



foundations for health

Autumn 2021

NHS

Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Hospital staff enjoy
a wild day out as a
THANK YOU



Drive-through ECG service **p13**



Christmas stars to return **p8**



Flu vaccination for staff **p3**

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Bassetlaw moves to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System

Bassetlaw district joins Nottinghamshire Integrated Health System – The district of Bassetlaw will now align with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System (ICS), moving it from the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS.

While this will change budget allocation and commissioning arrangements within the area, we want to assure our communities it does not affect the daily operations of Bassetlaw Hospital – Bassetlaw Hospital remains a key site within our Trust and you are unlikely to see any changes on a day-to-day basis.

The decision does not change existing patient

pathways, and individuals will continue to be seen and treated by their local GP practice, as well as at Bassetlaw Hospital, and they will also carry on receiving other health and care services in the same way. It also does not affect any future developments and investments planned for this site (watch this space!)

The key difference will be the development of stronger connections between Nottinghamshire ICS and the Trust in the planning of health and Social care services to improve the health and wellbeing of Bassetlaw people. We can't wait to get started.

Thank you and we will share any other relevant updates in the coming weeks and months.

If you have comments or want further information about any of the articles in *Foundations for Health* please contact the Communications & Engagement team on 01302 644244.

This magazine is produced four times a year, with three digital copies and one paper copy in August. To receive an electronic version of this magazine and invites to member events, please send us your name and email address to dbth.foundation.office@nhs.net or contact the Foundation Trust Office on 01302 644158.

DBTH vaccinate almost 1,000 colleagues against the flu in just 48 hours

In just two days more than 800 nurses, doctors and other health professionals have volunteered to get their flu jab at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH).

The Trust, which runs three hospitals in the region as well as outpatient services at various community sites, is on a mission to vaccinate all colleagues directly involved in patient care and treatment. No stranger to tackling the winter illness, DBTH has been amongst the first acute NHS providers to vaccinate 75 per cent of front-line staff against the illness for the past number of years.

GETTING THE JAB ENSURES OUR STAFF ARE PROTECTING THEMSELVES, THEIR COLLEAGUES, AND THEIR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND LOVED ONES.

Since beginning on Monday 20 September, the organisation's team of vaccinators have worked tirelessly in order to give medics and clinicians easy access to the vaccine. As was the case in 2020, the health provider is placing significant emphasis on this year's campaign as there is a potential for influenza, norovirus and COVID-19 to be circulating as the weather turns colder.



David Purdue, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Nurse, said: "Ensuring colleagues protect themselves against flu is extremely important, however, given the challenges of the past 18 months, it is absolutely crucial. Team DBTH have been working hard in their fight against COVID-19, and as winter arrives we will begin to see cases of both flu and norovirus, in addition to the challenges

presented by the pandemic. Getting the jab ensures our staff are protecting themselves, their colleagues, and their friends, family and loved ones."

Throughout the rest of September and into October, the Trust will continue to vaccinate its workforce to further reduce the risk of hospital patients contracting flu this winter, with an additional COVID-19 booster programme also planned. Visitors can also help in the fight against flu and other winter illnesses by not coming to the Trust to see relatives and friends in hospital if they have flu and cold symptoms such as fever, chills, headache, cough, body aches and fatigue – in addition to COVID-19 symptoms. A full list of visiting restrictions can be viewed here: <https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/coronavirus-need-know/>

Flu can cause a range of illnesses from mild to severe, even among healthy people. People aged 65 and over, pregnant women, anyone with diabetes, chest or heart conditions and others in at-risk groups are advised to ask their GP about having the flu vaccine.

Health professionals at the Trust are also urging local people to adhere to Government guidelines on Covid-19, particularly stressing the importance of hands, face and space.

David continues: "This has been a difficult year in many ways, but our communities have been outstanding in their support. Please continue a little while longer – wash your hands regularly, wear an appropriate face covering when necessary, and leave a two metre distance between yourself and others when out and about. Adherence to these three things will make all the difference this winter."



Hospital staff enjoy a wil

As a 'thank you' for the tremendous effort its staff have made throughout the challenges presented by Covid-19, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) teamed up with Yorkshire Wildlife Park (YWP) to host an exclusive 'thank you' event for local NHS heroes.

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive of DBTH said: "Over the past 18 months, every single member of Team DBTH has worked tirelessly to adapt to new ways of working which has allowed us to continue to care for patients throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. A large number of them have also spent a lot of time away from their families and they themselves have had to deal courageously with additional worries and anxieties of having a loved one fighting this disease on the frontline.

"We want to recognise these truly heroic contributions during the pandemic, and we thought the Yorkshire Wildlife Park provided the perfect opportunity for this. The park is set over hundreds of acres of land which will allow us all to adhere to social distancing guidance, whilst also coming together to celebrate our recent achievements, during what has been the most challenge period the Trust has ever encountered. It is a small gesture, but the least we could do for our amazing team."

Taking place on Saturday 25 September, staff at Bassetlaw Hospital, Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Montagu Hospital and Retford Hospital gained exclusive access to the 175 acre park, with family and loved ones also invited to come along to share in the fun. The



Trust's Board of Directors personally greeted guests, as well as presenting a special 'thank you' badge to all of the staff at DBTH.

This approach of bringing colleagues together, alongside their families and loved ones is supported by mental health experts and is seen as a good way to move past a time of high stress and anxiety.

Professor Neil Greenberg, a world-leading expert in trauma at King's College London who set up the Mental Health staff support strategy at London's Nightingale Hospital said: "Resilience doesn't lie in individuals, but between individuals and now is a time

when social networks and bonds need to be as strong as possible. Hospital trusts should be doing everything they can to provide opportunities for those social bonds to be really strengthened."

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trust received an overwhelming amount of support from local residents in Doncaster and Bassetlaw, and many donors who provided funds made specific requests that their donations be used for the benefit of staff. Amongst these donations, DBTH Charity received a number of large sums from local businesses and individuals including Premiere



and day out as a thank you



League footballer and local lad, Danny Rose whose contribution will fund a large proportion of the events.

Another large proportion of the funding for the event is attributed to a donation made to the Trust through NHS Charities together after Captain Tom raised £32.8million for NHS colleagues.

Each member of staff received one free ticket, and could also purchase two more at half-price. The event has been funded by kind donations given to the Trust during the pandemic, with YWP match-funding, providing half of the allocation of tickets. The offer is also extended to those who work at the hospitals but are not contracted to the NHS, as well as students and those who do regular bank shifts within the Trust.

Yorkshire Wildlife Park CEO John Minion said: "We are delighted to show our support for front line workers after what has been an incredibly tough year for them all. We are really proud to host them all at our newly expanded park and will do everything to ensure they have a great day out."

A number of local celebrities were at the park on the day to say thank you to their health heroes including Olympic Taekwondo athlete Bradly Sinden who brought home silver

for Great Britain at Tokyo 2020. European Championship gold-medallist sprinter Lee Thomson and current Scottish record holder for the 200m sprint, Beth Dobbin were also at the park on the day to celebrate their health heroes.

Richard continues: "Finally, I would like to take

this opportunity to thank my Trust colleagues again for the inspiring effort and bravery you have displayed over the last few months and extend this thank you to your families for their resilience and patience. It was fantastic to see our colleagues spending some well-earned downtime with each other and their families."



DBTH Stars receive special award

In the months leading up to the event, hospital staff nominated colleagues who they thought deserved special recognition for their work over the last 18 months. During the event, the winners of the awards, all from various hospital departments which contributed to the Covid-19 response, received animal experiences for going above and beyond. The experiences, sponsored by a range of businesses who wanted to show their support to our NHS Heroes, gave the lucky winners the opportunity to feed and tend to animals within their enclosures, including wallabies, otters, meerkats and giraffes.



Star of the Year 2020:

Kay Cotton

Kay was our Star of the Year 2020 – Kay goes above and beyond on her ward and has been using her skills from a previous life as a hairdresser to help our patients feel better whilst they are in hospital.

Kay is pictured receiving her award with her family. We're eagerly awaiting a photo of her with a Giraffe during her VIP experience!



Apprentice of the Year:

Pearl Dzapas

Pearl was named our Apprentice of the Year for 2020! Pearl was nominated by several of her colleagues for her unwavering commitment. With several other MSWs off isolating at once, Pearl carried the clinics with a smile.

Here she is receiving her award from Richard Parker before heading off to feed some wallabies!

This award was sponsored by:



Doncaster
College

University
Centre

Star of the Year 2019:

Helen Bird

Helen Bird is named our Star of the Year 2019 (presented retrospectively as our last award ceremony was cancelled due to Covid). Helen was chosen as the winner of this category after she worked additional hours in her own time to help Mentor and develop an apprentice in her department.

Unfortunately, Helen wasn't able to make it on the day but will receive her special prize at a later date!



Patient Champion:

Michael Fiedor

Michael was named our Patient Champion for 2020! Michael was nominated for his compassion and commitment to improve experience in the Emergency Department.

Here he is receiving his award from Richard Parker. Michael and his family also had a smashing time feeding some wallabies at the park!

This award was sponsored by:



ModuleCo

Manufactured for Life

Wellbeing Hero: Nicol Whiteside

Nicol was awarded the Wellbeing Hero award for 2020 as she has been instrumental in increasing DBTH's wellbeing offer over the challenges of covid to make sure support is available to you when you need it most.

Check her out being a top ranger and delivering breakfast to these cute otters!

This award was sponsored by:



Awards at Yorkshire Wildlife Park



Redeployed Hero: Lucy Nagy

Our Redeployed Hero for 2020 is Lucy Nagy – Lucy was redeployed to DCC and A&E during Covid. She was nominated for embracing the change to night shifts and arranging childcare to commit to extra hours.

Unfortunately, Lucy is currently isolating but received her certificate and prize in the post – stay tuned for photos of her animal experience!

This award was sponsored by:



Embracing Change:

People and Organisational Development

People and Organisational Development are our Embracing Change winners for 2020!

This team introduced extra services including the TLC service, sickness lines and advice lines during the pandemic, in order to support their clinical colleagues.

This award was sponsored by:



Mentor of the Year:

Rebecca Blanshard

Our Mentor of the Year for 2020 was Rebecca Blanshard! – Rebecca was nominated for the support that she offers her peers and for making new starters in the department feel prepared and comfortable even during recent challenges.

Well done Rebecca! Here she is enjoying a meerkat experience with her little ones.



Student of the Year:

Ehthayoumoo Myint

Our Student of the Year for 2020 is Ehthayoumoo Myint who received an incredible 13 nominations from their colleagues who all greatly appreciated the amount of dedication and effort she brings to her role in Histopathology.

Ehthayoumoo is described as a joy to work with and an exceptional student who goes above and beyond.



Unsung Hero: Cesar Moreno

Cesar is our Unsung Hero of the Year for 2020 – we're sure you've all been blessed to encounter Cesar in one of our corridors and had your day brightened by his unfaltering positive attitude and charisma.

Unfortunately, Cesar was hard at work on Saturday and couldn't make it to the park but he will be receiving a very special prize at a later date!

This award was sponsored by:



Team of the Year 2019: Ward S12

Ward S12 were named Team of the Year for 2019 (presented retrospectively as our last award ceremony was cancelled due to Covid).

This team were nominated, with special mention of Calum Smith and Ashish Talawdekar, by a patient whom they cared for, for the exceptional care and compassion they gave to them.

Team of the Year 2020:

Swabbing Team

Our Swabbing Team were named Team of the Year for 2020.

This team were nominated for the exceptional service they provide for staff requiring swab tests. They have been central to the organisation's covid response and have done it all with positivity and enthusiasm despite it being a new and challenging role.

Outstanding Contribution:

Respiratory, DCC and ITU

The winners of this award were chosen personally by Richard Parker, Chief Executive and Suzy Brain England, Chair of the Board, to recognise their incredible efforts throughout the Pandemic.

These three departments worked around the clock to care for our most vulnerable patients and provide them with the very best care whilst navigating additional pressures such as needing to wear the highest levels of PPE.

What they achieved was nothing short of amazing.

This award was sponsored by:



Christmas stars to return at DBTH

Health professionals at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital are hoping that their buildings will shine with starlight this December once again, in tribute to the efforts of NHS heroes throughout the year, as well as in memory of those we have sadly lost.

A variety of stars, of all shapes and sizes are now available to sponsor in time for the festive period. The illuminations will be safely secured to the buildings which make up local hospitals within the area, each bearing a special message from their respective sponsor. At night, they will begin to shine, filling the immediate area with seasonal starlight.

Last year over 60 local businesses, organisations and families got involved, each donating anywhere from £300 to £1,500 to sponsor a star, and in the process raising over £30,000 which has been directly reinvested into patient care, treatment and facilities at the Trust.

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said: "Last year we were utterly amazed by the support this campaign has generated, and we are hoping for similar in 2021. Those who saw the display last year will agree how fantastic our hospitals looked, and, given the past 12 months, it will be a lovely tribute to those NHS heroes amongst us, as well as a mark of respect to those who have sadly passed.

"The kindness shown to the Trust, and the wider NHS, throughout the past few months has been humbling. So please, if you wish to go above and beyond for your local hospitals, think about sponsoring a star this December. Your donation, big, small or somewhere in between is hugely appreciated."

Sponsors last year included a number of generous local families, individuals and schools, as well as the following businesses and organisations: DFS who were the headline sponsors of the event, Greencore, Polypipe, DAC Beachcroft, Ye Olde Bell, Tusker Direct, OLS Ltd, Star Commercials, Doncaster Chamber, the Fred and Ann Green Legacy Fund, Doncaster College, Prospect Hill Post Office, Doncaster Council, National Fluid Power Station, NHS Doncaster and Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Groups, XPO Logistics, NMC Group, HIRD, AMH Accountancy, Quayside Childcare, Pacy and Wheatley, SYS Ltd, Instastop, NHS Professionals, National Kidney Federation, The Crucible Trading Company, Companionate Care Team, Marketing Labs and Transave to name a few.

How can I sponsor a star?

If you wish to sponsor a star, please contact dbth.charity@nhs.net for more information click [here](#).

If you have any questions about how you can support DBTH, you can contact the Fundraising and Communications Team on 01302 644244 / dbth.charity@nhs.net





DBTH first within the NHS to achieve RACE accreditation

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) has become the first NHS organisation to qualify to use the RACE (Reporting Action Composition Education) Equality Code Quality Mark, following assessment.

The new code has been developed to help organisations take action to improve race equality within the workplace. The Race Equality Code draws learning and recommendations outlined in reports, charters, and pledges, with the aim of supporting organisations who are actively tackling diversity and inclusion challenges. It was launched in October last year as part of Black History Month 2020 by Dr Karl George MBE and a national steering group of experts in governance and racial inequalities.

To qualify to display the mark, the Trust had to go through an in-depth assessment and develop an action plan to demonstrate that it encourages racial equality amongst its workforce and is actively improving internal measures.

As part of the assessment process and before they are granted use of the mark, organisations must show that they meet the standards for each of the RACE principles and have an action plan to tackle areas of improvement. A RACE action plan will include measures for publicly reporting on

progress, improving HR practices, increasing diversity at senior levels and educating staff on racial inequality.

Speaking about the accreditation, Karen Barnard, Director of People and Organisational Development, said: "We are so pleased to have been awarded the use of the RACE Code Quality Mark. As an organisation which

"WE ARE COMMITTED TO BEING AN INCLUSIVE EMPLOYER, AND BELIEVE THAT THE RACE CODE WILL SUPPORT US TO DELIVER THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN RECRUITMENT, PROMOTION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR EMPLOYEES."

employees over 6,600 members of staff drawn from a variety of backgrounds, it is vital that we place equality and diversity at the heart of our plans in order to better reflect the needs of our communities in Doncaster, Bassetlaw and beyond.

"As a Trust, we are committed to promoting inclusions across all of our varied specialities and specialisms, taking steps to raise awareness of any disparities within our own

organisation, to create a better workplace for all.

"Gaining the use of this Quality Mark is just one step upon our journey, and as we recover from the pandemic we will continue to deliver on our RACE action plan which we, ultimately, believe will aid us in our overall vision of providing the safest care in England, and to be outstanding in all that we do."

Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board, said: "We are committed to being an inclusive employer, and believe that the RACE Code will support us to deliver the highest standards in recruitment, promotion and the development of our employees."

"From the work we do with schools (encouraging pupils to look at health careers) and in our recruitment to all roles, and the development of our individuals, we want everyone to achieve their aspirations and employ a workforce that mirrors the diverse communities we serve. We worked closely with Dr George from the very inception of the Code and we are now the first NHS organisation to be accredited, of which I am very proud."

In the past year, the Trust has strengthened its commitment to fairness within the organisation, appointing Kirby Hussain as Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, whilst a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Staff Network has been established.

DBTH undertake more than 150,000 COVID-19 tests

In August, the Microbiology team at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) completed their 150,000th Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, one of the most common screening tools for COVID-19.

Early on within the pandemic, the Trust had relied on its partners at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals to undertake testing for patients, however with limited capacity, this meant that around only 50 swabs sent from DBTH could be scrutinised for the illness.

Thanks to some quick thinking and planning by the organisation's Microbiology team, the Trust was able to take delivery of new equipment, providing DBTH with in-house testing. This was up and running by April 2020, with patients and staff alike benefitting from the innovative technology.

The PCR test is able to detect the virus by analysing samples obtained on extra-long cotton buds that are inserted up the nose and into the back of the throat. Specialists, like those from DBTH's resident Microbiology laboratory team, can then process the result using real-time PCR techniques – a scientific method which creates a large amount of copies of a specific target, amplifies it and analyses it in detail. In all, the process takes a few hours to confirm whether the swab is positive or negative.

A key tool in the Trust's fight against COVID-19, this in-house test has been measured as having a sensitivity (chance of producing true negatives) of 98% and a specificity (chance of producing true positives) of 96%. Due to improvements in efficiency and hard work, the average turnaround time from patient to completed test is now on average, 11 hours, with hundreds carried out each and every day.

Speaking about the achievement, Michael Leng, Head Biomedical Scientist in Microbiology, said: "Throughout the pandemic our Microbiology team has worked night and day to ensure that we are identifying COVID-19 as early as possible, returning tests quickly and accurately. The amount of work involved cannot be underestimated and I'm extremely proud of their efforts since March 2020 – they have evidenced just how important this particular function is within any hospital, and they have been instrumental in keeping both our patients and colleagues safe. Thank you and well done!"

In addition to PCR testing, the Trust now has access to a range of rapid testing options, including molecular tests which offer an alternative fast and portable way to detect SARS-CoV-2 infection. This is also complemented by the requirement for all front-line staff to undertake twice weekly lateral flow testing, which is primarily used to detect any asymptomatic cases of COVID-19.

Since March 2020, 3,500 COVID-19 positive patients have been treated at across Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw Hospital and Montagu Hospital. Since that time, 2,640 individuals have been safely discharged to continue their recovery at home, whilst 828 have sadly passed away.



Trust's Orthodontic and Maxillofacial Laboratory Manager selected to join the Healthcare Leadership Academy as Scholar

Andrea Johnson has been selected to join the Healthcare Leadership Academy (HLA) Scholars programme.

After completing a rigorous selection process, Andrea Johnson will be joining the academy's cohort for the 2021/22 academic year.

Founded in 2016, the HLA scholarship recognises healthcare students and professionals with proven leadership ability and gives them the opportunity to take their leadership skills to the next level.

The HLA aims to inspire and support healthcare students and professionals to change the world of healthcare through leadership, one small step at a time.

Andrea Graduated from De Montfort University with a first-class BSc honors in Dental Technology in 2013 and she has worked for DBTH trust since 2017 in her role as Orthodontic & OMFS Laboratory manager. she is also, the OMFS Deputy Lead for Clinical Governance and a Quality Improvement Coach. Outside of work Andrea is well known for her work helping the homeless through her own dental charity Den-Tech. The first female Chair of the Orthodontic Technicians Association, Andrea is a member of many advisory boards and steering committees, with professional bodies such as the College of General Dentistry and regulators such as the General Dental Council. She is regularly invited to speak at conferences and events both in the UK and abroad including as a guest speaker at various Universities and colleges around the country.

Speaking about the opportunity, Andrea, said:

"I am utterly thrilled and honored to have been selected as a Scholar for the HLA, and I cannot wait to start my leadership journey with them. I have such a drive and passion for healthcare leadership, and I cannot wait to see how I can grow and develop my leadership skills to better enable me to help make a real difference within the NHS that I love."

The HLA started with the flagship HLA Scholars programme based in London and since then it has rapidly spread across the UK, with cohorts in London, Newcastle, Bristol, Belfast, and Edinburgh, as well as Amsterdam.

It was formed in response to demand from young clinicians and medical students to learn about leadership. The aim of the programme is to inspire the next generation of healthcare professionals and develop their understanding of leadership.

Speaking about this year's cohort, Johann Malawana, Director of the HLA, said:

"After a rigorous and competitive application



process, with over 1,800 people starting the application process, we are delighted to welcome Andrea to our 2021-2022 scholars.

"The pandemic has reinforced the need for leaders who inspire, listen and care. At a time of great global challenge, it is important that the next generation of healthcare leaders are motivated, inspired, and prepared in order to best look after the populations they serve.

"I AM UTTERLY THRILLED AND HONORED TO HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS A SCHOLAR FOR THE HLA, AND I CANNOT WAIT TO START MY LEADERSHIP JOURNEY WITH THEM."

"We look forward to seeing what this generation of Scholars achieve with the platform they are given through the HLA and its community."

As part of their role, Scholars are expected

to develop a community project over the course of the one-year programme, with previous projects having reached national prominence, winning prizes, publications and presentations at national events including at the House of Lords.

Universities and healthcare organisations where previous scholars have been based have benefitted immensely from their staff and students becoming scholars. They have developed high profile projects that have had an impact nationally and internationally.

The HLA is approved by The Institute of Leadership & Management, is a certified member of Social Enterprises UK, and is commissioned by Health Education England North East and Health Education England South West. The HLA partners with Medics Academy and through Medics Academy its programme is accredited by the Medical School at the University of Central Lancashire. The HLA is also supported by University College London's Academic Careers Office.

Find out more: <https://thehealthcareleadership.academy/>

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Rebecca Rowley organises activities to keep morale high

Rebecca Rowley, the Activity Coordinator on Wards 1 and 3 at Doncaster Royal Infirmary (DRI), has been keeping energy levels high throughout the pandemic on her Wards by organising events and activities which are both highly enjoyable, and hugely beneficial to the health of patients.

Known to colleagues as 'Becki', the Doncaster resident has put on a wide variety of events over the three years that she has been working for the Trust, with the vast majority aimed at enhancing the nutrition and hydration of her patients, as well as preventing them from becoming frail whilst in the care of the team at the DRI whilst staying in hospital.

Pre-COVID, the parties and activities events organised by Becki and her colleagues used to predominantly take place in the Dayroom situated in Ward 3 within the ward. This was also where patients could make cards, paint, sew, and take part in many other activities that all ensured morale is kept high in the Wards, that were both entertaining and social, offering an opportunity for individuals to get up and about safely.

Due to recent limitations, Becki and the team have had to come up with additional activities that are one-to-one, in order to ensure the safety of all those on the wards. Thinking creatively, they have been able to provide patients with the facilities equipment so that they are able to paint from their bed, as well as offering them regular crosswords, and similar word puzzles, as well as othernd other such activities for the patients ongoing enjoyment to keep their mind and body active.

Speaking about her role, Becki said: "It's so nice to make a difference to somebody's hospital stay - I have had quite a lot of patients in the past say it is the one thing that has kept them going whilst they have been here - which makes all of the effort to organise and come up with ideas so worthwhile.

"Everything we do is a huge team effort, and the staff on here are brilliant. They are also really supportive as well with activities and when I was in the dayroom, they would bring the patients down in their wheelchairs or walk them down, they are fantastic. Obviously, as a result of COVID-19, things are different, but the team still do all they can to support our events and ensure we are looking after patients, both in terms of their acute symptoms, but also their general health and wellbeing."

In order to gauge what activity might work best for each patient, Becki speaks to every individual to find out their past interests and hobbies. Where patients are unable to provide her with this information, Becki will contact their family to find out about what they may enjoy, ensuring all her patients experience the



benefits that these events provide.

Becki continues: "It's all about getting to know people - coming into hospital at any age can be scary and so we have to do all we can to make people comfortable. These activities are just one way we can do this, orientating people into the ward environment, helping people to socialise, as well as taking the focus away from just about bodily symptoms and related treatments."

IT'S ALL ABOUT GETTING TO KNOW PEOPLE - COMING INTO HOSPITAL AT ANY AGE CAN BE SCARY AND SO WE HAVE TO DO ALL WE CAN TO MAKE PEOPLE COMFORTABLE.

A particular favourite of not only the patients but also Becki herself, are tea parties which take place most weeks. These parties are thematic, based on what is relevant in that particular week or to the time of year, meaning that there have been a huge variety of parties thrown.

In total Becki has organised over 80 different tea parties during her time as Activity Coordinator on Wards 1 and 3. Some of these parties are based on traditional days of celebration, such as Christmas, Easter, and Halloween, whereas others are more extraordinary like those based on the film Mamma Mia, or one celebrating Mad Hatter National Day or even Elvis Presley's birthday. Whatever the theme, fun is guaranteed!

By engaging in these activities, the patients are keeping their minds busy, increasing their strength by being more mobile and ultimately helping reduce the likelihood of falls, increasing their nutrition and hydration levels, as well as providing a little extra comfort and enjoyment.

The activities are an integrated part of the form part of the Trust's adherence to the 'Enhanced Care' model, which means taking the time to providing meaningful engagement interactions with patients through intellectual, creative, functional, physical, social, and spiritual activities.

Becki is also the Dementia Champion and Health and Wellbeing Champion and works closely with the Nutrition and Link Nurse to ensure that the tea parties, drinks, and snacks are always appropriate for the recovery, hydration and nutrition of the patients.

Speaking about the work of the Trust's Activity Coordinators, and Becki specifically, Abigail Trainer, Director of Nursing at the Trust said: "I've experienced the creativity and organisation of one of Becki's events first-hand and was totally blown away by her dedication. The amount of work put forward to organise these events is truly phenomenal and are often the highlight of the week which both staff and patients look forward to.

"At this Trust we are lucky to have so many colleagues who go above and beyond in their duties every single day, and Becki is no exception. Throughout the pandemic it has been hard to look beyond the challenges of COVID-19, but the work that is ongoing on Wards 1 and 3, as well as elsewhere across our hospitals, reminds you that our incredible staff continue to do the very best for patients day in and day out - coronavirus or not."

With help from various benefactors both internal to the Trust and externally, Becki's stepdad Colin Turner, who she claims bears an uncanny resemblance to Santa-Claus himself, has visited the hospital during the festive period dressed as St Nick. Sue Turner, Becki's Mum, has made appearances on the Wards dressed as Mrs Claus, whilst Becki's partner Pauline, has starred in the role of Chief Elf. The Wards fundraise in order to be able to buy bags of chocolate, or other such items, and then treats the patients to a Christmas gift, each coming directly from Santa himself.

However, due to the current situation with COVID-19, Christmas may look slightly different on the Ward this year, but there are still plans to ensure that the festive cheer is rife on Wards 1 and 3.

If you would like to get involved in fundraising for our hospitals, or would like to know more about support and sponsorship please contact the Communications Team on Tel: 01302 644244, email: mailto:DBTH.Charity@nhs.net or head to <http://www.dbth.nhs.uk/charity>.



Drive-through ECG service helps to reduce hospital wait times

Health professionals Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) have introduced a new drive-through service for their patients requiring an ambulatory ECG test, to help reduce waiting times and improve overall experience.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, 100% of ECG patients were seen in clinic and fitted with a monitor, which is roughly the size of a credit card, hooked up to three electrodes and set to record the activity of the heart for anywhere from 24 to 72 hours.

With the infection prevention and control challenges presented by coronavirus, and the resulting delays in getting people in and out safely, inspired by a similar service within phlebotomy, the department decided to roll-out the drive-through.

Patients now arrive at Doncaster Royal Infirmary or Montagu Hospital and park in a reserved parking spot. They then call a dedicated mobile phone number letting the service know they have arrived and a member of staff will greet them and present the device after asking a few important questions. The patient also receives an instruction pack which contains very clear instructions and a link to a YouTube video showing how to properly hook up the electrodes.

Sarah Ritzmann, Chief Cardiac Physiologist at the Trust, said: "The drive-through service means that clinicians can save time between each patient whilst still being able to provide a quality, COVID-secure service to our patients."

Approximately 80% of relevant patients now use this service (clinicians establish whether there may be challenging circumstances which would make it too difficult for a patient to do

"THE DRIVE-THROUGH SERVICE MEANS THAT CLINICIANS CAN SAVE TIME BETWEEN EACH PATIENT WHILST STILL BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE A QUALITY, COVID-SECURE SERVICE TO OUR PATIENTS."

it themselves) and it has audited well, with patients recommending the service within satisfaction surveys.

Sarah continues: "Our patients who have used this service so far have all been pleased with how easy it now is to access. It reduces the need for a lengthy hospital appointment and is less of an intrusion on their day and a lot of

our patients feel more comfortable not being in a waiting room during this time. We have also carefully analysed the ECG recordings from a group of patients using the drive through service and a group of patients who attended in clinic and we are confident that this new, more efficient way of carrying out the test results in the same quality of results."

Ultimately, the new drive-through service means more ECG tests can be carried out each day, with around 100 conducted each week, and the clinical spaces can be used primarily for those essential tests which must be carried out face-to-face, ultimately helping to reduce waiting lists which have been generated as a result of COVID-19 challenges.

The Cardio-Respiratory Department is now also using this drive-through based care model for pulse-oximetry monitors and diagnostic sleep study equipment.

The Trust has had similar successes with their drive-through phlebotomy (blood taking) and COVID-19 swabbing services prior to procedures and surgery and is considering how, with the help of additional funding as part of the 'Accelerator Programme', to use this model to work differently in the future, to improve patient experience, access to services and, crucially, minimise waiting lists.



DBTH hosts inaugural 'Pride Week'

Health professionals at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) have celebrated its very own version of LGBTQ+ Pride, with a range of speakers hosting virtual events throughout last week (2 August).

LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or sometimes questioning), and others, while the 'plus' represents other sexual identities. The first four letters of the acronym have been used since the 1990s, but in recent years there has been an increased awareness of the need to be inclusive of other sexual and gender identities to offer better representation.

DBTH's Pride Week was organised by the Trust's LGBTQ+ Staff Network, with co-chairs Christine White and Adam Evans, curating a programme of guest speakers to host presentations and discussions throughout the seven days of the event.

The first session was delivered by Heather Paterson of SAYIT, an organisation which supports young people between 11 and 25 years old, focused upon LGBTQ+ history. The second was presented by Phil Hill, a writer and vlogger who specialises in mental health and gender, centring on the concept of 'allyship'



towards the trans and non-binary community. Finally, the third hour-long seminar was provided by Eva Echo, blogger and activist, who led a discussion about being transgender, sharing her experiences of gender transition and her journey to self-acceptance.

Speaking in a joint statement, Chris and Adam, who work within the Trust's People and Organisational Development directorate, said: "The purpose of the week, as well as the LGBTQ+ Staff Network, forms part of our wider commitment as a Trust to help

create a safe, inclusive and diverse working environment that encourages respect and equality for all, whoever you are and whoever you love

"Throughout the week colleagues had the opportunity to join virtual events where we heard from a range of speakers, as well as providing a space at both Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Bassetlaw Hospital for individuals to come together to speak about LGBTQ+ issues, as well as find out more about the related Staff Network and how to get involved.

"We want to say a huge 'thank you' to our guest speakers, as well as our colleagues who attended these virtual sessions. The presentations were informative, insightful and moving, and led to fantastic discussions. Based on the success of this week, we hope to add DBTH Pride to our annual calendar of events, and we can't wait to celebrate it once again next year."

The Trust's LGBTQ+ Staff Network was formed in 2020, and works in partnership with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee to ensure that, as an employer, DBTH values and recognises the differences between sexual orientation and gender identity, fostering an environment of respect and inclusivity.

Charity football match raises over £700 for local hospitals

A local fundraising superstar has hosted a special and one-off football match in support of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' (DBTH) Charity to share his thanks to the NHS.

Doncaster resident, James Barker, held a charity game on Saturday 17 July to help raise vital funds for the local hospital trust, which operates Bassetlaw Hospital, Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Montagu Hospital.

Speaking about his inspiration, James said: "I picked Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals to raise money for through a charity football game, something I have organised and planned myself and have done so for many years. I wanted to show my appreciation for all the hard work every member of the NHS does each and every day and especially throughout the pandemic."

James' initial aim was to raise £600 but since the final whistle has managed to smash this target raising an incredible £721. He continues, "I was so happy we were able to raise all this money for a worthy cause and prior to the game both teams did a one-minute round applause to show our appreciation for the NHS."

The local football fanatic has organised and



hosted charity matches for the last six years in aid of Pancreatic Cancer UK, a charity which is close to him and his family after James' grandad sadly passed away from the disease.

The teams involved in his special NHS match included his current team New Bohemians FC against his previous club, Swallownest Bethesda FC, with the former running out as 6-1 winners.

Alongside donations, James ran a raffle which he said he couldn't have done without his partner Ebony Grainger and all the kind donations from a variety of places.

James said "I just want to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped support the game. To raise all this money it's certainly made me proud and happy to have done this, I will continue to do these games as I have done this

for 6 years and I won't stop now."

All of the money raised will be directly reinvested into patient care and treatment at the local hospitals.

Sarah Dunning, Trust Fundraiser at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' Charity, said: "On behalf of everyone within Team DBTH, I want to say a HUGE thank you to James, Ebony, the respective football teams and everyone involved for helping make this such a special event. This will make a huge difference to our patients, as well as staff."

If you wish to support Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital's Charity, please go to dbth.nhs.uk/charity to download a fundraising pack or email dbth.charity@nhs.net to find out how you can get involved.

Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust donation improves care for urology patients

The Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust have fundraised to purchase a life-changing piece of equipment for Doncaster Royal Infirmary's Urology clinic.

The BK3000 ultrasound machine is already benefitting patients under the care of Doncaster and Bassetlaw's Urology team. Principally, the machine will allow the team in Urology to perform precision-point prostate biopsies in an outpatient setting under local anaesthetic, reducing the need for day-case surgery.

Previously, patients requiring a prostate biopsy as part of their diagnosis would have attended Montagu hospital for a pre-operative assessment with an anaesthetist and would have needed to stay for further monitoring following the procedure. This old method also undoubtedly carries more risk, as there are potential reactions to the general anaesthetic drugs. Traditional prostate biopsies are also less accurate and come with an additional risk of infection due to the nature of the procedure.

The new procedure, using the BK3000, is much less invasive than this method. With the introduction of the new equipment, patients can attend a one-stop shop at the hospital, receive their MRI scan and undergo the biopsy procedure in one visit.

Patients are given a local anaesthetic and the



biopsy is carried out in a 15 minute procedure, following which the patient can return to the comfort of their own home. Mr John Leveckis, Consultant in Urology at the Trust, said:

"The difference this equipment is making to urology patients in Doncaster and Bassetlaw is immense. Not only has it improved clinical outcomes and reduced the number of risks associated with prostate biopsies, but it has facilitated an incredible advancement for our overall patient experience."

Being able to perform prostate biopsies in an outpatient setting is not just beneficial for Urology patients. Thanks to the new equipment, demand on the Trust's anaesthetists and post-surgery services has also been greatly reduced and whole theatre lists have been freed up for patients needing other surgical procedures.

David Purdue, Chief Nurse and Deputy Chief Executive at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said: "We'd like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust for their efforts in fundraising for this equipment which is not only providing clinical benefits for our patients but making the pathways of their care more convenient for them.

"This piece of kit is making a real difference to local men. Traditionally, men can be reluctant to attend appointments within healthcare services and reducing those barriers to timely and effective treatment is a priority for us. We've also recently launched a group to encourage men in the area to get checked as part of our commitment to men's health."

Yvonne Woodcock, of the Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust, said: "We can't thank our local supporters enough for making this donation possible. Each time we do an appeal in our community the response is incredible. Their efforts have made a drastic improvement for local people who need to undergo the prostate biopsy procedure."

Doncaster Cancer Detection Trust raised funds to the total of £142,000 in order to purchase the equipment for the hospital. If you'd like to support them in their future fundraisers, you can visit their website at dcdt.co.uk.



Family and friends of Glynn Lee raise £2,000 in his memory

The family and friends of beloved Doncaster man, Glynn Lee, have raised £2,000 for Doncaster Royal Infirmary, to be donated to the ward on which he was cared for.

Glynn's wife Paula, son Scott, and her sister Lisa, set up a Go Fund Me page in Glynn's name after he tragically passed away following a brave battle with Covid-19.

Glynn, a popular face in his home village, was very much a Yorkshire man and spent 28 years as a miner before joining British Ropes. Affectionately known as 'Turbo' amongst his friends and colleagues owing to his incredible work ethic, Glynn has been described as a real character with a love for life.

Remembering Glynn fondly, his wife Paula, who works at the hospital with her Sister-in-Law Lisa, said: "If you didn't know Glynn on the way in, you certainly knew him on the way out. He would talk to anyone and everyone and he lived his life to the fullest. He is missed intensely by everyone who knew him and it's been so heart-warming to see, through these generous donations, the lasting imprint he has

left on so many people's lives."

Having initially set the fundraising target at £150, Paula and Lisa were overwhelmed when those who knew Glynn went above and beyond to create a lasting legacy in his honour and donated almost £2,000.



The funds will be sent to the Intensive Care Unit on which Glynn was cared for. Paula said: "Knowing first-hand the challenges that the staff on the unit have faced over the last year, we were so very grateful for the exceptional care that Glynn received. We've also put together some hampers for the staff on ICU and the respiratory ward where Glynn was cared for briefly."

Paula Newman, Senior Sister on the Department of Critical Care at DRI, said: "We'd like to thank all of Glynn's family and friends for their generosity and their commitment to creating something positive to remember Glynn by – something we will benefit our patients and make a real difference to our local communities. It was an honour to care for Glynn and our thoughts are with Paula and the rest of Glynn's family, along with his vast circle of friends."

Community fundraising helps Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching hospitals go above and beyond for patient care. If you would like to support the hospital charity, you can find information and resources for fundraising at dbth.nhs.uk/charity.

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