

Members' *newsletter*

'How are you?'

Dear Member,

Some members will be aware, through articles in the local press, that previous Chief Executive Paul Mears has now left the Trust. I am proud to have been asked to continue in the role of Chief Executive, which I have been undertaking in Paul's recent absence, and am looking forward to building on his legacy of innovation with greater collaboration with our partners across Somerset.

Winter is traditionally the busiest time of the year for the NHS and this year was no exception. With a number of viruses circulating across the community – including flu and other, similar respiratory illnesses – and some exceptionally cold weather, our Emergency Department has been dealing with very high numbers of patients, with many arriving by ambulance needing urgent treatment. Despite this, we remain one of the best performing emergency departments (EDs) when it comes to the crucial 4-hour waiting-times target, regularly appearing among the top three Trusts in the country.

The work to manage such high-demand extends beyond the ED, with every ward and department playing their part in ensuring patients get the care they need, when they need it, and in the most appropriate place. This work – often referred to as 'patient flow' – also involves colleagues in organisations such as Somerset Partnership Trust and Somerset County Council, who work alongside us to help patients discharged to community hospitals, care homes, or home with additional social care.

Such collaboration enables us to maintain our commitment to patient safety and experience, and it from this that we have drawn our revised Trust vision statement: *'We will care for you as if you one of our family'*.

We believe this perfectly captures the ambition of our hospital and our staff and gives us renewed focus on the quality and safety of the care we provide as we enter a new (financial) year.

You'll find a real mix of news within this newsletter, from the stars at our latest staff iCARE Awards, to celebrating the 50 anniversary of our Women's Hospital; and from the wonders of new technology to the joys of reading. We've also got all the latest news and events from our Fundraising Team, including some which are not for the faint-hearted such as wing-walking and abseiling!

We're always looking for new members with an interest in their local NHS, so don't forget to point them towards the Membership Pages on our website (or simply point their phone towards the QR code on the final page).

Best wishes

Jonathan

Jonathan Higman
Chief Executive

Celebrating the best of the best at Yeovil Hospital



Nearly 300 members of staff, volunteers and their guests celebrated their award winning colleagues on a night to remember at the iCARE Awards 2017, sponsored by Interserve Prime, Ambulatory Surgery International, Medical Staffing, Bevan Brittan and Dorset Digital Print.

The iCARE Awards are the hospital's annual staff awards and recognise and reward excellence among Yeovil Hospital staff and volunteers who make such a positive impact on people's lives.

Eight award categories were presented ranging from the Long Service Awards for those who have worked at the hospital for 30 and 40 years, to the Rising Star of the Year Award.

More than 150 nominations were received from patients, members of the public and colleagues keen to highlight the amazing work the hospital's staff do day in and day out.

In the iCARE Excellence Award category fellow colleagues voted for the winner and Ivan Rendell, Theatre Care Assistant was crowned the winner on the night!

Women's Hospital celebrates 50 years of births

Yeovil Hospital held a traditional tea party last week to mark the 50th anniversary of the unit opening. The celebrations took place on Monday 11 December in the Women's Hospital and saw the current team be joined by staff members from the past, mums, dads, babies and toddlers.

Speaking about the occasion, Head of Midwifery Helen Williams said: "It's so lovely to see some familiar faces, see the growing babies that have been born here and catch up with the parents about how they're getting on."

"Over the last 50 years this building has been home to more than 50,000 births and over that time many things have changed in midwifery, from dads being at the birth and mums and babies going home much sooner than in years gone by, but the overall role of the midwife remains to support a mum through the birth of her baby."

"We receive a huge amount of support from the public through their fundraising efforts, our social media page and at events like this. It was great to see so many join us to celebrate and I would like to thank everyone who came and those who sent their best wishes."

The first birth in the maternity unit was on 18 July 1967, a boy weighing 7lbs. His mother received a cot and mattress from a local company and was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Mr Jon Hart, chairman of the hospital house committee. The unit was 'officially' opened on 8 May 1968 by Sir John English, so the celebrations took place half way between the two dates (and who doesn't like cake at Christmas?).



Mark Saxton to join the CQC as non-executive board member

Mark Saxton, Non-Executive Director at Yeovil Hospital, will be joining the Care Quality Commission as a non-executive board member on 1 March 2018.

Mark was appointed to the Trust Board in 2012, and has chaired the Workforce Committee since November 2015 and the Remuneration Committee since January 2016.

Paul von der Heyde, Chairman of Yeovil Hospital said, "Throughout the last five years Mark has provided valued constructive challenge in his role as a non-executive director. His determination to improve services for staff and patients has always shone through. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark on behalf of the Trust for all of his work at Yeovil Hospital and we wish him all the best as he joins the CQC."



New mobile app will improve patient care

We're pleased to announce the Trust's plans to introduce a new mobile app that will improve clinical decision-making and patient safety across the hospital, as part of our existing digital strategy.

Through a partnership with the British company DeepMind Health, we are implementing the Streams app – mobile software which makes clinical information readily available to staff at the patient's bedside.

From its launch next year staff will be able to use Streams for vital signs observations, capturing information such as heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate, temperature and alertness, which will instantly be available to other Yeovil Hospital Streams users involved in caring for that patient.

Later applications will include notifications about deteriorations in patient health, and alerts to the potential presence of serious conditions such as acute kidney injury. Enhancing clinical expertise and experience in this way enables staff to react even more swiftly to ensure the best outcomes for patients. It will also provide a range of teamwork and collaboration tools across devices and operating systems.

The new Streams app will not use any information that is not already available to hospital staff and the patient data remains under the control of Yeovil Hospital at all times.

Our partnership with DeepMind forms part of our strategy to make the best use of new and emerging technology to improve treatment and patient health and is the fourth Streams partnership, following on from the company's work with Musgrove Hospital in Taunton, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, and the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr Joe Tyrrell wins international conference award

We are delighted to announce that Dr Joe Tyrrell, Consultant in Anaesthetics at Yeovil Hospital, has won third place for best e-poster at the European Society of Regional Anaesthesia and Pain Therapy's international conference, held this year in Switzerland.

The e-poster details research undertaken by a team of Yeovil Hospital staff led by Dr Tyrrell, into the use of Tapentadol (a pain-relieving drug) in a group of post-operative patients.

"As part of an ongoing quality improvement initiative designed to optimise outcomes for patients undergoing total knee replacement", says Dr Tyrrell, "we assessed the effectiveness of Tapentadol in this context. Of particular interest are the apparent reduction in length of stay (despite worse pre-admission mobility), and fewer adverse effects."

The cross-departmental research team spent nearly a year gathering data and researching before Yeovil Hospital's drugs and therapeutics committee approved the new use of the drug.

The team includes Clinical Nurse Specialist in Acute Pain, Hayley Kirtland (pictured), and Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Dr Ben Lankester, as well as Sister Kirsten Aberly and nursing staff on Ward 6A, and the Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation team.

The European Society of Regional Anaesthesia and Pain Therapy's international conference has been taking place annually since 1980 and is attended by over 2,000 professionals from across the globe.

About the win, Dr Tyrrell said, "It was a bit of a surprise! I wasn't really expecting to win anything but we have a great team here and it's credit to them that the research presented was so well received.

Tapentadol is now in use at Yeovil Hospital for patients who have had some types of knee surgery as part of new and more efficient pain-relief plan, with fewer side effects. We're excited about the benefits this will have for patients; including improving their mobility and helping them get home sooner."

Yeovil Hospital wins NHS cancer surgery research prize

A team from Yeovil Hospital has received national recognition for its innovative and 'excellent' cancer care.

Professor Nader Francis and the Colorectal Multi-Disciplinary Team at Yeovil Hospital have won the 2017 Cancer Research Excellence in Surgical Trials (CREST) Award at the British Association of Surgical Oncologists (BASO) and National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) Cancer Conference.

The team won the award for their research work, including studies into the impact of 3D imaging to improve surgery, and the use of different stitches to prevent complications after operations.

The award is managed by the NIHR Clinical Research Network and supported by Swann-Morton. Now in its fourth year, the award is presented to a surgical oncology team that has made the greatest contribution in recruitment to the NIHR cancer trials portfolio.

Friends of Yeovil Hospital

The Friends of Yeovil Hospital had another active year from October 2016 to September 2017 donating £145,581 to the hospital compared to £146,511 the previous year. Since the last newsletter a further £32,543+ February 18 has been donated. The Friends provide many extra services and equipment not normally available on the NHS which enhances the experience of the patients, their relatives and the staff who care for them – particularly providing user friendly equipment and comfort promoting items.

Since September 2017, The Friends have provided some of the latest and best suited equipment for the Emergency Department (A&E) and the Maternity services; the Chapel has a new keyboard and there are new smart TVs in each bay in 6a. There were Christmas presents for all in-patients as well as special presents for Christmas and New Year babies.

We receive our funding from generous legacies and donations from our local community although we rely heavily on our own Friends' Shop.

The Friends' Shop continues to be our main source of funding. The Shop continues to run the daily Ward Trolley Service delivering newspapers in the early morning and the general Trolley Service in the afternoons. The Friends Coffee Shop in the Emergency Department is continuing to thrive and provides yet another valuable service.

The Friends Shop, Trolley Service and Coffee Shop are all run mainly by volunteers, but to keep all of these enterprises operating successfully we need more volunteers. It is an extremely rewarding job and we welcome new members to our team to help us. Please contact Margaret Spurr, Chairman of the Shop, for more information on 01460 241181 or call into The Friends' Shop on Level 3.

The Friends Shop and the main Committee of the League of Friends of YDH

Would you like to be a Friends volunteer and be part of the annual profit of about £100,000 donation to the hospital. This profit is vital and added to other funds enables the Friends Committee to donate around £150,000 pa to help buy services, equipment and comfort for our patients.

Or you might prefer to become part of the main Friends Committee which meets 6 times a year to help decide how the donation should be spent. In fact you may have a special interest or skill that you wish to continue to use.

The Friends of Yeovil Hospital are desperately short of volunteers – we would welcome you.

The Friends Volunteers are part of a department within the hospital. Your enthusiasm, steadfastness and a hands-on attitude are the most needed qualities. Full training is given to all Shop volunteers.

Contact:

- The Shop – Margaret Spurr – margaretspurr@btconnect.com
- The Committee – Anne Bennett – tbennettcoat@gmail.com

Yeovil Hospital launches The Reading Project

Yeovil Hospital is embracing the power of reading this week as famous authors read to patients on the wards as part of National Storytelling Week.

On Tuesday 30 January Tamsin Cooke, author of children's book *The Cat Burglar*, entertained patients on the Children's ward.

Tamsin Cooke said, "There is something really special, calming and comforting having someone read to you. Books are a great tonic. If people feel unwell and unable to read, they can listen to the words and escape into a great story."

To celebrate the National Storytelling Week the hospital is launching a new initiative for volunteers: The Reading Project. The project aims to give patients, particularly those who are finding it difficult to read independently, the chance to enjoy the benefits of reading while in hospital

Janine Valentine, Nurse Consultant for Older People outlined how reading can have therapeutic benefits for patients:

"We have found that even a short story or poem can help reduce stress and distract patients from their immediate hospital environment. For some of our older patients, particularly those with a dementia, this can be an opportunity to stimulate and improve memory – listening and becoming engaged in a plot, solving a mystery or simply imagining what a character might be wearing can all help our brains be more active."

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for The Reading Project please contact [Amy Phelps](#).



The Yeovil Hospital Charity update



Thanks to donations and legacies from the public in the last 12 months, we have been able to: Modernise A&E; carry out ward refurbishments; buy 3 new patient monitors; provide a Wellbeing Officer for patients with dementia; purchase life-saving equipment for sick babies; pay for a Liaison Officer to support people who have been given bad news about their eyesight; fund art around the hospital; arrange for musicians to perform on the wards; buy an electrocardiograph for cardiac rehab patients (and much, much more!).

Fundraising Events

Sunday 20th May – Yeovil Abseil Challenge

Our annual abseil is taking place from the roof of Yeovil Hospital from 10am. Registration is £15 and we ask you to raise a minimum of £75 in sponsorship. You can support any area of the hospital. To register or find out more information please go to [Yeovil Abseil Challenge](#).

Saturday 9th June – Wing Walking

If you've been looking for that next fist-pumping, adrenaline-fuelled challenge... this is it! Join our Wing Walk at Compton Abbas Airfield on Saturday 9th June. Registration is £79 (until the 1st March, then it will be £99), with a minimum of £599 in sponsorship for Yeovil Hospital Charity. For more information and terms and conditions, please go to [Wing Walking](#).

Sunday 9th September – The Great Inflate-a-Race

Our bouncy fun run is back for its 3rd year and will again be taking place in the picturesque cross country ground of Aldon Park. For further information or to register, please go to [Great Inflate a race](#). We also need volunteers at this event. If you would like to help marshal the route, man a water station, or support one of the other volunteering roles, please contact Sarah Cherry on 01935 383020 or email [Sarah Cherry](#).

How you can help the Yeovil Hospital Charity...

Leaving us a gift in your will

Leaving a legacy gift is easier than you think and you don't need to choose between the hospital and your loved-ones. It's a unique opportunity to make a lasting difference. Just like the hospital's doctors and nurses, you will be helping people at a time when they need it the most. Call James on 01935 383020 or email [James Kirton](#).

Become a Yeovil Hospital Champion

You can become a Hospital Champion by donating to Yeovil Hospital every month. Income from regular-givers means we can buy what is needed, whenever it is needed. This means that more local people will benefit from a better equipped hospital with better facilities and services. As a Hospital Champion, you will be invited to attend a 'Behind the Scenes' tour of the hospital. Call James on 01935 383020 or email [James Kirton](#).

Share any unwanted gifts

Yeovil Hospital Charity needs unwanted and unused gifts that can be used as tombola prizes. Please call Sarah Cherry on 01935 383020 or email [Sarah Cherry](mailto:Sarah.Cherry@ydh.nhs.uk).

Do you have family or friends who would like to become a member of Yeovil District Hospital?

If so ask them to visit the link below:

[Yeovil Hospital Membership](#)

Or they can scan the QR code on their electronic device



Governors' Surgeries

An opportunity to come and meet and engage with your local Governors of the hospital, in Outpatients, Level 3, 10:00-12:00 and 14:00-16:00:

Thursday 26 April 2018

Thursday 31 May 2018

Thursday 18 June 2018

For more information please email: membership@ydh.nhs.uk

Membership Discounts



Have you accessed the Health Service Discounts? By being a member of the Trust you have access to exclusive deals and money saving offers on travel, mobile phones, clothing and many more. Please visit Health Service Discounts on the link below for more information:

[Health Service Discounts](#)