And the winner is...

THE WINNERS of the Trust’s first Celebration of Achievement Awards were announced at a presentation ceremony at York St John University.

A large number of nominations were received, and the judging panels had a challenge on their hands in choosing the winners.

The evening was hosted by the Trust’s Deputy Chief Executive Mike Proctor and Chief Nurse Libby McManus. Chief Executive Patrick Crowley presented the winners with their awards. He said:
“Almost 4,500 people work within the Trust and it’s not just about doctors and nurses. There is a large army of staff in other roles who make a great contribution to the health service, so we wanted to recognised and reinforce that. I’m just sorry we couldn’t give an award to everybody!”

The event was a success and it is hoped that it will be repeated next year. Details of the winners and finalists can be found on page 2.

Left: Scenes from the event. Above: The infection control team receive the Chairman’s Award from hospital Chief Executive Patrick Crowley (left).
Cancer services event

THE CANCER services directorate held an event for those Foundation Trust members who expressed an interest in cancer services. Over 80 people attended the event. A variety of talks were given to inform people of our work at a trust-wide and directorate level. The Trust’s art officer Gill Greaves gave a presentation on art, creativity and therapy in relation to cancer care. There were also a number of stands giving information including Macmillan, dietetics, the clinical nurse specialists and palliative care.

One of the aims of the event was to encourage membership of the York and District Cancer Partnership, who aim to give patients and carers the opportunity to influence how the Trust develops cancer services.

Further events aimed at members who have particular areas of interest will be published in future editions of YorkTalk.

And the winner is...

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THE WINNERS and finalists from York Hospitals NHS Foundations Trust’s Celebration of Achievement Awards are:

Excellence in Team Work (clinical)
Winner: Ward 23 nursing team
Finalists:
- Multi-disciplinary team responsible for development and implementation of electronic discharge
- Neurophysiology

Excellence in Team Work (non-clinical)
Winner: Laboratory medicine training officers
Finalists:
- Corporate learning and development
- Art and design team

Unsung Hero
Winner: Alan Hardcastle (facilities)
Finalists:
- Janet Wootton (child health)
- Edna Mulhearn (HR)

Customer Care Award
Winner: Krystina Hardy (Ward 35 housekeeper)
Finalists:
- Patients Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
- Children’s community team (Bereavement service)

Volunteer of the Year
Winner: Phyllis Cawood (Friends of York Hospitals)
Finalists:
- Polly Griffiths (maternity services liaison committee)
- Ian Clennan (York Hospital Radio)

Innovations Award
Winner: Chris Lennon-Llewellyn (Clinical biochemistry)
Finalists:
- Clinical development team
- Occupational health

Chairman’s Award
Winner: Infection control team
Finalists:
- Elderly antibiotic policy team
- Safer patients initiative work stream team

Chief Executive’s Award winners: David Worth and Colin Jones, consultants in renal services.
Generous donation for renal unit

THE RENAL dialysis unit at York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was delighted to receive a generous donation of flat screen televisions from the York Kidney Patient’s Association (YKPA).

The 13 new sets are a much appreciated update from the old style box units with the basic five channels they had previously.

Funding for the televisions and cabling came through a £10,000 donation to the YKPA from Mrs Sandra Webster. Mrs Webster was bequeathed some money by a friend who had been on dialysis, and wanted it to go to good use helping patients in the unit.

YKPA is a small local charity founded and run by patients associated with the dialysis unit. They aim to support kidney patients and improve their quality of life by providing non-medical equipment for the hospital, fundraising and arranging social events for members.

The new televisions were welcomed by patients and staff, television being one of the ways patients can be distracted from the tedium of dialyzing.

The unit’s deputy sister Carole Gover said: “Patients with kidney failure which has progressed to requiring dialysis visit the unit three days a week, 52 weeks of the year. The dialysis session itself takes four hours. During that time patients are limited as to what they can do, so being able to watch television, read or work on a laptop can be a real saving grace.”

The dedicated staff are constantly looking to improve the environment of the unit and the provision of activities for patients who spend so much of their lives there.

Open event taking shape

YORK HOSPITALS NHS Foundation Trust will be throwing open its doors and inviting the public to learn more about who we are and what we do.

The open day will build on the success of last year’s event, and will include interactive display stands, ‘behind the scenes’ tours of selected hospital departments and presentations on a range of topics including stroke awareness, infection control, nutrition and obesity, and a day in the life of a laboratory specimen. The Trust’s Annual General Meeting will also take place on the day.

There will be sessions for members of the public to meet the managers and governors, as well as opportunities to meet the front line staff. There will be giveaway gifts and a prize draw for people who sign up as new members of the Trust. Tea and cake will be provided by the chaplaincy service as part of their ‘more tea vicar’ session.

The event is taking place from 2-6pm on Wednesday 30 September 2009 in the main hospital on Wigginton Road. All are welcome to attend.

Look out for the next edition of YorkTalk where there will be details of how to book on to presentations and tours so you can plan your attendance at the event.

Dates for your diary...

16 September 2009
YorkTalk presentation: maternity services
12:30-13:30
Postgraduate lecture theatre, York Hospital

2 September 2009
Council of Governors meeting
16:00-18:00 (venue tbc)

30 September 2009
Open day and Annual General Meeting
14:00-18:00
York Hospital

December 2009
Council of Governors meeting
(date, time and venue tbc)

December 2009
YorkTalk presentation: stroke services
12:30-13:30
Postgraduate lecture theatre, York Hospital
(date tbc)
Changes ahead for pharmacy

YORK HOSPITALS NHS Foundation Trust has agreed to work with Healthcare at Home to provide a pharmacy dispensing service at York Hospital.

A new dispensary, to be created in the hospital’s main entrance, will be able to offer patients new services such as home deliveries for bulky items, the redirecting of medicine supplies when patients are away from home, and dispensing into monitored dosage aids for a much wider group of patients. Opening hours will be longer, extending into weekday evenings and weekends, to accommodate changing clinic times and clinical initiatives and to be more flexible to meet patient needs. Most patients from hospital clinics and the emergency department will take their prescriptions to the new dispensary. Historically these have been dispensed by the main pharmacy department’s in-house team.

Martin Phillips, Chief Pharmacist at York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: “This partnership will complement the existing in-house service, allowing the main hospital pharmacy to focus on providing a speedy service to more complex patients on wards, to those participating in clinical trials, and to inpatients waiting for discharge medications. “Patients from hospital clinics and the emergency department will benefit from reduced waits, as the new dispensary team will be focussed specifically on these groups of patients.” Healthcare at Home has a well established record of providing dispensing services to ‘hospital-at-home’ patients. Since 2001, they have dispensed and delivered medication to almost 800 of the Trust’s patients in the comfort of their own homes.

US nurses visit York Hospital

NURSING STUDENTS from the University of Southern Indiana visited York Hospital to find out what life is like as a nurse in the UK. The 15 students were met by deputy chief nurse Kate Harper before visiting a number of clinical areas to meet staff and see different aspects of patient care. Kate Harper said: “We were delighted to accept the university’s request for the students to visit the hospital. The visit gave our nursing staff and the students the opportunity to explore the differences and similarities between the two healthcare systems, and for them to share their experiences.”

Got a story for YorkTalk?

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Join us

It’s easy to become a member of the trust:
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- Email the membership office: york@nhs-membership.co.uk
- Join online: www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk