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September 2024

NHS

Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



**DBTH enhances stroke care with
advanced CT perfusion technology,
extending critical treatment windows**



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Members' Meeting **p4**

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celebrates its 100th hip replacement patient **p5**

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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.

Subscribe to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals' WhatsApp channel

We are trialling a new platform with a DBTH WhatsApp channel.

The channel works similar to a notification feed, where, once subscribed, you will receive updates from the Trust (updates, news and developments, but only one item or so a day). You can react to these items, however, it does not have a chat function and nobody will be able to see your phone number – the service is completely anonymous.

It's just another handy way to keep up with Team DBTH and your local hospitals.

If you're interested in joining, please subscribe here: <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaFg57dFXUuiVhzug42y>

Note: To be clear, this is not a WhatsApp group – you cannot see other users' phone numbers, or contact anyone directly.



You're invited: virtual Annual Members' Meeting in September

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) will host its Annual Members' Meeting on Thursday 26 September 2024, which will take place virtually.

This event provides an opportunity to learn about the organisation's work and achievements throughout 2023/24. The meeting will stream from 6pm on YouTube, as well as on the organisation's website.

Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board at DBTH, said: "The Annual Members' Meeting is a key event in our calendar, serving as a platform to recognise and celebrate the remarkable progress made by colleagues within the Trust, as well as to identify areas for improvement, challenge and opportunity in the year ahead.

"THE VIRTUAL MEETING WILL OFFER A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ADVANCEMENTS, AND MILESTONES FROM THE PAST 12 MONTHS."

"The virtual meeting will offer a comprehensive overview of our accomplishments, advancements, and milestones from the past 12 months. We will discuss key performance indicators, both operational and financial, and members will also have the opportunity to send in questions ahead of time, which will be answered by members of the Board of Directors.

"As in previous years, we are pleased that our members can attend the meeting from the comfort of their own homes. Using video technology, we hope this format will be more convenient for you as we highlight the past, present, and future plans of our hospitals."

Throughout the meeting, executive colleagues, including the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer, will present updates on:

- Overall operational activity
- Highlights and challenges throughout the year
- Financial performance
- An update on local, regional, and national developments in health and social care

The meeting will be conducted online but will follow a similar agenda to previous years. For more information on how to access the meeting and submit questions, please visit: www.dbth.nhs.uk

If members have a question they wish to raise as part of the Annual Members Meeting, they can fill in this short form: <https://forms.office.com/e/HCe2qKmpPR>





State-of-the-art Orthopaedic surgery service celebrates its 100th hip replacement patient

The team at the Mexborough Elective Orthopaedic Centre of Excellence (MEOC), which opened its doors in January this year, has successfully completed its 100th hip surgery.

Situated within Montagu Hospital, the MEOC serves patients from Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Doncaster, and Rotherham who require orthopaedic procedures such as hip and knee replacements, as well as surgeries on the foot, ankle, hand, wrist, and shoulder.

Angela Schofield from Doncaster was the 100th patient to undergo an arthroplasty, or surgical replacement, on her left hip. During her surgery, Angela received an epidural, a routine practice within the unit. This method offers a faster recovery process and reduces the risks associated with general anaesthesia, enabling patients like Angela to return home within 24 hours of admission.

Reflecting on her experience, Angela said: "My experience of the service has been very positive; everyone I have met has been so good to me. I was initially anxious about having an epidural, but it was a comfortable experience. It also meant that I could go home the same day, allowing me to recover in a familiar environment."

Patients requiring orthopaedic surgery are encouraged to discuss referrals to the MEOC with their consultants. However, individuals with complex cases or additional medical conditions may still need treatment in an acute hospital setting.

Kate Carville, Clinical Lead for the MEOC, said: "As our service grows, we're seeing more and more cases. We're thrilled to have reached this milestone which underlines our commitment to providing top-notch orthopaedic care.

"Our patients are in the hands of expert surgeons and anaesthetists, supported by a skilled team of nurses, physiotherapists and other healthcare professionals. This often allows for same-day discharge. By focusing on elective cases, we reduce the risk of cancellations that are common in busy general hospitals.

"I want to say a huge thank you to all involved, and look forward to reaching additional milestones in the future."

The centre is a collaborative effort between three hospital trusts: Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BH), and The Rotherham Foundation Trust (TRFT).

For more information about the MEOC, including previous news stories and a walkthrough video of the department, please visit the dedicated section on the DBTH website: www.dbth.nhs.uk/meoc



Health and care careers event biggest yet for Doncaster students

Last week, over 1,500 year 8 students from across Doncaster were given the opportunity to attend the fourth annual 'We Care into the Future' event at the Doncaster Dome, where they were introduced to a diverse range of career pathways within health and care.

This unique event has been developed in partnership with Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), Hall Cross Academy, and various health, care, and educational organisations within the city.

Participating schools received invitations to attend either a morning or afternoon session at the event. This year, more schools engaged than ever before, with 20 educational providers participating. Overall, around 1,500 young people attended, marking a significant increase compared to previous years.

On arriving at the event, students first encountered a simulation of a patient's journey, from arrival via ambulance to the Emergency Department and then on to surgery and a theatre setting. From there, the simulation continues with the patient receiving therapy in support of their rehabilitation and ending with care in the community.

The students were then given the opportunity to speak with a wide range of professionals from clinical and non-clinical health and care careers and visit over 50 interactive stalls, allowing access to hands on experience of the real world equipment and training aids which encapsulate over 350 different career pathways.

Further and higher education providers were also available to inform students on

qualifications and training routes available and required of those wishing to embark on a health and care career.

Dr Ann-marie Steele, Deputy Director of Education at DBTH, said: "It is great to be able to inspire the next generation of health and care workers. As a teaching hospital, the Trust is committed to the education of our entire current and future workforce. Inspiring the next generation to think about and enter careers in the crucial and varied health and care sector is clearly important so that our local community can have good health outcomes which continue into the future."

"THIS EVENT OFFERS AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR STUDENTS TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE AND EXPAND THEIR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT A WIDE RANGE OF ROLES WITH THE HEALTH AND CARE INDUSTRY THAT THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY AWARE OF, IGNITING INSPIRATION FOR THEIR FUTURE CAREER PATHWAYS."

"I want to extend my sincere thanks to all the presenters, organisers, and participants who contributed to the success of We Care into the Future Doncaster."

Kelly Turkhud, Head of Education and Widening Participation, said: "On behalf of

the Trust, I would like to thank Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital's Charity for providing the funding that made this event possible. We could not accommodate an event of this size on our hospital grounds, therefore, securing the funds for the venue is crucial to ensure that we can offer this event to as many students within the area as possible.

"Alongside funding the venue, the Charity also enabled us to offer transportation for the schools. We would also like to thank Wilfreda Beehive for their efficient service getting each school to and from the event within their allocated time."

Simon Swain, Principle for Hall Cross Academy – A Foundation School in Health, said: "This event offers an incredible opportunity for our students to actively engage and expand their knowledge about a wide range of roles with the health and care industry that they may not have been previously aware of, igniting inspiration for their future career pathways. These events play a crucial role in helping our students explore their options for Key Stage 4 and beyond, enabling them to consider their career aspirations and how they can make a positive impact on their local community."

The event was supported by representatives from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, Hall Cross Academy, Doncaster College, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, City of Doncaster Council, and many other social care organisations.





Consultant Breast Surgeon at local hospital appointed to Royal College of Surgeons

Consultant Breast Surgeon at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), Lynda Wyld has been appointed to the Royal College of Surgeons Council, recognising her dedication to advancing surgical training, education, and examination, particularly in the fields of general and breast surgery

Established in 1540 when surgeons were known as "barber surgeons", renowned for their manual dexterity in performing intricate procedures, the Royal College of Surgeons of England has since evolved into a global authority in surgical education, training, and research.

The College is involved in the teaching, training and assessment of all UK surgeons, running courses, funding surgical research, alongside awarding prestigious research fellowships each year.

Local to the region, Professor Wyld trained in Manchester, Doncaster and Nottingham and throughout the Sheffield region. Throughout her career, she has undertaken a number of leadership positions related to her specialty, including President Elect for the European Breast Exam, a Trustee of the UK Association of Breast Surgeons and serving as the previous President of the British Association for Cancer

Surgery. In addition to this she has also served as Chair of the Education and Training Committee of the European Society for Surgical Oncology.

Professor Wyld has also been an examiner for the Fellowship of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons, a professional qualification required to practise as a senior surgeon, and through this has helped to promote excellence in surgical practice and develop surgery standards and guidelines.

In addition to her role as Consultant Breast Surgeon within the Jasmine Centre at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Professor Wyld is also a Professor of Surgery at the University of Sheffield, where she undertakes a range of scientific research projects related to breast cancer and teaches on undergraduate courses, helping to pass on her knowledge and expertise to future generations of young surgeons.

Speaking about her appointment, Professor Wyld said: "I am very honoured and excited to be joining Royal College of Surgeons, where I hope to advance the development of breast surgery and strengthen training and examination. I also hope to encourage and support other women into a career in surgery, where women at present are poorly represented.

"I am very appreciative of DBTH, the University of Sheffield, and most especially of my colleagues in the Jasmine Centre for their support and encouragement."

Dr Nick Mallaband, Acting Executive Medical Director at the Trust, said: "On behalf of everyone at the Trust, I would like to share my congratulations with Lynda on her election to the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

"We are immensely proud to see her unwavering dedication to surgical excellence and commitment to advancing patient care being acknowledged at this a national level and look forward to seeing the positive impact she will undoubtedly continue to make in shaping the future of surgical practice, not just regionally, but nationally."

The College's Members of Council come from a range of surgical disciplines and represent the diverse interests across the profession. Members of Council are elected by the breadth of the College membership and serve a four-year term, with the ability to serve a second term if re-elected.

DBTH enhances stroke care with advanced technology, extending critical treatment windows

DBTH recently implemented revolutionary software to help improve treatment for stroke patients. The software, which is named RAPID CTP, is able to flag salvageable tissue in patients who previously would've been considered to sit outside of the treatment windows (the period of time after the onset of symptoms in which a person can still be treated for an ailment).

Before the software was implemented, the treatment window for a stroke patient to receive thrombolysis was four and a half hours, and for thrombectomy, 6 hours. These windows have since increased to nine hours and 24 hours respectively due to the use of RAPID CTP.

Thrombolysis and thrombectomy are critical treatments for stroke patients. The former involves the use of medication to dissolve blood clots that block blood flow to the brain, ideally administered within hours of stroke onset. The latter is a procedure where a catheter is used to physically remove the clot from the artery, significantly improving outcomes if performed promptly.

Dr Ahmad Maatouk, Stroke and Acute Medicine Consultant at DBTH, said: 'The way in which the RAPID CTP software works is by communicating with the CT machine. It will analyse the image produced by the machine and show areas of the brain which are active and inactive, allowing us to decide on the appropriate course of action to take.'

WHAT TOOK ME BY SURPRISE WITH THE STROKE WAS THAT I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT HAD HAPPENED - I WAS THE MOST STRESS-FREE I'D FELT IN A DECADE, AND I WASN'T A HEAVY DRINKER OR SMOKER.

In addition, the software is cost effective. It costs less than £2,000 and is an invaluable asset in streamlining the patient care pathway whilst ensuring that patients still receive the best care.'

One patient who has experienced the newly implemented software is Eddie Coleman. Eddie, 51, is a local resident who presented to the Emergency Department when he began displaying signs of a stroke: 'I didn't really

have any warning signs that I was having a stroke. At first, I had a little bit of pain in my left arm, but put it down to chronic illness, as I have fibromyalgia.

Whilst I was sitting watching TV, my left arm began to feel really heavy. I thought to myself, 'something's not right', and when I went to stand up, my left leg buckled underneath me. I shouted for my partner, but my speech was slurred. At this point, my partner rang for an ambulance and I was brought to A&E.'

Reflecting on the event, Eddie recalled remembering the adverts which inform the public about the warning signs of a stroke.

'I was scared to lose my mind as well as my body, as I've always been really independent.

What took me by surprise with the stroke was that I couldn't understand why it had happened - I was the most stress-free I'd felt in a decade, and I wasn't a heavy drinker or smoker.'

Whilst in hospital, Eddie underwent a scan which involved the RAPID CTP software. Though it did not identify the stroke for Eddie due to it being a minor stroke and located in an area the software doesn't pick up, Eddie said: 'the scan was easy, though it felt weird. It



and CT perfusion windows

was painless and quick, and the staff explained to me what they were doing and why they were doing it, which helped me to feel better about the situation’.

Following the CT scan, staff knew something was still not right and sent Eddie for an MRI, which confirmed he had suffered a minor stroke. He is now being cared for on Ward 16, about which he said: ‘The nurses have been fantastic, I can’t fault them.

I’m hoping to get a referral to the Rehab unit at Mexborough Montagu Hospital to help get my range of motion back. It has been really tough mentally as well as physically trying to move my left arm again, but I have gained some feeling back already, which is a positive.’

When asked what advice he would give someone who might be displaying the symptoms of a stroke, Eddie responded: ‘Seek medical advice. Until you come in as a patient, it is hard to understand what goes into the care that patients receive.

Don’t just brush it off; make sure you see a professional immediately so that you can be treated straight away.’

The main symptoms of a stroke can be identified through remembering the acronym **FAST**.

Face - the face may have dropped on 1 side, the person may not be able to smile, or their mouth or eye may have drooped.

Arms - the person may not be able to lift both arms and keep them there because of weakness or numbness in 1 arm.

Speech - their speech may be slurred or garbled, or the person may not be able to talk at all despite appearing to be awake; they may also have problems understanding what you’re saying to them.

Time - it’s time to dial 999 immediately if you notice any of these signs or symptoms.

Please note that a stroke will present differently in every individual. This is not an exhaustive list of symptoms; if you believe yourself or someone else is having a stroke, please seek medical help immediately.



Patient Initiated Follow Up appointments now available to more patients in Doncaster and Bassetlaw

More patients managing long-term conditions under the care of Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) now have access to Patient Initiated Follow Up (PIFU) appointments.

These appointments are arranged by patients as and when they are needed, rather than by the clinicians at routine intervals.

This approach allows patients to take control over the management of their condition and to avoid any unnecessary appointments, freeing up their time and reducing any unwarranted stress and anxiety over the lead up to a hospital visit.

Whilst PIFU is not suitable for every patient, those who may benefit will have this option discussed with them by their hospital care team. During this conversation a clinician will discuss the potential reasons to arrange a PIFU appointment such as changes in a patient’s condition or any concerns about their ongoing treatment.

Currently at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, the following services and care pathways are offering PIFU appointments to their patients:

- Gastroenterology
- Pain Management
- Pain Management (medication before Injection)
- Cardiology (atrial fibrillation)
- Dermatology
- Respiratory (CPAP)
- Trauma and Orthopaedics (Virtual Fracture Clinic)

- Clinical Therapies (Orthopaedics, Orthotics, Speech and Language, Children’s Therapy, Physiotherapy, Nutrition and Dietetics, and Pulmonary Rehabilitation)
- Haematology Lymphoma
- Urology (stones)
- Spinal Surgery/Spinal Pain
- General Surgery (Upper GI)
- Trauma and Orthopaedics (Arthroplasty)
- General Surgery (Colorectal)
- Paediatric Cardiology: Postural Hypotension and Chest Pain

Denise Smith, Chief Operating Officer at DBTH, said: “We know that most patients feel that regular check-ins with their clinician are unnecessary, especially for those with long term conditions who are managing them well at home following the initial diagnosis and advice.

“This new approach gives our patients more choice and control over their care, ensuring they get the support they need when they need it most.

“The Trust is also partnered with DrDoctor to offer an interactive messaging service, making it easier for patients to manage their appointments and stay in touch. And just to reassure everyone, if you receive a message from 07860 039 092, it’s not a scam – it’s important information about your appointment.”

For more information and guidance on PIFU, please visit DBTH’s website www.dbth.nhs.uk

Local nurse takes bronze at European Championships

Grace Rosser, Specialist Palliative Care Nurse at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), proudly represented Great Britain at the European Championships of Dragon Boat Racing this July, bringing home two bronze medals.

Reflecting on her success, Grace said:

"Winning bronze is an incredible achievement and testament of the team's hard work and perseverance over the past two years. It has taken immense dedication, countless early mornings, and rigorous training sessions, but standing on that podium made it all worthwhile.

"We are more than team; we've become a family. The support, camaraderie, and collective drive have been vital in achieving these results and I couldn't be more proud."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Grace worked within the Trust's End of Life Care team and amidst the challenges of that period found a sporting outlet in Dragon Boat Racing.

What started as a casual outing at a local lake turned into two years of dedication and determination.

Grace explains: "For me, Dragon Boating is an exhilarating sport and is a great way to unwind, connect with others, as well as staying fit and active."

Dragon Boat Racing is a high-energy water sport that traces its origins back over 2,000 years to ancient China.

Grace shares: "You meet people paddling that are from all walks of life. Dragon boat racing is one of the most exciting and inclusive water sports as well as one of the fastest growing water sports that you can take part in. There is no other paddle sport in which 22 people work together to create a team result through the efforts of the entire crew. We leave everything in our personal lives outside the boat and come together as a team on the water."

Her passion for the sport paid off in March when she was successfully selected to represent Great Britain at the European Championships. Taking place in the Czech Republic, the Championships occurred between 1 to 8 of July 2024, with the chance to compete in single sex and mixed races.

Grace's hard work and determination culminated in, along with the team, winning Bronze medals in both the mixed 500 metre and mixed 200 metre races. Additionally, she achieved a respectable fourth place in the 2,000 metre and fifth place in the 200 metre in the women's races.

Grace expressed her excitement about the opportunity to represent Great Britain on an international stage and worked diligently to refine her water skills and technique as part of the squad training.



However, the road to the Championships wasn't without its hurdles. Unlike many other sports, Dragon Boat racing is entirely self-funded by the athletes. Grace needed to raise funds to cover her practical trip expenses, including travel, accommodation, and kit and training equipment.

Whilst her sponsorship efforts saw her raise half of her needed funds, she reached out to her community for support, seeking donations to her fundraising to attend the Championships, securing more than £1,000 from 50 kind supporters.

Local people can still sponsor Grace through her dedicated Just Giving page here: https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/grace-rosser?utm_term=zK8N2EW64

Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board at DBTH, said: "Grace's accomplishments are truly inspiring. Balancing her demanding role as a Specialist Palliative Care Nurse with the rigorous training and competition schedule is no small feat. We are incredibly proud of her success and her representation of both Great Britain and our Trust on the international stage. Congratulations, Grace!"



DBTH awarded prestigious Health and Safety accreditation

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (DBTH) has been awarded the Silver Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' (RoSPA) Health and Safety Accreditation. This prestigious accreditation marks a significant achievement in the implementation of safety systems and processes, recognising the organisation's unwavering commitment to protecting lives and striving for the highest standards of health and safety management.

The RoSPA Health and Safety Awards are acclaimed globally, acknowledging organisations across all sectors, providing benchmarks for safety performance and highlighting consistent and exceptional adherence to health and safety practices. This achievement is particularly noteworthy as DBTH is one of the very few NHS organisations in the region to receive this level

of accreditation, highlighting the organisation's drive to be leading the way forward. The rigorous work involved in this project also underpins the Care Quality Commission (CQC) objectives set to ensure a safe and secure environment for care.

As a reflection of the challenges posed by an ageing estate at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, this milestone highlights the Trust's dedication to implementing robust health and safety systems and practices.

Dr Kirsty Edmondson Jones, Director of Innovation and Infrastructure at DBTH, expressed pride in the achievement, sharing: "Receiving the Silver RoSPA Health and Safety Accreditation on our first application is a tremendous honour and a reflection of our unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our patients, staff, and visitors. "While we are proud of this achievement, we understand that there is more work to

be done. This accolade underscores our dedication to developing the highest standards of health and safety management systems and our ongoing efforts to provide exceptional healthcare services."

DBTH serves a population of more than 440,000 across South Yorkshire, North Nottinghamshire, and the surrounding areas. With three main hospital sites and numerous additional services, the Trust stands as one of only five Teaching Hospitals in Yorkshire. Achieving the Silver accreditation underscores the Trust's status as a forward-facing healthcare provider, employing over 7,000 dedicated members of staff.

The Trust's consistent focus on health and safety is integral to its mission of delivering high-quality local hospital services. This recognition by RoSPA not only validates the Trust's efforts but also inspires continued excellence in safety practices and healthcare delivery going forward.

Students in Dearne Valley gain hands-on construction experience at Montagu Hospital

Montagu Hospital recently hosted a group of local students eager to embark on careers in the construction industry. The visit aimed to provide firsthand experience of large-scale construction and offer insights into the ongoing project to develop a new imaging suite within the Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) at the Mexborough site.

The day was arranged through a collaborative effort involving Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH), Integrated Health Projects (IHP)—a joint venture between VINCI Building and Sir Robert McAlpine—and Dearne Valley College, located in Wath upon Dearne, just two kilometres from the new building.

10 students from Dearne Valley College, enrolled in a Level 2 Bricklaying course, participated in a two-hour session organised by IHP, the construction company overseeing the development of the new facility at Montagu Hospital.

The aspiring bricklayers were first briefed on health and safety matters, a crucial aspect of working in construction. They were then taken on a guided tour of the construction site, including the imaging suite and the substation housed in an additional building to power the scanning units. The students were given hands-on opportunities to engage in various aspects of bricklaying, allowing them to apply knowledge gained in their workshops to a real-life setting on an active construction site.

The Montagu CDC imaging suite project, on track for completion early next year, will expand the existing medical imaging capacity at Montagu and provide more local appointments. Currently, CDC medical imaging is delivered via two mobile units offering MRI and CT scanning. Once completed, the new building will feature dedicated suites for an MRI scanner, a CT



scanner, and two ultrasound suites, along with changing facilities, a waiting room for patients, and clinical spaces to support the service.

James Gillespie, Senior Construction Manager, said: "As a construction ambassador, I am pleased to see how inspired the students have been by their visit. They have also committed to attending further visits at key points in the construction plan to see how the site progresses, alongside plans to offer placements for the students.

"Having a continued construction workforce equipped with the right skills is critical for the future to ensure developments like this can be realised. All the team involved in the CDC delivery programme are proud to offer local students firsthand experience in delivering large-scale hospital capital projects like the CDC.

"Our supply chain partners are key to our delivery and we would like to thank Phoenix Brickwork for the insight provided into both their business and the wider industry including inspiring stories regarding personal progression and experience within the industry."

Richard Parker OBE, Chief Executive at DBTH, said: "We are proud to give local young people valuable experience of construction work within a hospital setting and to show them how their skills can make a difference to people in their community.

"The Montagu CDC is a major step forward in offering patient care in a timely and convenient location, away from the pressures of emergency and urgent treatment."

The Community Diagnostic Centre at Montagu is a one-stop shop for checks, scans, and tests. Since its inception in January 2022, the service has grown to include a fully functional endoscopy suite, training facilities, and multifunctional clinic rooms, including ultrasound facilities. The new CDC building marks the final stage of investment in the service, providing a purpose-built facility for the imaging suite.

The building is currently under construction and is scheduled for completion in early 2025, with an expected opening to patients in the spring.

To celebrate the development of the CDC, a time capsule will be laid within the foundations of the entrance to the new imaging suite. The Trust invites local people to contribute ideas for the time capsule, reflecting the current times and connections with Montagu Hospital and its neighbourhood.

If you have a suggestion or wish to contribute an item, please visit: www.dbth.nhs.uk/news/help-us-mark-our-time-in-history/



DBTH enhances garden areas during Wellbeing Day at Montagu Hospital

Last month saw a transformation of the green spaces at Montagu Hospital, as colleagues from Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH) and Integrated Health Projects (IHP) Vinci dedicated a day to sprucing up the hospital grounds.

As part of a workplace wellbeing initiative aimed at enhancing colleague mental health and wellbeing, the 'Workplace in Bloom' project was a collaborative effort between DBTH departments and their construction partners, with the team working on the new Montagu Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) and temporarily swap their construction tools for gardening equipment.

During the event, the team revitalised the Fred and Ann Green Memorial Garden near the hospital entrance, restoring the area which had come under disrepair for a number of years. The work included trimming bushes and shrubs, sanding and varnishing benches, and jet washing patios.

Additionally, other green areas were given attention, with large planters filled with flowering plants and bedding areas tidied. A previously under-utilised strip of land was sown with seeds to create a wildflower border, enhancing wellbeing for both patients and colleagues at the Trust, and providing habitats for pollinating insects and bees.

Andy White, Head of Capital Infrastructure at DBTH, said: "We are thankful to everyone who contributed to improving our gardens at Montagu Hospital. Our Capital Projects and Estates team appreciated the assistance



from our partners at IHP Building and their contractors, AWS Landscapes, who provided plants, tools, and staff, Sycon, who restored our benches, and Moortown, for cleaning our pathways and patios."

Claire Habbins, Wellbeing Officer at IHP Building, highlighted the importance of such initiatives: "Wellbeing days like Workplace in Bloom are crucial for allowing colleagues to take a break from their daily routines, boost morale, and give back to the local community."

The Trust prides itself on its green spaces, which include several memorial gardens across its three hospital sites. The Fred and Ann Green Memorial Gardens at Montagu Hospital are a tribute to the generous donations from Fred and Ann Green, local business owners who bequeathed a significant sum to benefit the hospital and local community.

Other green spaces within the Trust include the Rainbow Gardens at Doncaster Royal Infirmary (DRI) and Bassetlaw Hospital, dedicated areas where patients, visitors, and colleagues can relax. Additionally, the Butterfly Garden at DRI offers a serene environment for remembering loved ones.

Previously, the DBTH Estates team received national recognition for their outstanding public spaces, earning a Green Flag Award for 2023/24 for the Rainbow Gardens at Bassetlaw. The Green Flag Award is an international accolade that recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces worldwide.



Charity-funded 'H.O.P.E' boxes support families separated from their baby

The roll out of 'H.O.P.E' boxes, aimed at supporting families who are subject to separation orders, will now support many families at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Trust (DBTH).

'H.O.P.E' boxes, which stands for 'Hold On Pain Eases', are filled with comforting and familiar items, such as baby tags, a milestone book and an SD card filled with pictures of both baby and the mother.

Research led by Lancaster University found that women who experience separation from their babies at birth, for example, as part of social care proceedings, are at acute risk of a mental health crisis, including self-harm and attempted suicide during the postnatal period.

The boxes, which were created in collaboration with women who have gone through the separation process, help mothers capture important and long-lasting memories with their babies prior to separation, explained Colleen Biltcliffe, named Midwife for Safeguarding at DBTH.

Colleen said: "We are really pleased to be offering the hope boxes to our DBTH families.

"Our hope is that they help maintain a connection with their baby during the separation and eventually form part of the child's life story for the future."

Two boxes are given following the separation proceedings – one for the mother and one for the child.

This includes a blanket and a cuddly toy, which will be swapped after the mother and baby have slept with them to share each other's scent.



Megan Naughton, Early Intervention and Inclusivity Lead Midwife at DBTH, said: "The mothers are typically facing multiple adversities, have histories of trauma and many were care experienced themselves.

She said: "By promoting sensitive interactions and improving the Mothers sense of control, the hope boxes have been proven to support them through an extremely challenging period of their lives."

The boxes also act as a tool to empower mother's, acknowledge their maternal identity and grieve the separation.

According to the studies by Lancaster University, once appearing in care proceedings

with one child women have a 1 in 4 chance of returning within a seven-year period, with the greatest likelihood within 2 years with a newborn baby.

Janine Grayson, Head of Equity, Equality & Inclusivity for Maternity Services at DBTH, said: "The HOPE boxes are incredibly important for promoting an ongoing connection between a mother and their baby post separation whilst court proceedings are considering the longer-term plans for the child."

The boxes also serve as a tool to encourage the mother to maintain contact with her baby through family-time arrangements, Janine explained.

She continued: "If the court's decision results in the baby being placed outside the mother's care, the HOPE Boxes are intended to aid the mother in coping with loss and grief, and to support the child's long-term life story work.

"Many of the individuals who will receive a hope box are vulnerable and harbouring feelings of guilt and shame. These boxes serve as a reminder that even in the toughest times, pain eases and hope endures."

Funded by Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity, who are passionate about tackling health inequalities through funding, the H.O.P.E boxes are a first at the Trust.

Suzy Brain England, Chair of DBTH, said: "I am pleased to see that funds donated to the hospital charity by our caring communities are helping to develop this initiative."





Local house builder supports local hospital appeal

Family run house builder, Albemarle Homes, has made the first corporate donation towards the Bassetlaw Hospital Emergency Village fundraising appeal.

The appeal, launched by Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity, has an ambitious target of raising £100,000 to fund a number of projects themed around 'comfort' and 'play'.

The £1,500 donated by Albemarle will contribute towards new equipment, above and beyond what is expected, providing the most comfortable experience possible for patients. This includes a brand new outdoor play area with a canopy, so children being treated at the children's assessment unit can enjoy the space whatever the weather.

To date the charity has raised £14,541 towards the appeal, and if successful in achieving the £100,000 fundraising target Bassetlaw Hospital will be one of only a few hospitals regionally to have such a space available to young patients.

Albemarle Homes has been supporting Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity since 2021 when they pledged to donate £100 from the sale of each home at their Vicarage Field and Westmoor Grange developments.

Sarah Dunning, Fundraising Manager for the charity said, "Our partnership with Albemarle Homes is a real success story, demonstrating how local businesses can support their local hospital charity. To date they have helped us raise over

£12,300 towards various projects across our hospitals including The Serenity Appeal and Our Shining Stars.

"It is fantastic that they are supporting the Bassetlaw Emergency Appeal with their latest donation, helping to bring to life some wonderful projects which will enhance the environment for patients receiving care in the Emergency Department and Children's unit."

Darryl Barker, Managing Director of Albemarle Homes said; "We are immensely proud of our continued partnership with the Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Trust Charity. Supporting local community charities is vital, as they play an essential role in improving the lives of those around us. The new Emergency Village Appeal for Bassetlaw is something we can really connect with, as transforming environments to enhance comfort is something we prioritise daily. We understand the significant impact this will have on the well-being of patients and staff at Bassetlaw, and we are delighted to contribute to such an important initiative."

The charity is hosting a Corporate Open Day on Friday 19th July, 2-4pm in a bid to attract support from more local businesses. The event will provide networking opportunities with trust colleagues including, Dr Kirsty Edmondson Jones, Director of Innovation and Infrastructure at DBTH, alongside likeminded local businesses. The event will include an exclusive tour of the Bassetlaw Emergency

Village to see first-hand the difference the charity appeal will make to patients.

Dr Kirsty Edmondson Jones, Director of Innovation and Infrastructure at DBTH, said: "We are incredibly grateful to work alongside our colleagues at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Charity on the Bassetlaw Hospital Emergency Village Appeal.

"We are currently working hard to redevelop the Emergency Department, Children's Assessment Unit and Assessment Treatment Centre at Bassetlaw Hospital, which, once complete, we hope will provide a fantastic service for local people. We'd love to invite local business representatives to come and see the development as it starts to come alive, encouraging them to get involved with fundraising or making a donation if they can.

"This appeal, with the kind support of our communities, will help to provide those nice-to-have and holistic improvements not covered by usual NHS funding, something that we hope will move an experience within our service from good to exceptional."

All participants of the guided tour are required to wear PPE, which will be provided on the day. To ensure adequate PPE is available to guests, all interested businesses, must register to attend on the link: <https://dbthcharity.co.uk/bassetlaw-hospital-emergency-village-appeal-corporate-open-day/> or by emailing dbth.charity@nhs.net

Born and Bred in Doncaster, a birth cohort study, reaches milestone 2500 participants following ‘Teddy Bears’ Picnic’

Born and Bred in Doncaster (BaBi-D), a research programme aiming to help improve the health and well-being of children and families across Doncaster, recruited its 2,500th participant earlier this year.

To celebrate BaBi-D's milestone and the project's second anniversary, the BaBi-D team hosted a teddy bears' picnic at the Doncaster Central Family Hub on earlier in the summer, in collaboration with the Doncaster Remake Learning Festival.

The session, attended by approximately 50 parents and their little ones, was designed for families with children aged up to four years. It featured numerous engaging activities for attendees and provided an opportunity to discuss the Born and Bred in Doncaster study with the Research Team at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals (DBTH).

The BaBi-D study is part of a national research scheme which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of local children and families, whilst maintaining a strong focus on health inequalities and inclusion.

The data provided from this cohort study will help the Trust and participating partners gain a better understanding of what local families want and need from healthcare services across the borough, ensuring locally commissioned services are inclusive, with consideration of additional research for further understanding



and improvement for our local population.

BaBi-D was launched in June 2022 and in just under two years, has recruited over 2,500 participants to be a part of the groundbreaking study.

Speaking about BaBi-D, Lois Mellor, BaBi Doncaster Principal Investigator and Director of Midwifery at Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, said: "We are amazed to see how much the study has grown in just under two years. I want to thank all the participants who agreed to be part of this study and all the colleagues who supported the project."

Dr. Sam Debbage, Director of Education and

Research at DBTH, added: "Reaching 2,500 participants is a significant milestone for the BaBi-D study. We are incredibly grateful for the community's support and enthusiasm. This achievement highlights the collective effort to enhance health and wellbeing in Doncaster. We warmly invite more families to join us as we continue to make strides in this important research."

"We're looking forward to welcoming more participants onto BaBi-D and changing the future of the health and wellbeing of children and families across Doncaster for the better."

To find out more about the study, please go to: www.dbth.nhs.uk/research-and-innovation



Governor Elections underway at DBTH

We have recently closed nominations in the latest round of public governor elections at DBTH.

Four seats are up for election this time around, with three representatives to be appointed in Doncaster and one seat up for nomination in Bassetlaw.

We will be welcoming four individuals who are interested in making a real difference, and who will be spokespeople for their local communities.

Suzy Brain England OBE, Chair of the Board at DBTH, said: "We are looking for members of our community who care about healthcare

services to join us as governors.

"They will be the voice of their local community, holding us to account to set an ambitious strategy and deliver the highest quality of care. They will support us to work in partnership with primary and community care, our local authority, the voluntary sector and our and our NHS mental health colleagues."

Nominations for the elections closed on Friday 2 August. If you are a member of the Trust in Doncaster and Bassetlaw you will receive the voting pack to vote for your governor. The voting pack will include information from all of the candidates.

Voting packs will be despatched on 27 August and the ballot will close on 19 September.

The declaration of results will take place on 20 September when we will welcome our new governors to DBTH.

If you are not yet a member of DBTH, but you would like to be, please go to dbth.nhs.uk/about-us/become-a-member. Alternatively, you can contact dbth.trustboardoffice@nhs.net for further information.

You can also use the contact details above if you are a member but you need to update your contact information in order to receive your voting pack.



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Can't go to Specsavers? They'll come to you

We caught up with Kejal Shah who has been an Optometrist with Specsavers Home Visits for 8 years. She explains to us how this much-needed service works.



So, tell me more about the Home Visits service...

Our at-home eye test is very similar to what you would have experienced in-store, just with a few adjustments and specialist equipment to make it home-friendly.

Optometrists, like myself, carry out the eye test, adjusting it to your individual needs. If glasses are needed, experienced colleagues will help with frame selection and then return to fit them. And, it goes without saying, all customers are supported with ongoing aftercare.

In response to demand, we've also now launched a new audiology home visits service. So far, we have home hearing services in 14 locations in the UK, with plans to expand this over the coming months.

Who is able to benefit from a home eye test?

Put simply, it's about bringing the service to your door, if you can't get to one of our stores.

So if you, a friend, or loved one, are unable to leave your home or care home unaccompanied, due to a physical or mental illness or disability, we can come to you.

There are a wide range of conditions and reasons why someone might not be able to leave their home. You can speak to us about your situation and we can help you understand if you or your loved one qualifies.

What if someone is bedbound, or struggling with communication? Can you still help them?

The Home Visits service is designed to provide eyecare which is as individual as our customers are.

Some customers might be clinically vulnerable or they might be non-verbal or living with dementia. Depending on the situation, we might use pictures instead of letters for example. Even with a customer who is bedbound, we can change the position of the chart so we're still getting completely accurate results. All the tests are adapted to fit the customer's environment and comfort level. We can also speak to the customer or their loved one ahead of the visit, to address any questions or talk through the process.



Given that you provide such a personal and tailored service, does your care go beyond just an eye test?

Every colleague I know sees our services as something beyond just a job. Whether it's sharing stories over a cuppa, popping something in the post for them, or passing them something out of reach, going that extra mile is such a rewarding part of our role. I only need to see a customer's smile to know I've made a difference.

That's a big part of what we do. Provide a personal service, tailored care and expertise, right to people's homes, no matter what their situation – in homes, care homes or sheltered housing.

How do I find out whether someone is eligible?

You can head to our website at www.specsavers.co.uk/home-eye-tests which features a simple step-by-step guide to eligibility and a wealth of information. Alternatively, you can call **0800 0890144**.

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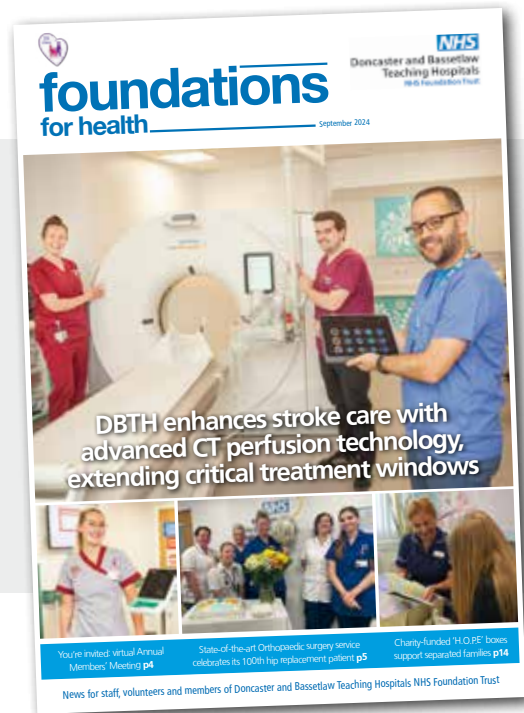
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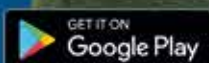
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