



Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Issue No 17: September 2008

Your Trust News

Newsletter for the members of Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Pharmacy department uses robot technology

The Pharmacy department at Edith Cavell Hospital now has extra help in their department – from a robot!

The high-tech dispensing system, costing £220,000, has been many months in the pipeline and is now successfully up and running.

Its robotically-controlled arms speed up the process of issuing medication to patients and it can fill a box for a ward round in just three minutes - picking up one item every 6 to 12 seconds. It also takes just 10 seconds for an item to leave the robot and arrive in the outpatients' dispensary area.

The robot has already been put to good use, and currently dispenses 80 per cent of patients' medication as well as most of the stock items for wards and departments. And it doesn't rest overnight either, spending the time restocking itself for the next day.



Senior pharmacy technician (IT) Graham Davison with the new high-tech robot

As well as saving valuable time for staff, enabling them to spend more time with patients on the wards, the robot also has financial benefits for the Trust as it reduces the number of agency staff needed to manage the pharmacy workload.

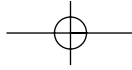
Deborah Parsonage, Pharmacy Operations Services Manager, said: "We are delighted that the project is now working for the good of the Trust, our staff and of course our patients.

"Many hospitals have invested in this technology during the past three years and we value the opportunity to keep pace with change – particularly when it comes to competing with other Trusts in the recruitment of Pharmacy staff."

Don't miss the Trust's next Members' Meeting!

Lady Anne's Hotel, St Martin's Lane, Stamford on Monday 17 November at 5 pm.

To confirm attendance, or for more information, please call 01733 875201.



Message from Nik Patten



Dear Member,

Welcome to the autumn issue of Your Trust News.

It has been a busy summer and the hospitals are getting busier with increased demand from patients for both our elective and emergency services. While this is very positive in many ways, I can appreciate the additional pressure that our staff are under. Thanks go to them for maintaining our high standards in the quality of care we provide but also for making sure we achieve the quality services that patients now expect.

Work is continuing at an impressive pace on the Peterborough City Hospital, the City Care Centre and the first phase of the new Mental Health Unit, recently renamed the Cavell Centre, which is due to open in November. This will allow part of the existing Edith Cavell building to be demolished so the construction of the new hospital building can continue. It is an exciting time for the project and Trust departments are already beginning to select fixed medical equipment suitable for their new areas within the new hospital.

The investigation into the outpatients'

waiting list, led by Internal Audit, is also making good progress and the work is due to be completed within the next few weeks. We will then have a better understanding of what happened and how to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future. We will also be updating everyone within the Trust, Monitor, our healthcare partners, Trust members and the local media.

We recently received a report from the Healthcare Commission regarding compliance with its Hygiene Code. The report followed an unannounced visit in April and despite a generally positive result the Commission judged the Trust to have failed two 'duties'. However these are not direct patient care matters and we are confident we will carry out their recommendations successfully within the six month time scale. Reports such as these are invaluable in helping us keep patient safety as our top priority, and we value all feedback.

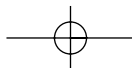
Thank you for your continued interest and support as a member of the Trust.

Nik Patten
Chief Executive

Annual Public Meeting

The Trust's Annual Public Meeting will be held on 25 September at 5pm at the Noel Cantwell Suite, Peterborough United Football Club, London Road Stadium, Peterborough. There will be an opportunity to ask any questions that you would like answered as well as a review of the last six months, a presentation of the annual report and accounts for 2007/08, and a look forward to the future. We will also have a local Bhangra Beat dance group starting proceedings for us and look forward to seeing our members and members of the public.

To book your place now, please register by calling 01733 875201.



Renal service expansion

Work is currently underway on a £100,000 upgrade of the Trust's Haemodialysis Unit.

Situated on Ward 3Z at Peterborough District Hospital the Unit provides care, treatment and dialysis for patients with long-term kidney conditions.

The upgrade will include four extra dialysis stations which, added to the existing 11 stations, will enable the unit to cater for 90 patients per week. This means that more patients with long-term kidney conditions can receive dialysis in Peterborough rather than travelling to Leicester and other hospitals.

The dialysis stations filter waste products from the bloodstream, which is a necessary form of treatment in patients with renal disease.

Joan Tiplady, General Manager Medicine and Long term Conditions, said: "We are very pleased to be able to expand the unit on 3Z as it will benefit many patients during the course of a year. There are currently around 20 people from the city who travel elsewhere for their dialysis three times a week, so this will make a huge difference to their lives."

Work is due to be completed in October.

In the next issue:

- **Your local NHS organisations**
- **Acting on your views**

E-greetings for patients



Kerry Coates with a selection of E-greetings cards

A new e-greetings card service for friends, relatives or colleagues to send cards to patients via the Trust's website was launched last month.

The service is free and cards for every occasion can be chosen from a selection on www.peterboroughandstamford.nhs.uk. With a few clicks of the mouse, people choose a greeting, an image for the front of the card and write a personal message to the recipient.

The card is then sent to the Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS) office via email, where it is printed and then hand-delivered to the patient.

Funded by the hospital drama society, Pillpushers, cards have so far been delivered to patients in Peterborough District and Edith Cavell hospitals and the Maternity Unit and can also be delivered to Stamford Hospital.

PALS casework support officer Kerry Coates said: "The service has really taken off and we are so grateful for the donation from Pillpushers.

"The cards are delivered directly to patients within 72 hours of us receiving the greetings and it is fast becoming a popular way for relatives to stay in touch, particularly for those whose relatives don't live locally."

Visitors flock to Trust's Open Days

The Trust celebrated the 60th anniversary of the NHS this summer with Open Days at Stamford Hospital and Peterborough District Hospital.

Both hospitals bustled with visitors keen to experience a weekend packed with activities, information and tours.

At Stamford Hospital adult visitors toured the phlebotomy department and operating theatres while children had fun trying on surgical gowns, bandaging teddy bears and having limbs put in plaster.

The following day hundreds of visitors attended the Open Day at the District Hospital, where visitors could experience behind-the-scenes tours of physiotherapy, occupational therapy and sterile services. Children also had the chance to have their cuddly toys checked over at a special 'teddy clinic'.

Mark Bush, Public Governor, said: "It was wonderful to see so many people at both events and see the overwhelming support people have for the hospitals.

"Everyone seemed to be having a good time and finding out more about the hospital in a fun and informal way."



Alison Thomason, staff nurse, theatres, shows theatre equipment to young visitors



Charge nurses Andy Howes and Sarah Brookes meet Mayor of Peterborough, Pat Nash



Young visitors enjoyed the interactive displays at the District Hospital



The teddy clinic at Stamford treated plenty of injured cuddly toys!



Staff nurse Angela Drury bandaged up young Stamford visitors

New chairs for Phlebotomy suite

A generous donation of £6,000 from the Friends of Peterborough Hospitals has funded three new state-of-the-art phlebotomy chairs.

The chairs will be used by patients giving blood samples at the District Hospital. As the chairs recline fully, it reduces the need to move patients to a bed if they feel unwell or have fainted.

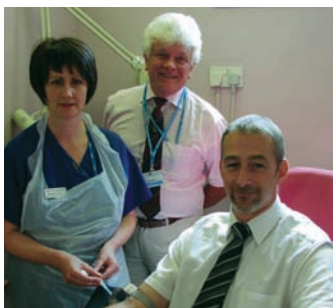
The hospital processes around 2,000 blood samples per month and many are taken in the phlebotomy suite.

One of the first people to try the new chairs was Trust Chief Executive Nik Patten, when he had a blood sample taken as part of his annual health check. The chairs have since

been used by patients from the cancer clinic, outpatients and from GP surgeries.

Rosanna Errico, Senior Assistant Technical Officer and Phlebotomy Supervisor, said:

“The new chairs will considerably improve patient comfort and help staff improve care for patients.”



Front: Nik Patten, Back L-R: Rosanna Errico, and Kevan Arbon from Friends of Peterborough Hospitals

Donation to Amazon funds day-trip for children

A generous £1,400 donation to Amazon Ward from staff at Woolworths in King's Lynn will be used to treat children with rheumatoid arthritis to a special day out.

The money was raised for the ward by ten Woolworths staff members, who were sponsored to complete a gruelling assault course in Thetford. The course involved the staff walking on tight-ropes, climbing cargo nets and rope ladders and flying through the air on zip lines.

Manager of Woolworths in King's Lynn, Angela Weldon, is grandmother to Morgan Weldon (7) who developed rheumatoid arthritis at the age of seven. Morgan regularly attends Amazon Ward to receive treatment.

Sue Hartley, Matron for Children's Services, said: “Every donation we receive makes a

difference to children and their families.

Woolworths has been extremely generous and we and our patients are very grateful for the donation, which will mean we can now take the children and their families on a well-deserved day trip.”



Matron Sue Hartley (back right) and staff nurse Hayley Belle-Collins (back left) accept the Woolworths donation

Department of Breast Surgery welcomes donations

The Department of Breast Surgery at Edith Cavell Hospital has received more than £2,500 from generous donations this year – and is well on the way to raising £5,700 to buy a state-of-the-art headlight for use during breast operations.

In May, sisters Kiera and Esmae Bennett and friends raised £133.89 by spending a day at school in their pyjamas to help mum, Julie, who had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer.

And on the same day a further £525 was donated by the Ladies Section at Peterborough and Milton Golf Club.

Then, in July, pupils and staff from Newark Hill Primary School presented the department with a cheque for £1,000, raised after assistant headteacher, Emma Green, was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Claire Hall, Breast Care Nurse Specialist, said: "We owe such a lot to the people who raise money for our department. The new headlight has a more powerful beam than our existing light and it will make it easier for surgeons to see nerves and tissue in more detail. This is important when performing intricate surgery in small areas, such as under an armpit, and during breast reconstruction surgery."



Emma Green, Assistant Headteacher (front), and pupils from Newark Hill Primary School present Jan Rezulski, Breast Consultant, with a giant cheque



Kiera Bennett (front) and friends present Mr Abdullah, Breast Consultant, with their generous donation.



Breast cancer awareness month

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2008 runs from 1 to 31 October and staff from the Trust's Department of Breast Surgery have plans to help raise awareness among the public.

Look out for their stand in Queensgate Shopping Centre in Peterborough on Tuesday 7 October, which will be located near the glass elevator and will feature interactive displays and information about the importance of breast checking. Staff will also be on hand to answer questions and talk to the public.

Meetings in Public 2008

Board of Governors' meeting

Thursday 16 October – 4pm
Stamford Hospital Restaurant

Members' meeting

Monday 17 November – 5pm
Lady Anne's Hotel, Stamford

Meeting feedback

Since the last Your Trust News we have held two meetings in public; the Board of Governors on 9 July and the Board of Directors on 5 August, as well as our two Open Days. Thank you to everyone who attended these events.

The Board of Governors' meeting on 9 July was Nigel Hards' first as Chairman of the Trust - Nigel officially joined the Trust on 1 July. The meeting included an item on the board development programme and how governors' roles and responsibilities can be developed. The board also received an update on the Trust's current performance and progress on national NHS developments from the NHS Next Stage Review (also known as the Darzi Report) and local primary care trust consultations. The board also heard feedback from public governor Mark Bush about the NHS 60th birthday celebration Open Days at Stamford Hospital and the District Hospital. Mr Bush told the Board how successful each had been with an estimated 800 visitors.

The open Board of Directors meeting on 5 August included a presentation by Director of Nursing, Chris Wilkinson, regarding the National Patient Survey results. The Trust's scores (which date back to Oct 2007) were reasonably good with the majority in the average banding. The

Board heard that the Trust's target for 2009/10 will be to score in the top banding for at least one fifth of the scores.

The Board also heard a proposal that formal open Board meetings will be discontinued. The Annual Members' Meetings in Peterborough and Stamford will replace two of the meetings and a strategy for communicating with members and other key stakeholders will be created.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at the Annual Public Meeting from 4:45pm on 25 September at the Noel Cantwell Suite, Peterborough United Football Club, London Road Stadium, Peterborough.

Members' meeting in Stamford

Following the success of the members' meeting at Peterborough Town Hall in April, a second meeting has been planned.

The next members' meeting will take place at the Lady Anne's Hotel, St Martin's Lane, in Stamford on Monday 17 November at 5 pm.

The meeting is a great opportunity to find out more about the Trust's future plans, meet governors and pose questions to staff.

To confirm attendance, or for more information, please call 01733 875201.

New constitution to safeguard NHS

A constitution designed specially for the National Health Service has recently been drafted by the Department of Health.

As well as marking 60 years of the NHS, the constitution has also been developed to:

- Safeguard the core values of the NHS for the next generation
- Set a clear direction for the future of the NHS

The proposed constitution is important for NHS staff and the public, and a consultation process is now running until 17 October where everyone can have their say.

As well as reaffirming rights to free NHS services for patients, with equal access to NHS-approved drugs and the right to make choices about their care, the constitution also pledges to deliver personal training, development and support and an improved working environment for staff.

There will be consultation events running throughout the region, where you can have your say. For event details call 01733 758503.

Alternatively, you can email feedback to nhsconstitution@dh.gsi.gov.uk or write to NHS Constitution, Room 611a, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS.



To view a detailed guide to the constitution, or the full text of the constitution itself, either...

- Order by phone on 0300 123 1002
- Order by post PO Box 777, London, SE1 6XH
- Log onto www.dh.gov.uk/consultations
- Order online at www.orderline.dh.gov.uk or by emailing dh@prolog.uk.com

The Trademark of the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) indicates that the wood used to make the paper for this issue of Your Trust News comes from a forest which is well managed according to strict environmental, social and economic standards. The forest of origin has been independently inspected and evaluated according to the principles and criteria for forest management agreed and approved by the FSC.



If you know someone who would like to become a member they can register on **01733 343221**

Audio CDs of this newsletter are also available