Charlie Bear for Cancer Care has been raising funds for the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital for 38 years, helping to provide that little bit extra for local people with cancer. Contributions and fundraising from hundreds of generous supporters have helped us deliver stereotactic radiotherapy to the North East, providing the very best treatments available in the UK right here in our region. As well as state of the art equipment, Charlie Bear also funds relaxing therapies, comfortable furniture, arts and amenities to make hospital that little bit more bearable for our cancer patients.

Hair today, gone tomorrow, for brave mother and daughter

When Deborah Goodall, 49, from Cullercoats, North Tyneside, began to lose her hair as a result of chemotherapy treatment for ovarian cancer, her 16 year old daughter Hannah was determined to show solidarity with her mum.

Like her mother, Hannah has fabulous, curly hair so it was a brave young woman who stepped in to ‘A Salon’ in South Gosforth in May 2015 to have all her beautiful curls cut off and head shaved to raise money for Charlie Bear for Cancer Care.

Hannah explains: “I decided to have my head shaved as there wasn’t a reason not to. I knew it would grow back again! It was exciting and empowering to take action and gave me the chance to raise money for a great cause so close to home.”

Says Deborah: "As you can see from the photos, we had such a laugh with the hairdresser! I’m immensely proud of Hannah and so grateful to everyone who has sponsored us in our joint head shave. I particularly want to thank Amber of ‘A Salon’ in South Gosforth who kindly donated her fees to kick-start our fundraising page on JustGiving.com. I also want to thank staff and students at Marden High School who raised over £200.

We’ve been overwhelmed by the support we’ve had from so many people and the lovely messages posted on our Just Giving page. I’m thrilled to report that so far we have raised over £1,600 for Charlie Bear.

“OK, so we’re bald, but it shows off our smiles!”

Below L-R: Deborah Goodall, hairdresser Amber and Hannah all enjoying the moment when mother and daughter went bald for Charlie Bear.

Photographs: Newcastle Hospitals
‘Listen to the Music’
for Charlie Bear

Alexandra Weatherstone from West Allotment, North Tyneside, is a determined young woman who hopes to turn a fundraising passion close to her heart into a full-time career.

Since the death of her father from cancer in 2010, Alexandra, who is studying for an Events Management degree at Leeds Beckett University, has organised ‘Listen to the Music’ – an annual charity event in support of the Charlie Bear for Cancer Care Fund at Newcastle’s Freeman Hospital. Over the past five years, she has raised a total of over £5,500 for the Fund.

Alexandra’s father, Dale Weatherstone, was a musician and in his later years was a field sales executive for the Evening Chronicle in Newcastle. Having received treatment at the NCCC, his dream was to put on a charity event to raise funds for Charlie Bear.

Alexandra reflects:

“Dad was a keen musician and played acoustic and electric guitar in a band called ‘Covered in Glory’. He even took pride in building his own guitars later in life; he was always bringing bits of scrap wood into the house! He talked about calling his band the ‘Charlie Bear Band’ to help raise money - he was so keen to acknowledge the treatment he had at the NCCC. Sadly, he never got the chance, so after he passed away in 2010 at the age of only 53, I got together with his mates and other band members from ‘Covered in Glory’ to organise a gig to fulfil dad’s dream.

“After the second successful ‘Listen to the Music’ event, I realised I enjoyed organising it so much I decided to make it my career. So, I applied for Events Management degree courses and chose the one at Leeds Beckett Uni. I have already spent a year on an internship in Brussels working for an event management company specialising in conferences and meetings.

“What started as an event for friends and family, has grown in popularity year on year and I’m really proud that ‘Listen to the Music’ celebrated its 5th anniversary in 2015. It gives me a real sense of achievement to fulfil dad’s dream.”

The 5th anniversary concert was held at the Belsay Suite, Blue Flames Sporting Club in Benton on 19 September 2015 and it was appropriate that ‘Covered in Glory’ should kick things off, playing soft rock covers from the 60s up to the present day, with favourites from Dobie Gray, Bon Jovi, Marc Cohn and many others. There were games and a raffle and the night concluded with a disco and live DJ. Alexandra is very grateful to Proctor and Gamble Community Matters who supported the event.
“I’m no good at sitting around...”

In January 1999, Yvonne Moore saw an advertisement for volunteers to help on the Charlie Bear stall at the former Newcastle General Hospital.


Yvonne, 79, has been a Charlie Bear volunteer ever since. Over the years, she has seen the little stall selling badges, t-shirts and tea-towels in the busy waiting room of the NCCC at the General Hospital, “which was just two locked cupboards and a counter top,” transform into the successful retail outlet today in the atrium of the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital.

Yvonne was born in the village of Ramsey in Cambridgeshire in 1936, one of seven children. She met her husband Bill, from Washington, Tyne & Wear, when he was stationed at RAF Upwood near her village. They married in 1957 and eventually moved back to the North East, where the family settled first in North Fenhams and subsequently at the Woodlands Park area of Gosforth.

Yvonne worked in logistics at Newcastle Brewers, but following her retirement, she began volunteering with the WRVS in the Casualty Department at the Newcastle General Hospital.

“I felt I needed something to occupy my time in retirement,” explains Yvonne. “I couldn’t just sit around at home. I enjoy walking, yoga and visiting my daughters, but I needed something to do. So I joined the WRVS at the General. Then, when I saw the advert for Charlie Bear, I just had to volunteer.”

Yvonne has seen great changes since she started with Charlie Bear. “Things have moved on so fast,” she says. “The new Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman is beautiful and it’s a privilege and a pleasure to work here.”

The Charlie Bear shop is now located on the main concourse of the NCCC, selling quality gifts, designer jewellery, handbags, headscarves, cards and books. Professional Retail Manager, Michelle Charlton, and her team of volunteers also provide help, advice, a bit of colour and a friendly face in what could otherwise be quite a serious place. During the year, the shop generated nearly £18,000 for the Charlie Bear for Cancer Care fund.

“I serve in the shop one day per week, also helping to tidy and dust, price-up goods and so on. Michelle is magnificent and really knows how to make the shop appealing to customers and has an eye for what will sell. All the volunteers try to help as much as we can, giving directions, demonstrating how to tie a scarf and that sort of thing. Being situated in the main atrium, we’re so visible when patients and visitors arrive at the NCCC that we like to offer a friendly face and a kind word for all visitors especially if they’re feeling anxious. We like to think of ourselves as Charlie Bear’s HQ.”

Yvonne doesn’t switch off from Charlie Bear in her spare time either. She makes silk crosses for the shop and bunnies around Easter time for the Easter fair. She’s even recruited her daughters into helping with handicrafts too.

“I love it!” says Yvonne, “I must do... I’ve been here nearly 17 years!”

Our Friends at

ASDA

Teesport raised £500 for their employee David Storey, who completed the Great North Run for Charlie Bear in memory of his brother John Storey.

John was diagnosed with terminal cancer, but, despite this, was determined to run the Great North Run in 2015 with his sister Sharron and daughter Louise. Sadly John lost his battle against cancer before he could run GNR so his younger brother David ran in his place.

ASDA Byker held a tombola event raising £390 in memory of retired employee Sheila Brewis

More music for Charlie

A Day of Music in aid of Charlie Bear was held at the Cluny live music venue in Newcastle on 30 August 2015.

As a way of saying thank you for the treatment he has received at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care for testicular cancer, Steve Angus organised a fundraising gig at the prestigious Ouseburn venue raising a magnificent £1,000 for Charlie Bear.

ASDA

Photographs: Newcastle Hospitals
Charlie Bear Christmas Fair 2015

The Annual Charlie Bear Christmas Fair and Grand Auction was held in the Atrium of the Northern Centre for Cancer Care on 10 December 2015. Once again, the event was a huge success, with more than £6,000 being raised for the Charlie Bear for Cancer Care fund.

Helping run the cake stall, Liz Rayner, Sally Bennett, Linda Reynolds and Annie Peterson

Sheila Alexander, Directorate Manager, Cancer Services with Susan Lamb, Assistant Directorate Manager

Clinical Director, Ian Pedley with Sheila Alexander and Sir John Hall, Patron for Charlie Bear for Cancer Care

Oncology Nurse Specialist Julie Huggan, John Huggan (Barclays Bank), Angela Jackson, Complementary Therapist

Kevin Hayes, Therapeutic Radiographer, NCCC

www.justgiving.com/charliebear
The annual Quiz Night, held at the Bridge Hotel, Newcastle raised over £400 for Tynesight boosted by a raffle which included tickets for the Newcastle Falcons match against Sale Sharks and a waxed Barbour Jacket.

Once again, David Cottrell, retired consultant at the Newcastle Eye Centre, took the role of Quiz Master and the winning team this year was ‘Team Reivers (Reconstituted)’.

We are lucky enough to have on our doorstep one of the largest eye departments in the UK. Newcastle Eye Centre at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle is a regional centre of excellence treating all types of eye conditions in adults and children.

Tynesight is the Eye Centre’s very own charitable fund supporting high quality eye care in the North East. We fund local research into eye disease and help to buy specialist equipment, toys and amenities and support education and training.

Team Reivers win Tynesight trophy

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Walking the Wall for Tynesight

Members of staff from Newcastle Eye Centre with friends and family were sponsored to walk along Hadrian’s Wall in Northumberland from Housesteads to Steel Rigg and back, finishing off with a well-earned lunch at the Twice Brewed Inn. Together they raised a total of £580 for Tynesight.

Christmas Cheer from Aldi

Christmas Hamper kindly donated by Aldi for Tynesight’s Christmas raffle, organised by Bev Surtees, Medical Secretary in Ophthalmology. Bev’s husband David, an Aldi employee, presented the hamper to Mags Dayan, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Newcastle Eye Centre.
Throughout the year, Kevin Stannard, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Newcastle Eye Centre, has kindly helped promote Tynesight in the community. Kevin has delivered talks at Byker Masonic Hall and Birtley Rotary Club, both of which had nominated Tynesight as their Charity of the Year. Byker Masonic Hall has donated £500 to Tynesight in addition to amounts already raised through their support of the Tyne Theatre Variety Show in July 2015.

A cheque for £6,000 was also presented to Kevin from the Provincial Grand Lodge Secretary of the Freemasons of Northumberland. The Trustees of the Richard Henry Holmes Masonic Benevolent Fund have given approval for the purchase of two items of ophthalmic photographic equipment for Newcastle Eye Centre which will enhance current provision – a ‘Nanocam’ for teaching surgery techniques, and a teaching arm for the YAG laser to allow supervision of trainees doing laser therapy.

Billed as a ‘musical extravaganza,’ a Family Variety Show was held at the historic Tyne Theatre & Opera House in Newcastle in July 2015. Organised by Byker Masonic Hall’s 2CC initiative, an eclectic group of musicians, some well-established, others up and coming, went all-out to help raise funds towards two local organisations: namely SSAFA Tyne & Wear, who help the men and women of Britain’s Forces and their families, and Tynesight.

The Family Variety Show was the first since the Theatre (the oldest working Victorian theatre in the world) came under the management of the Tyne Theatre & Opera House Preservation Trust, which aims to preserve the architectural and theatrical heritage of the building. True to this spirit, the event recalled the good old-fashioned variety shows of yesteryear and the afternoon featured acts for all ages – from ‘60s rhythm and blues to the latest chart hits.

6-12 June 2016 was National Glaucoma Awareness Week, a public awareness campaign run by the Glaucoma Association and supported in our region by Tynesight, the Newcastle Eye Centre charitable fund.

This year, the focus was on the need for regular eye health checks and Tynesight funded a poster campaign to support the week. 1400 leaflets were sent to local GPs, opticians and pharmacies and staff from Newcastle Eye Centre were on hand to give advice and information at displays at the front of the MediCinema at the RVI and at the busy shopping centre in Eldon Square.

Nurse Specialist in ophthalmology, Huseyin Cetinturk, who helped organised the event, was delighted with its success: “I would like to say thank you to everyone who has been involved in this campaign. It has been a long, hard nine months, however I feel that we had a very good response from the public and they now know more about glaucoma thanks to the local opticians who supported us, our very own Newcastle Eye Centre team nurses, opticians, consultants, ECLO team, volunteers and managers and a massive thank you to our very own Tynesight charitable fund who supported us with leaflets and posters.”

Business and Community support for Tynesight

Throughout the year, Kevin Stannard, Consultant Ophthalmologist at Newcastle Eye Centre, has kindly helped promote Tynesight in the community. Kevin has delivered talks at Byker Masonic Hall and Birtley Rotary Club, both of which had nominated Tynesight as their Charity of the Year.

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The Newcastle Breast Screening Service aims to provide women (and a small number of men) with the best possible care, ensuring that the latest medical techniques and equipment are always available and that all patients are seen by dedicated staff in a comfortable and pleasant environment.

Our dedicated charitable fund, the Newcastle Breast Cancer Imaging Fund, ensures that all monies raised through fundraising help to keep the service at the forefront of breast imaging and treatment.

A ‘Grand Black & White Ball’ to raise funds for the Newcastle Breast Cancer Imaging Service was held at the Assembly Rooms, Fenkle Street, in November 2015. The ball is one of a series of fundraising events hoping to raise around £30,000 towards a new piece of equipment that will enable doctors to carry out a biopsy under 3D imaging and will maintain and enhance the RVI’s reputation as a leading force in breast imaging.

Consultant Radiologist, Dr Carol Ellen Holmes, said: “Our Newcastle Breast Imaging Service is constantly expanding and we’re proud to say that we are at the forefront of breast imaging in the UK. Currently, we have the facility to perform 3D imaging but not image guided 3D biopsies (tomesynthesis). Tomosynthesis biopsy is the latest technological advance and will enable us to diagnose and biopsy breast cancer at an early stage. We will be the first centre in the region to offer this service which will benefit patients of all ages.

Bag for Life

From 5 October 2015 the law now requires large shops in England to charge 5p for all single-use plastic carrier bags. As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the opportunity was taken to give publicity to the Breast Screening Service’s ‘Bag for Life’ which is available in exchange for donations to Newcastle Breast Cancer Imaging Service Fund.
The Northern Head and Neck Cancer Fund (HANC), based at the Freeman Hospital, aims to fund head and neck cancer awareness campaigns within the northern region, as well as funding equipment and services to improve the patient and carer experience and aid research and education in the field of head and neck cancer.

Every year, almost 9,000 people are diagnosed with head and neck cancer in England and Wales, around 550 of whom are from the North East and North Cumbria. Mouth cancer can develop in any part of the mouth including the tongue, gums, tonsils, lining of the mouth, lips and upper part of the throat. It is one of the lesser known cancers but if diagnosed and treated early, it has one of the best survival rates.

“I would like to thank all those that have contributed to the Fund, those who have lent their incredible support in order to help with fundraising and all the volunteers who help us raise awareness of this disease. Together we can make a real difference.” Evelyn Weightman BEM, Founder, Northern Head & Neck Cancer Fund

Evelyn Weightman, founder of HANC, has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen’s 90th Birthday Honours List this year. The award is in recognition of Evelyn’s innovative local fundraising achievements. Evelyn, from Corbridge in Northumberland, said being awarded the BEM was a great honour which was “entirely dedicated to HANC”
Hats off to Newcastle University Dental Students

Dental students from Newcastle University have raised a record-breaking £4,800 for local head and neck cancer patients.

DentSoc, a university society run by a committee of ten fourth year dental students, chose HANC to be this year’s nominated charity benefitting from their annual charity auction.

DentSoc organises social and charity events for the dental school throughout the year and in their popular annual auction, DentSoc committee and staff members donate services and prizes which are then bid for by dental students. These prizes range from anything from weekends away to extra revision sessions.

Nicola Perry, Stage 4 BDS student, and President of ‘DentSoc’ was delighted at the amount raised through the charity auction and additional fundraising events:

“This year we chose HANC as our nominated charity. As dental students, the head and neck cancer cause is very close to our hearts and I am delighted that we were able to raise such a significant amount for HANC. Hopefully, this donation will help the charity in their journey to raise awareness of this disease and help to better the lives of those diagnosed. As president, I am extremely proud of the generosity of all students and staff of the dental school. We will continue to raise money throughout the year and hopefully have set the bar high for future years!”

Founder of HANC, Evelyn Weightman was overwhelmed by the students’ fundraising efforts:

“I am so grateful for the incredible support and generosity of these wonderful dental students who have raised the most we have ever received from one individual event. They will undoubtedly have a key role in detecting oral cancers in their future professional careers so I am doubly grateful to them for their fundraising and for helping raise awareness of head and neck cancers amongst their peers.”

I’ll keep on running for HANC

When Denise Jubb ran the Great North Run for HANC two years ago, it was 25 years since she’d last run the race. Last year, she raised £319 and is determined to keep on going. “If it helps towards raising awareness of this type of cancer and help those who are unfortunately already going through it, then I am very proud to be running for such a worthwhile cause and will continue to do so for as many years as I can.”

Wear the pin with pride

During the year, promotional HANC pin badges have been designed and ordered for use as wedding favours, as well as for delegates at the Annual Mouth Cancer Awareness Conference and for use at Fundraising events.
November’s Mouth Cancer Action Month 2015 - a busy time for HANC

Nationally, every November is designated Mouth Cancer Action month and this year it was a particularly busy month for our own region’s Head & Neck Cancer Fund (HANC).

‘Head yor gobs. An Aa’ll tell ye’s all an important story’

You check yourself for other lumps and bumps so why not check your mouth?

Mouth cancer can affect anyone. Early detection and treatment make it one of the best survival rates. If you detect that changed spot by your dentist or doctor, check the warning signs at www.mouthcancer.org

On 3 November over 160 professionals from the dental and healthcare sector attended the 4th Annual Head & Neck Cancer Conference held at St James’ Park in Newcastle. The aim of the conference, HANC’s largest to date, was to bring together key health partners to address one common concern – head and neck cancer in the northern region. It was hoped that participants would better understand how oral cancers present, their symptoms, the referral process and the new and pioneering treatment programmes and therapies now available.

The inclusion of presentations by three mouth cancer survivors also provided a real appreciation of the impact of mouth cancer from the patient’s perspective. One of the many speakers was Elizabeth Estensen, better known as Diane from the Woolpack in the ‘Emmerdale’ series. Elizabeth kindly broke her busy filming schedule to share her experience of caring for her husband Philip during his diagnosis and treatment for mouth cancer and the life-changing impact for both patient and carer.

Other conference speakers looked at the role of acupuncture in alleviating the side effects of head and neck cancers and explained the latest developments in food research with the implications for patients.

On 17 November it was time for a celebratory event for survivors of head and neck cancer. Again held at St James Park, the ‘Survivorship Day’ provided information for those who have been given the ‘all clear’ of the disease and let them know that the support is still there for them as they move towards full recovery.

Finally, on Friday 20 November HANC had an exciting race night which was held at The Angel of Corbridge. A noisy crowd of race goers enjoyed horse, trotter, dog and even pig racing. Prizes were kindly donated by the Northumberland Sausage Company, Zurich Insurance, Newcastle United FC, Durham County Cricket Club and local Corbridge businesses, the Forum bookshop, Artisan Oriental fusion restaurant, Acanthus giftware and the Angel. It was truly a night to remember and one which will help raise awareness of head and neck cancer in the Northern region and raise much-needed funds for HANC. Thank you so much!

Sponsorship from Zurich Insurance enabled eye-catching posters advertising Mouth Cancer Awareness Month to be put up in the busy ticket hall of Monument Metro Station in Newcastle and along escalators. With the slogan adapted from regional folk song, ‘The Lamblton Worm’, “Haad yor gobs. An Aa’ll tell ye’s all an important story” the poster encouraged people to check for lumps, bumps and other warning signs of oral cancer.

For information about HANC visit www.northernhanc.org

Check the warning signs by your dentist or doctor. If in doubt, get checked out.

A full house at St James’ Park.

Joanne Patterson, Speech & Language Therapist at the Freeman Hospital.

A busy time for HANC

Conference speakers John Tacchi, CEO of Big Practice Ltd & Emmerdale actor, Elizabeth Estensen.

Photographs: Newcastle Hospitals
Oesophageal and gastric cancer cases are increasing at an alarming rate. The number of those with the disease is growing faster in society as a whole than any other form of cancer.

Sadly, the incidence here in the North East is almost double the national average (9,000 new oesophageal cancer cases and 7,000 new gastric cancer diagnoses each year).

This does not need to be the case – knowing what to look out for could save lives. If these cancers are diagnosed at the earliest stage, survival can be as high as 75-87%. At a late stage, it drops to just 20-21%.

The Northern Oesophago Gastric Cancer Fund supports the regional campaign – ‘Oesophagoose’ – to raise awareness of the early symptoms associated with this disease.

The Northern Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Unit (NOGCU) at the Royal Victoria Infirmary has the highest activity in the UK. It is the biggest unit in Europe and North America and has national as well as international recognition for its expertise and results. The unit prides itself on its patient-centred care and the relationships formed with the patients and their families.

The NOGCU annual awareness campaign – ‘Oesophagoose’ – funded by the Northern Oesophago Gastric Cancer Fund, illustrates its commitment to making a difference to the patients who are affected by this devastating disease as well as the ongoing initiatives in care such as the Enhanced Recovery Programme and the drive to lead the way in research and the development of new treatments and surgical techniques.

Early stage diagnosis can make a real difference in survival rates for these types of cancers so raising awareness is still vital. For the 8th year running the Oesophagoose campaign in the North East and Cumbria was highlighted on metro trains, platforms and on many buses. The message that having persistent heartburn for 3 weeks or more may be nothing to worry about but worth seeing the GP has resulted in the unit seeing many more referrals year on year.

The campaign was recognised by NHS England and the Be Clear On Cancer initiative which after the success of a local pilot in 2012 supported a regional pilot in 2014 and then a national campaign in 2015. A national TV advert during the campaign was found to have a significant impact in disseminating awareness about oesophageal cancer.

Integrated Financial Solutions remembering Mark

Professor Mike Griffin and Rachel Colver receiving a cheque in the unit from colleagues of a former patient, Mark Austin, who sadly died at a young age.

The company, Integrated Financial Solutions for You Ltd, are to hold an annual golf event to raise money in Mark’s memory with proceeds going to the Oesophagoose Fund. Rachel Colver is the Specialist Nurse who looked after Mark.
“Gooseday Golf Open” at Wearside Hidden Gem

“I for one wouldn’t be here now if it wasn’t for the lifesaving treatment I received in January 2012” says George Butterworth. “How fortunate we are to have such a specialist hospital, the RVI, right here in the North East.”

In recognition of the lifesaving work being done by Professor Mike Griffin and his team at the Northern Oesophageal Gastric Cancer unit at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Mr George Butterworth organised the inaugural “Gooseday Golf Open” at Weanside Golf Club in August 2015.

A total of 32 teams of 4 competed for prizes kindly donated by local golf clubs and their members, friends and family, all in aid of the ‘Oesophagoose’ Fund. The weather was fantastic and each team had a souvenir photo taken with Oesophagoose before teeing off on the first hole. A magnificent total of £1,675 was raised on the day.

The event was so successful that George has organised a second Golf Day at the Weanside Golf Club, the ‘Hidden Gem,’ for this August.

Annual Christmas Coffee Morning

The Northern Oesophago Gastric Cancer Fund’s annual Christmas Coffee Morning held in the Banqueting Hall of the Civic Centre continues to be extremely well attended and a wonderful event for staff, former and current patients alike.

A beautiful painting of a goose was kindly donated to the Unit by patient, Sandra Benson, as a raffle prize for the Christmas Coffee Morning fundraiser. It was painted by Sandra’s friend, Ian Dunning.

Gail Etherington and John Forster both had an oesophagectomy in 2014 so were delighted to be able to meet ‘Oesophagoose’ along with other patients and friends at the 2015 Christmas Coffee Morning.

Photographs: Newcastle Hospitals

www.oesophagoose.org

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A very big thank you to all of our ‘Oesophagoose’ Great North Runners who took part in the 2015 race. We had 25 official charity places this year which will be increased to 35 in the 2016 race, all pledging to raise at least £300 for the Fund. Fantastic news!

Colin Hastings & Kim English

Son of former patient, Mr Alfred Hastings, Colin finished in a creditable 2:22:28 having sustained a calf injury during training only five days before the race. “I was nearly a non-runner, right up until 10am on the day!”

Kim English completed the race in 2:14:32. Together with Colin, the pair raised around £1,500 for Oesophagoose.

Adrian Asbridge

Former patient, Adrian Asbridge, had an oesophagectomy in April 2014 but still managed a fantastic Great North Run time less than 18 months later. Says Adrian, “We had a fantastic day and my nephew Shaun did the run in a little over 2 hours. My own time was 2 hours 55 minutes but that was so I had an easy target to beat next year! Considering my longest training run was 3 miles back in the previous June, I didn’t do too bad.”

Patient, Mr Geoffrey Henderson, from Silloth in Cumbria, presents a cheque for £2,500 to Professor Griffin from the money raised by family members taking part in the Great North Run.

Adrian Asbridge with Shaun

Photographs: Newcastle Hospitals
The Newcastle Hospitals NHS Charity’s ‘Young Adult Kidney Fund’ helps support the Young Adult Kidney Service at the Freeman Hospital. The service supports young people living with kidney disease (aged 16 to 25) and is one of only a handful of its kind in the UK.

Being a young adult and living with kidney problems is particularly challenging as they often find it hard to cope and easily lose focus when it comes to things like diet and lifestyle choices. Donations from the public enable YAKF to subsidise exercise programmes and social events where young kidney patients can all meet up together. The fund also helps to get young adults involved in the Transplant Games in the UK and abroad.

Off to Oz for Young Adult Kidney Patients

In September 2016 a group of Young Adult Kidney patients will be travelling to the Australian Transplant Games in Western Sydney led by team manager Duncan Hall from Swalwell in Gateshead.

Duncan, who was on dialysis for five years before having a kidney transplant in 2007, is a keen ambassador for the YAKF. With unceasing enthusiasm he has helped organised several fundraising events during 2015/16 (including a charity buskers night held at Low Fell Rugby Club in Gateshead which raised an amazing £567.11). Together with the help of a generous grant of £1,500 from the British Kidney Patient Association, this has paid for this year’s trip to Sydney.

The team are: Duncan Hall, Ryan Dobinson, Charlene Henry and Steven Gardner. We wish them well in the 2016 Ozzie Transplant Games.

Staff Benefits Festival 2015 – ‘Mad Hatter’s Tea Party for YAKF’

With the theme of children’s TV and film, the annual Staff Benefits Festival held at the Royal Victoria Infirmary and Freeman Hospital brought hundreds of staff to the Young Adult Kidney Fund stall in July 2015 over the course of the two days. The YAKF was chosen by organisers from ‘Improving Working Lives’ as their ‘charity of the festival’.

Duncan Hall, Ryan Dobinson, Cassie Liddle, Alex Crawley and Becca Sharp, held a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party in keeping with the festival theme, baking cakes and biscuits to hand to grateful passers by.

Tea with the Mad Hatter and YAKF friends

Duncan Hall (centre) with Ryan Dobinson and Gill Childs

Some of the Young Adult Kidney Service competitors at the 2014 Transplant Games in Melbourne

www.justgiving.com/Young-Adults-Kidney-Fund
The Freeman Hospital’s cardiology unit specialises in the treatment of patients with coronary heart disease, rhythm disturbances, heart failure, valvular heart disease and diseases of the heart muscle. The unit is the largest centre in the UK both for coronary angioplasty (a procedure used to unblock or widen a blood vessel) and for providing treatment for patients with heart attacks, with the fastest treatment times in the country.

In recent years, advances to treatments and procedures have resulted in improved health outcomes for patients with CV diseases. Much of this is due to research.

The Newcastle Cardiovascular Trials & Research (NECTAR) Fund is our very own charitable fund under the Trust’s Newcastle Hospitals NHS Charity and is based at the Freeman Hospital. The fund aims to improve the experience for our patients with cardiovascular disease.

We place particular emphasis on involving our patients, their carers and the local public in our research. The NECTAR Fund facilitates our patients, Carer and Public Involvement and Engagement group where we invite anyone who is interested to hear the findings of our research and where new planned research studies are also discussed for patient feedback.

The fund enables us to purchase equipment to be used in local research studies and cover travel expenses for patients and other members of the public to attend and help with the group. The more money we are able to raise, the more research we can undertake and the greater the benefit for our patients at their own regional facility at the Freeman Hospital.

A Himalayan task for Rebecca

Cardiovascular Research Nurse, Rebecca Wilson, recently tackled Mount Everest base camp in order to raise money for the NECTAR fund. Setting off on the 25 March 2016, Rebecca and her partner joined an organised group with 12 other members from around the world. Along with help from their two guides and Sherpas, the group set off on their mission to conquer base camp, which included a gruelling 11 days of walking.

Rebecca’s journey started at Newcastle airport where she then flew on to Dubai, then Delhi before finally continuing to Kathmandu. Her first big challenge was trying to get on a flight to Lukla airport, which is known as ‘the world’s most dangerous airport’. Experiencing just a few hiccups along the way such as cancelled flights and some altitude sickness, Rebecca proudly completed the trek on the 3 April 2016 reaching base camp at an impressive elevation of 5,364m.

Rebecca Wilson (reaches Everest base camp)

In completing the trek, Rebecca has managed to raise £940 for the NECTAR fund and she continues to receive donations for her tremendous efforts. When asked about her achievement Rebecca said: “It was fantastic meeting people from all over the world and it was so wonderful to experience the Nepalese culture. Although dealing with the altitude was challenging and the helicopter ride to Lukla was rather scary, it was amazing to reach base camp knowing we had raised money for the NECTAR fund. I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me, especially Sonney Darville who raised over £400 from the Blakelaw community in Newcastle”.

Rebecca landed safely back in the UK on the 8 April 2016 and is due to start a new challenge in October 2016 as she takes on the role of Team Lead/Senior Research Nurse for the Diabetes, Endocrine and Stroke Research teams.

244 Review of the Year 2015/16
Here at NEWCASTLE UROLOGY we have our very own charitable fund which aims to IMPROVE THE CARE of all our patients by providing leading-edge equipment and treatments, as well as funding research and training and providing amenities and COMFORTS ABOVE AND BEYOND what NHS resources alone can provide.

How can you help us?

To make a donation, go to www.JustGiving.com/Newcastle-Urology or Text 70070 with the message UROL70 and the amount you wish to donate up to £10 (eg. UROL70 £5).

For more information, or to support us through a fundraising activity, please contact: 0191 213 7235 or email: charity.matters@nuth.nhs.uk

Or write to us at:
Newcastle Urology Fund, c/o Charitable Funds Office, Peacock Hall, RVI, Queen Victoria Road, Newcastle NE1 4LP
Once again, we’ve had another wonderful year of fundraising for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

We’ve been lucky to receive a tremendous amount of donations and so many people have undertaken fundraising activities for us. It always amazes me.

As ever, my family and I remain closely involved in all aspects of Bob’s Foundation. We are incredibly proud of the work it funds and very grateful to everyone who contributes in any way.

Thank you all.

SIR BOBBY ROBSON CELEBRITY GOLF DAY

The fourth Sir Bobby Robson Celebrity Golf Day was held, as in previous years, at Rockcliffe Hall, Hurworth-on-Tees, and was sponsored by Pin Point Recruitment.

Sir Bobby’s family were very involved in its organisation and a host of famous faces attended, including cricketers, Graeme Swann and Steve Harmison; Sky Sports News presenter, Pete Graves; footballers, Michael Gray, Steve Harper, Rhys Williams, Steve Stone, Steve Howey and Steve Watson; and football managers, Paul Jewell, John Carver and Steve McClaren.

Foundation Patron, Alan Shearer, also attended and said: “Sir Bobby’s sadly left us but he’s left something very special behind with this charity.

“The funds that have been raised, and the work which has been carried out, is absolutely staggering and it continues to get bigger and better.”

Former Sunderland AFC player, Michael Gray, enjoyed the day and said: “Sir Bobby had the amazing knack of bringing people together when he walked into a room you knew he was there. He was a ‘head turner’ and a true gentleman, not just in sport, but in every walk of life.

“I think that’s why his name can still galvanise this area. The Foundation’s message is very important, every little bit of support helps and it will keep getting stronger, bigger and better the more people that get involved in it.”

A Review of Our Eighth Year
Once again, the Foundation was very well-supported by Great North Runners, 111 of them, and each with their own, often very personal, reasons for undertaking the famous half marathon.

As in previous years, Sir Bobby’s family welcomed the runners at the end of the race with thanks and refreshments in the Charity Village.

Chairman, Michael Cairns, said: “We are very proud to donate the sponsorship of every team’s shirt this season to the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

“They do marvellous, important work funding projects that help cancer patients in our region and contribute to international research. And if we can help in some small way to promote them and remind people that the Foundation relies on volunteer fundraisers, then that is fantastic.”

Cramlington Juniors FC has players from the age of six through to 17 and prides itself on their work with children in Northumberland.

Last year, for the first time in the club’s history, all 18 teams proudly wore the same logo — that of the Foundation.

Cramlington Juniors ‘Get Shirty’

Great North Runners for Sir Bobby

Photographs: The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation
Lady Elsie and sons, Andrew and Mark, visited the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre and the Stereotactic Radiotherapy Unit, both at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care, and the Sir Bobby Robson PET Tracer Production Unit at Newcastle University, to learn more about the progress being made.

Mark Robson said: “We receive regular updates about everything the Foundation funds and it also means a lot to us to hear at first hand what’s happening.

“The charity contributed a total of almost £3 million to help fund these three projects alone, which is a tremendous amount of money by anybody’s standards. Particularly when you think of the amount of effort it took our supporters to raise the money and the generosity of the people who helped them.

“It’s a pleasure and a privilege to discuss the work we’ve been able to help fund with such dedicated hospital and research staff. We’ve also been lucky to meet some of the patients who are benefiting from the work.

“It’s never easy talking to people about cancer but it does provide my family with a sense that Dad’s charity is doing something very important. He would be incredibly proud to see how well the Foundation is doing and what we’re able to do for people with cancer as a result.”

Over 600 new patients were enrolled on clinical trials at the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre in the last year alone and many more were enrolled in other research studies, studying the biology and genetics of cancer to help develop and improve treatments.

There has been a year on year increase in the number of clinical trials open to recruitment, 86 in 2014/15, and staffing in the Centre has risen from 27 when it opened in 2009 to 51. Further developments are planned, which will involve still further expansion of the team.

In addition to contributing the initial £500,000 to equip the unit, the Foundation funds specialist drug trials training posts for both a doctor and nurse in the Centre and continues to enhance the facilities for patients when required.

The first, in 2014, raised an amazing £22,000 and this year’s walk, which was also in aid of Eden Valley Hospice, was even more successful.

Martyn explained: “I came up with the idea for the first walk because my friend, John Raynes, had secondary Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

“It’s amazing seeing the encouragement people show to each other as they give up a weekend and undertake what is a very difficult challenge.”
Sir Bobby’s Online Auction was organised by Gina Long, from Suffolk, with the help of other dedicated volunteers and raised an incredible £153,686.

As well as the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation, the auction also benefitted West Suffolk Hospital Charity, GeeWizz Foundation and the League Managers Association Charity.

One of the key members of Sir Bobby’s Auction Committee is former cricketer, Graeme Swann.

Graeme presented Lady Elsie with a cheque for £53,790 for the Foundation on the pitch at St James’ Park.

Graeme said: “It’s a great pleasure to be with Bobby’s Auction Committee and to represent its committee here today. Gina, who organises us all, is fantastic and works really hard.

“Sir Bobby was a hero of mine and I grew up as a Newcastle fan and I’m very happy to do what I can to help his charity.

“Cancer is something that affects us all and it’s vital we continue to find better ways to detect and treat it.

“I’m very proud to be involved with the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation through this auction and grateful for all the help we’ve had.”

Sir Bobby’s Online Auction receives tremendous support from the football community in particular and Newcastle United and local rivals Sunderland AFC donated some of the first prizes to get the event ‘off the ground.’

In total, the four previous ‘Sir Bobby Auctions,’ which began in 2011, have raised £320,000 for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and significant additional funds for other charities.

NEW CONSULTANT CLINICAL SCIENTIST APPOINTED THROUGH SIR BOBBY ROBSON FOUNDATION FUNDING

On International Clinical Trials Day, the Foundation announced it was funding a new patient treatment and research role at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care (NCCC).

Mr Neil Richmond, from Hartlepool, was appointed Consultant Clinical Scientist at the NCCC and he is helping optimise radiotherapy treatment for patients, leading treatment planning development and using innovative new software purchased by the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

This new role also means the Centre can join and lead clinical trials in radiotherapy research, meaning it continues to play its role in finding better treatments for cancer patients.

Mr Richmond works closely with the team operating the Stereotactic Radiotherapy Unit at the NCCC, which opened in 2014 thanks to a special collaboration between the Foundation Trust and its local hospital charities.

The Foundation was the majority charitable contributor and made its largest contribution to date, £850,000, to help fund the unit, which uses detailed scans and computerised 4D treatment planning to deliver radiation with tremendous accuracy.

Mr Richmond says: “Stereotactic radiotherapy is the major development in radiotherapy at present. It will define future treatments, so what we’re doing now will leave a legacy for the next generation.

“Working with this technology and the first class medical team here is what first attracted me to this role.

“It gives me great personal and professional satisfaction seeing the difference stereotactic radiotherapy is making in patient care.”

Mr Richmond is part of the team helping maximise use of stereotactic ablative body therapy (SABR) for tumours within the body, and stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) for treating tumours within the brain.

Lady Elsie said: “We have a marvellous board of trustees and it’s their medical knowledge that steers us. Every penny spent, every decision taken is discussed at great length to ensure it’s the best use of the money raised for us. And funding this post was no different.

“We’re so pleased to welcome Mr Richmond on board. He has a wealth of expertise and we’re lucky to have him. We wish him very well in his new role.”

Photographs: The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation
A MAGIC TOTAL RAISED

For the second consecutive year, Widnes Vikings, raised funds for the Foundation through the Magic Weekend at St James’ Park.

The Rugby League club’s fundraising, ‘Tackling Cancer...#ImOnIt,’ was an initiative to collect £10 donations from supporters. In exchange, their names were incorporated into the fabric of the Viking’s special edition 2016 Magic Weekend shirt.

In addition to supporters’ names, the black and white striped shirts also featured the Foundation logo and Newcastle United legend and Rugby League fan, Peter Beardsley, helped launch the campaign.

The initiative was hugely successful with the allocation of 3,000 names quickly filled and it received celebrity endorsements from the likes of Gary Lineker, Alan Shearer and Rugby League legend, Kevin Sinfield.

With further donations made by the Vikings and kit supplier, O’Neill’s Irish Sportsware, from the sale of replica Magic Weekend jerseys, the total donation figure raised for the charity was a magnificent £40,000.

This took the total figure raised by Widnes for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation over the past two years to over £60,000.

The cheque for the money raised to date was presented on the St James’ Park pitch before the Widnes Vikings and Salford Devils’ game kicked off Magic Weekend.

It was presented to Sir Bobby’s son, Andrew Robson, by Paul Lewis, a Widnes fan who sadly recently lost his mum, Margaret Housley, to cancer.

Margaret was also a huge fan of Widnes Vikings and she was one of the first fans to donate to have her name on the special Magic Weekend shirts.

Andrew Robson said: “This is just phenomenal support from Widnes Vikings and their fans, once again.

“We’re really amazed at how much money has been raised for the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation through this Magic Weekend campaign. It’s fantastic.

“And we’re so touched by the great enthusiasm both the club and fans bring to their fundraising efforts for Dad’s charity.

“To see the Widnes fans in the stands at St James’ wearing black and white and with our charity logo on their shirts is very special. We’re extremely grateful to everyone involved.”

Vikings Director, Brian O’Connor, said: “Once again I would like to pass on my thanks to every single person who donated to this initiative.

“It has been a privilege for our Club to have played our part in such a rewarding campaign.”

Photographs: The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation
RUN GEORDIE RUN RETURNS HOME

Mark ‘Run Geordie Run’ Allison, a software developer from Bedlington, completed an incredible run across Europe in aid of the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and The Children’s Foundation.

His run, sponsored by SOS Group Ltd., was 2,650 miles and 83 days long and included both the Pyrenees and Alps mountain ranges.

Beginning in Lisbon, Portugal, Mark ran around 38 miles a day and finished in Belgrade, Serbia.

Mark says: “The Europe run was a huge effort and far harder than I thought it would be. Not just for me, for the fantastic volunteer support team too.

“I’m proud to have successfully completed the run, which at times wasn’t 100 per cent likely to happen. It’s been tremendously hard and I couldn’t have done it without all the donations and messages of support I’ve received.”

This run was the latest leg in Mark’s Run Geordie Run Around the World challenge, which has raised over £250,000 for charities to date.

He has now run halfway around the world, 9,000 miles, including the length of the UK, the width of the USA, Australia and Europe.

The European leg took him through Portugal, Spain, Andorra, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia. The end was originally Istanbul but, because of the volatile situation in Turkey, Mark finished in Belgrade.

Belgrade now gives Mark the option to run north or south of the Black Sea when he starts the next stage of his Around the World Run, hopefully in 2018, which will go through Georgia, Russia and Kazakhstan (ending in Astana).

Mark adds: “The welcome and support we got in Belgrade was just amazing.

“There was a ‘finish line’ of children who are being helped by a local charity and then the British Ambassador to Serbia let me have a bath at the Embassy. And I’ll be the first to admit I really needed to bathe.

“It’s been a privilege to experience so many different European countries in such an usual way. I’d like to go back to visit them again when I’m on an actual holiday though.”

Lady Elsie says: “I hope Mark is very proud of what he’s achieved with this run. He really should be.

“We’re all very proud of him. It’s an absolutely marvellous achievement.

“We’re lucky to have Mark as a supporter of our work and very grateful to him and everyone who’s helped him along the way.”

OVER £2 MILLION RAISED THROUGH NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY

In 2012, Newcastle Building Society introduced its Sir Bobby Robson Foundation charity-linked accounts. The Society donates an equivalent of 0.1% of the total value held in the accounts to the Foundation.

Incredibly, that totals more than £2 million in donations to date, making Newcastle Building Society the largest corporate donor to the Foundation.

Andrew Haigh, chief executive at Newcastle Building Society, says: “Sir Bobby continues to inspire and motivate people. Channelling the respect and affection people still hold for him, to make such a difference to people’s lives today through the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation’s work in cancer research, is a powerful legacy.

“Supporting our communities is core to what we do, and we have been delighted to see how people across the North East, and beyond, have responded to the opportunity to do some good whilst saving, enabling us to continue our contribution to Sir Bobby’s foundation.”

Lady Elsie added: “We’re absolutely thrilled by the funds raised through these special accounts.

“We had no idea they would become this successful and we’re extremely grateful to the Newcastle and its members for supporting our work. The Newcastle has always understood the importance of what we fund.

“Bob was absolutely determined to provide world-class cancer facilities through his charity.

“Thanks to wonderful fundraisers and supporters like the Newcastle, we’re able to keep doing that.”
A selection of Supporting Charities
for the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Our ‘Clown Doctors’, Children’s Foundation
The Taylor family stayed at both Crawford and Scott Houses, when their baby boy Samson was born with congenital heart defects and issues with his oesophagus.

"At 9pm that evening, when Samson was 22 hours old, we finally got to see him again after his surgery had been successfully completed. Samson was immediately moved into the intensive care section of the Special Care Baby Unit and I was given a cubicle on the postnatal ward as I was recovering from an emergency caesarean.

"That first night, the nurse looking after Samson told us about The Sick Children's Trust's Crawford House. At that point, it hadn’t even occurred to us to worry about what we would do after I was discharged. We lived an hour away, so to have Crawford House was such a relief.

"In total, we spent almost three weeks at Crawford House. There are no words to describe how much it meant to have a place to call home, just minutes away from Samson’s bedside. It gave us a place to re-charge after spending hours in the hospital, which is incredibly draining. The direct line to the ward was brilliant because it meant we could quickly and easily contact the nurses, and the house staff were friendly and always asked how Samson was doing. We also got to meet other families who were in a similar situations to us, and that helped us feel less isolated and alone. We’re still in touch with some of those families now.

"We knew early on in pregnancy that Samson had a series of congenital heart defects. He was monitored regularly by the paediatric cardiology team at Freeman Hospital, and in February 2016, at nine months old, he was admitted onto the Children’s Heart Unit for open heart surgery. The Sick Children’s Trust's second ‘Home from Home’ in Newcastle, Scott House, was located just a short walk away from his ward.

"Just ten days after his surgery, Samson was well enough to go home. We couldn’t believe how quickly he’d recovered. I think being there together with him certainly helped."

Jenni Taylor, Mum to Samson, aged 1

Accommodation tailored to the needs of the families we support

At The Sick Children’s Trust, we put the needs of families at the heart of everything we do. That’s why, as well as providing vital free, high-quality accommodation, our house staff provide families with the emotional support and practical advice they need to be there for their seriously ill child.

While all are unique, every ‘Home from Home’ has family bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen and dining areas, living rooms, playrooms, and laundry facilities. In Newcastle upon Tyne, The Sick Children’s Trust runs two ‘Homes from Home’: Crawford House at the Royal Victoria Infirmary and Scott House at Freeman Hospital. Together, the houses support over 1,000 families with seriously ill children every year.

98% of families felt having the opportunity to stay in a private room helped them cope with the strain of having a seriously ill child. Accommodation is offered free of charge to families, but it costs the charity £30 to support a family for one night in a ‘Home from Home’. The Sick Children’s Trust relies entirely on voluntary donations to keep our houses running 24/7, 365 days a year.
Crawford House

It’s been an especially busy year at Crawford House, and the staff team have supported 758 families with sick children receiving treatment at the RVI. With 23 family bedrooms and so many families requiring support every month, Crawford is one of our busiest houses. That means it gets a lot of ‘wear and tear’, so over the past 12 months we have undertaken refurbishment works to ensure we maintain the high-quality of our accommodation. This has included:

- Buying new bedroom furniture in 16 of the house’s 23 bedrooms;
- Fitting new curtains for all the bedrooms, as well as new, adjustable wall lights above all the beds;
- Replacing the floor in the much-used playroom.

‘A place of sanctuary’

Nine-year-old Abby was referred by her GP for specialist tests when her energy levels dropped and she started to struggle at school. After an assessment at the RVI, it was discovered that she had both acute myeloid leukaemia and chronic myeloid leukaemia.

Her dad Carl says: “We were stunned – we had never imagined that something this serious would be wrong. It was a lot to take in.

“What do you do in such an uncertain situation? Driving home and leaving Abby was simply not an option, but being on the ward with her, 24 hours a day wasn’t possible. Fortunately, we were welcomed into The Sick Children’s Trust’s ‘Home from Home’ Crawford House. This place was to be our sanctuary.

“Crawford House has not just been a place to go for all of our practical needs, it has provided the space to close the door and be alone with our thoughts and feelings – it has also given us the chance to talk to staff and other parents using the house who really understand what we are going through.

“Abby has a lot more treatment ahead, but we are so grateful to The Sick Children’s Trust for all their help so far.”

Scott House

Following a £1.9 million fundraising appeal in conjunction with the Children’s Heart Unit Fund, The Sick Children’s Trust opened Scott House at Freeman Hospital in October 2014. It has 18 en-suite family bedrooms as well as a self-contained flat where a child can stay with their family after a heart transplant.

Last year we supported 261 families at Scott House, families with children receiving treatment on the Children’s Heart Unit.

Meet Andrew, Scott House’s Manager

All our house staff are remarkable people who care passionately about our work and the families they care for. They provide exceptional emotional and practical support to help ease families’ distress at an unimaginably painful and uncertain time.

“Being a House Manager gives me a sense of pride. Every day I come into work I know I am making a difference to families, supporting them through the good days and the bad. I take the time to get to know each family, making sure I stop by the kitchen for a cup of tea or pop out of my office to say hello and find out the latest update on their child’s condition. It’s an enormous privilege to be there for people who need us.”

Andrew Leadbitter, Scott House Manager

A truly special guest!

In October we had a visit from The Sick Children’s Trust’s President Michael Crawford, CBE, in whose honour Crawford House was named. House Manager Gail Stonley greatly enjoyed showing Michael around the house, and he also had the opportunity to meet a number of the families staying.

A ‘Home from Home’ when it matters most

When Kate’s son James was rushed hundreds of miles from their home in Hampshire to Newcastle’s Freeman Hospital for a lifesaving heart transplant, our newest ‘Home from Home’, Scott House, enabled the family to stay by his side.

“When my son was three years old, we were told that he had an extremely rare and incurable heart condition called restrictive cardiomyopathy. This meant his heart was failing and his only help would be a lifesaving transplant.

“Being hundreds of miles from home was so hard, but Scott House meant we could spend every waking moment by James’s bedside before returning to the house for a comfortable night’s sleep.

“Although James was heavily sedated, we’re sure he knew we were there. We’d talk to him and read him his favourite books so he knew we were right by his side.

“We spent the best part of four months in Newcastle, and if we weren’t by James’s side, we weren’t far because our home had become Scott House.

“James is now back at school - his new heart is amazing. Not only has it saved his life, it has transformed him. We feel blessed in so many ways for the incredible support we have received.”

www.sickchildrenstrust.org
The Bubble Unit was established in 1987 to treat babies and children born with defective immune systems, by offering them bone marrow transplantation. The Bubble Foundation UK works in partnership with the Children’s Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, and is based in the Great North Children’s Hospital, Newcastle.

One of only two specialist centres in the British Isles, the Unit treats babies born without an immune system, by bone marrow transplantation. Unable to fight infection, the most severe condition, Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID), is fatal if untreated within a year of birth. Even the simplest ‘common cold’ virus passed on by a mother’s kiss can kill.

The Unit also treats older children suffering from immune deficiencies, leukaemia and childhood arthritis. Babies and children need to be cared for within an 8 foot square ‘Bubble’ of clean air; known as Sterile Isolation, for up to six months.

The Bubble Foundation raises funds for the Unit, helping to finance medical equipment, toys and educational aids, supporting the welfare of the babies, children and their families and funding the research into genetic causes of Primary Immunodeficiency (PIDs), better treatments, as well as research into the outcomes of treatment to ultimately improve the lives of people with immune disorders.

Bubbles for the Bubble

The ‘Bubbles for the Bubble’ campaign was launched in October 2015. The campaign invites the public to post a bubble-related picture or video of themselves to social media along with the hashtag, #BubblesfortheBubble, at the same time donating a suggested £3 to support the charity’s lifesaving work.

Through funds raised from the appeal, The Bubble Foundation can continue to support the vital research and advances in medical science which give young people the chance to live normal, healthy lives.

As well as the Smokin’ Spitfires, a whole host of the UK’s most loved celebrities have already backed the campaign, posting their ‘Bubbles for the Bubble’ selfies on social media, including Denise Robertson, Holly Willoughby, Paul O’Grady, Gok Wan and Phillip Schofield.

Gill Johnston, Fundraising Manager for The Bubble Foundation, said: “The first time I heard the Smokin’ Spitfires’ song it stopped me in my tracks. It really captures the emotions associated with what our children and families go through, not just in their time on the ward, but also afterwards through their recovery.

“I’m sure that fans of the band will be keen to get their hands on this very limited edition single. Since the band have vowed never to play it live, it truly is a special song for the collection. It’s fantastic to think that they would get together to record this song to help our charity appeal.

“Just two years ago, the charity was seriously under threat and we thought we might have to close, but thanks to the kind support of people around the country, we are looking ahead to our next big piece of research. We’ve still lots to do and lots of money to raise and we hope many people will get behind the appeal.”

Neil added: “We will always do whatever we can for the Bubble Foundation to help them continue with their vital work. Our regular gigs for the charity are always packed to the rafters and it’s a great feeling knowing we’re doing something we enjoy but we’re also raising donations for such a worthy cause in the process.”

In 20 years the work of the Bubble Unit has taken survival rates from six out of ten babies dying, to nine in ten babies living – yet with new strands of research emerging all the time, there is so much more still to be done to help find cures for severe immune disorders and other childhood diseases.
Band puts Heart and Soul into Fundraising Single for Brave Bubble Babies

A popular band with a loyal fan following has recorded a limited-edition charity single to raise funds for The Bubble Foundation UK.

Eight-piece soul and RnB band the Smokin’ Spitfires, fronted by Neil Hunter, ventured into the studio to record a song written especially for the charity, which funds life-saving research to help babies and children suffering from severe immune deficiencies.

During a typical stay on the Bubble Unit at the Great North Children’s Hospital, which is supported by the work of the Bubble Foundation, youngsters live, often for months at a time, in sterile isolation – known as a ‘bubble’ of clean air – where they are protected against potentially fatal bugs and bacteria.

The single, titled ‘It’s Your Life’, is the first charity effort for the band, which has been playing packed monthly gigs at Newcastle’s Cluny in aid of the charity for the last two years. Smokin’ Spitfires singer Neil said: “When we first started playing our gigs for the charity, I visited the Bubble Unit and it really made an impression on me. I was amazed by the children, the parents and the staff.

“It couldn’t help but think of my own children and how lucky they were compared to some of the children in the Unit, who spend months at a time isolated from their families and friends, often undergoing painful operations.

“One of the nurses on the ward said something that really captured my attention and eventually became the inspiration for the song. She said: ‘We all tell the same story, but write a different book’. When I got to working on the song, this line was key.”

Despite playing every month for the Bubble Foundation, the band have however vowed never to play the song live.

Neil explained: “We’re only making 500 copies of the single and every penny we make from sales will go straight to the Bubble Foundation’s appeal. We want the song to remain as something special, created with a specific cause in mind – and we’re hoping people will snap it up.”

To find out more about the Bubble Foundation, you can visit our website http://www.bubblefoundation.org.uk/
Twitter @TheBubbleUK, or Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/BubbleFoundationUK

To find out more about the Smokin Spitfires, including details of the band’s shows in aid of The Bubble Foundation visit http://smokin spitfires.wix.com/smokin spitfires
The Children’s Foundation was set up in Newcastle in 1990. At that time, the North East region had the worst child health levels in the country. The Foundation was established to improve the health and wellbeing of our children and young people focusing on the relief of distress, disability and disadvantage. Twenty five years on and in the last year alone, the Foundation has directly helped, involved or affected the lives of 29,773 children across the North East and North Cumbria.

Some children unfortunately have to spend weeks or sometimes even months in hospital and we are extremely proud that two of our projects specifically support children and their families at the Great North Children’s Hospital at the Royal Victoria Infirmary:

3D V-POD Pain Distraction
The unique 3D pain distraction units (V-Pods) focus on relieving pain and distress in children who are undergoing routine, but unpleasant, medical procedures such as giving blood or having dressings changed. The VPod helps to relax the child and makes the procedures less traumatic for the child, the parent and medical staff.

The “extended 3D” is particularly effective at absorbing children’s attention as images appear to leave the screen and pass past the children’s eyes and ears.

Young patients such as Jaeden Jessers, aged 6, have already benefited from the V-Pod unit.

Jaeden had a bone marrow transplant two years ago but has been a resident on the ward more recently after he picked up a number of infections and had nutritional problems.

Jaeden’s mum, Stef Cockerham, 27, says the new equipment has helped her son while he has been undergoing treatment. “He is able to play games on it and, if we put the glasses on, we can see everything in 3D which proves a good distraction when he is getting treated.”

The Clown Doctors
The Clown Doctors are now into their third consecutive year visiting sick children in hospital, supporting them through what can be a traumatic and frightening time. The Clown Doctors use performing arts such as storytelling, music and clowning to engage with the children and to help them come to terms with their situation using humour and play.

The programme actively supports the work of the physiotherapists, encouraging children to exercise limbs and build strength and stamina, all through play.

From September 2015 to June 2016 the Clown Doctors have interacted with 1,110 young people, their family, friends and siblings.
Bright Red aims to improve the lives and treatment of people with blood cancer across the North of England. Through care, research and education we are striving to beat illnesses such as leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma myelodysplasia and myeloproliferative diseases.

Over the years we have invested over £5m helping improve patient care, developing nurses and pushing the boundaries of blood cancer research.

Bright Red has played a major role in helping Newcastle city region become one of the best places to be for those unfortunate enough to be diagnosed with a blood cancer.

In 2015 we had a record breaking fundraising year with an income of £227,000. A large part was raised through the BrightRed4Ben fundraising event in Morpeth, which raised funds in honour of international events rider Ben Hobday. Ben was diagnosed with lymphoma in June 2015, and after intense treatment at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care he is now in remission. Ben was recently announced as Bright Red’s new patron and we are looking forward to working together to employ more Bright Red outreach nurses. Other recent highlights include:

- £55,000 for projects to improve patient care - Bright Red Outreach Nurse, the Complementary Therapy Team and the Patient Survivorship Conference.
- £30,000 from the Lee Robson Patient Care Grant - supports blood cancer patients suffering from financial hardship.
- £60,000 research grants – supporting Newcastle University in various research projects.

We have high hopes for a promising future where we can continue to make significant improvements to the lives and treatment of blood cancer patients. In 2016 we will help launch the ECP (extracorporeal photopheresis) service, to help treat people suffering from ‘graft versus host’ disease (GVHD) which can be a complication of stem cell or bone marrow transplantation, and we will redevelop the isolation rooms to improve the facilities for transplant patients.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Mr Kingsley Smith
Chairman
Professor Peter H Baylis
Senior Independent
Non-Executive Director
retired July 2015
Professor Christopher P Day
Non-Executive Director
Dr Bryan C Dobson
Non-Executive Director
Dr Patrick J L Kesteven
Non-Executive Director
from May 2015
Professor Kath McCourt
Non-Executive Director
from December 2015
Mrs Hillary A Parker
Senior Independent
Non-Executive Director
Mr David Stout
Non-Executive Director
Mr Ewen G Weir
Non-Executive Director
Sir Leonard Fenwick
Chief Executive
Mrs Angela Dragone
Finance Director
Mrs Helen Lamont
Nursing & Patient Services Director
Mrs Louise Robson
Business Director & Development
Mr Andrew R Welch
Medical Director

CANCER SERVICES/ CLINICAL HAEMATOLOGY:
Dr Ian D Pedley
Clinical Director
Mrs Sheila Alexander
Directorate Manager

CLINICAL HAEMATOLOGY:
Dr Venetia H Bigley
Dr Tina T Biss
Dr Peter J Carey
Professor Matthew P Collin
Dr Jane S Conn
Dr Raymond K B Dang
from November 2015
Dr John P Hanley
Dr Erin C Hurst
Professor Graham H Jackson
Dr Gail L Jones
Dr Patrick J L Kesteven
retired April 2015
Dr Arian D J Laurence
from November 2015
Dr Gail L Jones
Professor Graham H Jackson
Dr Erin C Hurst
from December 2015
Dr Ian F Purcell
Clinical Director
Adult and Paediatric Cardio-RadioLOGY
Dr Simon R Haynes
Clinical Director

CARDDIOGRAPHIC SURGERY/ANAESTHESIA:
Ms Liz Bailey
Directorate Manager
from February 2016
Dr Tony Watson
Acting Directorate Manager
from February 2016
until February 2016
Mrs Rachel Lonsdale
Directorate Manager
from August 2015
Dr Rajiv Das
Dr Richard J Edwards
Dr Mohamed Egred
Dr Ht I U Haq
Dr S Tim Irvine
Dr M Antoinette Kenny
Dr Vijay Kunadian
Dr Stephen W Lord
Dr Guy A MacGowran
Dr Janet M McCobb
Dr Elizabeth McNeall
Dr Stephen Murray
Dr Abdul Nasser
Dr Chris J Plummer
Dr Ian F Purcell
Dr Ewen J Shepherd
Dr Jane S Skinner
Professor Kim Spirofidopoulos
Professor Azhar G Zaman

CARDDIOGRAPHIC SURGERY:
Dr Sumeera Nair
Dr Roderick D A Oakes
Professor Stephen G O’Brien
Dr Wendy L Osborne
Dr Kate L Talks
Dr Jonathan P Wallis

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY:
Dr Philip J Atherton
Dr Alexander G Bradshaw
from April 2015
Dr Tony N Branson
Dr Graham G Dark
Dr Werner H Dobrowsky
Dr John A Frew
Dr Rebecca A Goranova
Dr M Shahid Iqbal
Dr Charles G Kelly
Dr Joseph Kovarik
Dr Daniela Lee
Dr Emma Lethbridge
Dr Joanne Lewis
Dr Ujjal K Mallick
Dr Fiona E Mcdonnel
Dr Rhona M McMenimen
Dr Paula M Mulveena
Dr Ian D Pedley
Dr Ghazia Shakh
Dr Timothy P Simmons
Dr Sandeep Singhal
Dr Wendy B Taylor
Dr Helen E Turnbull
Dr Kathryn L Wright

PAEDIATRIC CARDIAC ANAESTHESIA AND INTENSIVE CARE:
Dr Teresa Chila
Dr Lee P Ferguson
Dr Margarita Guillen Ortega
Dr Simon R Haynes
Dr Ramesh Kumar
Dr Judith Lleddias Jane
Dr Alan J McCheyne
Dr Emma C Simpson
Dr Jon H Smith
Dr Yamuna Thiru

CARDDIOGRAPHIC SERVICES:
Dr Anthony G George
resigned April 2016
Dr Denis O’Leary
Dr Leena Pandeshi
Dr James D Park
from February 2016
Dr Henning Pauli
Dr Hazel Powell
retired May 2016
Dr Mahesh R Prabhu
Dr Chandrika Royam
Dr Abraham Samuel
Dr Orathi P Sanjay
Dr Deirdre A Timon

PAEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY:
Dr David S Crossland
Dr Katrion A C Jansen
from April 2016
Dr C Richard Kirk
retired October 2015
Dr Angela H McBrien
Dr John J O’Sullivan
Dr Zdenka Rajchurt
Dr Ingram Schulze-Neick
contract expired June 2015

RESPIRATORY MEDICINE:
Professor Paul A Corris
Dr Tony G De Soyza
Professor Andrew J Fisher
Dr Bernard G Higgins
Dr James L Lordan
Dr Gerard J Meachery
Professor A John Simpson
Dr Ann C Ward
Dr Sophie D West

TRANSPANTATION MEDICINE:
Dr Gareth Parry
Children’s Services
Dr Iain C Johnstone
Joan’ Clinical Director
Dr Mika C McKean
Joan’ Clinical Director
Ms Jane Gibson
Directorate Manager

CHILDREN’S SERVICES GENERAL & COMMUNITY PAEDIATRICS:
Dr Mark L C Anderson
Dr Kim M Barrett
Dr Arpita Bhattacharya
Dr M Elie Bond
Dr Anna M Brough
from October 2016
Dr Nicola J Clough
Dr Rebecca S Dearden
from September 2015
Dr Pamela D Drummond
Dr Caroline Grayson
Dr V Anne M Griffiths
Dr Alison L Guadagnolo
Dr Cathie J Hiley
Dr Naomi I Jones
Dr Peter M Jones
Dr Helen C Leonard
Dr Y Fan Liang
Dr Emma J Lim
from December 2015
Dr Raghu P Lingham
Dr Asha M Nair
Dr Anna Redfeam
Dr Chris G M Richards
Dr Achilles Spyropoulos from November 2015
Professor Douglass M Turnbull
Dr Tim J Walls
retired November 2015
Dr Naomi M Warren
Dr Tim J Williams
NEUROPHYSIOLOGY:
Dr Mark R Baker
Dr H Ming Lai
Dr Ian S Schofield
Dr Roger G Whittaker
NEURORADIOLOGY:
Dr Priya Bhatnagar
Dr Daniel Birchall
Dr David J A Butteriss
Dr Johannes C du Plessis from September 2015
Dr Anil R Ghoklar
Dr Julie M Hall from January 2016
Dr Vijay K Jayakrishnan resigned October 2016
Dr David P Minks from November 2015
Dr Dip Mitra
Professor Phil M White
NEUROSURGERY
Mr Chris J A Cowie from March 2016
Dr John E Crossman
Dr Damian Holliman
Mr Alistair J Jenkins
Mr Anant S Kamat
Dr Patricia M Mitchell
Miss Claire L Nicholson
Mr Justin J Nissen
Mr Prokopios Panaretos from February 2016
Mr Nicholas Ross
Mr Surash Surash
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
Dr Elizabeth Murphy
Dr Hamish R Paterson
Dr John D Barker
Mr Christopher C E Neoh
Dr David Saunders
Mr Clive M McElvaney
Dr Gemma M Timms
Dr Hilda R Velazquez
Dr S Linda Waddilove
Dr Jon Walton
Dr Michael K Weaver
Dr Oliver G W Weldon
Dr Harriet J Wood
Dr Stephen E Wright
ROYAL VICTORIA INFIRMARY:
Dr Will J Right
Clinical Director
Mr Andrew Watson
Directorate Manager
Dr Samira Ahmed
Dr Rahul Bajekal
Dr Francoisies Bari from April 2015
Dr Phil M Barrow
Dr Miriam R Baruch
Dr Anna M Batchelor
Dr Simon V Baudousin
Dr Kathryn R Bell
Dr Sarah J Bell
Dr Rob E Bullock
Dr G Claire Campbell
Dr Kaye L Cantlay
Dr Neil Cardno
Dr Ian D Clement
Dr Maria E G Clement
Dr David C Crawford
Dr Steven G H Cruickshank
Dr Iain M Cummings
Dr Lisa S Daniels
Dr Elizabeth C Davis
Dr Henrietta E Dawson
Dr Kate E Duffield
Dr Zoe S Eke
Dr Gary R Enever
Dr Jerry A Evans
Dr Ian R Fletcher
Dr Jonathan Womack
Dr Claire Woods
PLASTIC SURGERY/ OPHTHALMOLOGY/ DERMATOLOGY:
Mr Michael P Clarke
Dr Michael Gray
Directorate Manager
DERMATOLOGY:
Dr Behnam Afzali Khoshkibari from January 2016
Dr Dianné L Barnes
Dr John D Barker from January 2016
Dr Julia C Barth
Dr Hilary G Benbow
Dr Jackie Blackwell
Dr Conor T Gillan
Dr Ben A Goodman from January 2016
Dr John Halshaw
Dr Rachel S Hawes
Dr Idse H Herrema
Dr Jeremy B Hyams
Dr Nicholas D Ireland
Dr Susan E Jackson
Dr Iain S R Jones
Dr Hareesh Krishnamurthy
Dr Philip G Laws
Dr Nicola S Ledingham
Dr Helen A May
Dr Jo McClintock
Dr Huw D S McConnell
Dr P Ben Messer
Dr Sarah E Metcalfe
Dr Sailesh K Mishra
Dr Julia M March-Siddall
Dr Daniel Mohand
Dr Karen J Naru
Dr Ifikhar Parvez
Dr Barry Paul
Dr Sarah E C Platt
Dr Kamila D Rajgor
Dr Sachin Rastogi
Dr Nancy Redfern
Dr Victoria A Robson
Dr David Saunders
Dr Alison Schofield
Dr Cait P Searl
Dr Jonathan M Shetton
Dr Karen L Simpson
Dr Rhona C F Sinclair
Dr John S Stanley
Dr Alan C Sweeney
Dr Steve P Thomas
Dr M Kumar Varma
Dr Angus Vincent
Dr Lynne K Waring
Dr Ian H Warnell
Dr Katy Whitehouse
Dr Will J Wright
Dr Judith A Wilkes
Dr Paul R Wilkinson
Dr Jonathan Womack from January 2016
Dr Claire Woods
OPHTHALMOLOGY:
Mr Hamed Arwaat from August 2016
Dr Neil K Archibald
Mr Eric A Barnes
Mr Michael A Bean
Mr Andrew C Browning
Miss Sally A E Buckley from November 2015
Dr Anna Carstairs resigned July 2016
Miss Lucy C Clarke
Mr Michael P Clarke
Mr Alan J Connor
Miss Mags R Dayan
Professor Francisco C D Figueiredo
Dr Rajen Gupta
Miss Roxane J Hillier
Ms Monica R Hrabovska
Dr William A Innes
Ms Tsveta V Ivanova from February 2016
Ms Zoe K Johnson
Dr Rajeev Kak
Mr Gordon B Lau from January 2016
Mrs Vina Manjunath
Mr Krishnamoorthy Narayan
Mrs Kapka Y Nenova
Mr Christopher C E Neoh resigned December 2015
Dr Samantha Gittins
Dr Philip J Hampton
Dr Diana R Hutchinson
Dr Heather E Jones
Dr James A L Langtry
Dr Clifford M Lawrence
Dr Suzy N Leech
Dr Muhammad A Md Hanifia
Dr Mohammed I Meerman from April 2015
Dr Simon J Meggitt
Dr Raphael R Mohammed resigned October 2015
Dr Sebastian Moss
Dr Christopher R Murray
Dr Sivakumar Natarajan from August 2015
Dr Sarah L Nicholson
Dr Thomas J Oliphant
Dr Sarah A Parkinnen
Dr Louise Rafferty from September 2015
Dr Neil N Rajan
Professor Nick J Reynolds
Dr Catriona J Rutland
Dr Kate A Short
Dr Tee Wei Siah
Dr Darren J E Simpson from April 2016
Dr E Lucy Speight
Dr Sophie C Weatherhead
Dr Clair M Woolbridge
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02/09/2016 18:36
Mr Kevin P Stannard  
Mr David Steel  
Mr S James Talks  
Dr Anandh Velayudam  
Sadasivam  
Dr Patrick Yu Wai Man

PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY:  
Mr Omar A Ahmed  
Mr Mogdad Alrawi  
Mr Muhammad A Bashir  
from October 2015  
Mr Justin S Chatterjee  
from November 2015

Mr Nick Collins  
Mr Maxford C J Coutinho  
Miss Brind M Crowley  
Mr Peter D Hodgkinson  
Mr Martin Joseph  
Mr Richard J Langford  
Mr Richard H Milner  
Mr Joe M O’Donoghue  
Mrs Sarah A Pape  
Mr Maniram Ragbir  
Mr Sahan V Raman-Eliya  
from April 2016  
Mr Daniel B Saleh  
Mr David C G Sainsbury  
Mr Sahan V Rannan-Eliya  
Mr Maniram Ragbir  
Mr Richard H Milner  
Mr Peter E Coyne  
Mr Mike J Clarke  
Mr Richard M Charnley  
Mr Henry J Cain  
Mr Richard D Bliss  
Mr Fintan G Bergin  
Mr Richard D Bliss  
Mr Henry J Cain  
Mr Richard M Charnley  
Mr Mike J Clarke  
Mr Peter E Coyne  
Mr David A Rix  
Mr Alastair G Rogers  
Mr Geoffrey Hide  
Dr Tim W Hoare  
Dr Carol Ellen Holmes  
Dr Rob M Holmes  
Dr Michael R Jackson  
resigned November 2015  
Dr Ralph W Jackson  
Dr Alvin Karsandas  
from September 2015  
Dr Brenda Kaye  
Dr Peter H Litter  
Dr Leigh G McDonald  
from April 2015  
Dr Lesley M McLean  
retired June 2016  
Dr M Andrew F McNeill  
Dr Andrew S McQueen  
Dr Ruth A M McStay  
from September 2015  
Dr Leslie Mitchell  
resigned June 2016  
Dr Deniz Morgan  
from February 2016  
Dr Michelle C Muller  
Dr Colin A Nice  
Dr George S Petrides  
Dr Piotr Pieniazek  
Dr Colin S Ripley  
Dr John F Robinson  
from October 2015  
Dr Samantha E Salkia  
from October 2015  
Dr D John Scott  
Dr Matthew Scott  
Dr Alexander C Self  
from September 2015  
Dr Nichi Sibal  
Dr Raj Sinha  
Dr Bozena Starzyk  
Dr John D Tuckett  
Dr Robin E T Williams  
Dr Sylvia A Worthly  
Dr Ivan Zammit-Maempel

RENOUL & UROLOGY SERVICES:  
Mr David A Rix  
Clinical Director  
Miss Jo Noble  
Directorate Manager  

RENOUL MEDICINE:  
Dr Laura A Baines  
Dr Alison L Brown  
Dr Richard E Fielding  
Professor Tim H J Goodship  
resigned July 2016  
Dr Katy E Jones  
Dr N Suren Kanagasundaram  
Dr David G Kavanagh  
Dr Emma K Montgomery  
from August 2016  
Dr John A Sayer  
Professor Neil S Sheerin  
Dr Charles R V Tomson

UROLOGY:  
Mr Jonathan K N Aning  
Mr Christian A Bach  
resigned July 2016  
Mr John B Davies  
Mr Trevor J Dorkin  
Mr Sobah R Ferozepurwilla  
Mr Milan Gopal  
from April 2015  
Mr Chris K Harding  
Mr S Taheen Hasan  
Mr Rakesh J Heer  
Mr Mark J Johnson  
Mr Kevin R McElroy  
Miss Anna M O’Riordan  
Dr Edgar M Paez Guervaud  
Mr Toby Page  
Professor Robert S Pickard  
Mr Philip H Powell  
Mr Mohinder S Rawat  
Mr David A Rix  
Mr Alastair G Rogers  
Mr Matthew B K Shaw  
Professor Naeem A Soomro  
Mr David J Thomas  
Dr Andrew C Thorpe

SURGICAL SERVICES:  
Mr Tim A Lees  
Joint Clinical Director  
Mr Stewart Nicholson  
Joint Clinical Director  
Mr Hugh J Gallagher  
Joint Clinical Director  
from March 2016  
Mr Mike Graham  
Directorate Manager  

GENERAL SURGERY/TRANSPLANTATION:  
Mr Sebastian R Aspinall  
Mr Fintan G Bergin  
Mr Richard D Bliss  
Mr Henry J Cain  
Mr Richard M Charnley  
Mr Mike J Clarke  
Mr Peter E Coyne  
from November 2015  
Mr Adam C Critchley  
Mr Muhammad T Dosani  
Mr Jeremy J French  
Mr Hugh J Gallagher  
Professor S Mike Griffin  
Mr Ben Griffiths  
Mr Paul J Hainsworth  
Mr Jon M Hanson  
Mr Nick Hayes  
Professor Alan F Horgan  
Mr Arul Imanuel  
Mr Daya Karat  
Left August 2015  
Mr Nader I Khonji  
resigned August 2015  
Mr Thomas Lee  
from September 2015  
Mr Tim A Lees  
Professor Thomas W J Lennard  
Professor Derek M Manas

Mr James E McCaslin  
Mr Stephen J McNally  
resigned May 2015  
Mr Stewart Nicholson  
Mr Alexander W Phillips  
from January 2016  
Mr Stefan M Plusa  
Mr David A Rix  
Mr Abdelnasser A Salem  
Mr Gouabul Sen  
Mr Naema A Soomro  
Professor Gerard P Stansby  
Mr David Talbot  
Mr Peter P Truran  
from January 2016  
Mr Theodoros Tsirilis  
Mr Shajahan Wahid  
from December 2015  
Ms E Lucy Wales  
Professor Steven A White  
Mr Colin H Wilson  
Mr Mike G Wyatt  
Mr Kamil S Wynne

WOMEN’S SERVICES:  
Dr Stephen N Sturgiss  
Clinical Director  
Mrs Claire Pinder  
Directorate Manager  

FETAL MEDICINE/OBSTETRICS:  
Dr Majd Abu-Harb  
Dr Therese Hannon  
Dr Sheila Macphail  
retired August 2015  
Dr Paul Moran  
Professor Stephen C Robson  
Dr Stephen N Sturgiss

GYNAECOLOGY:  
Dr Karen Brown  
Mr Thomas Chalhoub  
Dr Diana J A Mensour  
Mr Mark Roberts  
Dr Michelle Russell  
from August 2015

NEONATAL MEDICINE:  
Dr Naveen K Aithriman  
Dr Janet E Berrington  
Dr Jenny H Dixon  
Dr Nick D Embleton  
Dr Alan C Fenton  
Dr Sundeed M Harigopal  
Dr Richard I Hearn  
Dr Sridhar Muniramaiah  
Dr Martin P Ward-Platt

OBSTETRICS:  
Dr T Paul Ayuk  
Dr Andrew J Cairns  
Miss K Suzanne Jackson  
Dr Malcolm W J Mac Dougall  
Dr Philippa J Marsden  
Dr Marie C Smith  
resigned November 2015  
Dr Susan E Tweedie

Dr Jason J S Waugh  
Dr Sophia N E Webster  
from February 2016

REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE/GYNAECOLOGY:  
Dr Meenakshi K Choudhary  
Dr Tulay Karasu  
from August 2016  
Mr Kevin R McElroy  
Dr Alysson M Moorby  
Professor Alison P Murdoch  
Dr Jane A Stewart

OTHER SENIOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF:  
Miss Clare Alley  
Nurse Consultant (Vulnerable Older Adults)  
Mrs Sandra Bessford  
Assistant to Chief Executive and Chairman  
Ms Frances Blackburn  
Deputy Director of Nursing & Patient Services – FH  
Miss Elaine Coghill  
Nursing, Midwifery & AHP Research & Development Lead  
Mrs Melanie Cunningham  
Patient Services Manager  
Ms Kelly Douglas  
Trust Secretary  
from March 2016  
Mrs Chris Eddy  
Head of Patient Services  
Mrs Dee Fawcett  
Director of HR  
Mr Graham King  
Chief Information Officer  
Mrs Liz Harris  
Deputy Director of Nursing & Patient Services – RVI  
Mr David Hume  
Supplies and Procurement Director  
retired August 2015  
Mrs Helen Lisle  
Supplies and Procurement Director  
from October 2015  
Mrs Angela O’Brien  
Director of Quality & Effectiveness  
Mr Steven Reed  
Trust Secretary  
retired March 2016  
Mr David Reynolds  
Deputy Finance Director  
Mrs Kate Simpson  
Deputy Director of Business & Development  
Mr Doug Ward  
Director of Estates and Facilities  
Mr Neil Watson  
Director of Pharmacy  
Mrs Stella Wilson  
Head of Therapy Services