

Spring 2017

Stockport **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Stepping Up

News about Stepping Hill Hospital and community health services



## Hidden Treasures

Our oldest staff photo rediscovered

Great bowel cancer surgery results

Action on urgent care

Nursing Times Award winners

# Contents

3-11



News

12-15



Features

16-17



Staff Focus

18-19



Events

20-22



Awards & Achievements

23-29



Members and Governors

30-36



# Message from our Chairman

Welcome to the latest edition of Stepping Up.

It's a time of great change and challenge at the moment, and I hope the stories in this issue give a good idea of both.

You'll be aware of the immense pressure we are under in terms of urgent care, particularly in meeting the A&E four hour wait target. As you'll have seen from the national news at the start of the year, we are far from alone in dealing with significant numbers of very ill patients who need to be admitted to a hospital bed. In this issue we look at some of the short and medium term measures we are taking to tackle this.

Ultimately though, the solutions in both care and finances will be long term. That's why we are working with our Stockport Together partners towards establishing a new accountable care organisation. This will bring health and adult social care services together into the one organisation for the very first time. It will change the way people receive care, bringing more services closer to home. This is also something which we take a look at in this issue of Stepping Up.

But we must not forget the high quality, compassionate care we are providing, day in and day out - and the good results we are achieving, right here and now. Other stories in this issue show how we are among the best in the country for providing care to stroke and cancer patients. We're also at the core of ground-breaking work helping children with autism.

As some of you may be aware, I will be retiring later this year. It will be an emotional day when I step down, after ten years with this organisation, and I will always care about and support this wonderful Trust. I know I will leave it in a strong place to carry on providing the best care for local people in the years to come.

Thank you again for your fantastic support.

Gillian Easson, Chairman



# Stockport's top rating for cancer care...

**Stockport has been rated as one of the top seven places in the country for cancer care according to recent data from NHS England.**

The ranking is based on how quickly patients are diagnosed, the promptness of their treatment, one-year survival rates and the overall experience of the patient.

Only seven out of England's 209 clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) were given this top rating for their area.

This shows the huge progress the NHS in Stockport has achieved for cancer patients.

Just 15 years ago, in terms of cancer survival rates, Stockport was in the bottom third for its performance.

Impressively, we have steadily climbed up the rankings, year on year, at a time when cancer survival rates are improving nationwide.

The improvement in survival rates is due to prompt and accurate detection and referral by GPs, quick hospital diagnosis and high quality treatment.

## ...and safe for bowel cancer treatment



**Other new statistics confirm that our bowel cancer surgery and treatment is some of the most successful and safest in the country.**

The National Bowel Cancer Audit showed high survival rates for bowel cancer patients at Stepping Hill Hospital.

The 90 day mortality figure for our patients is 1.9%, well below the national average of 3.6%, and among the better ratings in the country. The two year mortality figure was 13.8%; again much lower than the national average and the lowest rating in the north west.

We treat around 200 bowel cancer patients each year, with cases being similar to other hospitals in terms of complexity and risk.

We have a specialist bowel cancer team which includes surgeons, oncologists, cancer nurses and stoma therapists, as well as state-of-the-art critical care facilities. This ensures each patient has the highest quality advice, support and care throughout their time with the hospital.

“For patients to know how safe it is for them to come to this hospital is a huge message and it’s a great tribute to the team here. Our results are constantly improving thanks to the multi-disciplinary team work and improved post-operative care.



“Having cancer surgery is always a stressful experience, but patients at Stepping Hill can be assured that they are in the very best hands.”

- Ed Clark, consultant surgeon specialising in bowel cancer



## DEMENTIA WORK CELEBRATED

Our care for patients with dementia featured in the Royal College of Nursing's commemorative centenary publication, which celebrates nursing in the 'past, present and future'.

The section on the 'present' includes several pages on work we have done, and are doing, to improve care for patients with dementia. It includes a day in the working life of our Matron for Dementia Care, Florence Bawak.



# Strong stroke service

## Our stroke services have received a strong seal of approval, following national and regional assessments.

Figures from the Stroke Association show we are the fourth best in the country for assessing stroke patients in a timely manner.

Stepping Hill Hospital is ranked as one of the top-performing stroke units for patients receiving a brain scan within an hour (75.2% of patients) - and one of the best for patients accessing a stroke unit within four hours (83.3% of patients.)

In addition to this, the Greater Manchester Stroke Operational Delivery Network, which is responsible for ensuring quality care for stroke patients in the region, have given our service the highest possible 'A' class rating. This is a mark of top quality in terms of care, staffing, support and facilities.

The network has rated our service as the second highest in the region, out of ten separate services.

Our stroke unit expanded its services two years ago to become one of only three specialist centres in Greater Manchester, providing care for patients across the area, as well as taking in patients from East Cheshire. The other two specialist stroke centres are in Salford and Bury.

As well as early treatment, our unit also includes a physiotherapy gym and therapy rooms to support the patient's recovery, together with a sensory garden which opened last year.

Dr Shivakumar Krishnamoorthy, clinical director for stroke services said,



Physiotherapist Carol Bonfield and nurse Alice Jones assist patient John Robertson with his walking therapy

"Swifter access to stroke assessment can greatly enhance the chances of a patient's recovery.

We are very pleased that these findings show Stepping Hill Hospital's stroke unit's strong performance in this area, as we continue to strive to do the very best for our patients."

## HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM COMMUNICATE

### Our speech and language therapists have been instrumental in developing a new treatment to help children with autism communicate with their parents and others.

We were one of the main sites for the pre-school autism communication trial (PACT), which is the largest long-term follow-up study of severe autism treatment (known as core autism) undertaken internationally.

Much of the study focused on intervention techniques initially developed by Dr Catherine Aldred, who works with children in Stockport as a consultant speech and language therapist.

The therapists worked individually with parents to match their communication and interaction to their child's level of social communication.

Through watching videos of themselves interacting with their child, replaying selected clips and receiving session-by-session therapist feedback, parents were able to adapt their response to their child's unusual patterns of communication.

Parents learnt how to extend social interaction with their child, and how to use communication and language enhancing techniques.

The results of the PACT study, published in The Lancet, found that children aged two to four years who had received the intervention had less severe overall symptoms six years later, with improved

social communication and reduced repetitive behaviours.

This is the first study to show how symptoms in children with severe autism can be improved over the long-term, and has received strong positive national and international interest.

Dr Catherine Aldred said, "**Parents and carers have an incredibly difficult job in helping children with autism communicate with both themselves and others. This technique has been a real help to them in spotting the signs and signals which can help their sons and daughters express themselves to the world.**"



Dr Catherine Aldred

# URGENT CARE

# URGENT ACTION

**Most of our readers will be aware we have been struggling with A&E waiting times for a long time, and not meeting the government target of treating, and admitting or discharging at least 95% of A&E patients within four hours.**

We are seeing more older and frail patients with complex conditions than ever before, and patients are sometimes remaining in hospital longer than they need to, putting a great deal of strain on bed numbers at the hospital as a whole. The New Year period in particular placed massive pressure on the emergency department (A&E.)

This is part of the reason why it is so important that the 'Stockport Together' partnership is able to integrate health and social care, and provide more services closer to home, which is better for patients.

However, there are a number of more immediate measures we are taking to ease the pressure on urgent care as well. Some of these are developments to reduce the number of attendances through our emergency department, while others are measures to ensure patients are discharged when it is safe and right for them to leave.



## EASING THE PRESSURE

- **Crisis response team** - A new crisis response team is now running a seven day service for adults who don't need to come to our hospital, but are at risk of hospital admission within 24 hours if no urgent response is available at home.
- **Expansion of our A&E and short stay older people's unit** - We now have seven extra cubicles in our emergency department, giving us a total of 22 cubicles. Our short stay older people's unit also has an extra eight beds, bringing the total to 22 beds.
- **Ambulatory Care Unit** - Our ambulatory care unit is helping to take non-urgent admissions out of the emergency department, and assessing and treating them on the unit. It also acts as a direct access point for GPs.

## FREEING UP BEDS

- **New community unit** - A community unit has opened on our hospital site to help us free up vital ward beds for very poorly patients. The new unit is for patients who are medically fit to go home, but might need more intense physiotherapy or occupational therapy for example, before they can manage independently at home.
- **Active Recovery Team** - This is to speed up hospital discharge and means that the short term assessment of the person's needs takes place in their own home and not a hospital ward.

This team brings together the intermediate care, adult community therapy team, community rehab and REaCH (re-ablement and community home support) workers into one service with one point of referral.

# FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

We have been keeping you informed about the planned changes to local services with our Stockport Together partners.

We are working hard to reduce the financial gap between our costs and income in many ways, over both the short and long term.

In the long term the redesign of healthcare toward a more joined-up organisation between services, and more care closer to home, will both improve our finances as well as make care more fit for the future.

In the short term, our cost improvement programme continues to find new areas to increase efficiency and

reduce waste. We have been working to reduce staff agency costs through overseas recruitment, and a new system for theatre booking has been launched, which makes it easier to identify and fill available slots for patients, reducing patient waiting times and generating income. These are both ways in which improvements in patient care and finances go hand in hand.



# ACCOUNTABLE CARE - A NEW MODEL OF TRUST

We are working together with our Stockport Together partners to create a single organisation for Stockport which will provide health and social care services.

The proposed Accountable Care Trust, would bring all the different agencies together to provide more joined-up care.

Stockport was selected by NHS England as one of the first 'Vanguard' sites in the country to put this new model into place. It will provide the care people need, better and closer to home.

Stockport Together was successful in July last year in securing £16 million 'extra money' over three years specifically to fund this transformation programme.

emergency, outpatient and diagnostic services at Stepping Hill Hospital, community NHS services, adult social services and public health currently provided by the council, primary care outside of GP practices, mental health care and improving access to psychological therapies.

3. Shared functions - including pathology, radiology, pharmacy and therapies.

A full business case is being completed for assessment by NHS England and NHS Improvement in the Spring. There will also be a public consultation which you will hear more about on our website and in the local media.

2. Stepping Hill Hospital's inpatient services.

## Stockport Together Partners

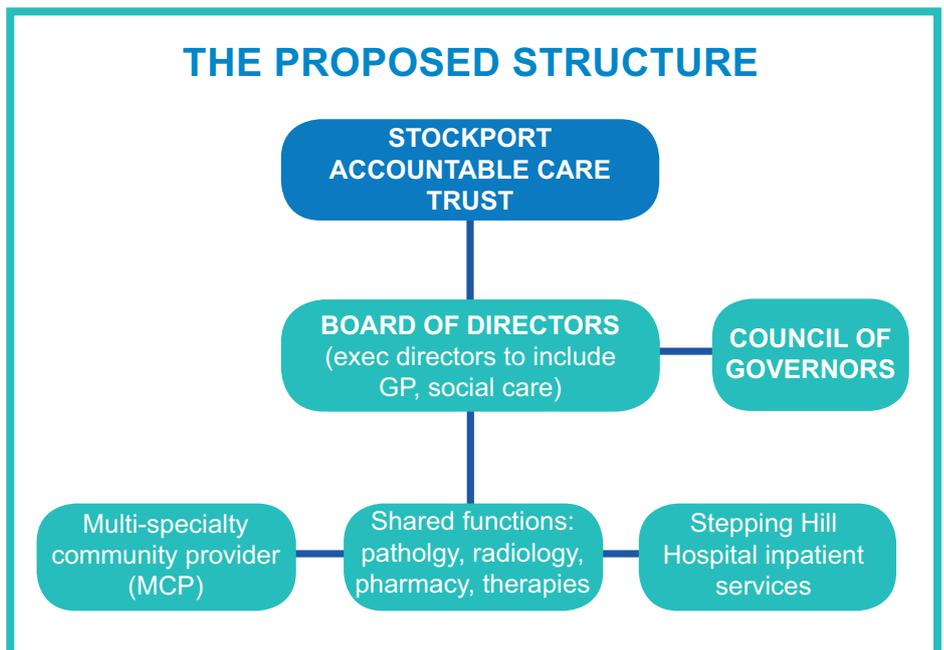
All four provider organisations, which are our Trust, Pennine Care (who run mental health services), Viaduct Health GP federation, and the Council, have worked together with the clinical commissioning group to propose the new model.

The new Accountable Care Trust would have an annual budget of around £500m.

The services provided would be in three groups:-

1. The multi-specialty community provider (MCP) would combine a large number of services, including

## THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE



# VOLUNTEERING TO TEST FOR CANCER

## One of our hospital volunteers Alec Broughton is urging those eligible for NHS bowel cancer screening to take the test.

Alec, a widower and grandad from Poynton, was diagnosed with Stage 2 bowel cancer in 2012 after taking part in the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme.

Alec was reluctant at first to take the test, and said:

"I was persuaded to take the test by my wife. I did the test at age 60 and 62 and everything was fine. Following the third test when I was 65, traces of blood were found and I was sent to hospital for further tests. A cancerous tumour was found in my bowel."

Alec had not experienced any significant symptoms before the screening test.

He was swiftly referred for surgery at our hospital. Fortunately the cancer had not spread and, following his surgery and treatment, he is now free from cancer.

Alec said "I feel very lucky indeed that my cancer was caught early. This little test saved my life. I would urge anyone who has received the kit not to ignore it. It could save your life".



Alec now volunteers at both our hospital and the Beating Bowel Cancer Charity as a way of saying thank you.



Pauline Ghazi (centre) at her leaving party with colleagues at Heald Green Health Centre



A younger Pauline shortly after graduating

# Goodbye to Ghazi

## Stockport's health visitors paid a fond farewell to one of their longest serving colleagues.

Pauline Ghazi has retired after an amazing 54 years caring for patients, making her one of the longest serving staff in the NHS.

Pauline began her career after training as a nurse and midwife in York back in 1963. She went on to be a health visitor, and has served as one in Stockport for over 30 years. She has

cared for thousands of patients over the decades, and in her role of team leader has trained many others to do so too.

Health visitor and colleague at Heald Green Health Centre Claire Tomlinson said "Pauline has been a wonderfully caring midwife and absolutely brilliant to work with, we will all really miss her."

# Charity Roundup

Mum **Keeley Hopkins** looked the Belle of the ball when she dressed as the Disney Beauty and the Beast character to raise funds for our neonatal unit in thanks for the successful care they gave her twin daughters Sienna and Freya when they were born prematurely.

**Anne Booth** and fellow members of **Disley Golf Club** raised over £3000 for our Bobby Moore cancer unit as thanks for treating her daughter Vicky.

Our urology department received over £1500 from the **Ladybridge Park Residents Club** in Cheadle Hulme when they held their 31st Anniversary Sportsman's Dinner, with special guest former England and Liverpool footballer and Sky Sports presenter Phil Thompson.

The **Sandbach Mayor's Charity** has put on a series of fundraising events for Stepping Hill including a folk concert, quiz evening and mayoral ball. The charity has so far raised over £1000 for our hospital.

**Coopers Care**, a medical equipment charity which previously only raised money for the Christie has now also started fundraising other for local hospitals including our Tree House children's unit as well. Watch out for their stand outside our restaurant where they will be visiting once a month or visit [www.coopercare.com](http://www.coopercare.com)

Furniture store **Halo** in Styal gave a generous donation of two sofas and tables worth over £4000 for our antenatal clinic's counselling room, where staff can talk through difficult news with families.



# Picture of thanks

**A man whose life was saved by the intensive care team at our hospital has shown his thanks by presenting them with a self-drawn landscape scene for the unit.**



Following what seemed to be a standard leg infection, Jeff Tetlow, 69, from Offerton was struck with necrotising fasciitis, a rare and very dangerous condition sometimes known as the 'flesh eating disease' for its malign effects.

Jeff was rushed to hospital and had to spend over five weeks in our intensive care unit, undergoing several operations to combat the disease.

For some of this time Jeff was in a coma, and his life was at very real risk. Thankfully, due to the care of surgical

and ward staff, Jeff was able to make a full recovery.

As a token of his thanks, keen amateur artist Jeff drew a peaceful rural scene of a bridge over a river, which now hangs in the intensive care unit family room.

## VOLUNTEER FLU FIGHTERS

**We're supporting a national research project to help children who are vulnerable to complications from flu.**

Children in certain groups, including those with asthma, diabetes or Down's syndrome, are more vulnerable to becoming more poorly than others if they get flu, or another flu-like illness.

The 'Archie' study aims to find out the effectiveness of the early use of antibiotics for these children to help stop them

developing bacterial infections, and possibly help them recover more quickly.

During the 'flu season', our research and paediatric teams found local volunteers to take part in the study. Musarrat Adnan's three year old daughter Rabia, who has Down's syndrome, was one of the first patients in England to take part in the study.



## Medical Matrimony

**A loving couple decided to finally get married on a Stepping Hill ward with the help of staff, a dying wish of the husband.**

George Kay and Ann Millin had been together for 59 years, but never got round to getting married.

Sadly George was suffering from heart failure and the marriage was one of the final acts of his life.

Our staff helped to organise the Stockport registrars visit to the ward to carry out the wedding,

together with the couple's nephew and niece Alan James and Denise Fidler (who works at our Swanbourne Gardens facility for disabled children.)

Our hospital chaplain blessed the ceremony afterwards. The family were full of thanks to staff for both the wedding and the care George received.






# INTENSIVE MUSIC

**Our intensive care unit has become one of the first in the country to use live music to help patients.**

The Music In Hospitals charity has been playing in patient wards across the country for many years, and are now going into intensive care and high dependency units (ICUs and HDUs) which treat severely and critically ill patients.

The new 'ICU-Hear' project uses musicians experienced in providing

gentle and soothing music, and they move around the patients beds to play at the bedside. This allows them to sensitively respond to the needs of patients, relatives and staff and enables them to choose appropriate music for their condition and likes.

Evaluation from the charity so far shows that 99% respondents on the intensive

and high dependency units said they enjoyed listening to the music.

The musicians have now visited our intensive care unit twice, playing melodies on clarinet and kora (West African harp) respectively for patients, with plans for further visits. This is in addition to visits for over a year to other wards at Stepping Hill Hospital, including wards with patients with dementia.

Gerol Williams, intensive care nurse ward manager said, **"We do our very best to care for our patients, but if you're severely ill in an intensive or high dependency unit it can be a stressful experience, leaving you anxious and weak. Many of us know how calming and relaxing it can be to listen to a beautiful piece of music."**

# HEALTHIER TOGETHER

**This year we become the South East Sector 'hub' site for emergency and planned high risk general surgery (mostly abdominal surgery) – one of four specialist sites for Greater Manchester.**

As the 'hub' for a single service across the South East sector, it means that Tameside patients will be coming to our hospital for this kind of care. Around 2000 patients a year (elective and non-elective) may be expected to transfer to the hub under the care of the combined single

service for general surgery, when an inpatient admission is needed.

Elective (planned) cases will start coming here this year, with emergency cases coming in the following year. Our new medical and surgical centre

(see page 18) will help to manage the extra patients. We will provide around 30 extra beds, plus four extra critical care beds and additional theatre sessions. We will also need increased levels of staffing for support services on our hospital site.

There will still be good local access to outpatient services, diagnostics, A&E, day case and short stay planned surgery and endoscopy in both Tameside and Stockport.

# NEWS IN BRIEF



News



## WEIGHT OFF OUR MIND

Fourteen members of our preoperative assessment unit team successfully lost over 21 stone between them this year. They were inspired and encouraged by their colleague, Sister Alison Paton who lost over seven stone herself and now helps others as a Slimming World consultant.

The preoperative team care for patients before and after surgery, and giving healthier living and lifestyle advice is a key part of their role. They are now confidently 'walking the walk as well as talking the talk'.

## OLYMPIC INSPIRATION

Our anaesthetic and recovery nurse Monika Baji unexpectedly bumped into Olympic golden couple Laura Trott and Jason Kenny on the train journey down to London for her own over 270 mile charity bike journey.

Monika and her fellow medics and bike riders got some last minute tips from Jason and Laura before starting the gruelling Four Countries Cycle Challenge ride from Dover through Holland, France and Belgium.



## TOP FOR FLU JABS

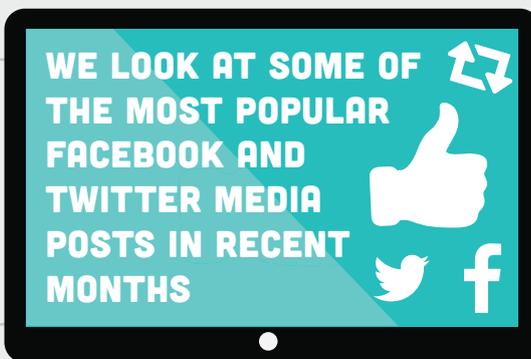
We are one of the best in the country for staff receiving their flu vaccinations. 80% of our frontline staff and 73% of staff overall got the flu jab which helps protect patients, both much higher than the national average.

## VISITING TIME CHANGES

Our ward times have now been expanded to 11am to 8pm, to allow greater freedom and convenience for visitors.

There are however several units where visiting times may differ, because of the specific needs of patients in that ward – check on the 'visiting times' page on our website for details.

# SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE



A couple with one partner near the end of life got married at on Stepping Hill Hospital medical ward with the help of staff  
(Facebook and Twitter)

Huge welcome to our fantastic new employees. Happy and enthusiastic bunch as you can see! Important newcomers to help deliver great services  
(Twitter)

Stepping Hill Hospital is extremely busy at the moment. We need people to come only if it's an absolute emergency  
(Facebook and Twitter)

Two security guards at Stepping Hill Hospital, Ali Jallow and Andy Tobin, have been nominated as 'unsung heroes' for helping save a young woman's life  
(Facebook and Twitter)

We've been busy with festive activity in the run-up to Christmas! Huge thanks to all who contributed  
(Twitter)

Signs of a stomach upset? Please don't come to our hospital and spread the bugs!  
(Facebook)

You can also keep up-to-date with our latest news through our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

- [www.stockport.nhs.uk](http://www.stockport.nhs.uk)
- [stockportnhs](https://www.instagram.com/stockportnhs)
- [facebook.com/StockportNHS](https://facebook.com/StockportNHS)
- [@StockportNHS](https://twitter.com/StockportNHS)

# A day in the life of a consultant

**FF** My name is Laxmi Ramamurthy, and I am an ENT (ear nose and throat) consultant surgeon.

I am originally from India, I was inspired by my aunt who was the first female neurosurgeon in Asia.

Having had some medical training in India, I came to the UK in 1988 before training in both London and Manchester, and I have been a full time consultant at Stepping Hill since 2000.

## 7:30am

I normally drive to work around this time. I either start the morning with a pre-op ward round or have a meeting before the clinic, depending on the day of the week.

My clinical work includes ward rounds, operating on patients, outpatient clinics, attending x-ray meetings, attending cancer meetings and teaching junior doctors.

## 8:00am

Today I start the pre-op ward round with a trainee. I see both adult and child patients in my work; today it is two children.

One is a young eight year old girl who has hearing loss and so needs a grommet insertion ear operation, which involves examining the ear with a microscope, inserting a tube and draining fluid. The other is a 15 year old boy who has nasal discharge and headaches, and so needs a sinus operation which involves examination with an endoscope and removing growths. I talk things through with both families separately about what their operations will involve, reassuring them about the safety of these relatively routine operations, and obtaining their consent.

## 8:45am

I go and change into my theatre attire, commonly known as 'scrubs.' We then all meet in the operating theatre for a team brief or "a hug" as we call it. This team brief is called a WHO (World

Health Organisation) check list which reduces mistakes in theatre. We discuss the list order, what we are going to do, what equipment we need, what medication we need, how the patient is going to be anaesthetised and any unexpected problems. All these things are discussed so that we can minimise and avoid mistakes.

Some of the patients I operate on are cancer patients who have breathing difficulties. This may make the procedure challenging and life-threatening, so when I have patients like this I discuss things in depth and look through images of the windpipe with the anaesthetist. Today however there is no need for this.

## 9:30am

We finish the team brief and the first patient, the young girl, is brought to the theatre. Multiple checks are then carried out at various stages to make sure that we have the right patient for the right procedure.

We log-on to the computer, both in the ward as well as theatre. I look through the x-ray results for this patient and other results relating to her condition.

She is then anaesthetised by my colleagues and wheeled into the theatre, where, together with my nursing colleagues, we scrub in order to disinfect our hands and forearms to the elbows to prevent any post-operative infection, wearing hats and masks with a disposable gown and gloves for the same reason.

Before I start operating, we do a final check on the details of our patient and the procedure which I am going to carry out.

## 10:00am

The operation is underway. Sometimes a trainee will operate while I assist and supervise, but today I operate myself with assistance from the surgical nursing staff.

As the ear is a very small and delicate area I use a microscope to help us visualise the eardrum. We use a lot



In this edition we spend a day with Laxmi Ramamurthy, and ENT consultant surgeon at Stepping Hill Hospital

# nt surgeon

of special equipment in ear, nose and throat surgery as we operate on very small and delicate areas of the body.

## 10:45am

Finished! A routine operation, and a success.

After finishing, we do a final sign-out to make sure that all the swabs, needles and sharps have been counted and the biopsies we have taken have been labelled properly and potted in specimen pots, so that we are all happy with the post-operative management of the patient. She is then wheeled to recovery.

## 11:15am

The second patient, the young boy is brought in, and the process is repeated.

As this is endoscopic nasal surgery we use a micro-camera system these days which gives us even more pinpoint accuracy. This enables us to carry out the surgery even more safely and securely.

## 12:00pm

As both operations have gone very well I am able to leave the theatre and to write discharge letters for these patients and write up any medication required (in this case painkillers and nasal spray).

I then have a bit of lunch before I can check up with both patients in the early afternoon. Thankfully both are very well and the nursing staff will soon be helping them on their way.

My afternoons are very varied. ENT outpatient clinics are very busy with a large volume of patients. I have junior doctors and also nurses working with me in the clinic. We carry out a lot of procedures in the clinic including microscopic suction clearance of wax, nasal endoscopy to look at the voice box, biopsy of neck lumps and sometimes grommet insertion.

I also have managerial responsibilities, including clinical lead, cancer lead for head and neck cancer for the trust, clinical supervisor of day case and governance lead for ENT. I am involved with various

“Just as I am preparing to see my afternoon’s patients, myself and the anaesthetist are approached by a nurse with an urgent case”

projects to improve patient care. And at other times I will carry on with the surgical list performing similar operations as in the morning. I am about to do this today, but sometimes other events intervene...

## 1:15pm

Just as I am preparing to see my afternoon’s patients, myself and the anaesthetist are approached by a nurse with an urgent case – to see a patient in A&E who had developed breathing difficulties.

We rush to A&E to assist. The patient is a man in his 40s. We stabilise his breathing and then move him to recovery to observe.

## 1:45pm

His situation does not improve, he is still breathing with great difficulty. It appears he had a severe allergic reaction and was not responding to medication.

We make a decision to intubate the patient, which is to put a tube into his breathing passage. The anaesthetist tries to do this a few times and fails while I scrub up ready to go in case the anaesthetist gets into difficulty. As it happens the anaesthetist is unable to intubate the patient, which is not always possible, and he asks me to carry out an urgent mini-tracheostomy to stabilise his breathing passage.

This is literally a knife through the neck to make a small slit in the throat and insert a breathing tube which takes less than one minute to do. It secures the area temporarily while we create a proper tracheostomy opening into his breathing

passage in theatre at a later time. This is successful.

## 2:30pm

We carry out a further operation to give the patient a full tracheostomy. This is an emergency operation with a patient who is undergoing severe breathing difficulties so there is an element of risk. Thankfully it goes well and the patient is breathing safely again by the end. Disaster has been averted and the patient is wheeled to recovery.

## 3:30pm

With the emergency over, I can now return to my elective surgical list.

The nature of my work is that sometimes emergencies will take precedence, so one of the operations which I was going to perform in the afternoon was instead performed by a colleague.

My last operation of the day is another routine ear operation, this time for a man in his 50s.

All the operations have gone well today, including with the emergency patient.

Sometimes this is not the case, and I have to break bad news to patients which can be very difficult at times. During these times a cancer nurse specialist is usually present during the consultation along with a senior nurse. These consultations can be highly emotional, but we always do our best during these meetings, just as we do during the operations themselves.

## 5:00pm

It’s time to pack up, get changed and go home, saying goodbye to my colleagues who I will see and work with once again tomorrow.

I thoroughly enjoy my career as an ENT surgeon and continue to enjoy it and the challenges my job brings. It can be challenging at times but is a very rewarding and interesting field.

Every day can be different and this is the beauty of medicine. No patients are alike and no surgery or anatomy is alike and I have enjoyed, and am enjoying every minute of it.



**A look at our....**

# Diabetes Team

**Our diabetes team is a good example of a fully integrated service which serves patients in both Stepping Hill Hospital and the community.**

Diabetes is one of the main health problems in the country, with over 3.5 million people in the UK diagnosed with the condition.

Our team cares for people with all types of diabetes, Type 1 and 2, in adults, children and pregnant women.

Our hospital has an inpatient service for 28 patients on Ward A11, and outpatient clinics for around 340 patients every month. There are also several clinics closer to people's homes in the community across Stockport, as well as a clinic in Buxton.

Our diabetes specialist nurse team in the community includes a diabetes midwife, podiatrist and dietitian, and the hospital and community teams work closely with each other to ensure patients get the right treatment in the right place at the right time.

As well as general diabetes clinics there are special clinics for young people, feet and antenatal clinics.

The service also runs special events like insulin pump evenings, and our diabetes specialist midwife delivers preconception and family planning sessions for women with diabetes.

Diabetes can lead to foot complications, which in the worst cases lead to amputations. Around three years ago a new podiatry high risk clinic was set up in our outpatients clinic as a specialist service to treat these problems earlier, quite literally saving patients' feet.

Other improvements in recent years include a computer monitoring system which can watch out for glucose levels which indicate that a patient may have diabetes. This can lead to earlier and easier diabetes treatment, preventing damage to hearts, nerves, feet, eyes and other areas which diabetes can cause, and greatly improving their quality of life.

# Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport.

THE STAFF, 1906.



## OLDEST NEWEST DISCOVERY

**The family members of a hospital boiler worker uncovered the earliest ever group photo taken of our hospital's staff.**

James Walter Hammond, born in 1886, worked as a stoker in the boiler room at our hospital when it first opened in 1905.

Walter worked at the hospital all his life until he retired, and died in 1973.

His daughter Brenda Whitnall, now 96, and her own daughter Maureen Wilkinson discovered the perfectly

preserved and framed photograph of Walter and his fellow staff members on top of a wardrobe when they were clearing up Brenda's house in Hazel Grove. The photo had lain unnoticed for decades.

The photo, taken in 1906, shows a smart and handsome looking Walter on the back row with other male staff, while most on the picture are female

nurses in the starched uniforms of the time. The group are standing outside wards at the front entrance, which still stands as the hospital's main entrance.

The discovery brought back fond memories for Maureen and Brenda of a much-loved father and grandfather, but they have kindly donated the photograph to our hospital where it will be proudly displayed.



Maureen and Brenda hold the photo in the same spot outside the main entrance where it was first taken



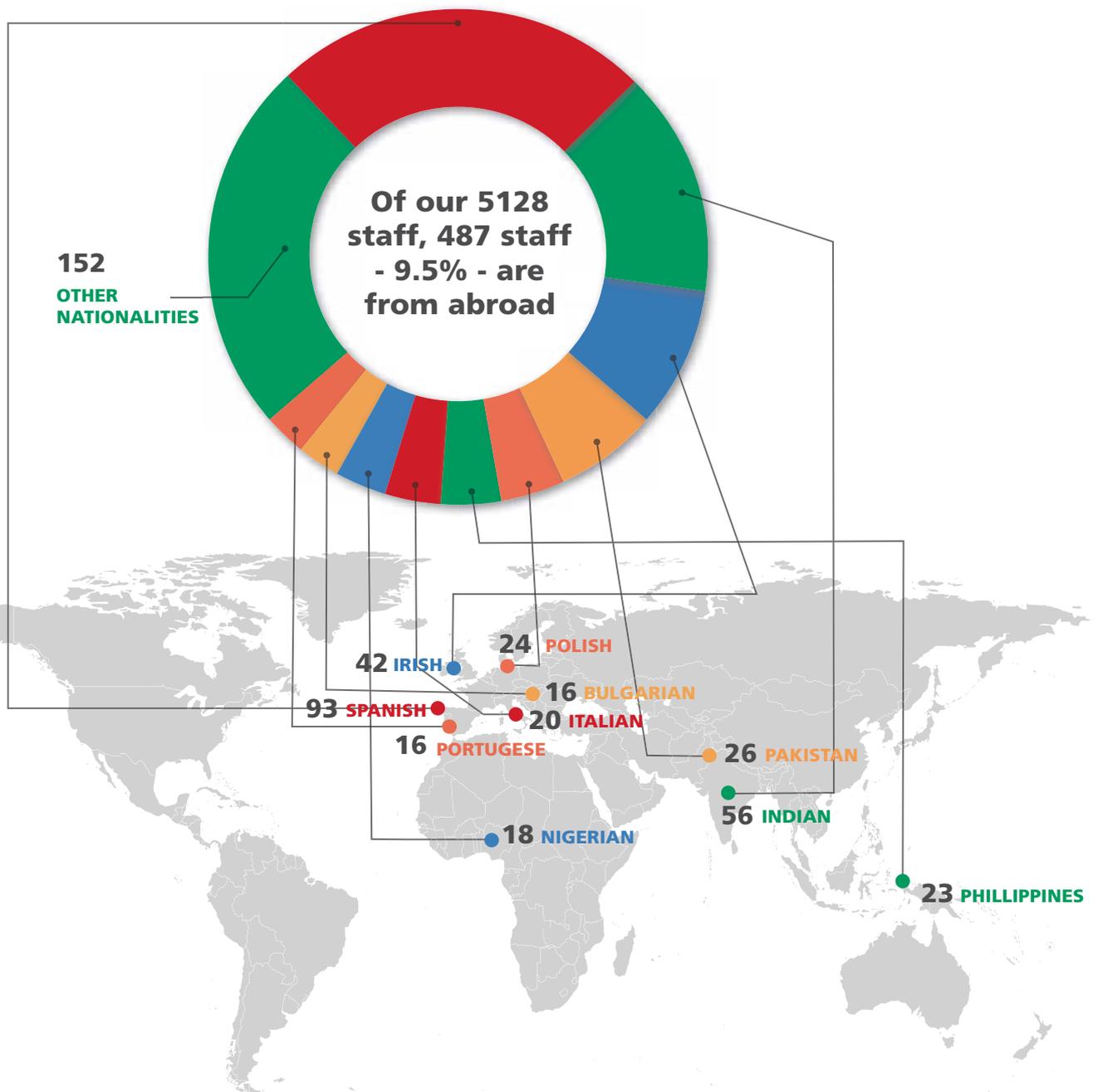
Walter highlighted in the photo

# United Nations

## working for Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

Throughout the history of the NHS, overseas staff have been a huge part of our treasured health service. In the 50s many nurses came from the Caribbean, Malaysia and Mauritius, in the 60s many doctors from India and Pakistan, and more recently from Mediterranean Europe.

With the continuing recruitment challenges, foreign staff continue to be an essential, important and greatly valued part of our NHS.



Over the last two years we have recruited over 130 nurses, from countries including Spain, Portugal, Poland, Croatia, Italy, Greece and more recently, India. These nurses go on a

specialised training programme, before sitting a clinical exam (OSCE). This ensures they are equipped with all the skills they need, with extra lessons being provided if needed.



**Miguel Serano**  
**Emergency Nurse Practitioner in A&E**  
**From: Barcelona, Spain**

“ I was recruited from Barcelona back in 2004 (time flies!). I was seeking stability and opportunities to develop a career within a specific area of care. Back home that possibility was more limited, having to work mostly as a pool relief nurse. Amongst the employers attending the recruiting day, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust made the most attractive offer.

I think of both Spain and England as home now. From Spain I miss the lifestyle that the weather permits, with more casual opportunities to socialise, and a more 'outdoors' life. Working in Stepping Hill Hospital has provided me with the chance and the means to surpass my career expectations. I have developed both as an individual and a professional, enjoying the cultural and human side of being part of the community I serve. ”



**Violet Todd**  
**Domestic Worker**  
**in the Tree House Children's Ward**  
**From: St Elizabeth, Jamaica**

“ I was actually born in Withington Hospital in Manchester, but moved with my mum to Jamaica when I was four years old, and grew up there. I returned with my mum to Manchester when I was 19. At first I worked in a hotel, but I have spent most of my time since working in NHS places, at the laundry in Withington Hospital for over thirteen years, then a domestic at a clinic in Chorlton, before moving on to Stepping Hill, where I've been for just over a year.

Things are a bit more fun, sunny and relaxed in Jamaica, but I really enjoy working here at the Tree House children's unit. The staff are friendly people, I get on well with them all and they're really supportive. It's great being around children too, it's a lovely environment. ”



**Omar Hadid**  
**Consultant Surgeon in the Eye Centre**  
**From: Mosul, Iraq**

“ I was born in Iraq and completed my undergraduate training at the University of Mosul.

I came to the UK in 2001 and have been working in the NHS since then. I moved from Doncaster Royal Infirmary over to Stepping Hill Hospital in May last year after hearing excellent feedback about the eye unit and the team running the ophthalmic service from a doctor that previously worked here. The hospital is located in a sought-after area with excellent access to countryside and outstanding schooling. Manchester city, with all of its attractions, is within easy reach!

I miss, and am also very concerned about my family and my friends. They are all going through challenging time as my hometown, Mosul is currently besieged by the IS terrorist group.

I felt very welcome as soon as I came to Stepping Hill. The hospital caters for all ethnicities and religions. I regularly use the "quiet room" in the chapel and also enjoy the Halal food in the restaurant!

I am very impressed by the rigorous clinical governance processes we practice at Stepping Hill Hospital. I enjoy the continuous opportunity for learning and the non-blame culture within the NHS. I would very much like to transfer a similar model to my home country when the opportunity arises. ”



Gillian Easson, Jon Rouse and Ann Barnes

# CENTRE OF ATTENTION

**Our new £20 million medical and surgical centre opened in October, with leaders from partner organisations in Greater Manchester and Stockport joining staff to celebrate the benefits the new building will bring to patients.**

Jon Rouse, Chief Officer at Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, attended the opening together with our chief executive and chairman Ann Barnes and Gillian Easson, and was shown around its state-of-the-art new facilities.

The new centre houses over 120 beds for patients, replacing facilities in old wards.

We have around 800 beds in total.

It also includes four new operating theatres, three of which replace old theatres, bringing our total from 17 to 18.

This supports our status as one of four specialist centres in Greater Manchester for emergency and high



risk abdominal surgery (see page 10). More than 30,000 operations a year are carried out on the hospital site.

Jon Rouse said “This new medical and surgical centre will mean that services at Stepping Hill are fit for the future and meeting the needs of patients in Stockport and the wider Greater Manchester area.”

# AN INFORMATIVE VISIT

**A leading national figure in NHS clinical information management visited us to see our IT developments, which are set to revolutionise electronic patient information in Stockport.**

Professor Keith McNeil, NHS Chief Clinical Information Officer heard how our new electronic patient record system is being introduced to improve patient safety and outcomes. The new system will be fully operational across the whole hospital by 2018.

The state-of-the-art computer system, known as TrakCare, will include up-to-date information about a patient’s progress, planned treatments, medications and tests and results. It will also include their allergies and preferences, for example if they have

special communication needs. Doctors and nurses will be able to securely and confidentially share patient information with each other, as well as with other hospitals and GPs, which will aid safer and more efficient care for patients.

This will be the first time that there will be one joined-up system for the whole of Stepping Hill Hospital, which sees half a million patients every year. It will also play a key role in integrating IT systems between hospital, community and social care services in the Stockport Together partnership.



We have a vision of being a centre of excellence when it comes to clinical information technology, and have built a strong reputation for innovation over the years. We implemented the first paperless A&E record system of its kind in the country in 2013, with emergency staff recording clinical data on an iPad.



# Christmas at Stepping Hill

## Stepping Hill Hospital was busy with festive activity in the run-up to Christmas.

Almost 250 members of the public attended our annual carol concert at St Peter's Church in Hazel Grove, and members of staff also visited wards to sing carols to patients.

Our maternity unit donated presents for the Key 103 Cash for Kids appeal, which gives gifts to deprived children in the Manchester area, whilst many other teams donated Christmas hampers for local older people in collaboration with Age UK.

Midwife Steph Harwood featured in our local media as one of the hundreds of staff still at work on Christmas day.

A special Christmas dinner was also held to thank our volunteers for all the vital work they have carried out over the year. Over 500 volunteers work at the hospital. Other volunteers also dressed up in costume to hand out presents to patients on Christmas Day itself.



## BBC BREAKFAST BROADCAST



### BBC Radio Manchester broadcast their morning shows live from our hospital in October.

The shows lasted over six hours, with presenters Mike Sweeney, Phil Trow and Richard Stead interviewing staff, volunteers and patients about their experiences in the hospital.

Nurses, doctors, midwives, receptionists were all among those who took part. The result was a fascinating showcase for our services and the people who make them work.



# Nursing Times Awards 2016



## TOPS FOR PRE OPS

**Our pre-operative anaemia team, which helps patients before they undergo surgery, has won a Nursing Times Award for their innovative treatment.**

**They won in the 'Surgical Nursing' category for successfully identifying patients with anaemia at an earlier stage, and treating them with iron supplements without the need for a blood transfusion.**

Patients who are anaemic have fewer blood cells and are at greater risk of death and other complications during operations. It is the most common disorder of the blood and affects around 30% of people needing an operation. The condition was previously treated with blood transfusions during surgery.

The new method without transfusion is better and safer for the patient, as well as more cost effective.

The team were presented with their award at a ceremony in London following a reception at Clarence House with Prince Charles.

Judith Morris, Director of Nursing and Midwifery said, "The team's dedication and innovation have led to better and more efficient care for our surgical patients. I am so proud and delighted they have received this national recognition."

## SUPPLY IN DEMAND

Our finance and procurement teams have reached the final in no less than four separate awards for their outstanding work.

These were the **Healthcare Financial Management Award** for training staff to understand their role, the **Healthcare Supply Association Award** for increasing efficiency with partners, and both the **North West Excellence in Supply Award** and **North West Procurement Development Award** for engaging with suppliers.



# SAFE AND SECURE WITH UNSUNG HEROES

**Two of our security guards were awarded as 'unsung heroes' for helping to save a young woman's life.**

Ali Jallow and Andy Tobin were working their shift at our busy A&E department when they noticed a woman in a distressed state leaving the department. Concerned for her welfare, Ali and Andy followed her, trying to convince her to return.

The woman made her way to Bramhall Moor Lane bridge, and then attempted to throw herself onto the train tracks beneath. A fight to save her life took place, with the woman attacking the security guards and landing several harsh blows. Eventually the pair managed to grab the woman's arms and legs to prevent her jumping, and escort her back to the hospital.

For this, Ali and Andy were awarded the 'Unsung hero' award by GoToJobBoard, a health careers website company. The awards are for non-medical NHS staff, such as porters, cleaners, receptionists and security guards who have gone the extra mile to help patients and public. Andy has since moved on from the trust, but they were both honoured at the awards ceremony in Manchester.

Ann Barnes, Chief Executive said, "Ali and Andy are real heroes who showed courage and compassion in doing their utmost to save this young woman's life. They are an absolute credit to our organisation, their colleagues and their families."



Ali Jallow and Andy Tobin

## Reputable Research



**Our children's nurse Sara Bennett was shortlisted for the region's 'Research Nurse of the Year' award.**

Sara Bennett was up for the title in the Greater Manchester Clinical Research Awards for her research work with children in our paediatric department. She has been a research nurse at Stepping Hill Hospital for eight years, recruiting many young volunteers for research projects alongside her nursing role with children.



# An ultrasound presentation prize

**US and Canadian medical students training at our medical education centre won an international prize for an ultrasound techniques presentation.**

Husband and wife Joshua and Vanessa Hamby from the American University of the Caribbean, together with fellow

student Mohit Ajmeri, represented our hospital when they gave a live demonstration of the best ways to use

ultrasound in the treatment of damaged muscles and tears in various parts of the human body during the university's annual symposium.

The trio, originally from Toronto and Tennessee, were awarded the Dr. Robert Hecht Award for Best Presentation at the event, which takes place at Chichester in England.

We have run a programme for trainee doctors at the American University of the Caribbean in Florida for several years.



## Mortuary honour

Our mortuary manager Louise Milligan won the title of Mortuary Assistant of the Year, courtesy of the annual awards from the Good Funeral Guide.

Louise was hailed by a family member who nominated her as someone 'you can see who genuinely cares for everybody she meets.'

# Meet your Governor

## Maureen Harrison



In this edition we meet Maureen Harrison, one of our public governors for Bramhall and Cheadle.

### When did you first come across Stockport NHS Foundation Trust and how?

About 6 years ago, I was admitted to Stepping Hill Hospital for emergency bowel surgery.

Unfortunately there was a bad surgical error which led me to have several cardiac arrests, and I spent 18 weeks recovering as an in-patient at the hospital. I only very narrowly avoided contributing to the Trust's annual mortality statistics!

### How and why did you choose to get involved?

Whilst in hospital, and also later whilst pursuing a damages claim against the Trust my family and I became aware of areas where care could be improved, including communication and record keeping.

Although most of the care I received was excellent, as a result of the negative aspects of my experience, I decided to stand for election as a public governor.

### What experiences from your past do you believe have helped you prepare for the role?

I am a retired lecturer in physiology and human nutrition, and spent over 30 years teaching these subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate level to nursing, dietetics and other students at the London Metropolitan University. This means I have an understanding of medical/scientific literature and medical statistics, so as a public governor, I concentrate on the clinical quality aspects of NHS medical care and I have a particular interest in mortality and morbidity statistics.

In addition, my husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in 2009 and

is now cared for in a Stockport nursing home. Experiencing his decline from early to advanced stages of his illness has given me great concern about the care of older people, particularly those with dementia, both in the hospital and community settings.

I was appointed an 'expert by experience' for the Care Quality Commission three years ago and have participated in over 30 care home and hospital inspections for them in this capacity.

### What is the most important thing about being a governor?

It is wanting to improve the quality of care within the Trust, and never being satisfied with an overall average performance.

For me, seeking out the weaknesses and focusing on how improvements can be made, rather than congratulating ourselves just for the good aspects of the Trust's performance, is more important. The ultimate objective should be an ambition to constantly drive standards higher, rather than settling for mediocrity.

### Which area do you live in and why is representing your constituency important to the running of the Trust?

I live in Bramhall, but consider it my job to help the interests of the public in general in Stockport NHS Foundation Trust's area, not just the largely affluent members of Bramhall and Cheadle.

If any individual within my constituency has concerns or wants assistance or advice, I am available to represent them.

### What aspects of your role do you enjoy the most?

I enjoy talking to residents of Stockport

whenever I get the opportunity, and telling them about the work of the Trust in both hospital and community settings.

I like discussing with them their experiences of NHS care, either as patients or as carers themselves, be these good, bad or indifferent. It is always interesting and enlightening to talk to them.

### What advice would you give to someone who is considering standing for election as a governor?

There is more to being a governor than attending four Council of Governor meetings a year. Be prepared to do a lot of reading – and learn lots of acronyms – the NHS is rife with them, much to my disapproval!

The most important thing though is to care about the quality of care within the NHS and about its future. Currently, our health and social care system is in grave difficulty, and so more genuine input and involvement from the people that really matter - its users, is badly needed.

### What is your greatest pleasure in life?

During my days as a pupil at Whalley Range High School in the 1950s, it was standard that all girls' grammar schools had weekly cookery classes, and this stimulated in me a lifelong interest in and love of cooking and good food, and one of my greatest pleasures in life is visiting and enjoying what would be described as 'posh' restaurants.

For my 70th birthday, my two daughters took me to one of Heston Blumenthal's restaurants for lunch – it was a fabulous experience, especially as it wasn't me who had to pay the bill afterwards! I also love cooking at home, particularly preparing my version of a classic English afternoon tea for family and friends.



# Membership Form

Our members are very important to us, but we would like even more! If you know somebody who would like to receive this newsletter such as a friend, neighbour, relative or work colleague please encourage them to join us.

Anyone can join by either signing up online at [www.stockport.nhs.uk](http://www.stockport.nhs.uk) in the membership and governors section, or by filling in the form below and sending it to: **Membership Office, Stepping Hill Hospital, Poplar Grove, Stockport, SK2 7JE**

## Your details:

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Prof (delete as appropriate)

Name:  Telephone:

Address:

Email Address:

Contacting you electronically saves us money. We will always send information by email except our newsletter. Please tick this box if you also just want to receive our newsletter electronically.

## About you:

Male / Female (tick boxes) Male  Female  Date of birth:

### Ethnicity (please tick as appropriate)

- |                         |                          |                              |                          |                             |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| White British           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other mixed background       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black/British – African     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Irish                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian/British – Indian       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black/British – Other Black | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other White background  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian/British – Pakistani    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chinese                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White & Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian/British – Bangladeshi  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other Ethnic Group          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| White and Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> | Asian/ British – other Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |                          |
| White and Asian         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Black/British – Carribean    | <input type="checkbox"/> |                             |                          |

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Yes  No

**Thank you for applying to be a member of our Trust.**

The information you provide here will be held on a database so that we can keep you up to date on membership issues. This information will remain confidential and held in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998).

# MEET YOUR NEW GOVERNORS



We have recently had two new governors elected for the Marple and Stepping Hill constituency – Melanie Cooke and Julie Wragg. Here, they each say a few words about their background and involvement.



## Melanie Cooke

### New governor for Marple and Stepping Hill

“ I was born and brought up in Stockport and have lived here all my life.

I had a great career working for Lloyds bank for many years. I was a senior bank manager in branches in and around Stockport and latterly managed and supported my bank manager colleagues in Stockport, Manchester and Cheshire.

I now work part time in several roles, as a Non Exec Director for No 1 Copperpot credit union based in Stockport and as a mystery shopper mainly for financial services, I also act as a mentor for people developing their careers . I enjoy having a little more time at home.

I have always championed the local area in which I have worked and have always sought to involve the local community in my work. I like many other people have sat waiting in A&E and other appointments in Stepping Hill thinking ‘I’m sure I could help’ so when a friend mentioned the local governor elections I decided to act on that thought.

A few weeks later I find myself elected to the role of governor for Marple and Stepping Hill. I am really looking forward to using all my previous management and service delivery experience to support and challenge the board and learn more about the NHS trust in Stockport. ”

## Julie Wragg

### New governor for Marple and Stepping Hill

“ I have lived in Hazel Grove for 35 years which mirrors the length of time I have worked in the NHS. I am married, have three sons and a Springer Spaniel called Monty.

My career includes working as an adult and children’s nurse as well as a school nurse and health visitor. Therefore I have a good understanding of both hospital and community health care services. More recently I have worked as a quality improvement specialist supporting a number of NHS organisations in the

North of England.

Following early retirement from full time NHS employment. I now work as a library support assistant in the local area.

I still have a real passion for the NHS and want to ensure that all residents are able to access high quality healthcare services. I will be a dedicated governor and draw on my experience to undertake the role and want to be accessible to all members in the Marple and Stepping Hill Constituency. ”



# YOUR GOVERNORS

## Public - Heaton & Victoria (4 seats)



**Lesley Auger**

gov-lesley.auger@stockport.nhs.uk



**Evelyn Brown**

gov-evelyn.brown@stockport.nhs.uk



**Gerald Preston Wright** **One vacancy**

gov-gerald.wright@stockport.nhs.uk

## Public - Tame Valley & Werneth (4 seats)



**Roy Driver**

gov-roy.driver@stockport.nhs.uk



**Alan Gibson**

gov-alan.gibson@stockport.nhs.uk



**Linda Appleton**

gov-linda.appleton@stockport.nhs.uk



**Roy Greenwood**

gov-roy.greenwood@stockport.nhs.uk

Brinnington and Central, Reddish North, Reddish South, Bredbury and Woodley, Bredbury Green, Romiley. Elected until Annual Members Meeting 2018

Heaton North, Heaton South, Davenport and Cale Green, Edgeley, Cheadle Heath, Manor. Elected until Annual Members Meeting 2017



## Public - Bramhall & Cheadle (4 seats)



**Dr Robert Cryer**

gov-robert.cryer@stockport.nhs.uk



**Prof Charles Galasko**

gov-charles.galasko@stockport.nhs.uk



**Maureen Harrison** **Tony Johnson**

gov-maureen.harrison@stockport.nhs.uk



gov-tony.johnson@stockport.nhs.uk

Bramhall North, Bramhall South, Cheadle Hulme South, Cheadle and Gatley, Cheadle Hulme North and Heald Green. Elected until Annual Members Meeting 2019

Marple North, Marple South, Hazel Grove, Offerton, Stepping Hill. Elected until Annual Members Meeting 2019

## Marple & Stepping Hill (4 seats)



**Dr Ronald Catlow**

gov-ronald.catlow@stockport.nhs.uk



**Les Jenkins**

gov-les.jenkins@stockport.nhs.uk



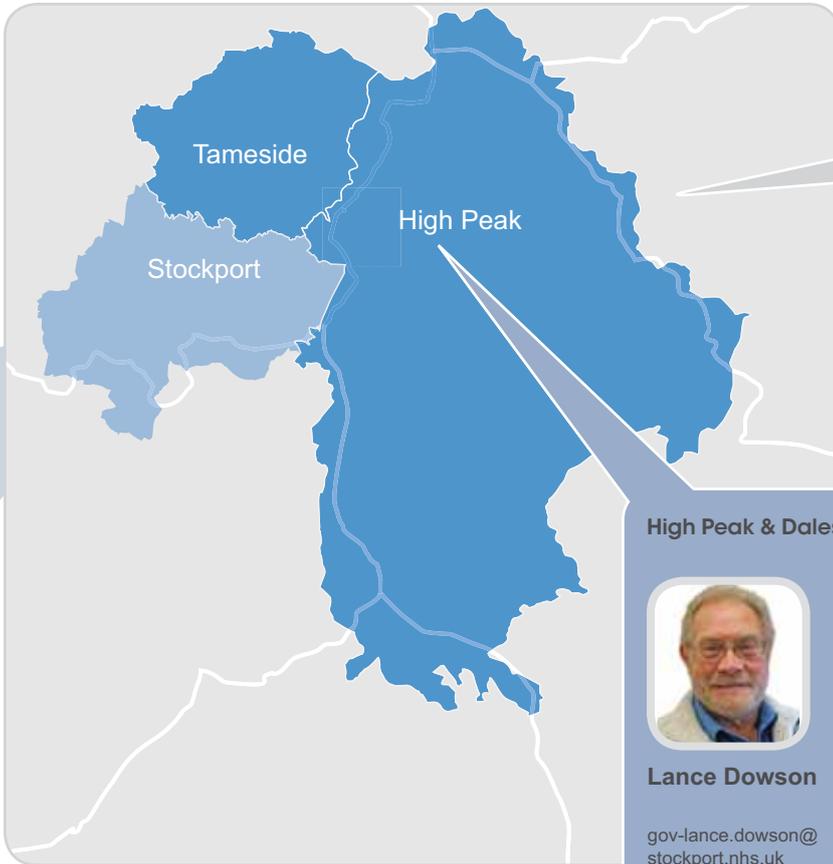
**Melanie Cooke**

gov-melanie.cooke@stockport.nhs.uk



**Julie Wragg**

gov-julie.wragg@stockport.nhs.uk



**Public - Outer Region (1 Seat)**

**Raees Khan**  
gov-raees.khan@stockport.nhs.uk

Covers Cheshire East, Manchester, Trafford, Salford, Oldham, Rochdale, Bury, Bolton, Wigan and those wards in High Peak not covered under the High Peak seats. Elected until Annual Members Meeting 2018

**High Peak & Dales and Tameside & Glossop (3 seats)**



**Lance Dowson**  
gov-lance.dowson@stockport.nhs.uk



**Lynne Woodward**  
gov-lynne.woodward@stockport.nhs.uk



**Barbara Vaughan**  
soile.curtis@stockport.nhs.uk

Covers the following wards in High Peak: Barms, Blackbrook, Burbage, Buxton Central, Chapel East, Chapel West, Corbar, Cote Heath, Hayfield, Limestone Peak, New Mills East, New Mills West, Sett, Stone Bench, Temple and Whaley Bridge. Elected until Annual Members Meeting 2018

**Council Of Governors - Appointed**



STOCKPORT Metropolitan Borough Council

**Cllr Tom McGee**  
soile.curtis@stockport.nhs.uk



**One vacancy**

**Staff Governors - (4 seats)**



**Isabel Daniel**  
isabel.daniel@stockport.nhs.uk



**Yvonne Banham**  
yvonne.banham@stockport.nhs.uk



**Chris Hudsmith**  
chris.hudsmith@stockport.nhs.uk



**One vacancy**

You can get in touch with your governor by ringing our membership office on 0161 419 4653, emailing - [membership@stockport.nhs.uk](mailto:membership@stockport.nhs.uk), or in writing.

Please address your envelope to your local governor and post to: **Membership Office, Oak House, Stepping Hill Hospital, Poplar Grove, Stockport, SK2 7JE.**

# your guide to upcoming events

To book visit  
[www.stockport.nhs.uk](http://www.stockport.nhs.uk) and  
go to our events page, or  
call 0161 419 4451.

## Care Closer to Home

A look at the new multi-specialty community provider model of services, bringing services closer to home in Stockport.

Tuesday 4th April 12:00pm-1:00pm



## Board meetings and council of governors meetings

You are welcome to attend our public Board meetings, and our Council of Governors meetings.

All meetings are held in Pinewood House education centre on our hospital site. The agenda and papers for the meetings are available on our website approximately one week before the meeting. Visit the board of directors and membership and governors pages to find out more.

Thursday 30th March  
Public Board meeting  
1:15pm

Thursday 20th April  
Council of Governors meeting  
6:00pm

Thursday 27th April  
Public Board meeting  
1:15pm

Thursday 25th May  
Public Board meeting  
1:15pm

Thursday 29th June  
Public Board meeting  
1:15pm

Monday 24th July  
Council of Governors meeting  
6:00pm

Thursday 27th July  
Public Board meeting  
1:15pm

## Cancer: Caring and curing

A health talk from our experts on this condition

Tuesday 4th July 7:00pm-8:00pm



## Operation! Tour of our operating theatres

A tour of our operating theatres with doctor and nurse tour guides

Tuesday 12th September 7:00pm-8:00pm



## Annual Members Meeting

A review of the previous year, plans for the next year, and a chance to ask questions of our Trust Board

Thursday 12th October 6:00pm-8:00pm



## Diabetes: Reduce your risk

A health talk on how you can avoid getting Type 2 Diabetes and our services

Tuesday 7th November 12:00pm-1:00pm





# NEW RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN FOR NURSES

**In common with other NHS trusts we have a number of nursing posts which we need to fill with permanent staff members.**

Having permanent members of staff is better in the long term, both financially and for patients.

While we have been recruiting overseas, we are also launching a major new recruitment campaign nearer to home as well. The campaign will appear on social media, posters and elsewhere over the coming weeks and months.

Look out for the adverts, and if you know of anyone in nursing elsewhere who is looking for a change and a new challenge, then email [jobs@stockport.nhs.uk](mailto:jobs@stockport.nhs.uk)

## Lead Governor Update – Les Jenkins

“ The Annual Members Meeting on 6th October was attended by around 100 members. There were very informative reports from the chief executive Ann Barnes and finance director Feroz Patel, and an extensive question and answer session led by Gillian Easson. Before the meeting large numbers took advantage of the facilities provided by medical staff for flu jabs, blood pressure readings, and Body Mass Index reports.



At the Annual Members Meeting newly elected governors take office. This year there were no changes following the election in the Bramhall and Cheadle constituency, but in the Marple and Stepping Hill constituency Melanie Cooke and Julie Wragg were elected and in the Staff constituency Isabel Daniel and Chris Hudsmith were elected.

In the Marple and Stepping Hill constituency Carole Normington and Chris Wrigley had decided to retire, whilst in the Staff constituency Sharon Arkwright and Russell James had moved on from the trust. All the retiring and leaving governors had worked hard in the interests of the trust and of the membership during their terms of office – in the case of Chris Wrigley for no less than 12 years, having been one of the original public governors when Stepping Hill Hospital became one of the first 10 trusts in England to achieve Foundation Trust status in 2004.

On 10th November there was a large audience to hear our lead stroke consultant Dr Shivakumar Krishnamoorthy give an illustrated talk entitled Think FAST. His talk was both illuminating and encouraging, as were his answers to the numerous questions put to him. The work done by our stroke unit is absolutely first class and their status both regionally and nationally is well merited.

It will be clear to all of us that the trust is faced with tremendous pressures in the winter months, like the rest of the NHS, and that the future will be physically and financially different. The governors will play their full part in assisting and supporting in any way they can and will look forward to the Stockport Together partnership gathering momentum through 2017. ”

Some days the freezer is far enough to go for something tasty to eat.



**Great Value Menu Pack for only £19.95**

**5 main courses with vegetables:** Roast Lamb in Mint Gravy, Roast Chicken Breast with Stuffing, Pork & Leek Sausages with Somerset Cider Gravy, Shepherds Pie, Chicken & Vegetable Casserole **2 desserts:** Apple Crumble & Custard, Jam Sponge & Custard

ORDER CODE: VP4



Chicken & Vegetable Casserole £2.95

If the weather isn't looking too good, or you don't fancy a trip to the shops, wouldn't it be great to have a delicious meal within reach that can be ready in minutes?

Wiltshire Farm Foods offers over 300 ready meals, each made using tasty ingredients that are perfectly cooked then quick-frozen to lock the goodness in. Special dietary needs like gluten-free or low calorie? It's all available no-contract, no-commitment and with free delivery. Just order what you want, when you want. Try our menu now with our Great Value Menu Pack.

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**01606 738845**

[wiltshirefarmfoods.com](http://wiltshirefarmfoods.com)



**Wiltshire Farm Foods**

# Foster for Stockport

**Who will be there to help them celebrate?**

Stockport children are still waiting for local families – could you be a foster carer in Stockport?

Join our outstanding fostering family - you will receive intensive training and support and be paid highly competitive allowances and additional fees

We're with you every step of the way

Call us on **0161 474 3400** or visit the website for more information

[www.stockport.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/fostering)



**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



**What's a typical day  
at Abney Court?  
Spending time with  
Sinatra**

**Abney Court  
care home  
Now open**

When you visit Abney Court, our beautiful purpose-built care home in Cheadle, expect the unexpected. Discover a full range of quality care services under one roof, plus stunning facilities that include a cinema, hair salon and coffee shop. You'll also find residents keeping busy with a variety of daily activities – from the typical to the not-so-typical.

To find out how we can help call us on  
**0161 820 4740** or visit [careuk.com/abney-court](http://careuk.com/abney-court)



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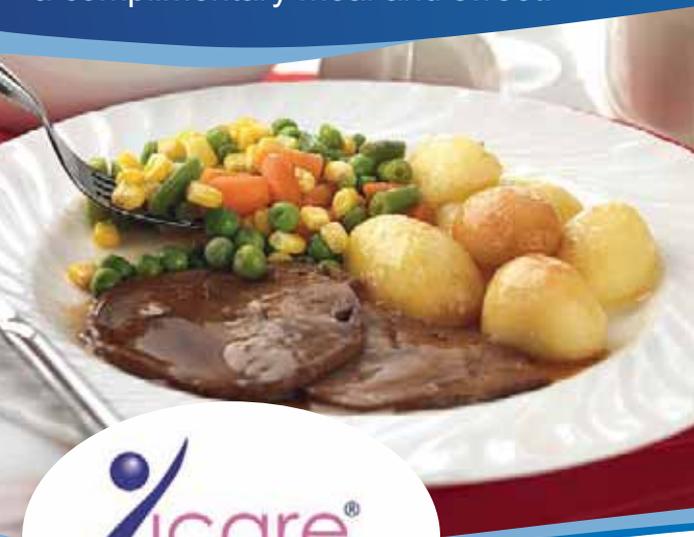
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It is important that we keep you updated on our news through this newsletter, but we work hard to ensure that costs are kept as low as possible. This is through many different ways such as using small local agencies offering discounted rates, cheap paper, sending just one copy for members who live together and emailing electronic copies to many others. From September 2015, the newsletter will also include advertising to help cover the costs.