

Staff **News** 'n' **Views**

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Trust



**SPECIAL EDITION:  
ROYAL VISIT**

**HRH THE DUKE OF YORK, KG  
OFFICIALLY OPENS THE NEW**



**ST HELENS HOSPITAL**

QUALITY CARE IN WORLD CLASS SURROUNDINGS



*Excellent Patient Care in World Class Hospitals*

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**The Trust welcomed its first ever Royal visitor as His Royal Highness the Duke of York, KG officially opened the new St Helens Hospital on 25th June 2010.**



It was a delightfully hot summer's day and the bright sun was gleaming off the glass atrium at the main entrance to the hospital. The new St Helens Hospital, its landscaped grounds now complete, was a picture of a modern healthcare facility at its very best.

This was the glorious scene that greeted His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG as he was driven to the main entrance in a Range Rover, escorted by police cars and motorcycle outriders.



As our Royal visitor stepped from the vehicle, he and his party including the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Liverpool Mrs Jennifer Grundy and Lady Kirsty Pilkington were welcomed by the High Sheriff of Merseyside, Mr Roy Morris and his wife Mrs Veronica Morris, the Mayor and Mayoress of St Helens, Councillor Neil Taylor and Mrs Virginia Taylor, Carole Hudson, Chief Executive of St Helens

Council, Les Howell CBE, Chairman and Ann Marr, Chief Executive.

Inside patients, staff and special guests were eagerly awaiting the arrival of His Royal Highness. They gathered in the main atrium and along the upper level ready to offer our Royal guest a warm St Helens welcome.

As His Royal Highness entered the hospital to a huge rousing round of applause his face instantly lit up and we knew immediately, that it was going to be a wonderful and memorable day for all. The Duke of York was in excellent spirits as he addressed the crowd jokingly saying, 'Haven't you all got work to do?'





Ann then escorted His Royal Highness on a short guided tour of some of the world class facilities at St Helens Hospital, starting on the lower ground floor. His Royal Highness met with Angela Appleton, Healthcare Planning Manager and Geoff Hunter, Construction Project Manager who gave our special guest a presentation on the redevelopment of St Helens Hospital.

His Royal Highness asked questions about how the team successfully worked in partnership with local stakeholders and how the new hospital environment was helping staff to provide improved services and greater privacy and dignity for patients.



His Royal Highness was also shown a display of old healthcare equipment dating from the hospital's Victorian origins as well as letters from Florence Nightingale to one of the hospital's former matrons. These letters demonstrate how her opinion was sought in the design of the old Victorian hospital buildings.

As the tour moved on His Royal Highness met with members of Macmillan Cancer Care Support based at the hospital. He talked to them about the drop in service they provide to patients, their families and visitors and how Macmillan started. His Royal Highness chatted to Pat James a volunteer at the service and cancer survivor about her own diagnosis and the importance of having a positive mental attitude in the battle with cancer.





# ST HELENS HOSPITAL

QUALITY CARE IN WORLD CLASS SURROUNDINGS

# Our

*Here are some of the memorable moments from the*



*His Royal Highness meeting local*



*His Royal Highness in high spirits with*



*Patients from Seddon Suite meeting and chatting to His Royal Highness*



# First Royal Visit

visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, KG.



*dignitaries, staff, volunteers and visitors*



*patients and staff during his tour*



*His Royal Highness addressing the audience in the main atrium*



*His Royal Highness chatting with patients on the Lilac Centre*



The Duke of York then met with some of the elderly patients from Seddon Suite taking the time to chat with each of them, asking how they were and wishing them each a speedy recovery.



Next to meet His Royal Highness were retired members of staff who had been invited for afternoon tea at the Spice of Life Restaurant to mark this special occasion. The Duke also met with members of staff from Medirest and complimented them on their catering for the occasion, which included home-made cream cakes.



From here, His Royal Highness was given a tour of the award-winning Lilac Centre, where Maureen Scotton, Ward Sister and Raj Sripadam, Consultant Oncologist introduced him to patients and members of staff. The Duke spoke at length with patients about how receiving their care closer to home was benefiting them and chatted to volunteers providing complementary therapies. His Royal Highness also asked about the 'Healing Wave' glass artwork that patients at the centre had created to express their journey during their treatment.

The tour party then returned to the ground level to visit the Radiology Department, where His Royal Highness was shown the state of the art MRI and CT scanning facilities. Here Jonathan Wide, Consultant and Clinical Director and Gill Holroyd, Chief Radiographer explained how the facilities work, the



types of tests they are used for and how GPs have direct access to these diagnostic facilities for their patients.



His Royal Highness was very interested and spoke to patients who he had just seen undergo scans, about the treatment they had received.

His Royal Highness was then led by Ann to the Cardio-Respiratory Department, along the way Ann introduced His Royal Highness to Ron Morgan (pictured right), the architect of St Helens Hospital, whom he complimented on the hospital's imaginative design.



The Duke of York also paused for a brief chat with some of our hospital volunteers about their important role in helping patients.



In the Radiology Department, Jeff Ball Consultant Cardiologist and Clinical Director gave His Royal Highness a tour of some of the latest diagnostic facilities.



His Royal Highness chatted to patients as they underwent tests such as an Exercise Tolerance Test on a specially designed treadmill and an echo-cardiogram and spoke

to Dr Ball about the conditions these facilities test for and the risk factors associated with an unhealthy diet or lifestyle.

As His Royal Highness returned to the main atrium he met with members of his sister's charity the Princess Trust Carers Support Team, before taking to the stage for the official opening ceremony as the crowd greeted him with a warm round of applause.



Ann Marr thanked His Royal Highness for coming to officially open the new St Helens Hospital. In her speech Ann gave a brief overview of the hospital, highlighting its modern facilities, the positive feedback from patients and the importance of having a skilled and dedicated workforce. Ann said:

"It is our driving ambition to provide an excellent experience for every patient every time. This wonderful new building will help us to achieve this, and I want to thank the many people who are here today who helped us to realise this dream."



Before unveiling the plaque His Royal Highness addressed those gathered, thanking the Trust for inviting him to perform the opening ceremony. He described how he had enjoyed his tour of the hospital's facilities immensely and that the members of staff he met were very friendly and helpful. He also said:

"I've spoken to many patients who are clearly impressed with the high standard of care they are receiving. This is an innovative hospital, which is absolutely fantastic."

His Royal Highness then declared the hospital officially open as he unveiled the commemorative plaque and kindly signed the hospital's visitors' book.



After saying his many goodbyes to distinguished guests, patients and staff, HRH returned to his car and was on his way with some wonderful memories of the world class St Helens Hospital and the amazing people he had met.

The day was filled with special memories and was a proud moment for the staff and all those involved in the planning and construction of the new hospital, as well as for patients and the local community. It was the perfect day for a perfect Royal visit to officially open the new St Helens Hospital.

