

## Members' newsletter, September 2017

Dear members,

For those of you reading this on paper, welcome to the last of our printed members' newsletter. After this edition we will no longer be sending out printed copies, and will use email as our main method of communication – helping to keep costs to a minimum.

Paper copies will continue to be available on request (through the Company Secretary's office) within the hospital and at public and governor meetings.

As always, there's some great news to share in this newsletter – from our successful campaign to encourage patients to return expensive equipment, to awards for our clinical research team. We have also seen our donations of medical apparatus help to improve the health of people living in other parts of the world, and we are delighted that a long-standing YDH doctor was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Since our last newsletter, the hospital site has also changed dramatically with the opening of our new multi-storey car park – the result of many months of building work and a Trust aspiration for many years.

I hope every reader will find something of interest, and I look forward to meeting some of you at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on the 27 September 2017.

Yours faithfully



Paul Mears  
Chief Executive



### Annual General Meeting update

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Wednesday 27 September 2017 at Yeovil District Hospital. The event will be held from 5.30pm-8.30pm in the Academy on Level 4. There will be a number of stands at this year's AGM providing attendees with an opportunity to discuss the latest key issues and 'hot topics' with hospital staff including:

- An update on Symphony Healthcare Services
- Membership and Governors
- Health Checks
- Hospital Charity
- Patient Experience
- League of Friends
- Recruitment and Apprentices
- TrakCare
- Details about plans to improve facilities; including the completion of our new multi-storey car park

### Membership email address and future newsletters

Yeovil Hospital is committed to reducing its costs and move towards a paperless system. This newsletter edition will be the last paper copy issued and future newsletters will now be sent via email. Paper copies will be available on request and within hospital waiting areas.

To share your email address with the Trust and ensure you continue to receive these updates and details of forthcoming membership events, please contact [membership@ydh.nhs.uk](mailto:membership@ydh.nhs.uk)

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### Day Surgery

Daycase UK, the new organisation established by the Trust and partner Ambulatory Surgery International to provide day surgery services, became operational earlier this year.

Since then, work has been underway, led by the Trust's strategic estates partner Interserve Prime, to develop plans for a new, dedicated Daycase UK surgery centre to be based on the land currently occupied by the old hospital car park. The new building will make day surgery procedures as safe, comfortable and efficient as possible, with everything from waiting rooms to theatres designed to reduce waiting times, and improve surgical quality and recovery.

Following a number of consultation events with staff and members of the public, planning permission for the new day surgery centre was granted by South Somerset District Council in July 2017 with unanimous support for the proposal.

Building work is expected to start in early 2018.

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## Governors' Surgeries

As part of plans to improve the accessibility and profile of the Trust's Governors – the elected public representatives who work alongside the Trust's Board – we are launching a new series of Governors' Surgeries, the first one of which took place in August 2017 and proved to be a great success.

Look out for details of forthcoming surgeries and use the opportunity to come and meet those elected to represent you with the hospital.

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## Summer exhibition of paintings line the outpatients gallery at Yeovil Hospital

Patients, visitors and staff at Yeovil District Hospital enjoyed the artistic talents of Somerset artist Sarah Stanislaus.

Arts Co-ordinator Caroline Barnes said: "Line, texture, rhythms and patterns all feature in this series of new paintings by Sarah Stanislaus. This new exhibition illustrated Sarah's keen interest in local surroundings with a special emphasis on wildlife, flora and fauna."

From a young age Sarah has always loved to draw and studied art at Somerset College. Over the years she has exhibited with a number of local galleries and community centres, often taking part in group exhibitions as well as solo shows.

Sarah is an Artist in Residence and Art Technician at Shapwick School near Bridgwater. Shapwick School is recognised under The Council for the Registration of Schools Teaching Dyslexic Pupils, which specialises in supporting children aged eight to 19 whose education has adversely been affected by dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia.

Sarah works from her studio at the Redbrick Building in Glastonbury and regularly takes part in art days and demonstrations.

If you are interested in Sarah's work please visit her website [sarahstanislausart.co.uk](http://sarahstanislausart.co.uk)

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## £1,200 worth of equipment returned after fantastic response by public

After a call for the return of therapies equipment, Yeovil Hospital thanks members of the public for returning a mass of items no longer needed by patients.

"The response by local residents has been incredible", says Liz Goodwill, Senior Occupational Therapist at the Trust. "In just one week, we've had over 120 items returned, from Zimmer frames, walking sticks and crutches to shoe horns and bath seats – collectively worth over £1,200. It's brilliant how quickly local people have reacted; our store cupboards are overflowing! Thank you to everybody who has taken time out of their day to drop these items back to us."

The returned equipment is already being sterilised ready for re-use, with more items expected to be dropped off over the coming weeks. Therapy Services Manager, Caroline Manson, said, "We are delighted with the positive response from members of the public. Every piece of equipment returned, be it a grabber or a back rest, is a tremendous help to our department in delivering services to our patients."

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A big thank you to everyone who's brought items back so far".

If you have any equipment at your home, there are lots of ways you can return them. During office hours, equipment can be dropped off to the Therapies Department at Yeovil Hospital, which is situated on the entrance level (Level 3). Out of hours, equipment can be returned to the hospital's main reception, which is also on Level 3. If you are unable to get to Yeovil, community hospitals across the county are also able to accept returned items; please phone ahead to check the best way to return items to your local community hospital.

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### **New trial at Yeovil Hospital to investigate how routine CBT could reduce impact of hot flushes for breast cancer patients**

Clinical trials are taking place at Yeovil Hospital – funded by leading charity Breast Cancer Now – to investigate the best way to deliver cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) to reduce the impact of two major side-effects for women undergoing breast cancer treatment.

Hot flushes and night sweats are common side-effects of current breast cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and anti-hormone drugs. Experienced by up to 70% of women receiving treatment, they can have a huge impact on their daily lives, often affecting employment, personal relationships and general quality of life, and sometimes leading to women not completing the full course of their treatment.

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### **Volunteers make an amazing difference at Yeovil Hospital**

322 local people regularly volunteer at Yeovil Hospital, and the staff used the opportunity of National Volunteer Week (1-7 June) to say a big thank you to each and every one.

Volunteers come in all ages, shapes and sizes including our furry helpers, the Pets As Therapy (PAT) animals who regularly make a big impression on patients and staff as they visit the wards.

Do you want to make a difference too? With jobs ranging through a whole spectrum of interests, whether it be inside, outside, patient-facing or behind the scenes, there is something for everyone, no matter what your age. Just email [volunteers@ydh.nhs.uk](mailto:volunteers@ydh.nhs.uk) to find out more.

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## **Two international conference awards for Yeovil Hospital's Clinical Research and Development Unit**

The clinical research department at Yeovil Hospital is celebrating two international conference awards.

Professor Nader Francis, a consultant surgeon in Clinical Research and Development at Yeovil Hospital, was presented with an award for best research at the International Congress of Enhanced Recovery after Surgery, held in Lyon, France. His research is around how biomarkers in breath can be used for the diagnosis of colorectal cancer.

Mr. Nathan Curtis, a research fellow in the hospital's Clinical Research Department, was presented with the sought-after Karl Storz Award at the 25th European Association of Endoscopic Surgeons international congress in Frankfurt, Germany. He was awarded the golden laparoscope trophy for best oral presentation, which was on his research around loss of life during colorectal surgery.

Competition for both awards was high, with Professor Francis speaking alongside 80 delegates from around the world including several from large universities known for their research.

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## **Yeovil Hospital consultant recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours list**

Dr Khalid Rashed, Consultant in Stroke Services at Yeovil Hospital, has been recognised with an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to Stroke Care in Somerset. Dr Rashed's colleagues nominated him for the Honour, which came as a big surprise to the consultant, who has worked at the hospital for over twenty years.

The Queen's Birthday Honours list, published on Friday 16 June 2017, recognises over 130 people for their contribution to education, children's services and equality.

Congratulations have been pouring in via social media from patients and patients' relatives as well as colleagues and wider Yeovil Hospital staff, with compliments given on the stroke specialist's approachability and particularly caring approach.

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## **Yeovil Hospital donates life-changing eye health equipment to Kenyan clinic**

Yeovil Hospital has announced its donation of a slit-lamp microscope to healthcare charity Aid Fund, supporting big improvements in safe and effective eye care in rural Kenya, where the charity runs a healthcare clinic that serves over 25,000 local inhabitants. AAF is an independent charity based in south Somerset set up with the aim of enabling access to essential healthcare for the poorest rural communities in eastern Kenya, with volunteer healthcare professionals from the UK taking trips to the African country to share their expertise.

The key piece of equipment is essential for the diagnosis of numerous diseases prevalent in the region where the charity is based. The microscope requires little energy to run and is therefore ideal for use in this area, which has limited access to electricity.



### **Little visitors discover what it's like to work at Yeovil Hospital**

The Children's Ward at Yeovil Hospital welcomed some little visitors for a career-themed trip.

The seven preschool-aged girls are visiting various work places around the local area as part of a project aimed at finding out what their parents do at work, and increasing their awareness of the world around them.

The trip was organised by local childminders Kellie Passmore and Lucy Ratcliffe who have joined together to plan these experiences for the children in their care.

Kellie said: "It's so difficult for little ones to understand what their mummies and daddies do at work and often what they think they do is wildly different from the reality. We spoke to the parents about our aim to take the children to each work place to help them with their understanding and they've all been extremely supportive.

"The trip to Yeovil Hospital opened up a lot of conversations and, most importantly, the children had fun!"

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### **Dementia has an impact on us all so it's time to grow your understanding**

Within the hospital we try to make a bit of a splash to support these important initiatives and when it comes to dementia awareness, each year we find ourselves trying to improve upon what we did the previous year. If we say that last year's Dementia Awareness week featured the premier of our 'Re-found Sound' project featuring the unveiling of a unique piece of music by the composer Marc Yeats, it may give an indication of what we mean by 'splash'. Marc's piece of music was designed to evoke a sense of confusion and disorientation for the listener which might be likened to experiencing some symptoms of dementia.

It was an unusual installation based on the words and experiences of people with dementia as well of those caring for people with the condition. It was designed to be thought provoking and encourage the listener to consider what it might be like to experience dementia. The entire Re-found Sound project has been incredibly successful. One part of it has enabled us to have regular live artists on the wards playing a variety of musical instruments for patients and the composed installation has found an audience at a number of national conferences and has even prompted some organisations to consider how it might be incorporated into educational resources around dementia.

This year, alongside our usual information stands, Dementia Friends sessions and a Retro Bingo fundraiser we decided to introduce music into the mix once again. On Thursday 18 May 2017 we had our very own tastefully decorated piano spending the day in the main entrance with a sign on it saying 'Play me I'm yours'.

You might ask what this has to do with dementia awareness. Not an unreasonable question and one that has been asked before when we are launching some of our seemingly more off beat initiatives. Our aim was for the music to encourage people to linger in the main entrance and perhaps ask us what it is in aid of – the perfect opener to a conversation about Dementia Awareness week.

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### **Yeovil Hospital wins national award for ICU data**

We are delighted to announce that Debbie McCall, Information and Audit Coordinator at Yeovil Hospital's ICU, won ICNARC's national award for Data Quality at this year's Case Mix Programme (CMP) audit. Representing YDH's ICU, she is one of three winners from 249 entrants in the competitive category, which includes every adult, general critical care unit across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as some specialist units.

The patient outcome audit collects data from all participating critical care units on all the patients they admit to their unit. The data from these patients is compared with the outcomes from other similar patients, other similar units and all the units in the CMP. Each unit then receives a data analysis report identifying trends over time with the aim of assisting decision-making, resource allocation and local quality improvement. This means that quality of data is paramount to good decision making based on the audit's findings.

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### **Yeovil Hospital opens long-awaited multi-storey car park**

The new car park is an impressive addition to the hospital site, featuring a purple glass frontage and aluminium 'fins' as part of the external design. Built over four floors, it includes 7,000 tonnes of concrete and 500 tonnes of steel, and sits on 409 load-bearing foundation 'piles', which together measure a total of 2.4km – more than six times the height of the Empire State Building!

The car park offers 650 spaces, shared between members of the public and hospital staff, and uses a barrier-controlled, pay-on-exit system, enabling motorists to pay only for the duration of their stay. Other parts of the site, including drop-off areas, will be monitored by automatic number-plate recognition cameras to ensure appropriate use and to maintain access for users. There has been an increase of 100 per cent in the number of blue badge spaces, with 31 spaces now available within the multi-storey car park, as well as new parent and child parking spaces, and even electric car charging points.

The new car park is situated on Higher Kingston, across the road from the hospital's main entrance. Motorists are asked to follow signage which will direct them to the car park, to drop-off points, and through the new one-way system.

Work is continuing to ensure the car park continues to meet the needs of users, with a public survey currently underway. We would welcome views from members who have used the car park in order to ensure we gain a fully representative sample.

Following the opening of the new car park and access road, Yeovil Hospital is working on a Travel Plan update as well as a continued project to improve access and parking at the hospital. As part of this we would like to invite you to share your thoughts via an online survey. By participating in this survey you can help us to understand your journey to the hospital and parking/travel needs, as we work to improve facilities at Yeovil Hospital.

You can reach the survey using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TDZNPCZ>

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## Charity Update

### Sunday 24 September – The Great Inflate-a-Race

Our bouncy 5km fun run with inflatable obstacles is taking place in the picturesque cross country ground of Aldon Park for the second year. Last year an incredible £50,000 was raised for Yeovil Hospital Charity. Registration is now open for this year's event. Registration is £20 with a minimum of £40 in sponsorship money. For further information or to register please go to [www.yeovilhospital.co.uk/the-great-inflate-a-race](http://www.yeovilhospital.co.uk/the-great-inflate-a-race)

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### Friends of Yeovil Hospital

The Friends of Yeovil Hospital have had another active year and have donated £146,511 (£184,092 in 2015/16) to the hospital to provide extra services and equipment not normally available on the NHS or items that will enhance the experience of patients, their relatives and the staff who take care of them – more user friendly equipment and comfort enhancing items.

Some key donations included a mobile scope, fans for the emergency department just in time for the hot weather, a battery ring cutter to remove jewellery from swollen digits, six Glidaway guest beds for the children's ward and a Nitrous Oxide Monitor for Asthma patients

The Friends are very pleased to have also funded 11 specialist trollies (one for each ward) designed, trialled and developed by a team of Yeovil Hospital on-call Junior Doctors in conjunction with a major medical equipment supplier. It is also hoped that this trolley will go into production nationwide.

The Friends Shop continues to be a main source of funding and we proudly donated the profits of £102,000 for the year ending September 2016 to the hospital. The shop continues to run the ward trolley service, delivering newspapers in the early morning and the general trolley service in the afternoons. In August 2016, The Friends Shop took over the coffee shop in the Emergency Department, now known as 'The Friends Coffee Shop'. Following a year of trading it has proved to be another success for the Friends Shop. The Shop and Coffee Shop are run mainly by volunteers, but to keep both of these enterprises operating successfully we need more volunteers. Due to relocation and sickness our volunteer list has reduced to around sixty. We welcome new volunteers to join our team and help us.

Please contact Margaret Spurr, Chairman of the Shop for more information on 01460 241181 or contact Anne Bennett, Chairman of The Friends of Yeovil Hospital on 01935 823271 or call into The Friends Shop on level 3.

Thank you for your support – we really appreciate it!

