Welcome

WELCOME to another edition of the newsletter for Members of the Foundation Trust.

In this issue we will be taking a close look at the celebration events already under way for the NHS’s 60th birthday, which takes place in July.

We also look at how art is being used at York Hospital to inspire both patients and visitors.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome – see the back page for how to get in touch.

Mike Proctor
Deputy chief executive

THE third and final phase of the upgrade of critical care facilities is now complete.

30 May was the handover date for the final part of the development, which leaves the Foundation Trust with some of the best intensive care and high dependency facilities in the country.

There is still some work to be done to an adjoining corridor, but the main facilities are now up and running. Eventually, there will be capacity for 17 beds.

Critical care services manager Christine Morris explains: “This represents a huge improvement in the health environment. Not only will the new facilities mean another boost for infection control, but they will lead to much more comfort and dignity for relatives and staff. The overnight stay room for relatives and the shower facilities for staff are two of the features which will particularly make a difference.

“The end result will mean better treatment and a better experience for both patient and relative.”

Critical care upgrade

If you would like to receive YorkTalk in a more accessible format, for example printed in a larger text size, please contact the board administrator, chairman and chief executive’s office, York Hospital, York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE Tel. 01904 725075 E-mail: enquiries@york.nhs.uk
1948

The NHS is born on 5 July 1948 out of a long-held ideal that good healthcare should be available to all, regardless of wealth.

1954: Sir Richard Doll establishes a clear link between smoking and lung cancer

1960: An Edinburgh doctor, Michael Woodruff, performs the first UK kidney transplant on an identical set of twins

1968: A 45-year-old man becomes the first Briton to have a heart transplant on 3 May

A SERIES of exhibitions and events are under way in the York district to celebrate the NHS’s 60th birthday.

The celebrations are being organised by the York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Already, a series of reflection days have taken place, where people could bring objects, memorabilia and recollections relating to the early decades of the health service.

A selection of items and memories collected will form part of a number of exhibitions at York Hospital in July.

At the events, people were asked to donate objects such as photographs, medicine bottles or any other NHS-related memorabilia. It was also an opportunity to put on record experiences of working for or being treated by the NHS in decades gone by.

At the first event, John Cooper, aged 85, called in to record his experiences of working in supplies at Bootham Hospital and then at the former military hospital on Fulford Road from 1948 onwards.

He said: “When the NHS first began people couldn’t quite believe it – it seemed too good to be true that you could be treated and get medicines for free.”

“In the early days there were two main hospitals in York, the County and the City. There were also a number of smaller establishments. The County was largely supported by voluntary contributions and people usually paid into schemes every week so that they could be treated there when necessary. Some employers would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit or rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS. “I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“I worked at the military hospital for two years. In those days people stayed in hospital for a long time. For example, a hernia procedure would take a penny or two out of your wages so that you were covered. The City was run by the council for everyone else. There was actually a bit of rivalry at the beginning, even though both were now run by the new NHS.

“Planning for the anniversary

A SELECTION of items and memories collected at the reflections events will form part of a number of exhibitions at York Hospital in July.

In addition, music performances will be held in various parts of the hospital during the first two weeks in July.

On 2 July a collage day will be held. Visitors, staff and patients can join in by placing items on a prepared surface to form a material based collage as a lasting memory of the 60th anniversary.

On 3 July a food event will be held at the Mallard Restaurant at York Hospital, with a 1940s theme. There will be swing music and some staff will dress in Forties costume.

On 4 July Hugh Bayley MP will present a special lithograph of the hospital.

On 11 July there will be a celebration service in the hospital chapel.

In addition, the Castle Museum in York will be holding kitchen demonstrations in their 1940s kitchen, and nurses’ uniforms from the period will be on display.

Finally, receptions are planned for former trust board members and for a number of Foundation Trust staff who will reach the age of 60 in 2008.

For further information please contact Janet Mountain at the Foundation Trust on 01904 725254 or email her at janet.mountain@york.nhs.uk.

NOTE: subject to change – see www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk for up-to-date details.
Yeears of the NHS

Margaret Coates, former ward sister at County Hospital, York

“On Christmas day, the Sisters had a celebration breakfast to start the day – just as well, because we had to work from 6.30am to 8pm.

“In 1958, the parents could only visit their children in hospital for 30 minutes a day (one hour on Sundays).

“Monks from a nearby monastery came to do their training on the wards.

“In those days patients still used iron lungs and rocking beds.

“There were quite a few male nurses on the wards in the Fifties because these were men who had done their National Service in the Medical Corps.

“Each ward had its own cleaners and student nurses damp dusted behind the beds every morning.”

Marjorie Harrison, former ward sister at City Hospital, York

“In the Sixties, ward sisters earned around £1,000 per year. Then, as a result of the Halsbury Report, our salaries went up to £3,000.

“The Matron had her own flat at the hospital – and a dog who lived with her!

“Hospital stays were very long – four weeks for what now would be an overnight stay.

“There weren’t as many trained staff back then – lots of the work was done by student nurses and there were hardly any auxiliaries.

“There was a hospital school teacher for all the boys and girls who had to stay in for a long time.

“Nursing was very task-driven in those days. Now it’s more patient-centred.”

Michael Dyson, administration manager for medicine and elderly medicine

“I started in 1974, as assistant commissioning officer working as part of the team on the building of the new District Hospital. It was a three-year project and it seemed to go on forever.

“We were based in Bootham Park Hospital, and it was during the three day week, so often we would be working in candlelight during power cuts. It felt very Dickensian.

“The hospital was built in two phases, with the front part built first and the second joined on later. We had a huge party in medical records when it was completed.”

York… the changing outlook

Margaret Coates, former ward sister at County Hospital, York
Tear off and keep
Members’ Council

APPOINTED GOVERNORS

North Yorkshire and York PCT 3 seats
Mr Michael Sweet, Non-Executive Director
General Practitioner – To be confirmed
Gill Cashmore, Chief Officer, Selby AVS
City of York Council 3 seats
Clr Madeleine Kirk
Clr Sandy Fraser
Clr Sian Wiseman
North Yorkshire County Council 2 seats
Clr Elizabeth Casling
Mrs Caroline Patmore
University of York Medical School 1 seat
Professor Ian Greer
Voluntary Sector 1 seat
Mr Mike Moran, Chairman, York CVS

NOMINATED GOVERNORS

Patient and Public Governors 17 seats

Patient/Carer
Geoffrey Rennie
David Vasey
Jane Farquharson
Brian Thompson
Public: City of York
James Porteous
Linda Hatton
Paul Raines
Bob Towner
Stephen Lewis
Stefan Ruff
Helen Mackman
Winifred Blackburn
Public: Selby District Council
Jane Hardy
Rodney Price
Nevil Parkinson
Public: Hambleton District Council
Ann Harrison
Pam Turpin
Staff Governors 5 seats

Staff: Medical
Lee Bond, Consultant Haematologist
Anne Penny, Bed Manager
Lynne Atkinson, Sister
Mandy McGale, Head of Patient Flow
Martin Skelton, Senior Biomedical Scientist

Governor Talk Geoffrey Rennie, Patient Carer Representative

What is your background?
I have always been involved in agriculture – first in real farming and then as deputy director of High Mowthorpe Experimental Farm when it first started. Main career followed in Fisons Fertilizers where I managed the sales marketing operations (when I retired). Soon after this I was pleased to be elected to represent Sheriff Hutton/Hovingham ward at the North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). As a county councillor I have been chairman of the York and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and chairman of the council.

Why did you want to become a governor?
I represented NYCC on the Community Health Council and subsequently the Patients Forum. This was an opportunity to represent the views of people living in rural Ryedale on these bodies, and when the Hospital Trust was formed to continue this aspect as a governor. It is not easy for the diverse requirements of a rural community to be expressed, but accessibility to the services of a first class hospital are of great importance.

How do you see your role as governor developing?
As a member of the remuneration and the communications groups I have been involved in the appointment of chairman and non-executive board members and in the development of ideas for keeping in contact with members. This work represents a considerable challenge of communication but is of great importance in retaining the interest and goodwill of patients and public.

How is the trust doing as a foundation trust?
The assessment of performance of the Trust is a most important aspect – its work is very good. We are encouraged by the determination of hospital management to remedy any defects and also endorse the aim for York to continue to be one of the bests trusts in the Country.

Art in the hospital

AN ARTS worker has been helping renal patients express themselves as they undergo dialysis.

Lesley Seeger has just completed the second year of a three-year project funded by the British Kidney Association. Lesley explains: “The aim is to relieve the boredom and empower patients.”

“Painting projects were completed in all three units and a further mosaic project has been completed in the Harrogate Satellite Unit. “Take up on units was good and those taking part gave very positive feedback, as did staff.”

One patient said that the project had improved the whole atmosphere in the unit, and subsequently four patients have taken up painting at home. A research project is now planned for medical students to evaluate the impact of art in the renal units.

Lesley adds: “We believe we have begun to demonstrate that art can make a valuable and important contribution to the lives of renal patients.”

Imagination: patients’ artwork

Great place to be: last year’s courtyard transformation

Colourful courtyard

AROUND 30 students are creating another colourful courtyard at York Hospital. Last year, youngsters from St Peter’s School in York transformed a courtyard with a theme of fish. This year, students from the same school are working with the theme this time around being the Universe. The project is the product of a charitable fund run by the school to help make a difference to the community.

Got a story for YorkTalk?

Contact the board administrator, chairman and chief executive’s office, York Hospital, York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE:

Telephone: (01904) 725075
E-mail: enquiries@york.nhs.uk