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THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS

**NHS**

**Wrightington, Wigan and  
Leigh Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

Summer/Autumn 2022



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# Welcome From Our Chair

Welcome to the latest Members' Magazine where we will update you on the developments and achievements at Wroughtington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL) since our last edition.

As I welcome you to this edition of the Members' Magazine, I want to take a moment to reflect on the sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

I would like to pay tribute to Her Majesty's life-long commitment to public service as the longest-serving monarch in British history. Not only was her death felt throughout the country, it was also felt keenly by many people throughout our organisation who admired her commitment, service, and steadfast dedication as the figurehead of this country.

Her Majesty devoted her life to public service, and it was our proudest moment when she awarded NHS staff the George Cross earlier this year, for their compassion and courage over the last 74 years but particularly during the pandemic.

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WWL was proud to be headline sponsors for this year's Wigan Pride, and I was delighted to lead more than 60 members of WWL staff in the parade. It gave me a real sense of pride in our organisation, and the way in which WWL embraces and recognises members of the LGBTQIA+ community.



The day itself was full of positivity and celebration, but most importantly, we had the opportunity to engage with attendees through providing health advice, as well as

listening to valuable feedback from those who use our services. You can read more on page 4.

Recently at Leigh Infirmary we have had some very positive developments, the first of which was the Jean Heyes Reablement Unit (JHRU) which was officially opened at the beginning of September. It was an honour to meet the family of Jean Heyes, a former nurse who was part of WWL for more than 50 years before she retired in 2018, as they cut the ribbon and unveiled a plaque to officially open the unit.



Jean Heyes' family at the official opening of the Jean Heyes Reablement Unit.

The unit is named after Jean who was a passionate supporter of reablement care and is an expansion of WWL's community bed base. It is made up of 24 beds, a dedicated rehab gym and also includes a unique daily living kitchen to support intensive reablement therapy. You can read more about the unit on page 5.

The JHRU is just one part of our plan to further invest in services at Leigh for the benefit of all of our patients across the Wigan Borough and one such investment will be a new £10m Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC). The new CDC will become a premier centre for rehabilitation, diagnostics and outpatient services; you can read more about this development on page 13.

In July we launched the 'Hello My Name Is...' Campaign at WWL and, in celebration, we welcomed Chris Pointon, co-founder of the campaign and widower of the late Dr Kate Granger MBE, a registrar in elderly medicine who developed terminal cancer at the age of 29. You can read more about his visit and how the campaign will enhance our patient experience on page 11.



We also recently welcomed representatives from NHS England, including Dr Amanda Doyle, Director of Community and Primary Care and Tara Donnelly, Director of Digital Care Models, who visited us to learn more about WWL's Virtual Ward. Our Virtual Ward Team proudly shared their learnings about the benefits of having hospital standard care in the comfort of home via the Virtual Ward, an initiative that is supporting a rising number of people across Greater Manchester and beyond.

You can learn more about our Virtual Ward at our Annual Members' Meeting which takes place on Thursday, 10th November to which you are invited as a valued member.

Our expert clinicians will discuss how patients on the Virtual Ward service receive a high level of acute care from the comfort of their own home and can receive 24-hour monitoring and management support. Further details about the event are on page 14 and I do hope to see you there.

As always, I hope you enjoy this edition of the Members' Magazine and I would like to extend my thanks to every member of our staff for their hard work and dedication and to you, our members, for your continued support to WWL.

## WWL CEO Appointed to North West Leadership Academy and Talent Board

We are pleased to announce that, Silas Nicholls, WWL Chief Executive, has been appointed as the new Chair of the North West Leadership and Talent Board and the NHS North West Leadership Academy, a role he will carry out alongside his position here at WWL.

Silas' position as Chair is part of the NHS North West Leadership Academy (NHS NWLA) and Leadership Lifelong Learning (LLL) team. The NHS NWLA and LLL empowers people in the North West to work to develop future-focused leadership, based on its organisational values of being agile and intuitive, caring and compassionate, innovative and visionary, connected and inclusive, authentic and ethical and pioneering and dynamic.

Speaking of his appointment, Silas said: "I am privileged to take on the role as Chair of the North West Leadership and Talent Board.



"Having been part of the Leadership Academy's development programmes in the past, I am keen to continue to advocate for and support these programmes through this new appointment.

"It is important that the communities we support have strong, effective leaders who reflect and serve the needs of the people who are using their services, and I am really looking forward to working with the team as we look to the next few years.

"There are exciting times ahead of as we look to enable the leadership development of our members and support their leadership as they navigate through the challenging but exciting agenda."

# Celebrating Wigan Pride



Staff from across the Trust joined hundreds of people in glorious sunshine for the year's biggest Wigan Borough LGBTQIA+ event, Wigan Pride 2022.



The carnival atmosphere was a sight to behold, but most importantly, the Trust had the opportunity to put the people of Wigan Borough at the forefront of the day, providing health advice and support to partygoers, as well as listening to valuable opinions, suggestions and concerns from those who use WWL's services.



Advice and free sexual health testing was provided by WWL's Health Outreach and Inclusion Team, and the Trust's Breast Screening Team were on hand to offer support on how to access their services. Attendees also had the chance to register their interest in employment and volunteering opportunities at WWL.

# New Unit Opened in Honour of Much-Loved Colleague



Bill Heyes (centre) next to James Grundy (Leigh MP) with members of WWL's Executive Team and Senior Leaders

A special event was held at our Leigh Infirmary site in early September, as the Jean Heyes Reablement Unit was officially opened by Jean's family.

The unit is named after our much-loved colleague, Jean Heyes who was part of the WWL family for more than 50 years before she retired in 2018. Jean was a passionate supporter of reablement care and worked at the old Whelley Hospital, as well as being the Staff Side Chair at WWL for many years.

Alongside our Chair, Mark Jones, members of Jean's family cut the ribbon and unveiled a commemorative plaque in front of gathered guests and staff from the unit.

Welcoming guests, Mark reflected on the naming of the unit: "With the wellbeing of patients and staff always at the forefront of her working life, Jean was a real character and will be fondly remembered by all who knew her. It is our honour to name the unit after Jean, as part of her legacy to healthcare throughout the Wigan Borough."

The model of care in place at the unit is an innovative approach within the Wigan Borough, something our Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls, is passionate about.



He said:

"The Jean Heyes Reablement Unit is something the entire Wigan Borough can be proud of. The collective skills and knowledge we have within a multi-disciplinary team, made up of colleagues from partners across health and social care services means we can use this fantastic new facility to its full potential."

The unit, which is an expansion of WWL's community bed base, is made up of 24 beds, a dedicated rehab gym and an activities of daily living kitchen to support intensive reablement therapy. Care is delivered by a range of health and social care professionals including therapists, nurses, GPs, hospital consultants, and social care staff.



# Getting To Know: WWL's Research Team

**There have been changes over the past 12 months within the Research Team at WWL. Head of Research, Alison Robinson explains more...**

Since my first day at WWL I have been truly welcomed by everyone. I am excited about the future of research at WWL, and I am confident that we can achieve the ambitions set out in our new 'Research for All' Strategy, listening and developing our research with our patients, and building the next generation of researchers.

## **Research Strategy Published**

Developed during 2021, alongside our colleagues in Strategy & Planning we have constructed a five year plan, with contributions from our patients, our community partners, Wigan Healthwatch and in conjunction with research leads from across the Trust as well as Edge Hill University, and the Greater Manchester Clinical Research Network. The strategy outlines our mission to improve the health and wellbeing of our patients and our community, working with our partners at the leading edge of health and care to deliver world-class research.

Our vision is to be known for leading and delivering the highest quality research, embedding it as a core activity in all our clinical service areas. More importantly, our patients will have more opportunity to participate in world-class research and benefit from improved outcomes.

## **New Appointments**

To help us achieve the aims set out for us in our strategy, three new appointments were made within the Research Department. Professor Adam Watts, Clinical Director for Research, Innovation and Clinical Trials and Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Alison Robinson, Head of Research and Helen Spickett, Research Sponsorship Manager.

## **New Home**

We are excited to now have a Clinical Research Hub in the community at the former Ashton Clinic. This new home will make research more accessible to patients and will offer more opportunities for us to work closely with our WWL Community and Primary Care colleagues.



**Alison Robinson, Head of Research**

## The Research

Last year, 3,023 patients were given the opportunity to be research participants in studies spanning over 20 different specialities. At any one time, we have around 90 -100 active research projects across any and most specialties. Since April this year, we have recruited over 900 patients.

## How You Can Help Us

Below, there are some of studies that will be opening soon, so please do get in touch if you are interested in joining the studies - [Research.admin@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:Research.admin@wwl.nhs.uk)



### **LISTEN Study - Long Covid Personalised Self-Management Study**

The LISTEN intervention is designed for people over 18 years old experiencing long COVID symptoms (e.g., fatigue, breathlessness, cognitive difficulty) for 12 weeks or more.

The study involves random allocation to either NHS care, or to a personalised support programme developed by the LISTEN team which includes one-to-one support sessions and useful resources to help self-manage the condition. You can learn more at [www.listentrial.co.uk](http://www.listentrial.co.uk).

**Tulip Study** - Learning more about an investigational medication for people with moderate to severe Lupus run by the Rheumatology Team and research nurses at our Wrightington Hospital site.

### **Patient Research Advisory Group – Seeking Diversity and New Members**

The members of this group have a superb reputation across Manchester for their maturity and insight, providing a patient voice in the way we design and run our research studies. However, the group needs to expand to wider patient experiences, disease areas and especially the ethnicity and diversity within the group.

Anyone who would like to know more or would like to get involved, please contact [Helen.Spickett@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:Helen.Spickett@wwl.nhs.uk).

### **Want to know more about research going on across the UK?**

If you would like to know if there is any research going on in a particular disease area at WWL, then you could email us via [research.admin@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:research.admin@wwl.nhs.uk).

# Patient Focused News

## Pioneering Technologies Introduced at WWL

Over recent months, we have introduced various new pioneering technologies which have enhanced the patient experience across the Trust.

Back in March 2022, we procured the Dedalus Swiftqueue self-service appointment booking system, which gives patients the flexibility to book appointments online.

Our blood testing department (Phlebotomy) is the first service to offer online booking, and since it was introduced, patients have been able to book themselves into an appointment slot at their chosen clinic, removing the need to call our Appointment Centre.

Mary Fleming, WWL Deputy Chief Executive spoke on the new service saying: "Our Phlebotomy Team, Health Care Operations Team and Project Team worked very hard to achieve a quick and safe launch of this service – they should be very proud."

Following on from this in May 2022, in a UK first, the latest gastrointestinal artificial intelligence (AI) software was piloted at Leigh Infirmary. The innovative Argus software from EndoSoft is widely used in the USA and now patients undergoing an endoscopy procedure at WWL will benefit from its use.

Dr Neeraj Prasad, our Consultant Gastroenterologist and Endoscopy Lead, led on the pilot and said: "We are very excited to be at the forefront of AI in Gastroenterology in the UK."

Artificial Intelligence will certainly improve the quality of endoscopy procedures, enhancing our ability to detect and size polyps during a procedure. We hope improved polyp detection can reduce the risk of developing bowel cancer in the future and improve outcomes for our patients."

The While you Wait service has also recently been introduced which provides support for patients waiting for medical care. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic some operations and procedures have been postponed and this service provides patients with online support, information on waiting times at different hospitals and what to do if their condition deteriorates. [www.whileyouwait.org.uk](http://www.whileyouwait.org.uk)



Dr Neeraj Prasad, Consultant Gastroenterologist and Endoscopy Lead outside the Hanover Building at Leigh Infirmary

## Celebrating South Asian Heritage Month

We are very proud to have staff from 64 different nationalities working with us. Of these, many are from South Asian countries, and we really wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate and learn about their heritage throughout South Asian Heritage Month.

Jitin Joseph George, a registered nurse working on Winstanley Ward was one of our staff who was proud to be involved in celebrating the month at WWL said: "I was born in the city of Lucknow in India and have worked for WWL for almost two years. I am proud to work for the oldest and one of the largest healthcare organisations in the world, the NHS."



Akshaya Rose Jacob, Joby Matthew and Jitin Joseph George celebrating South Asian Heritage Month





Education partnership colleagues with Silas Nicholls, WWL's Chief Executive, at the event

# Grand Opening of The Centre for Advanced Technical Studies

We were delighted to be part of the Centre for Advanced Technical Studies grand opening in June this year, celebrating two years of The Education Skills Partnership with Wigan & Leigh College, Edge Hill University and Wigan Council.

The aim of the partnership is to improve local opportunities to develop people's skills and employment in the future, with a focus on boosting education, health and economic prospects for Wigan.

The Centre officially opened its doors to students in September 2021, and its aim is to expand and focus on higher technical skills to benefit people in the Wigan Borough and beyond.

Based in Wigan town centre, opposite the Wigan & Leigh College's Parsons Walk building, the new Centre offers dedicated space and facilities to develop future health professionals, civil engineers and digital and cyber specialists.

Executive Leader of Wigan Council, Cllr David Molyneux, MBE officially opened the building to

unveil the ceremonial plaque. This was the third time he had opened the building in all its previous guises but this one he revealed was the 'best and most beneficial to the borough'.

Guests were invited for a tour of the facility after key note speeches from Vice-Chancellor of Edge Hill University John Cater, Chief Executive of WWL, Silas Nicholls, Leader of Wigan Council Cllr David Molyneux, MBE and College Principal, Anna Dawe.

They enjoyed a collaborative showcase with demonstrations from T Level Health students, hardware and networking demonstrations from Digital T Level students as well as examples of industry placement opportunities from the College's T level Civil Engineering and Teaching and Education learners.

Our Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls said: "This is just one of many shining examples of how we all work alongside each other for the benefit of our community and the people of the Wigan Borough."



# Volunteers' Week at WWL



## Join Here!

To sign up to be a WWL Volunteer, visit our website:

Click [here](#)

or email:

[volunteer@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:volunteer@wwl.nhs.uk)

The work and dedication of our volunteers was celebrated at two dedicated events as part of National Volunteers' Week. Speaking at one of the events held at Wigan Cricket Club, alongside the other one held at Leigh Education Centre, our Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls, paid tribute to the volunteers.

He said: "Our volunteers really are the unsung heroes in our WWL workforce. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them, and they go above and beyond for both patients and staff."

We currently have nearly 300 volunteers and are always on the look out for more!



## Volunteer Received the Queen's Platinum Champion Award

Dr Maurice Ward, who has volunteered for WWL since April 2021, was thrilled to win the Queen's Platinum Champion Award for his contribution to the team who deliver and retrieve pulse oximeters for COVID-19 positive patients self-isolating at home.

He said: "When I heard of my nomination and my subsequent win, I was both flattered and embarrassed since there are many people as active as I am volunteering in all walks of life without any recognition."





Chris Pointon with Chief Nurse, Rabina Tindale (Inset - Chris Pointon with his late wife, Dr Kate Granger MBE)

## ‘Hello My Name Is...’ Campaign Launch

The ‘Hello, My Name Is...’ campaign is an international movement created by the late Dr Kate Granger MBE, a registrar in elderly medicine who developed terminal cancer at the age of 29.

Kate began a social media initiative in August 2013 in a bid to encourage and remind healthcare staff about the importance of introductions in healthcare. Since her death in 2016, over 400,000 health workers from across the world have backed Kate’s initiative for more personalised care.

Now, staff across all of WWL have pledged their support to the campaign and will wear a badge, which prominently displays their first name and job title with the aim to improve communication

between patients and members of staff.

Rabina Tindale, Chief Nurse, said: “A confident introduction is the first step to providing compassionate care and is often all it takes to put a patient at ease and help them feel relaxed when using our services. I firmly believe that this campaign, and our approach, will not only improve the delivery of care to our patients but also contribute to helping us develop compassionate and kind interactions with each other, strengthening our relationships across our teams.”

To celebrate the launch of the campaign across WWL, Chris Pointon, the Co-founder of the campaign and husband of Kate, gave a presentation to staff at the Trust’s Medical Education Centre.

Chris said: “The ‘Hello My Name Is...’ campaign has really shown that you can make a difference to people’s lives with just four little words.

“The campaign is all about human interaction between two people and about putting the patient at the heart of all decisions made around their healthcare. Communication really is key, the little things do really matter and seeing the individual as a person, not just as a condition, is just as important as it has ever been.”



Emma Rogers, Associate Chief Nurse, Quality and Patient Experience

# Sharing the Success of our Virtual Wards Hub with NHS England



**Karen Downs**

Clinical Quality Lead at Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

In June, our Virtual Ward Hub Team welcomed Dr Amanda Doyle, Director of Community and Primary Care and Tara Donnelly, Director of Digital Care Models from NHS England.

The team shared their learnings about the benefits of having hospital standard care in the comfort of home via the Virtual Ward, an initiative that is supporting a rising number of people across Greater Manchester and beyond.

Patients who are deemed suitable to be transferred to the Virtual Ward are provided with equipment including blood pressure monitors, pulse oximeters for measuring blood oxygen, and a smart phone if they do not have one.

One family from Wigan, was featured in a new video from the National Innovation Collaborative for Digital Health,

a shared learning network of health and care professionals, and voluntary sector partners, to explain the life-changing impact of technology-enabled virtual wards.

Patient Martin Smith, his wife Katherine, and nurses from the Trust were featured in the video which can be seen [here](#).

Martin's condition was monitored by our nurses, using data sent to them every 15 minutes through a wearable device. He said: "It was better because I was at home with the family instead of being stuck in a hospital bed."

Katherine explained that the virtual ward made a big difference to the couple, allowing

them to be together at home with support from the specialist team, alleviating the anxiety she felt during the pandemic when she was unable to visit him in hospital.

Our Divisional Quality and Development Lead in Digital Care, Karen Downs said: "It's just the right thing to do, using specialist teams in a different way to deliver more care to patients. Patients are able to take back control of their rehabilitation and our face-to-face contact gives them reassurance. If they weren't on our remote monitoring virtual ward, they would be in a hospital bed and not realising these benefits."





Members of WWL alongside James Grundy, Leigh MP (Inset - Artist illustrations of the CDC)

# £10m Investment for Leigh Infirmary

We are delighted that we have been given the green light to progress with our plans to develop a new £10m Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) at Leigh Infirmary.

Our Trust has been chosen as one of seven locations for the new community diagnostic centres (CDCs), which are hoped to be able to help with COVID-19 backlogs, diagnose patients more quickly and meet future demands on the NHS.

Our Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls said: "We are delighted to announce our ambitious plan to develop and progress a £10million Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) at Leigh Infirmary.

"The new CDC, which is just one part of our plans to further invest in services at Leigh, will be an expansion of our current services and will provide a modern 'one stop shop' diagnostics and healthcare facility. The CDC will increase the range of diagnostic tests available at Leigh and offer an increase in diagnostic capacity. This will improve access to diagnostics, supporting faster diagnosis and treatment, all of which is fantastic news for our patients.

Building work on the new CDC is set to commence next year, with CT and MRI scanning facilities, already available at our Wrightington and Wigan sites, currently being installed at Leigh.

Some of the services set to be made available at the new CDC are:

- X-ray
- CT scanning
- MRI scanning
- Ultrasound
- Electrocardiogram (ECG/ECHO) heart monitoring tests/scan
- Blood Pressure / heart monitoring
- Lung function
- Sleep studies
- Phlebotomy (taking blood samples)

*CDCs not only reduce the number of hospital visits, but also reduce waiting times for patients by diverting people away from hospitals – so hospitals can focus on treating urgent patients while the diagnostic centres focus on tackling the backlog for tests and checks.*

# Governor Focused News

## The 2022 Governor Elections

We are currently holding elections to our Council of Governors and voting for candidates in our Leigh and Rest of England and Wales constituencies. Voting will open on Monday 10th October 2022.

If you are a member of either of these constituencies, why not cast a vote for the candidate that you would like to see as your representative? You should receive your voting pack by email or post on or shortly after the opening date and will have until 2nd November 2022 to cast a vote.

## Why Should You Vote?

Governors play a vital role in shaping the future direction of the Trust and the services provided to our local communities. Governors represent the interests of the Trust's membership which includes staff, patients, local residents, and the wider public – that's you!

If you need help submitting your vote, please telephone our election provider on: 020 8889 9203.

### Election Stage

### Deadline

Voting packs despatched

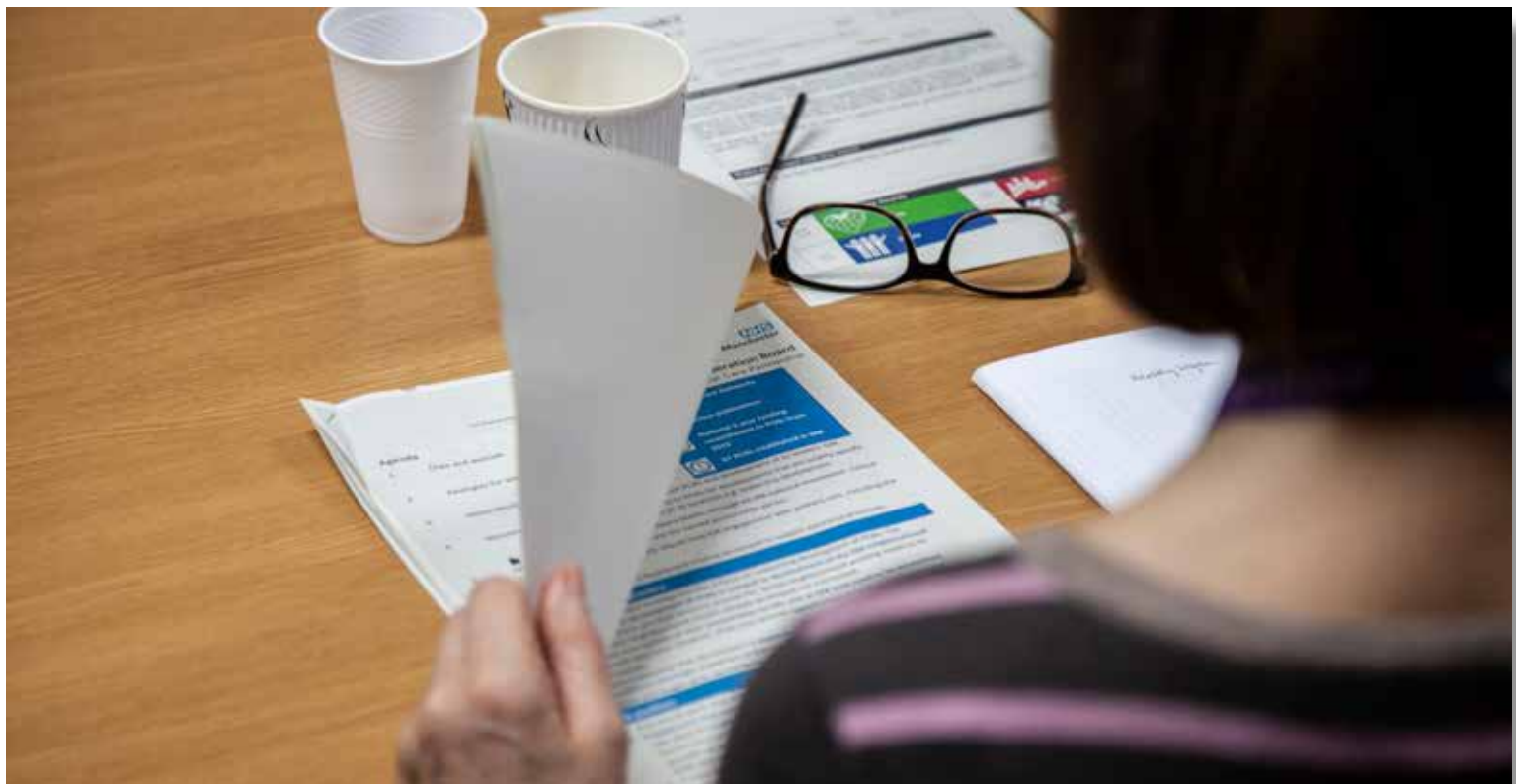
Monday 10th October 2022

Close of election

Wednesday 2nd November 2022

Declaration of results

Thursday 10th November at the Annual Members Meeting





# Important Dates For Your Diaries

Due to pandemic restrictions, many of our meetings over the last year have been held virtually, but we are now gradually returning to face-to-face meetings, where possible. Members of the public are able to join us in these meetings and are welcome to attend any of those listed below.

If you are interested in coming along to observe, please email [company.secretary@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:company.secretary@wwl.nhs.uk) so that we can provide you with either the joining details, or the location of the meeting.

**Board of Directors**

Wednesday 5th Oct 2022:  
12:15pm - 4:15pm

Wednesday 7th Dec 2022:  
12:15 pm- 4:15pm

**Annual Members Meeting**

Thursday 10th Nov 2022:  
1:15pm – 3:45pm

**Council of Governors**

Thursday 27th Oct 2022:  
5:15pm - 7:15pm

## Annual Members Meeting

Keynote Speakers Karen Downs, Divisional Quality and Development Lead in Digital Care and Dr Abdul Ashish, Divisional Medical Director for Medicine, will deliver an informative presentation on WWL's Virtual Ward service – which allows our patients to be cared for from the comfort of their own home.

**Other items on the agenda include:**

- An address from both our Chair and Chief Executive
- Our Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22
- Forward planning for the next financial year
- Council of Governors' report

If you have any questions, then these can be sent through prior to the event to: [members@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:members@wwl.nhs.uk)

**Date:** Thursday 10th November

**Time:** 1:15pm - 3:45pm

**Location:** Wrightington Country Club, Moss Lane, Wrightington, WN6 9BP

# Bill Greenwood: A Dedication

I wanted to write a note sharing my admiration of Bill Greenwood who sadly passed away in July.

Although we were born in the same Pennine village we hadn't met until I joined Bill as a Governor here at WWL. I soon found that he had a passion for making sure everyone had access to good health and was truly respected with his quiet questions often influencing our discussions in the Boardroom.

After two years in the RAF Bill trained to be a teacher, something that he soon excelled in allowing him to contribute his expertise, advising improvements here in the North West, at a national level and even abroad. Here in Wigan, Bill was, for 19 years, part of the team heading up Wigan Metro's Education Department until retirement, when he was recognised with an OBE for a lifetime of 'services to education'.

The picture below shows Bill bowing out after his nine years as a Governor; at 80 years old he'd just finished a sponsored walk on the 70th year of the NHS raising money for WWL's "Three Wishes" charity. That wasn't the end though, Bill fitted his love of family, church and cricket into continued help at WWL, with our local Healthwatch and in other areas promoting



the best of health services.

It's not for all of us to work internationally or to be rewarded with the highest of honours; but the work of the Council of Governors is that of a collective. Our individual experiences of life and health are pooled allowing us to offer a perspective as service users and observers to WWL.

Let me finish with Bill's own words on stepping down from the Council of Governors - "It has not all been plain sailing: just like the Yellow Brick Road in the Wizard of Oz there have been scary moments but set alongside the high spots they pale into insignificance. It has been time consuming, it has been challenging, it has been personally very rewarding, but I would say to anyone who is thinking about becoming a Governor.....go for it."

Those of us who had the pleasure of working with him are sad at his passing but get to keep those memories.

**Andrew Haworth, Lead Governor**



# 20 Years of the TLC!



The Thomas Linacre Centre (TLC) celebrated 20 years of tender loving care earlier this year when staff celebrated its 20th Birthday. Costing just over £7m at the time, the TLC opened its doors to outpatients on 20th May 2002, in the former Wigan Grammar School building.

Now home to 12 different areas, including antenatal, breast screening, paediatrics, audiology, ear, nose and throat (ENT), medical photography and diagnostics such as cardiology, phlebotomy and radiology, the TLC has 96 Consultant led clinics per week and treats over 100,000 patients from across the Wigan Borough every year.

Already in 2022, up to the 20th anniversary, over 31,800 patient appointments have been held either face-to-face, over the telephone or via video conferencing and 2,680 blood tests are carried out per week.

During the week of celebrations, members from WWL's

Executive Team visited the various departments and areas at the Thomas Linacre Centre, that was rated 'Outstanding' at its last inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

At the celebration, our Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls paid tribute to staff: "What our staff do at the Thomas Linacre Centre is really special and we're really proud of everybody here. There is a real sense of pride and a welcoming nature that really stands out and that is thanks to our fantastic staff. We receive such great feedback from the patients who attend the centre and I would like to congratulate everybody on a wonderful 20 years."



## Wellness at Work Lounge is Open!

A brand-new wellness lounge has been providing staff with a space to rest and relax since its official opening in June. The dedicated space at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary (RAEI) site, will also be used for meetings and wellbeing courses and activities. The lounge has been developed in response to staff feedback, highlighting how much they valued the psychological support they received during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wigan Warriors player, Liam Farrell, paid a visit to the Trust, cutting the ribbon to declare the lounge open, as well as a visit from Silas Nicholls, CEO and Chief People Officer, Alison Balson.



# Father and Daughter Physio Team Win at National Cycling Championships

A dynamic father-daughter duo have won a silver medal at the British Cycling National Tandem Sprint Championship. Peter and Megan Boyd, who both work as Physiotherapists at WWL, picked up the silverware in Newport earlier this year in their first race together on the velodrome.

Peter, a Specialist Vascular Physiotherapist, who has worked for the Trust since 1995 and is based at its Boston House site, said; "Coming second place came as a surprise to us both, as we entered the event to make up numbers. This was the first time we had ever ridden on the velodrome together, so to achieve more than we expected is an amazing feeling."

His daughter, Megan, who is a Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist, also working at Boston House, has followed in her dad's footsteps, competing in many cycling championships since the age of three and has held the Junior Tandem Sprint World Record. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck and the gyms closed, Megan took to riding her road bike and has competed in several road races, finishing in the top ten places.



## School Nurse Celebrates 80th Birthday

Celebrations were held as School Nurse, Norma Newcombe, celebrated her 80th birthday.

After becoming a nurse 60 years ago, Norma has worked within the WWL family for over 40 years and remains just as committed to her profession today, working five days a week at Hindley Clinic – the place where she began working in her local community in 1973 after completing her training in Liverpool.

Her colleagues marked the occasion with a surprise party where Norma spoke with great pride about the relationships she had built up with the children and families in the local community throughout the years.



# Wrightington Consultant Awarded MBE

Wrightington Hospital's Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Professor S. Raj Murali has recently been awarded an MBE for his services to international doctors working in the NHS.

In 2004, Prof. Murali teamed with Edge Hill University to create an innovative postgraduate training programme for overseas doctors.

International doctors play an important role in the NHS, and the programme provides the opportunity for experienced international clinicians with higher postgraduate qualifications, to come to the UK and study for a MCh or MMed, whilst gaining further clinical experience in the NHS.

Prof. Murali's programme is the second largest in the UK for training international doctors, helping to improve

patient care by ensuring that junior doctor staffing levels are well maintained. Through his work, Prof. Murali is incredibly invested in protecting and promoting opportunities and the representation of international doctors at WWL.

Speaking on the award, Prof. Murali commented: "Learning of my MBE nomination was a very pleasant surprise, but I could not have done any of the work I have been awarded for, without the team behind me. I share this nomination with them and the rest of my colleagues at WWL."



## Fond Farewell to Director of Estates and Facilities



We recently bid a fond farewell to Director of Estates & Facilities, David Evans who retired after 42 years of working for the NHS, 40 of them here at WWL.

David began working for the then Wigan Health Authority in 1980, as a Building Officer and steadily worked his way up the ranks. He ultimately became responsible for almost 1000 staff, buildings of over 145,000m<sup>2</sup> and a budget of around £42 million.

Accountable for the complete transformation of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary estate, David also managed huge developments at Wrightington Hospital such as an £18m facility that featured two new wards, a new admissions and recovery unit and a four-bay theatre complex. David was also instrumental in the creation of the Hanover Building and Jean Heyes Reablement Unit at Leigh Infirmary.

But the jewel in David's crown was the transformation of the Thomas Linacre Centre from Wigan Grammar School to the Outpatient Centre it is today – making us the first Trust to move outpatient activity off an acute site.

Our Chief Finance Officer, Ian Boyle said: "A hard working and loyal servant of the NHS, David can rightly be proud of the long heritage he leaves here at WWL; you only need to walk round our sites to see the projects that he has been involved in. David's heart has always been for the NHS and what has been best for his staff, the Trust and our patients and he will be rightly, and sadly missed, by all his colleagues."



# Celebrating Our Successes



The immense effort of our colleagues is being recognised on a local, regional and national level, with innovative working practices and dedication to compassionate and safe care being continually celebrated through prestigious award wins, shortlistings and submissions.

Shortly after our Spring edition, our Catering Team celebrated a fine achievement in June, when they were named as winners of the Hospital of the Year Award at the Hospital Catering Association North West Catering Branch Summer Ball, recognising the outstanding service the hospital's Catering Team deliver.



Congratulations are also in order for a number of high profile shortlistings, with WWL included in the UK Best Employer of the Year for Nursing Staff at the Nursing Times Workforce Summit and Awards, which is set to take place on Tuesday 22nd November. Our Steps4Wellness Team are also waiting to see if they are successful at the National Orthopaedics Alliance's (NOA) Excellence in Orthopaedics Awards on Wednesday 19th October, following their shortlisting in the Staff Wellbeing Initiative Category.



Both shortlistings have highlighted the positive environment created by WWL colleagues for each other, with the Nursing Times Workforce Summit and Awards entry focused around the working conditions created by the leadership teams on wards, whilst the Steps4Wellness entry at the NOA Excellence in Orthopaedics Awards has shone a light on the creation and growth of our unique network of Wellbeing Champions and Wellbeing Leads.

And that is not all! Our Communications Team has scored a double of shortlistings at the 2022 NHS Communicate Awards, with Communications Officer, Megan Crank, up for NHS Rising Star, alongside the team's inclusion in the NHS Board Commitment to Communications category.

Good luck and best wishes go to all the finalists at the upcoming award ceremonies, and also to the teams awaiting news on their submissions, with colleagues entering two nominations into the Intensive Care Society Awards and five nominations for the Greater Manchester Health and Care Research Awards.



# Fundraising & Donations



## Glitz and Glam for the Neonatal Unit

Young mum, Sacha, gave birth to her, now five-year-old son, Rico, back in May 2017. Weighing 3lbs, Rico was born at 30 weeks, which led to him being transferred to our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Sacha, from Goose Green, Wigan, was 20 years old when Rico was welcomed into the world: "I think I was in shock for a long time after I had Rico, as I was young, and it came as quite a surprise."

The charity ball for the Neonatal Unit was held at Wigan's DW Stadium, with nearly 150 people attending.

A DJ, magician, and local singer, Tom Byron, attended to keep the guests entertained, as well as raffles, a tombola and an auction.

Sacha wanted the event to be a night to remember, with every penny of the £4,000 raised – double her goal - going to the Neonatal Unit.



## The Molyneux Family's Biggest Donation Yet!

A family from Shevington has made their "biggest and best donation yet" to WWL's Rainbow Ward.

The Molyneux family raised an incredible £4,730, over the 2021 festive period, by producing a magnificent Christmas lights display at their home, bringing joy to the community who donated generously.

Now in its eighth year, Gill and Paul Molyneux hold the annual fundraiser as a thank you for the care their sons, Ethan (15), Alfie (13) and Theo (12)

have received during stays on the children's ward.

Paul said: "The staff on the ward looked after our boys and they've looked after the children of our family and friends, so we just want to give something back.

This year has been our biggest donation yet and with money being tight for everyone, it is incredible the amount that people have given. We would like to thank everyone who contributed and helped us to raise such a fantastic amount".

# Charity Cycle to Raise Funds

Consultant in Medicine, Dr Saleh Ali, and Consultant Pharmacist Frailty, Dula Alićehajić-Bečić undertook a charity cycle from Royal Albert Edward Infirmary (RAEI), Clock Tower Entrance to Southport, and then returning to RAEI.

The bike ride took place on Saturday 2nd July at 7am raising more than £600 for the Three Wishes Minds and Memory charitable fund, which supports our elderly, stroke and dementia patients. Funds raised previously have been used to purchase new equipment such as dementia dolls, twiddle muffs and dementia friendly signs.

Colleagues stood outside the RAEI to support Dr Ali and Dula upon their return. A huge well done to Dr Ali and Dula - this is a great achievement!



# Funds Raised in Aid of Cardiology Patients

Directorate Manager in Division of Medicine, Carolyn Dereszkiwicz (pictured below with Medical Director and Consultant Cardiologist, Prof. Sanjay Arya), has been involved in purchasing essential equipment for our Cardiology Department.

Charitable monies from previous fundraising events over the year have been used to purchase equipment to improve the patient experience and their journey in our care. Items such as Echo machines, blood pressure recorders, an ECG machine, and special equipped chairs for patients will be used on the RAEI site and also

in the community. The equipment will provide an improved service and experience for our patients.



# How to Donate

Thank you to all of our fundraisers for all of your efforts. No matter how big or small, every donation counts towards helping us fund projects, equipment and services to improve the environment and experiences of our patients.

If you have any questions about our Three Wishes Charity or would like information on making a donation please email:

[threewishescharity@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:threewishescharity@wwl.nhs.uk)



# Visiting Guidance Update: September 2022

WWL is pleased that we are now able to return to traditional visiting hours for visitors to see their loved ones during their time in hospital.

Visiting times for each ward or department are clearly displayed at entrances to the wards and departments and are also available on the Trust website – [www.wwl.nhs.uk](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk).



Only two visitors per patient will be permitted to visit at any one time in Adult In-patient areas and visitors are asked to wash their hands/ use the hand gel/sanitiser on entering and leaving the ward and to continue to wear face masks throughout the duration of the visit.

WWL's Chief Nurse, Rabina Tindale said: "While we are delighted to be able to return to traditional visiting times, we must ask that, when visiting our hospital sites, people remain vigilant in following Infection Prevention and Control guidelines.

"Please visit loved ones if you feel well and have no traditional COVID-19 symptoms.

"We would also urge visitors to continue to wear a mask when on any hospital or service site, using cleansing gels on entering and exiting buildings and practice good hand hygiene. The health, safety and wellbeing of the public, our patients, communities, and staff across the organisation continues to remain our absolute priority."

Further information about visiting guidelines can be found [here](#).

**NHS 111 can:**

- ☑ Give you medical advice
- ☑ Book a GP appointment overnight and on weekends
- ☑ Book an emergency dentist or optician appointment
- ☑ Book you into A&E

**Local Urgent Treatment Centres, like Leigh, are for urgent, but not life-threatening conditions:**

- ☑ Possible broken bones
- ☑ Sprains
- ☑ Burns, cuts and wounds
- ☑ Eye problems
- ☑ Minor head injuries
- ☑ Rashes, infections, viral illnesses

**Need urgent help with your mental health?**

You can now call our 24/7 mental health crisis line for FREE.

- Call 0800 953 0285 if you live in Bolton, Salford, Trafford or the City of Manchester
- Call 0800 051 3253 if you live in Wigan

[www.gmmh.nhs.uk/247-helpline](http://www.gmmh.nhs.uk/247-helpline)

Thank you for taking the time to read our Members' magazine.  
If you have any questions or would like to offer feedback please email [Members@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:Members@wwl.nhs.uk) or call freephone 0800 073 1477.

To contact the Governors in your area please email [Governors@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:Governors@wwl.nhs.uk).

\*Magazine produced by the Communications Team

\*Some of the photographs used were taken pre-pandemic