscuits to say thank you to Gayle, who hugs her and coos over the baby: “I’m really touched to know I’ve made a difference. I don’t do this job for the babies; I do it for the mums” she says. Any gifts or letters of thanks are recorded on the Compliments chart in the staff room, and Gayle adds hers to the list.

Moving between the two rooms, Gayle checks regularly on her charges, updating notes, helping with pain relief and calling Kim into both rooms to check the CTG readouts. This is called “fresh eyes”, and is a protocol to make sure each CTG monitoring gets a second opinion on its interpretation and classification.

The nurse’s station is a haven in this busy unit – everything has its place and forms, reports and specialist equipment are all neatly stacked on their own shelf. There’s an air of calm efficiency as the midwives check their screens while absent-mindedly comparing the dryness of their hands from the frequent washing and application of antiseptic gel.

Sarah buzzes, she thinks labour is starting. Once a woman is in established labour, she must have dedicated, 1:1 midwife care so Gayle asks Kim to take over with Erin while she picks up a prescribed loading dose of antibiotic Benzylpenicillin from the electronic drugs cupboard, known as the Omnicell; this antibiotic will help protect Sarah’s newborn from Group B-strep. Gayle then goes and locates a drip stand.

Sarah’s contractions are getting stronger; she’s definitely in established labour. It’s 2.24pm. Gayle breaks Sarah’s waters and offers her some diamorphine to help with the pain, as she appears to be uncomfortable despite using gas and air. She asks Sarah to rate her pain out of ten... she’s at eight or nine. Gayle continues to monitor Sarah who is getting more uncomfortable, all the while quietly checking her charts and updating notes. Is it pain or pressure? Both.

Kim calls in to “fresh eyes” Sarah’s CTG monitoring and Gayle consults her on the new NICE guidelines for fetal monitoring in labour which have just been introduced to the unit this week and they update the notes together. It’s 3.24pm.

Suddenly Sarah needs to push, and in ten minutes, baby’s head is out and the rest of him quickly follows. Gayle helps Dad cut the umbilical cord, gives Sarah a quick injection in her thigh to help with delivery of the placenta then goes back to her notes, to update on the birth. Sarah is peaceful, holding her newborn. Dad’s facetiming the family and they’re all thrilled with their new brother, squealing with congratulations and explaining how much he looks like one of his elder siblings.

Sarah hasn’t delivered her placenta, so Gayle and Kim help out, massaging Sarah’s toes – it’s a pressure point and can help release it. Once the placenta is delivered it is checked carefully, as any bits left behind could cause a nasty infection or a postpartum haemorrhage – but everything’s fine. Gayle inspects for any tears and carries out basic observations again, and Sarah is given time to bond with her baby in skin to skin.

At 4.30pm. Gayle finally cuts into the enormous lemon cake she brought for her colleagues this morning and inhales a huge slice with her second cup of tea of the day.

Baby is weighed and measured and he’s managed 25ml of milk. Mum has been taking dihydrocodeine during her pregnancy which means he needs to be monitored for withdrawal. With Sarah’s permission, Gayle pops a red wooly hat on his head so he can be easily identified as needing a bit of extra looking after.

Baby’s delivery is recorded on the trust’s electronic patient record system, Trakcare which will generate his NHS number, and his birth must be logged on the Grow app, which is a tool used to identify clinically small babies who may need extra care. GROW flatly refuses to function on two computers, but works like a charm at the third machine. It doesn’t take long, there’s one page for baby and another for the placenta.

It’s ten past six. New patient Julie has been brought in for induction after she was unsure if her waters had broken over a week ago and a scan showed low levels of fluid (liquor) in her amniotic sac. She’s 37 and a half weeks pregnant. Gayle palpates her tummy and she can feel baby’s head like a cricket ball in her lower torso. She launches into the now familiar long list of questions and explains how induction will work.

Back at the nurse’s station, Gayle registers Julie on the system and begins writing up notes before a quick round of her charges – Sarah’s fine and baby’s feeding, Erin’s gone for a walk to try and move things along.

Finally, it’s 7.25 and time to hand over to the night shift – suddenly there’s a commotion at the end of the corridor. There’s a shout from a room where a woman has just come in: “The baby’s here!!!” and the midwives rush to help. Afterwards, Gayle stays behind to finish up her notes from the day. As we’re saying goodbye, we check the status update for the most recent birth. The new mum was 2cm dilated when she was examined an hour ago. Gayle grins: “If you’re going to have a baby, that’s the way to do it!”
Free Wifi

The trust has become one of the first in the country to offer free WiFi to patients and visitors in its hospital buildings. It has rolled out the new internet service across the University Hospital of North Tees. The trust is also installing the system across its other main site at the University Hospital of Hartlepool over the coming weeks. The move is part of the trust’s vision to improve patient experience and continue its work to be one of the country’s leading NHS digital organisations.

Dr Graham Evans, the trust’s chief information and technology officer, said: “We have now launched free WiFi for all patients and visitors to help deliver an even better experience during their time here. “It is accessible and free of charge. Being in hospital can be an anxious time, so we hope that this will help people keep in touch with their family, friends and loved ones.” It will also provide a much easier way of finding directions, accessing healthcare information, getting details about public transport or just staying connected while you wait for an appointment.” This is part of our vision to provide an excellent patient experience and shape services around people’s needs. Earlier this year the trust was rated joint first in national NHS trust rankings, known as the Clinical Digital Maturity Index (CDMI), this looks at the work the trust has carried out to improve the way it uses technology in patient care. Major work around this programme includes a project to move care records into an electronic (digital) format and become paper-light by 2020. Another initiative has been for staff to be able to work wirelessly in clinical areas. To access the new wifi, users need to search for the network ‘NHS-Wifi’ on your device and follow the instructions on the screen.

Sharing Best Practice

The trust recently hosted a local learning event highlighting two new services commissioned by Hartlepool and Stockton (HaST) CCG within the Trust. Representatives from NHS England and the Better Care Fund were able to meet the teams and learn more in depth about the work of the North Tees and Hartlepool Education Alliance and the Integrated Discharge Team. Presentations were delivered from both the Education Alliance and the Discharge team to demonstrate the positive effects the programmes are having on residents within care homes and patients within the hospital. The Programmes received excellent feedback from the visitors and going forward the teams will be asked to help contribute in national initiatives to share best practice.

Jayne Robson from NHS England said: “Feedback from the central team was 100% positive and the teams should be very proud. It’s great to see in Stockton and Hartlepool how far they have progressed with integration and the teams did Cumbria and the North East proud.”

Rajesh Nanda receives fellowship

Congratulations to consultant orthopaedic surgeon Rajesh Nanda who has been elected as a fellow of the Faculty of Surgical Trainers. Fellowship is the faculty’s highest reward for individuals with a clear commitment to excellence, and a high level of commitment in the field of surgical education and training. Applicants have to demonstrate a very high level of commitment to and involvement in surgical education and training. They must also score highly in all three domains of teaching and training, educational leadership and educational scholarship.

Mr Nanda has spent the last eight years in education - running in house teaching for medical trainees and surgical training in orthopaedics. He also runs numerous courses for health professionals and is an honorary lecturer at Teesside University. He said: “I am honoured to become a fellow of the Faculty of Surgical Trainers - it is a real privilege.”
Each story featured someone aged 0-70 who has a story to tell about our Trust, whether that be a staff member, a patient or just someone with a story to tell!

Thank you to everyone who took part in our 70 day countdown and group shot, you are all fantastic!

Thanks to Harrowgate Primary School for being involved and thanks to @northeastdroneservices for taking this wonderful picture!
Ward 28
May Team of the month

A surgery ward have been highlighted for the commitment shown during what was a really challenging winter period. Ward 28 at the University Hospital of North Tees have been presented with the team of the month award.

Ward sister Cheryl Camilleri, who nominated the team, said: “The team have cared for patients who are from another directorate. They have learnt about different medical conditions. They have committed themselves to the ward by nominating themselves for extra shifts when needed.

“They have been constantly working to a high standard, always putting patients needs first and respecting the patient and family.

“Communication skills have been second to none, contributing in huddles, liaising with each other, listening to the needs of patients and their families.

“Everybody has constantly worked hard at a very busy time, moving patients to other wards when requested by bed managers, giving a constant positive atmosphere on the ward.”

Charlotte Lister
May Star of the month

Extended scope musculoskeletal specialist physiotherapist Charlotte Lister was awarded May’s star of the month award for her commitment to her role and her patients.

Charlotte was nominated by her line manager Lynsey Hetherington for the way she supported a junior member of staff when a patient’s condition deteriorated and was in need of urgent/emergency surgery.

Lynsey said: “When Charlotte became aware of the patients decreasing clinical presentation she dealt with the whole situation in a calm and professional way.

“She spoke to the patient throughout the whole process keeping them involved with what was happening, while liaising with several different medical teams to achieve the best care needed for this patient.

“Charlotte demonstrated courage, commitment and good communication, staying back after her shift had ended to make sure the needs of the patient were met. She also took this opportunity to share her knowledge and experience with the junior member of staff demonstrating the commitment to her patients, the teams she works with and staff she supports.”
Mortuary and bereavement service

June Team of the month

The mortuary and bereavement service has been recognised for the recent tours held for staff and visitors. The mortuary opened its doors recently as part of Dying Matters Week to highlight what they do and the compassion and care patients and their relatives receive. Director of nursing, patient safety and quality Julie Lane presented the service with June’s team of the month award.

Lisa Tomlinson, a trainee nursing associate, nominated the team after going on one of the tours herself. She said: “The tours were not just interesting and informative, but also skilfully and professionally led. "I wasn't sure what to expect on a mortuary tour, but it was nice being a member of staff among the public visiting that first evening after my shift. “The team are always approachable and willing to help, even though they work behind the scenes and we rarely see them, I respect them for everything they do. I especially like the idea of the new patient property bags and the Woodland Suite they have designed, making a difficult time for families more bearable. “Always polite and respectful, I couldn’t think of a better team to look after my loved ones if I ever needed them. As a member of staff, I couldn’t be more proud of my colleagues professionalism and dedication to their roles.”

Mo Helmy

June Star of the month

Junes Star of the Month goes to Dr Mo Helmy, who works on Elective Care at the University Hospital of Hartlepool. Mo was nominated by his colleague for always going above and beyond what is expected of him to ensure that patients within the elective care unit receive exceptionally high standards of care, not only whilst an inpatient but also in the days following discharge. He is very compassionate and caring towards the patients and staff he is working with. He is committed to improving the joint replacement service and has worked alongside staff to help develop and carry out clinical audits, often designing and researching these from home. He has helped develop pain relief protocols which enable patients to be discharged home earlier, with adequate pain relief to allow patients to continue their rehab at home. Director of Performance and Planning, Lynne Taylor presented Dr Helmy with his award, saying: “You have done some brilliant things for both your patients and your colleagues. We all need to be a bit more like you!”
Fracture clinics

Both the trust’s fracture clinics scored top marks in recent patient and staff experience surveys. The orthopaedic outpatients departments at both the University Hospital of Hartlepool and the University Hospital of North Tees achieved 100% positive feedback. Ward matron Tracy Maddison said: “I am really proud of the teams on both sites - their dedication and commitment has been rightly recognised. Well done all!”

Staff take on charity cycle challenge in memory of much loved colleague

A group of our staff took part in an epic 308 mile cycling charity challenge in memory of a much loved nursing sister. The team took part with a group of 23 staff from North East Ambulance Service and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in a ride from the Transporter Bridge in Newport, South Wales, to Teesside’s very own Transporter Bridge in Middlesbrough. The team were part of the Trusts United charity set up to help staff who are off work due to illness. Carol Bowler, a senior clinical practitioner in elective care who took part, said: “It was a really challenging ride - 109 miles on the first day, 103 on the second and 98 on the last day. "It was all for a fantastic cause and in memory of a much loved colleague.”

Well done to all of our staff who took part - you are all amazing!

Kevin Moore
Ian Pinchin
Gillian White
Chris Ferguson
Callum Bowler
Eoin Carroll
Carol Bowler

To read the full story visit https://www.gazettelive.co.uk/.../cyclists-ride-one-transport...

13 certainly isn’t unlucky for Radio stitch

The trust’s hospital radio service has opened a brand new room in its studio after a generous donation from a local company and charity. Radio Stitch have been able to open a third room to record from. The team applied for funding from Thirteen Housing Group who fund local community projects – and were successful in being granted a fantastic £2,500. This was on top of £750 funding they were donated from the Durham Freemasons. This was all used to turn a storage room into a third studio room, kitted out with equipment including computers, monitors, compressors, stands and amplifiers and to buy a radio licence. Mike Pearce, trustee at Radio Stitch, said: “Just seven months ago this room was being used as a store cupboard. Now it’s a fantastic third room for us to use. “Without the funding we have had from Thirteen and from the freemasons this wouldn’t have been possible. “I’d like to thank them, as well as everyone at the trust who has supported this project including the ICT department.”
Cancer information service

A CANCER support and advice service is looking back on its last 12 months – and what a year it has been.

The cancer information service supported by Macmillan at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust has had another successful year supporting people affected by cancer across Stockton and Hartlepool.

Its highlights over the last year include helping around 3,000 people affected by cancer, recruiting eight more volunteers, setting up a headwear service and raising awareness at several public events. They have also created an in-reach service for all cancer patients.

The service opened in 2016, with centres at both the University Hospital of North Tees and the University Hospital of Hartlepool.

“It is run by two staff members and has support from a team of volunteers. Alan Chandler, service manager, said: “Since it was established two years ago, the information centre has been a source of support and advice for thousands of people affected by cancer. “We help people to feel emotionally supported, helping to reduce the psychological impact of a cancer diagnosis. We also provide support with practical tasks, work and finances.

“One of the great successes over the last few months has been our volunteers – we now have 14 fully trained people giving up their own time to help. This includes recruiting a volunteer for Hartlepool hospital, helping provide information packs to the chemotherapy unit and the outpatients department. “We have also set up a headwear service in the chemotherapy unit at both of our hospital, meaning patients have access to free headwear.

“There has also been awareness events and numerous public events, including a Living With and Beyond Cancer event in Billingham where we were able to recruit new people to our craft and chat group.

“Overall, it has been a fantastic year for the service. I’d like to thank my colleague Louise and all of our amazing volunteers – without them this wouldn’t be possible.”

Exercise medical challenge

The trust took second and third prize at a special military event testing medical, leadership and team building skills.

Teams from orthopaedic outpatients, physiotherapy and workforce and staffing took part in Exercise Medical Challenge on the banks of the River Tyne in Newcastle.

Organised by the 201 Field Hospital from its barracks in Fenham in Newcastle and from HMS Calliope by the quayside, the event was set up to test NHS and university staff from across the region in scenarios they are not used to.

These included treating patients with injuries on a battlefield, problem solving activities, marching and a stretcher relay!

It was then followed by a performance from the household division’s Beating Retreat and a cocktail party at the barracks.

The physio team, who have previously won the event, took third place this year while the workforce and staffing team were awarded second place!

The trust’s accountable officer, Alan Foster, was also presented with an award for his service as the 201 Field Hospital’s honorary colonel.

Workforce and staffing team captain Jo Lloyd said: “It was a fantastic experience being part of Exercise Medical Challenge.

“All of the teams have taken away learning from this experience that we will put back into our own roles here – leadership, working together as a team and having a clear strategy.

“We were also truly humbled and privileged to spend the day with army reservists who invested so much time and effort to make this a truly unforgettable day (especially to our mentor extraordinaire Kev!).

“We will definitely be coming back next year to take part again!”
**Chemotherapy thankful for donation**

The chemotherapy unit at the University Hospital of Hartlepool have thanked the family of a patient for a very generous donation.

Dwane Douglas and his friend Brian Minton (pictured) visited the unit recently to hand over a cheque for £600.

Dwane, from Hartlepool, held an Elvis impersonator fundraising evening with his friends and family at the South Durham Social Club, in memory of his dad Kevin.

Kevin had treatment in the unit after being diagnosed with bone cancer, but sadly passed away after just six weeks at the age of 75.

Dwane said: “I raised money for the unit last year to thank them for everything they did – from this, I bought them a 50 inch TV, Dyson fan and DVD player. I decided then that I wanted to do something regularly which is why I raised money again this year. “I’d like to thank everyone who came along on the night and helped raise such a large amount of money – it really means a lot.”

Chemotherapy unit nurse, Rosie Livingston, said: “Thank you to Dwane and all of his family and friends for such a fantastic donation – we really appreciate it.”

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**Praise for new teaching at Hartlepool**

Health staff in Hartlepool are full of praise for regular in-house teaching a doctor is holding on a range of medical topics.

Senior house officer, Dr Mo Helmy, runs weekly sessions with staff from his base in the joint replacement unit at the University Hospital of Hartlepool.

In the four months since it started the classes have covered a range of topics including acute kidney injury, heart attacks, pneumonia, falls in the elderly and strokes.

Other areas have included anaemia, blood transfusions, diabetes, neck of femur fractures, gastrointestinal bleeds and seizures.

Expert speakers are also being invited to hold teaching - consultant anaesthetist Elke Kothmann has delivered two sessions about pain control.

The training is also open to anyone – nurses, healthcare assistants, physiotherapists and non-clinical staff all regularly attend.

Mo said: “This is aimed at keeping staff up to date with latest practice, maintaining knowledge and skills and ensuring staff are able to react to unexpected or emergency scenarios.

“It can also be used as a development tool – going towards nurse revalidation and continuous professional development.

“T I am passionate about the development of all staff in their own roles and am delighted with how they have embraced this.”

Linda Wildberg, ward matron in the joint replacement unit, said: “Ever since the teaching first began it’s been very popular – not just with staff in the unit but across the hospital.

“Mo delivers the course in a very interesting, engaging and informative way. Staff go away from this teaching having learned new skills and knowledge which they can take directly back into their own roles.

“We are thrilled to have someone as passionate and knowledgeable as Mo working as part of this fantastic team.”
Cervical Screening Awareness Week!

Staff from our Macmillan Cancer Centre, gynaecology and outpatients recently held an information stall in the Tees restaurant to highlight the importance of cervical screening (smear tests) wearing the campaigns ‘smear for smear lipstick’ look (even Alan!) Every eligible woman should have the opportunity to attend cervical screening and there is plenty of support available for those who need it. From struggling to book an appointment to feeling unsure or anxious, there are many reasons why some people find it difficult, therefore the team helped to give advice throughout the week. You can find more information here https://www.jostrust.org.uk/

Happy Reserves Day!

The trust has several staff who give up their spare time to serve in the reserve forces, balancing their civilian life with a military career to ensure that should their country require them, they would be ready to serve as part of the military. To show our appreciation, the trust’s accountable officer Alan Foster, who is honorary colonel of the 201 Field Hospital, met with three of our reservist staff - Kay Adeboye, Mark Saunders and Viv Saunders - to treat them to lunch and present them each with a gift.

Voice for you

Thank you to Kimbo Johnson, David Lodge and Peter Nixon from Voice for You who visited the University Hospital of Hartlepool. They are a group of people who represent people with a learning disability. They had a look at signage, how to get around the hospital and how we can make it easier for people with a learning disability.

Victoria recognised for her work overseas

Physiotherapist Victoria Butler has been recognised for the work she has carried out on the other side of the world. Victoria travelled to Australia and New Zealand to investigate stroke community rehabilitation and falls programmes as part of the Winston Churchill Fellowship. As recognition for her work, she was awarded a medal by world renowned photographer Nick Danziger at the fellowship’s special awards ceremony at Church House Westminster.

Victoria said: “The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust funds UK citizens to travel overseas, exploring new ideas, and return with global insights to inspire communities and professions. “I feel very honoured to be a Churchill Fellow, it enabled me to travel to Australia and New Zealand to investigate falls and community stroke rehabilitation programs. This has enabled implementation of physiotherapy led initiatives on a stroke ward based on the findings from my fellowship.”
The trust is highlighting the need for its staff to be aware of the amount of fluids they are drinking while at work, as part of an awareness week. The trust marked Dietitians Week by going out into clinical areas and reminding staff about the importance of being properly hydrated.

Failing to drink regularly can lead to headaches, tiredness, poor concentration, loss of appetite, a lack of energy, nausea and a dry mouth, lips and eyes.

Dietitians were joined by staff in the catering and health and wellbeing teams in visiting the hospital’s orthopaedic wards. As a pilot initiative, ward hostesses in these areas encouraged staff to regularly drink fluids throughout the week. Vanessa Partridge, a senior dietitian at the trust, said: “The importance of hydration is often overlooked. Water is needed for a number of different functions in the body, from transporting water-soluble nutrients around the body, helping regulate our body temperature, to helping us digest our food. It is recommended that we drink between 8-10 200ml glasses of water per day, but many of us are not drinking enough.

“Dehydration can lead to symptoms such as headaches, fatigue and poor concentration levels, which may affect how effective we are at work. For those working in a care environment within the NHS, this could affect the quality of care that our patients receive. Fluids should be taken regularly throughout the day. Caffeinated drinks should be kept to a minimum and lower sugar drinks should be chosen over full-sugar products.

“An initiative is underway that aims to provide staff the opportunity to drink more fluid; ward hostesses are to offer healthy drinks at regular intervals throughout the day and record how many drinks they give out. Our aim is to have a healthier workforce to optimise care for our patients.”

The trust’s dietitians have been raising awareness about the importance of everyone being properly hydrated.

The focus for dietitian’s week this year was on hydration - particularly focusing on the challenges staff face.

Kelly Dunn, a sister in the trauma/spinal unit, volunteered to keep a fluid balance sheet throughout the week and actively took on more water over that period. She said: “I know I don’t normally drink enough fluids while I am on shift.

“Over the course of the week I made sure I was drinking two litres of water during the day, then more when I arrived at home.

“I sometimes go home at the end of a shift with a headache - but last week this wasn’t the case. I felt much better and I had more energy.

“Throughout the week I made sure I was drinking fluids whenever I could, during breaks and while in the staff area. It’s something I am going to keep doing now, it’s very important to keep hydrated.”

Debrah Lonsdale, a student nurse, has written a dissertation about the importance of staff being hydrated. She spent time in the main concourse at the University Hospital of North Tees talking to staff and members of the public. Dietitians were also manning a stand and spent time in the spinal/trauma unit speaking to staff and distributing drinks. Dietetic assistant Kelly Brook said:

“The dietetics team spent time handing out drinks of squash and water to hard working and dedicated staff. This gave us a chance to engage, chat and understand the challenges faced by workers in relation to keeping themselves hydrated during the working day, while at the same time getting our colleagues to take on some fluids.

“We received a lot of thanks and positivity from staff for the drinks we brought, with one of the hostesses saying how nice it was that someone was looking after her, as she is usually looking after others, bringing them drinks.”
**Fire station tea party**

A **FIRE station was turned into the venue for a special afternoon tea party as a community helped raise vital funds for cancer care. Peterlee Fire Station hosted a tea and cakes fundraiser in aid of the chemotherapy unit at the University Hospital of Hartlepool. The event was held in memory of local councillor Audrey Laing’s husband Jim who was treated in the unit before he sadly passed away last year.**

The party, organised by Julia Errington at County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, helped raise more than £2,300 for the unit.

Julia and colleagues at the fire service know Cllr Laing through her role as the vice-chair of the Country Durham and Darlington Fire Authority.

Julia said: “I am delighted with the amount we raised at the afternoon tea - our fire service family all worked together to make it such a success.

“It is nice to know that the money will go to the Cancer Unit to provide much needed support to people in our area.”

Rita Taylor, a non-executive director at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the unit, was invited along.

She said: “It was a pleasure to be able to attend such a fantastic event for a very worthy cause.

**Pyjama paralysis**

Our staff are supporting a drive to end ‘pyjama paralysis’ - to give patients back many days of their precious time and get them back home to their loved ones living much happier and fuller lives.

The national 70-day challenge, to coincide with the NHS70 celebrations, aims to have a million patient days captured in just 70 days. For many, wearing pyjamas reinforces being sick and can prevent recovery. Studies show that three-in-five immobile, older patients in hospital had no medical reason that required bed rest and doubling the amount of walking while in hospital reduces the length of stay.

The trust is also supporting calls for those who care for older people to encourage them to get up and active especially if they are in hospital.

**Parkrun**

The trust teamed up with parkrun UK as part of the NHS 70th birthday celebrations - and what a morning we had!

Staff turned out in force at parkrun events across the area to show their support.

Physiotherapists from the trust were also on hand at events at the Tees Barrage, Hartlepool and Durham to take part and offer advice and support.

Thank you to Josh Lincoln, Jason Marsh, Scott Henderson, Teri Ellis, Mike Jessop, Nick Wild, Dom Ellington, Robbie Whittle and Jamie Watson - you’re all stars!

Josh, who came third in the Hartlepool race with a really quick time, said: “It was fantastic for the team to be a part of such a landmark event – celebrating 70 years of the National Health Service.

“Much like the NHS, parkrun is all about a community of people pulling together to do something for the benefit of others.

“On behalf of all of the trust’s physiotherapists who were involved, I’d like to thank parkrun for welcoming us along and hosting such a special event to mark a very special birthday.”

Parkruns are free, 5k events that take place in hundreds of locations across the UK every Saturday morning. They are coordinated entirely by volunteers and are open to walkers and runners of all ages and abilities.

For more information visit http://www.parkrun.org.uk/
The trust has teamed up with a local college to boost the careers and skills of young people and health professionals. The trust will be working with the Hartlepool College of Further Education to develop a state of the art simulation suite at the University Hospital of Hartlepool. The facility will give students a unique insight into what it would be like caring for patients in a real hospital ward, using a family of human mannequins who are able to talk, breathe and react like any patient might in real life. The simulation suite will also be open to the whole community as a centre for learning, helping the health professionals of today improve their skills and build their confidence in managing challenging and often high-pressure situations. The Trust and the College met recently to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

Darren Hankey, Principal of Hartlepool College of Further Education, said: “We know that the Tees Valley and wider North East has an aging population, and this brings its own set of challenges in terms of the type of services that are needed and the type of care that is given. “The proposed partnership between Hartlepool College of FE and the North Tees & Hartlepool Trust aims to address some of these challenges by ensuring that the workforce of today and tomorrow has the necessary knowledge, skills, qualifications and confidence. “Health and social care is one of the largest curriculum areas at the College and recent support from the Tees Valley Combined Authority has witnessed the introduction of a ward and facilities to deliver telehealth/telecare skills at the College’s Stockton street site. “The partnership will afford the opportunity to build on this ensuring a world class approach to the delivery of health and social care education and skills right here in Hartlepool.”

Julie Gillon, Chief Executive of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, said; “This new facility will offer a unique opportunity for training and learning. “This is about training the healthcare staff and social workers of both today and the future. “We want to create the next generation of health staff. This fantastic facility will allow us to give young people a unique and inspiring insight into working in a healthcare setting. It’s something we hope will inspire many to start a long and successful career in the health service. “It’s also a facility we will be using for the training of the current generation of healthcare staff and social workers – helping share good practice and learning in a safe and realistic environment. “We are delighted to be working with such a fantastic local partner on this exciting new project.” Scenarios the facility can re-create include a hospital ward area, an operating theatre and even a patient’s own living room. This will be the next step in the development of the trust’s simulation suite vision. The suite at the University Hospital of North Tees has been open for several years and has contributed to the training of hundreds of people. Pictured is, front row – trust chief executive Julie Gillon with college principal Darren Hankey; and back row (left to right) trust non-executive director Steve Hall, trust workforce project manager Vicki Spinks, trust deputy director of workforce Gary Wright and college vice principal Andrew Steel.
A MAN has thanked NHS staff for saving the use of his legs – after major surgery to have a large cancerous tumour removed from his spine.

Brian Plant from Billingham was told by doctors at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust that without emergency surgery he would not walk again.

It was only the bravery of the 55-year-old as well as the skill and expertise of the health team during an extremely challenging six hour operation which stopped him permanently losing the use of his legs. The operation involved removing a tumour wrapped around his spinal cord, then fixing several metal plates and spinal cement to hold his lower back in place.

Consultant orthopaedic surgeon Khaled Aneiba, who led the operation, said: “This was one of the most complex operations carried out at the trust.

“Brian had a large tumour wrapped all the way around the spinal cord, making it a particularly challenging and unusual procedure.

“Without surgery, we were 95 per cent certain that he would have lost his ability to walk.

“It’s thanks to his positive attitude that he wanted to have the operation – many people would have opted not to because of the risks.

“If you have a very motivated patient and a fantastic team of staff with you during six hours of surgery, it shows you how much is possible.

“To see Brian shortly after surgery and to see that he still had feeling in his legs and that surgery had been a complete success was a huge achievement. It makes it all worth it – all the hard work has paid off for us and for him. To see an end result like this drives us all on. This is what it is all about – making a real difference to someone’s life.

“He couldn’t walk before the surgery, now to see him walking as normal is fantastic and hugely satisfying.

“We couldn’t have done this without the hard work of the whole team, whether it’s the anaesthetic team, the haematology team and everyone else involved – they were all incredible.”

Brian first started experiencing pain in his back and visited his GP, who referred him to the trust for an MRI scan and x-ray.

Brian added: “I had been experiencing a lot of back pain for a while before seeing my doctor. I had a job as a delivery man and it was becoming difficult to lift things and do my job properly.

“After being referred for scans, Mr Aneiba told me they had found a large tumour and that it would need to be removed if I wanted to be able to walk in the future. I was in no doubt I wanted to have the operation.

“I’m so relieved. The team did a fantastic job and I will always be so thankful to them all.”

Brian has also had chemotherapy treatment at the trust as well as radiotherapy at James Cook University Hospital and a stem cell transplant at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. His wife, Bernadette, said: “Mr Aneiba told Brian before surgery that he had complete faith in him, and we felt exactly the same about him and all of the team who treated him.

“They believed in him and he had complete belief in them.

“We are so grateful to the whole team. Brian has worked very hard in his recovery not only for himself, but as thanks to the team for the care they gave him.”

Pictured are Mr Aneiba (centre) with Brian and his wife Bernadette.
Local chef supports trust in NHS70 Great British Menu

Local chef Danny Parker featured on the Great British Menu serving up dishes dedicated to our trust in a Great British Menu NHS70 special. Danny came into North Tees and spent a day filming alongside porter Jamie May to see what a ‘behind the scenes’ job role in the NHS is like. Danny is local to the area and chose to focus his piece on North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation trust as it is very special to him. He came out top in the first show scoring a 9 for his starter with a dish he called ‘North Tea’s’, based around a cup of tea, he even served it in a teapot with the faces of our members of staff on!

Nursing Times awards

The trust has been nominated in two categories for the Nursing Times Awards 2018!

Jean Angus, head of nursing education and placements, has been shortlisted in nurse leader of the year while the Hospital at Home respiratory team are included in the nursing in the community category.

Jean has worked at the trust for over 40 years, inspiring generations of nurses to have long and successful careers in the NHS. The Hospital at Home team are an innovative team who visit patients’ homes and treat them for respiratory issues including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. They are helping prevent patients having to be admitted to hospital and improving the health of people across Stockton and Hartlepool.

They will be interviewed by a judging panel to discuss their work and achievements before the awards ceremony in London in October.

Nursing Times Workforce Summit and Awards

We are delighted to also announce that we have been shortlisted in two separate categories in the Nursing Times Workforce Summit and Awards. The trust’s use of SafeCare Live has seen us shortlisted for the Best Use of Technology award and our Recruitment Centres have earned us a place in the Recruitment Experience category.

Welcome new doctors

Welcome to the latest group of first year doctors to join the trust to start their training. Foundation year one doctors have the opportunity to put into practice the key skills and knowledge that they have learnt during undergraduate medical education and prepare for practising as a fully registered doctor.
The 2017/18 NIHR Research Activity League Table have been published by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN). The league table highlights the extent of NHS research taking place in England, and the number of participants being recruited into studies. Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across the North East have also seen a surge in the number of people participating in research trials with a total of 42,450 people getting involved in 1,630 programmes a rise of 23% from last year. The trust saw one of the biggest increases in the region, with participation figures almost doubling from 839 to 1,619. Beth Pickering, the trust’s research and development facilitator, said: “We are delighted at the number of patients we have recruited over the last year – it has been one of our most successful years on record.” It’s testament to the commitment and dedication our research and development team across the trust have shown. “Thank you to everyone involved, as well as to patients who have volunteered to take part. Research trials are our way of making improvements so that we are able to give the very best care to patients.” An example of a recent success the trust achieved came last month when the research and development team worked together to support the critical care team to recruit 152 patients to a drug allergy study in the main operating theatres. Many patients report drug allergies during their pre-operative anaesthetic assessment. The nature of these reactions are interpreted by the anaesthetist on the day of surgery which influences pharmacological management during the peri-operative period. The trial is designed to evaluate patient-reported and documented allergy to drugs relevant to anaesthesia and to learn more about anaesthetists’ knowledge and attitudes to allergy.

#Findyourplace

“Come to North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust to work in a supportive environment and have some fun too!”

As part of the Trust recruitment and retention initiative for Junior Doctors, our Trust recently welcomed the new Foundation Year 1 trainees into the Trust. The trainees are starting their Shadowing Programme in preparation for their new roles which start from 1st August. Our Medical Director, Dr Deepak Dwarakanath and our Director of Medical Education, Dr Dolon Basu, on behalf of the Trust, invited both the current and incoming F1 trainees to join them in an informal fun-filled evening in an informal environment at the Jolsha restaurant in Norton. Members of the Foundation Team, along with the MD and DME spent time getting to know the trainees breaking down barriers and encourage them to become a more cohesive and integrated workforce. Our trainees really appreciated the gesture and the night was a resounding success with lots of positive comments and positive feedback highlighting how welcoming our Trust has been. They are looking forward to beginning their medical careers here with us and hopefully this will help retain and recruitment in this region.
Sarah has passed the Mary Seacole programme which is a six month programme run by the NHS Leadership Academy. The programme aims to provide the balance between learning the theory and putting it into practice. Designed for those looking to move into their first formal leadership role, or those new to first time leadership, it empowers people to turn their success into consistent team success and to champion compassionate patient care. Sarah said: “I have really enjoyed the programme. It is a mix of structured online learning and three full day workshop days with the other people in your group. Areas covered have included looking at your own role, creating successful teams, organisational culture, recruitment and selection and appraisals.” I’ve picked up lots of good practice and learning from the workshops and content, as well as from my peers on the course, who are all working in various different roles across the NHS, whether that’s as a leader or someone who aspires to be a leader. “I would absolutely recommend it to anyone interested in looking to develop their leadership skills. “The trust’s organisation development team has designed a leadership track, which is a structured programme of courses staff can enrol on to develop their skills. Many of these are run in-house free of charge.

Trust gastroenterologist is appointed chair of cancer research institute

Professor Matt Rutter, consultant gastroenterologist, at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust has been appointed honorary chair at Newcastle University’s Institute of Cancer Research. Professor Rutter’s research will continue to focus on luminal gastroenterology, in particular bowel cancer screening and surveillance. He will also be expanding his research into endoscopy quality and how this can be developed to improve outcomes for patients. The institute’s vision is to facilitate collaborative and multidisciplinary research across the different research institutes within the Faculty of Medical Sciences, within the other faculties of Newcastle University, and across NHS partners. It brings together expertise in basic biology, cancer biology, epidemiology and health services research, and clinical cancer research and care. It aims to increase the internal and external profile of cancer research in Newcastle and to bring different research groups and their complementary expertise from all our institutions together and build stronger teams to advance cancer therapy. Newcastle University’s Institute of Cancer Research aims to bridge the different gaps that hinder rapid translation of new insights on fundamental cancer biology into its clinical application. Through Newcastle Cancer, researchers across Newcastle University and our NHS partners are developing strong links with the clinical and translational research programmes in the Northern Institute of Cancer Research (NICR). Professor Matt Rutter said: “Newcastle University’s research facility is an incredibly valuable resource not only for the North East region but for cancer research nationally and internationally. It is a privilege to be involved with the institution and I look forward to deeper collaboration with the multidisciplinary team.”
Driver service is motoring on

A VOLUNTEER driver service - helping patients get to and from hospital - is recruiting for more people to help. Since it started five years ago, the service at North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust has made more than 4,500 patient journeys. The small dedicated team of volunteers involved have driven more than 124,000 miles, helping patients who have difficulty getting to and from hospital. And now the team is looking for more people to get involved and give up their time to help. Volunteer co-ordinator Paul Wharton said: "We have a fantastic team of committed people volunteering to help." Over the last few years the service has been an enormous success and has become very well established. We are helping so many people who otherwise would have a real challenge getting to and from hospital, making sure they get treatment at the appropriate time. "But as it has expanded over the years we need more people to get involved to help run this vital service." The service now runs Monday to Friday, from 11am until 6pm, and has an office base in main outpatients at the University Hospital of North Tees. Colin Ogden, from Seaton Carew, is a retired former waste management manager at Hartlepool Borough Council. He said: "I’ve worked for a few years now and really enjoy the role. I’ve met a lot of lovely people. "It’s fantastic to be able to do something where I know I am helping someone who otherwise might not get that help." Anyone joining the service will be working with a dedicated and friendly team of volunteers who are all doing their very best to help patients in need. For more information email paul.wharton@nth.nhs.uk or call 01642 383933. Volunteer drivers can be booked by contacting the service desk on 01429 522550.

It’s Coming Home

Physio who all battled in a 5 a side tournament to come out on top! As always the competition was high and each team gave it their all, but in the end there was only one winner and team finance managed to retain their title and take home the gold! Team Physio were the runners up, with Jamie Roberts crowned top goal scorer, Ryan Pearson scooped player of the tournament, the days fair play award went to Andrew Fitzgibbon, the most improved team was the estates team and most entertaining was team Hartlepool theatres. The day organised by the health and wellbeing team, was great and enjoyed by all. Same time again next year!
Dear Member,

Your Foundation Trust Membership Information

Thank you for being a member of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust. We are contacting you to update you on the membership information that we hold about you and to give you information about why we hold this and how we use it. This is the General Data Protection Regulation which came into force on 25 May 2018.

Our foundation trust membership is important to us and we really appreciate our members’ continued support for the hospital.

The information we hold on you as a member

The information we hold about you on our membership database comes from the information you first gave us when you became a member of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) and completed a membership form. It includes your name and date of birth, postal and email address, gender and ethnic group, if you gave us these details.

How we use your member information

The postcode allocates our public members to the appropriate local constituency for voting in governor elections. The other data helps us monitor whether our membership reflects the local population. Foundation Trusts have a duty to maintain a representative membership.

We use the information to:
- Send you ballot papers to vote in the election of Governors
- To invite you to our Annual General Meeting, this year to be held on 4 October 2018.
- To invite you to any Member events, open days or other events we hold
- Send you our regular members’ newsletter and Anthem magazine
- Inform you of any relevant updates on NTHFT.

We aim to send as many of our membership communications by email to save on cost, and we encourage members to give us their email address for this reason, but equally recognise some of our members appreciate receiving a printed communication from us.

Changes to the information we hold

We ask our members to let us know of any changes to their information as and when they arise. Members can resign at any time and if they do, we will remove and permanently delete their membership record. This is entirely separate from any patient or employment record the hospital might hold.

All our membership information is held on a secure server and data is securely transferred when required to Membership Engagement Services (MES). MES are a leading provider of services and have policies in place to handle your data securely. We do not share the data with any other third parties except the company who hold our database (MES) or who are carrying out mailings to you on our behalf.

Electoral Reform Services currently provide the Returning Officer role when we hold elections for governors, so they will send out voting packs and receive these from you to be counted. After a governor election, the votes are retained by the Returning Officer for a few weeks in case there is a dispute about the election and then destroyed. This requirement is set out in the Trust’s Model Election Rules.

Your membership – what happens next

Foundation Trust membership is free and is a great way to support and find out about NTHFT. We hope you will want to continue your membership with us. If we have not got your email and we currently contact you by post, please let us know your email as this saves the NHS money.

Please let us know if there are any changes to your information by:
- emailing membership@nth.nhs.uk,
- filling in the form on our website at https://www.nth.nhs.uk/about/membership/membership-form/
- contacting us on 01642 383765.

If you do not wish to continue your membership you can contact us at any time on using one of the methods above and we will remove your name from our membership database and you will not be contacted by us about your membership again.

Thank you for your support and interest in your local hospital Trust.