

# News 'n' Views



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS



Designed by  
Abbie Platt,  
aged 9

# Christmas Message from the Chief Executive

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued hard work throughout 2015. This year has been an extremely busy time at the Trust especially during the CQC Inspection in the summer and over the past few weeks as winter closes in and the hospital reaches its busiest period.



The Trust has an excellent track record of providing high quality care and we have once again received national recognition for the standard of care you provide. The Trust was named Best Acute Trust in the NHS in the 2015 Patient Led Assessments of the Care Environment (PLACE), ranked in the top 100 places to work and our cancer services were rated 4th best in England.

And just when we thought it couldn't get any better the Trust won the Best Patient Experience in the NHS Award at the CHKS Top Hospitals Awards. This award recognised every member of staff who works so incredibly hard to make St Helens and Whiston Hospitals the Best in the NHS! This recognition of



your achievement is remarkable and shows the dedication of our highly skilled and talented staff.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. Many of you will be working over the festive period, but I do hope that you take the opportunity to spend some quality time with your family and friends.

On behalf of the Trust Board, thank you once again and Merry Christmas.

**Ann Marr, Chief Executive**



## Gold Star Gardens



St Helens and Whiston hospitals' fabulous gardens have both won Gold in the prestigious 'North West in Bloom' awards. St Helens gardens were named as the Best in the North West too!

The judges of the award paid tribute to the Trust and its partners David J Platt Landscape Ltd., for the high level of commitment and attention paid to the hospitals' environments whilst enhancing the patient experience.

Both sites were awarded for; the horticultural and imaginative aspects of its grounds and gardens; the grounds cleanliness and sustainable development; and the community involvement at both sites.



Ann Marr, Chief Executive said: "I am delighted that St Helens Hospital has been recognised as the Best in the North West and gold medals for both hospitals is a fantastic achievement for the team who work so hard to make the grounds and gardens so appealing. I would like to extend a huge thank you to all the local businesses who sponsor our gardens and to David J Platt Landscapes Ltd for their hard work and dedication. The Trust has a responsibility to ensure that the hospital environment is welcoming and our patients, visitors and staff regularly tell me how much they appreciate and enjoy the gardens."



### A BIG Thank You! to our Gorgeous Gardens Sponsors

- Vinci Facilities Services
- Caldo Oils Ltd
- Thomas Hardy Burtonwood Brewery
- Mainsway Ltd
- Northern Connectors Ltd
- North West Timber Treatments Ltd
- Rainfords, Catchdale Moss Farm
- Horseshoe Garage
- Electech Ltd
- J B Mowers
- Acorn Chartered Accountants
- BCH Developments Ltd
- Seddon Plant & Engineers Ltd
- GSB Signs Ltd







# Abbie's Winning Design

Congratulations to the very talented Abbie Platt, aged 9, who was the overall winner of our Trust Charity Christmas Card Competition.

Abbie was a patient at Whiston Hospital when she designed her fabulous card.

You can buy Abbie's Christmas card design, along with two other age category winners, from the General Office at both hospitals for just £4.50 for a pack of 12 cards.

All proceeds are in aid of St Helens and Whiston Hospitals' Charity and NHS Staff Awards.



## Employee of the Month

### September 2015: Lucy Talbot Speech and Language Therapist

**Nominated by:** Anne Molton, Therapy Manager

Lucy has worked at the Trust for almost 2 years. Anne Molton said in her nomination "Lucy has researched methodologies used in stroke and implemented them to great effect on the stroke unit. One example is the introduction of the Breakfast Club. This provides an opportunity for social interaction and therapy whilst the patient takes part in a normal activity. Feedback from patients and staff has been very positive.

Lucy has been instrumental in turning Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) performance around in stroke and this is reflected in the improving performance figures recorded in the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) audit: Lucy has worked to understand the nuances of the SSNAP data and implemented changes to improve speech & language data collection on the unit, this includes standardising screening tools and recording mechanisms."

Details of improvements have been captured on posters which have been submitted to the Stroke Conference which will take place in Liverpool in December, further highlighting the great work going on at Whiston Hospital.

Lucy said "I am delighted to have been awarded employee of the month. Receiving recognition is really encouraging and it's fantastic that STHK reward staff in this way."



### October 2015: Rob Simonds Head of Pay and Staff Services

**Nominated by:** Claire Scrafton, Deputy Director of HR

Rob Simonds has worked as Head of Pay & Staff Services for over 11 years.

In her nomination Claire Scrafton said "Over the last 2 years Rob and the Payroll Department have been successful in securing payroll contracts from NHS Trusts across Cheshire & Merseyside. This is in addition to the payroll contracts previously won for the 2,500 doctors employed in the Lead Employer Service and 5 Boroughs Partnership Trust. The Payroll Team through Rob's leadership pay over 25,500 staff each month which is 19 organisations in total! The Trust has received letters of appreciation from Chief Executives and numerous individual members of grateful staff, thanking Rob for providing an excellent and customer focussed payroll service and always going the extra mile when required.

Rob is always very supportive, and he leads by example frequently going above and beyond. He is never afraid to roll up his sleeves to meet deadlines and even provides fish and chip suppers for the staff!"

On receiving his award Rob said, "I'm very proud to receive the nomination and award. It is always good to be part of a back office function receiving front line recognition and the award is a reflection of the hard work and contribution made by all staff in P&SS".



### November 2015: Stephen Brough Principal Pharmacist, Surgery

**Nominated by:** Jade Tyrer, Ward Sister, Sandra Holloway, Domestic, Angela Baker, HCA & Caroline Morris, Housekeeper

Stephen has worked at the Trust for 13 years and is a valued member of the ward MDT.

The staff who nominated him said, "Stephen shows compassion, empathy and always has the time to help others, his qualities reflect the Trust's 5 Star Patient Care."

"He is always supportive to ward nurses and junior doctors and goes above and beyond his role to do this. Stephen provides informal education and training for staff on the ward and he makes himself available to provide advice to patients, families and all staff."

On receiving his award Stephen said, "It is great to be nominated by the staff I work with on ward 4C. As we all know the demands on the NHS continue to grow but despite the pressures I've always found all the staff I encounter to be friendly, professional, supportive and a pleasure to work with. I'm sure the same award could go to many well deserving people, but to have this contribution to patient care and team support recognised and acknowledged is very kind so a very big thank you to them."



If you would like to nominate a member of staff for Employee of the Month, you can download a nomination form from the Staff Matters section on the intranet, call Kath Richardson, Executive PA, on ext: 1175 or email: [employeeofthemonth@sthk.nhs.uk](mailto:employeeofthemonth@sthk.nhs.uk)

On the 12th day  
of Christmas



*12 workers working*

On the 11th day of Christmas



*11 Lab staff looking*

On the 10th day of Christmas



*10 Trainees Training*

On the 6th day of Christmas



*6 Nurses nursing*

On the 3rd day of Christmas



*3 Secretaries*



## *On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me...*

'Tis the season to be jolly and Trust staff have been getting into the Christmas spirit by recreating the 12 Days of Christmas. Look out for the festively fun film starring members of staff across the Trust on the staff Intranet and the Trust's social media pages.

On the 9th day  
of Christmas



*9 Buyers Buying*

On the 8th day of Christmas



*8 Porters pushing*

On the 7th day of Christmas



*7 Physios flexing*

On the 5th day of Christmas



*5 Star Patient Care*

On the 2nd day of Christmas



*2 Pharmacists*

On the 4th day of Christmas



*4 Volunteers*

On the 1st day of Christmas



*...and a baby in Midwifery*



# Observations go digital



*e-MEWS Nurse Lead  
Debbie Warburton*

The Trust is one of the first in the NHS to introduce digital observations via its new e-MEWS system (Electronic Modified Early Warning Scores). This latest technology means that staff will no longer record observations on paper and store the information in the end of bed folder, instead they will be inputted on an iPad or computer and stored electronically.

Not only does this use of technology in clinical areas make patient observations easier, quicker and more accurate it also allows patients' progress to be monitored more effectively and any concerns will be immediately highlighted by the system.

Debbie Warburton, Business Change Nurse Lead, has been heavily involved in making sure staff are fully supported in changing over to the new system. In fact, this is the first time within the Trust that a clinical person has worked so closely with IT to develop a brand new system. Debbie said, "It's been a great project to be involved with and shows how technology can be used brilliantly to benefit staff and patients. The teams who have already started using e-MEWS have given us really positive feedback and I can't wait for everyone across the Trust to be up and running.

One of the biggest advantages of e-MEWS is that now the Medical Emergency Team and Ward Managers can access and monitor each patient at a glance on a computer screen and quickly identify if a patient is deteriorating, allowing them to take appropriate and swift action."

Debbie is the first port of call if you have any questions or need help using e-MEWS and even when the system is live there will still be support on hand on the ward to make sure staff are happy and comfortable with what they are doing.

To find out when e-MEWS is coming to your area please see the Staff Intranet Site and click on the links to find out more about the system and training. Debbie can be contacted on ext 5609.



**e-MEWS**

Putting patient safety first

## Hooray for our Helpers!

**Volunteers working at St Helens and Whiston hospitals have been recognised for their dedication at the annual Volunteers Coffee Morning.**

The Trust's volunteers are based in all specialties across both sites and support staff in ensuring we deliver the very best in patient care. Ann Marr, Chief Executive said "I would like to thank each one of our volunteers sincerely for their hard work and commitment to providing the very best service to our patients, staff and visitors. They generously give their time and often

go above and beyond what is expected of them to ensure the smooth running of the hospitals."

Over 500 people volunteer at the Trust, helping in various ways such as visiting and spending time with patients, running craft activities on wards, meeting and greeting patients, and supporting the Spiritual Care Team.

To find out more about volunteering contact Will Darwick, Voluntary Services Manager:

Tel: 0151 430 1874 or email: [volunteers@sthk.nhs.uk](mailto:volunteers@sthk.nhs.uk)





# A year in pictures ...



## JANUARY

Our first babies of 2015, Robyn Roberts (left) and Paul-Junior Irvine – McKeown (right).



## FEBRUARY

Play Specialist, Sue Finnegan, celebrates Chinese New Year with patients on our children's wards.



## MARCH

Johnny Vegas came to share some chuckles on the children's ward



Staff joined in the fun on Red Nose Day!



Our lovely Midwife Joanne Price won Northern England Mums' Midwife of the Year at the Johnson's® Baby Awards

## APRIL

Celebrations for our fantastic staff who celebrated 40 and 25 years' service at the Trust's Long Service Awards 2015



## MAY

The Trust wins Best Patient Experience in the NHS. The award from

CHKS Top Hospitals recognises the consistently high standards of care provided to patients by staff



## JUNE

Gully Mouse and magician John Harding from Pod Charity pop in for a visit!



## JULY

A brilliant time was had by all at the 11th Annual Staff Awards

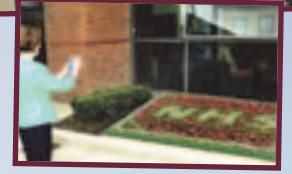


## AUGUST

MP Jane Ellison visits Whiston Hospital - and admires our award winning gardens!



Launch of The Breakfast Club – a great way to start the day!



## SEPTEMBER

THE Trust AGM gets underway



## OCTOBER

We're the Best in the NHS - again! PLACE (Patient Led Assessment of the Care Environment)

Joining in the party for Wear It Pink!

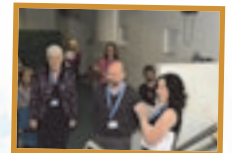


Masters of the Flu-niverse launched our Flu Fighter Campaign



## NOVEMBER

Collecting prizes at the annual Learners Awards



## DECEMBER

Festive fun at our Christmas Carol Concerts



Everton Ambassadors cheer up patients and visitors with a special Christmas visit



STAR WARDS In a hospital (not so) far far away. Staff are gripped by Star Wars fever!





# What a clever bunch!

The Trust's 6th Annual Development Awards Ceremony was recently held in Nightingale House. The evening celebrated the success of 114 staff who were awarded certificates and prizes for a range of qualifications including; apprenticeships, degrees through to functional skills and professional qualifications and awards.



Special guest, Candace Miller from National Skills Academy for Health spoke about her own passion for learning and congratulated the award winners on their achievements. She also thanked the Trust for encouraging staff to develop further and learn new skills.



Anne-Marie Stretch, Deputy Chief Executive spoke on behalf of everyone at the Trust when she said, "We are all very proud of our staff for demonstrating their determination, commitment and ambition in this way. Their achievements undoubtedly help the Trust deliver its vision of 5 star patient care to every patient every time."



## Meet the Trust Poster Girls!

A team from Therapy Services were awarded 3rd place in a national poster competition organised by SSNAP (Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme). Posters had to demonstrate how Stroke teams had used SSNAP data to make quality improvements to patient care. Cheryl Connor, Physiotherapist, Lucy Talbot, Speech and Language Therapist and Emma Griffiths, Occupational Therapist came up with the design and attended the UK Stroke Forum Conference in Liverpool to collect their award.



Lucy said "We illustrated our multi-disciplinary approach to improving assessment of patient's cognitive skills after Stroke. The work carried out has enabled us to offer improved access to assessment and recording, this resulted in a significant improvement in audit results for this standard. We are very pleased to have been selected for an award and look forward to spending the Amazon voucher as a team!"

*L-R Cheryl Connor and Lucy Talbot (Emma Griffiths absent) collecting their certificate from Alex Hoffman, Programme Manager for SSNAP*

# Shiny **New** Charity

WHISTON **and** ST HELENS  
HOSPITALS' CHARITY

Something very exciting is happening on the 28th January 2016 - we are launching our own hospital charity, the Whiston and St Helens Hospitals' Charity.

The Trust has operated a registered charity for a number of years. We call this 'charitable funds' but it is in fact a charity in the same way that the Christie, Alder Hey and Great Ormond Street all have hospital charities. At the moment though, not many people think of our hospitals as a charity in this way, and we want to change that.

The Trust hopes to raise the profile of its charity and raise more funds, and to do this we have given the charity a new name and created a set of fab fundraising materials to help our local communities raise money to support patient care at our hospitals. This is something new and really exciting, and we hope you can't wait to get involved!

Expect loads of brilliant ways to fundraise - there will be collection tins, donations envelopes and posters across our hospitals and local community.

On the 28th January we have two fantastic ways for you to join in the fun, and raise money for our shiny new charity. Here are all the details...

## Amazing Abseil

Take part in our amazing 60ft abseil down Whiston Hospital - this is open to absolutely anyone over the age of 16, all abilities and all levels of fitness. We are asking for a minimum sponsorship of £50 to take part (you can set up a Just Giving page which is a really simple way to fundraise). All you have to do is pre-register by calling Sam Barr on 0151 430 1134 / [Samantha.barr@sthk.nhs.uk](mailto:Samantha.barr@sthk.nhs.uk) where you will be allocated a 30 minute slot for your amazing abseil. Make sure to tell all your friends, family and colleagues - we want as many people as possible joining in! But remember that you must pre-register, and we advise you to do this ASAP to secure your place.

## Brighten My Day

We are asking everyone to wear their brightest and most colourful clothes on the 28th January - raising money for our charity, and for projects which brighten the lives of all our patients. You can take part in work that day, but also remember to tell your friends and family about it so they can join in the fun! All we ask is that you donate £1 on the day.

**Fancy doing this? Well you can now!**



## **M**o Bros

It's been a hair-raising month at the Trust as staff got behind the Movember movement to raise money and awareness of men's health issues.

'Taches were tweaked and trimmed to perfection.

Mark Hogg, Head of Business Development, Finance and Frank Carroll, Contract Director, Medirest were the winners of our Most Marvelous Moustache Award.

A special mention must also go to Landi Elezi, IT Development Manager who managed to maintain his spectacular Hulk Hogan whiskers for a whole week!

Between them the Mo Bros raised nearly £600. Well done!

*Landi Elezi as Hulk Hogan!*



*Winners Mark Hogg and Frank Carroll*





# Save the Date!

We know the Christmas presents aren't unwrapped yet, and New Year's Eve is still a couple of weeks away - but it's never too early to think about The Annual Staff Awards Night 2016!

Next year's event looks set to be even bigger and better with lots of surprises in store for you all. So get the date in your diary now - 13th May 2016 will be a night to remember.

Tickets go on sale 9th March 2016.



## Whiston Nurse is a Winner!

Congratulations to Midwife Julie Sanderson who has been named North West Nurse of the Year at this year's North West Pride Awards. Julie was nominated by mum, Louisa Gardiner, who she has looked after for two years since delivering her son Bobby, who was stillborn.

Julie said she was "humbled and honoured" by the award and added: "I'm lucky to meet so many amazing, strong people in my job - and to work with such a great team."

The North West Pride Awards celebrates the achievements of outstanding and inspirational individuals from across the region.

Children, young people, adults and professionals from all backgrounds are recognised for their bravery and remarkable contributions to society.



## Natalie is officially a Beacon of Hope!

Diabetic Clinical Nurse Specialist Natalie Hayes has been recognised for her amazing work providing a "buddying service" to young lymphoma patients at St Helens Hospital.

Lymphoma is the most common cancer affecting those under the age of 30 and around 1 in 10 cancers diagnosed in children are lymphomas. Natalie herself was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma in her early 20's. Now in remission, she was keen to help other young people going through the same diagnosis and treatment, so she set up the buddying scheme.

Natalie received her Beacon of Hope Award at the Lymphoma Association's annual awards ceremony, held at the ZSL London Zoo. She said, "I am thrilled to receive the award, this is very close to my heart and I'm truly delighted that something positive has come from my experience."

One of the patients who nominated her said "Natalie knew what I was going through because she had been through the same journey in the same hospital, so I felt really comfortable talking with her."

Julie Parr from the Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Centre based at the Lilac Centre said "Natalie's a 'natural' at helping others and I feel I speak on behalf of all the people she's helped when I say that she is incredible."

**Well done Natalie!**



# WE BUY BIGGER SO YOU BUY BETTER

## The Largest Mobility Super Store In The North West



The St Helens Mobility Superstore benefits from being part of the largest mobility retail operation in the UK. We hold a comprehensive range of products, and NHS prescription equipment can be delivered to your clients seven days a week by DBS checked staff.

We have a dedicated room for NHS prescription equipment. This room is available, at no cost, to health professionals to carry out private consultations with clients if required.

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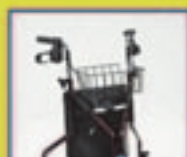
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08433 179 418



# Guess Who?

Can you guess who Santa is? Day passes for the Village Hotel, Whiston are up for grabs if you can tell us who's behind this Christmassy Costume!

## Winners of Issue 50 Guess Who?

Congratulations to all those who correctly identified the guess who in our previous edition as Joanne Gannon, Personal Assistant at St Helens Hospital.

The lucky winners of a one day leisure pass for the Village Hotel, Whiston are:

Paula Kane, Site Manager, Operational Services

Katie Garvey, Health Care Assistant, Sanderson Suite

Lynda Crank, Clerk, Burney Breast Unit

Lee Greenall, Dual Role Health Care Assistant, St Helens Theatres



## It could be you!!

# Trust LOTTERY

### November winners

Jillian Horman, Human Resources Department

Lindsay Hamlet, Ward 3B

Karen Edwardson, Governance Department

Ruth Jackson, Cancer Service

To be in with a chance of winning the 'Staff Lottery', search 'Lottery' on the staff intranet and download an application form. The draw takes place each Monday, and the lucky winner is announced via global email.



## Did you know?

# Xmas Special

- Norwegian scientists have hypothesized that Rudolph's red nose is probably the result of a parasitic infection of his respiratory system
- Germans made the first artificial Christmas trees out of dyed goose feathers
- The traditional three colors of Christmas are green, red, and gold. Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth, red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty
- Mistletoe (*Viscum album*) is from the Anglo-Saxon word misteltan, which means "dung twig" because the plant spreads through bird droppings!
- US scientists calculated that Santa would have to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, travelling at 650 miles a second
- Jingle Bells was the first song broadcast from space when Gemini 6 astronauts Tom Stafford and Wally Schirra sang it on December 16, 1965

## Staff News 'n' Views

Next Issue: February 2016

Many thanks to everyone who has been involved in producing this edition, if you would like to contribute to future editions please contact:

newsnviews@sthk.nhs.uk

The deadline for submissions for the next News 'n' Views is 31st January 2016.

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St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust



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