



The magazine for Members



Wrightington, Wigan and  
Leigh Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust



# Autumn 2021

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# Welcome

Welcome to this edition of the Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL) Members' magazine.



Hello there, it brings me great pleasure to introduce our Autumn Members' Magazine in my new position as WWL Chair, and to update you on what's been happening at WWL since our last edition.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the last few months learning and understanding how the Trust works alongside our outgoing Chairman, Robert Armstrong and I have been incredibly inspired by the hard work and dedication shown on a daily basis within the Trust's services.

If I am to highlight one thing about my time at the Trust so far, it would be the unwavering dedication and passion of the incredible WWL staff who work tirelessly to serve the people of the Wigan Borough, and I aim to highlight the excellent progress being made in order to provide the best possible care and services to the public.

I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions WWL's Non-Executive Directors bring to the Trust and how much I have enjoyed working with and learning from each of them. The breadth of knowledge and experience they provide to WWL is invaluable. In our next edition, the Council of Governors will introduce you to some of our new Non-Executive Directors, but before that, I must say a collective special thank you to Mick Guymer who stepped down from his position in July. Mick's financial expertise, coupled with more than 40 years of experience in the NHS, have made telling contributions to how the Trust operates and I'm sure you'll join me in wishing him the very best in the future.

It's vital for us all as a WWL family to continue to understand, learn and offer informed opinions, which is why the upcoming Annual Members Meeting on Wednesday 17th November is such an important date in the calendar. The virtual meeting will take place from 2pm-4pm, and it's important to register your interest by emailing [members@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:members@wwl.nhs.uk) - you can also use this email address if you have any further questions.

As you continue to read our Autumn edition, you'll find out a lot more about the Trust's preparations for a challenging winter period ahead, and more information on staying well this winter by taking up vaccination opportunities, protecting yourselves from infection and keeping on top of healthy life choices.

All WWL staff are currently being offered their COVID-19 booster and flu vaccinations and the Trust is making good

progress in ensuring everyone remains as protected as possible, in turn protecting patients and providing continuity for services. Speaking of which, the Trust's planned recovery programme continues to gather pace in reducing waiting times, with WWL being one of the top performing organisations in the country over the last few months. This has been a huge team effort, and with the recent news that Wrightington Hospital has been selected as an planned recovery hub for orthopaedics for Greater Manchester, the Trust will be able to continue to work on reducing waiting times for patients in the Wigan Borough, as well as contributing significantly across the region.

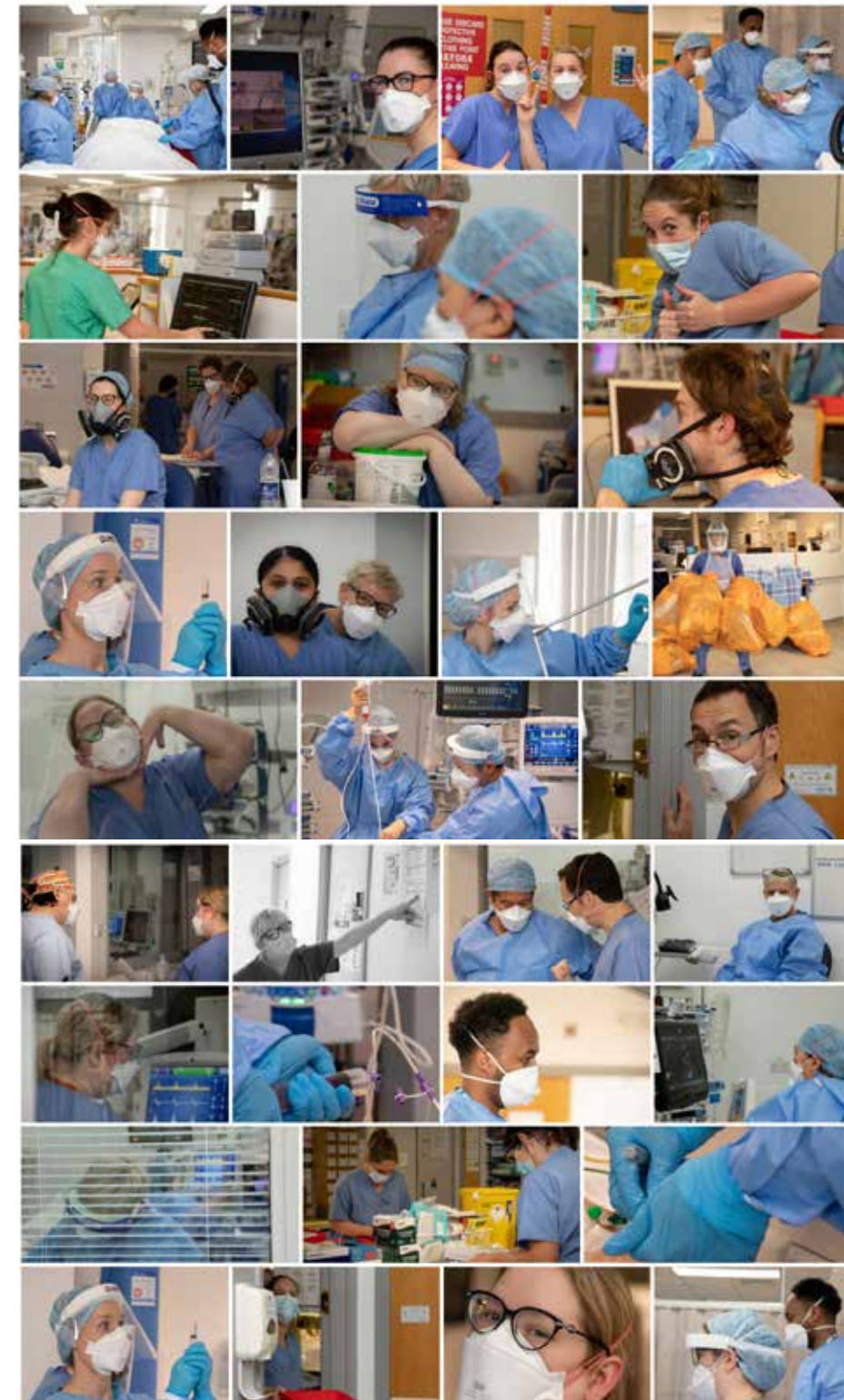
In this edition you'll find out more about the opening of the new Surgical Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit, which I attended with Robert, as well as the official inauguration of the Enhanced Respiratory Care Unit on Winstanley Ward. Dr Abdul Ashish was on hand with our Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls, to cut the ribbon that day, and thanks to Andrew Haworth, you can read more from Dr Ashish on winter planning in this edition.

A huge thank you must also go to one of our Governors Andrew Haworth for taking the time to speak with me in October to help me provide you with an update on what I experienced during my time as Chair designate and my thoughts and vision for what the future holds for WWL. I hope you enjoy reading the Autumn edition of the WWL Members' Magazine, and I look forward to speaking to you again at the Annual Members' Meeting.



Mark Jones  
WWL Chair

## In the News Autumn 2021



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Petro Bekker's #BehindClosedDoors COVID-19 ICU Photography Exhibition

### Page 8 Wrightington Hospital selected as a Planned Recovery Hub for Orthopaedics for Greater Manchester

The expertise of its teams will now be used to ensure Greater Manchester's elective recovery programme can continue to address waiting times for patients in the Wigan Borough.



### Page 7 WWL's COVID-19 booster vaccination programme is now well underway

The COVID-19 booster vaccination programme is well underway at WWL, with vaccinations being given in conjunction with the yearly flu vaccination programme.

### Page 11 Official Opening of the Surgical Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit

The new Surgical Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit (SAEC) at Wigan's Royal Albert Edward Infirmary has been declared officially open.





# Getting To Know You

In our last issue we talked to Robert Armstrong as he prepared to step down from his position as Chairman. Since then, there have been some weeks where our new Chair, Mark Jones, has picked up the reins, getting to know the Wigan Borough better and making links to the Trust's partners. Now firmly in the driving seat we asked him some important questions on your behalf.



## Can you tell us more about yourself and why you wanted to be our Chair?

Why WWL? It's a question I often get asked, and it surprises me that some people aren't fully aware of how good WWL is as part of the health system. The Trust is managed well, has a clear idea of where it needs to go, and performs as well, if not better, than Trusts many times its size and budget. Not only that, WWL collaborates well with top performing Wigan Council; Greater Manchester hospitals still show tremendous benefit from working together and the people of Wigan have a real sense of identity. WWL provides community as well as acute hospital services, with strong links to Wigan & Leigh College and Edge Hill University, it's all just a brilliant example. I've joined

WWL straight from a specialist hospital provider in Liverpool and I'm very proud to now serve our community across the Wigan Borough.

I used to manage in one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, and with my family also spent time working in Canada where I helped the government set up a children's mental health charity. These experiences outside WWL allow me to bring ideas to share with the Executive Team and to help the Governors keep a clear eye on progress. Being a Chair is rewarding but at three or four days per week it allows more family time, obviously some of that working time is from home and there have been times when toddlers and a 'labradoodle' have been on virtual meetings with me!

## What management skills do you bring from the pharmaceutical industry?

That's easy, at least to say, people are important in achieving anything, you have to understand and value them, recognise and meet with the whole range that the organisation works with,

what we call stakeholders. It's then a matter of bringing these factors together into good working relationships, that's the best way I can support Silas Nicholls your Chief Executive as he keeps our WWL plans on track.

## Was your experience joining WWL what you expected?

Once appointed as Chair Designate, Robert offered me a long shadowing opportunity to meet all his contacts across the North West health sector and to better understand WWL's staff and the way people here work. Everything I hoped for has been realised in plenty. Looking in like that allows you to see overall patterns of working and therefore see where we can gain even more.

## Part of that shadowing time took you into the collaborative world of Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, how does WWL fit into that?

As hospitals and community health services worked to maximise effort to

deal with the challenges of COVID-19, the fact that Greater Manchester had won the right to organise spending priorities five years ago has led to changes nationally. So, the systems being brought in next year have come from those years of starting to let local people address local problems. Clearly Bury, Salford and Wigan have different needs to Bromley, Staines and Woking. WWL's management team have been an integral part of that co-working. I'm confident that we can continue to benefit from being part of the Greater Manchester family. They have already invested in our Wrightington Hospital site, helping us to catch-up on the region's orthopaedic backlog. There are two reasons for this, our skilled specialist team there and the knowledge that as an organisation we will deliver on promises.

## Where does the voice of local patients get heard in such a big

## organisation?

You are right, the NHS has a terrific responsibility, life and death decisions are made. I mentioned the Governors, they provide some of the balance. The public governors that are elected are the majority, they keep ears and eyes open and bring local concerns into discussion, acting on your behalf. We also bring the stories of patients, families and staff to our meetings. It's so good, and often humbling to hear how our service works, especially if it shows where we need to improve.

## Do you have any final remarks for our Members?

There is so much more I want to share with you, I want to make sure you meet my fellow Board members in future issues of this magazine to show them the team effort bringing plans to life. I know we can bring examples from our

workforce to demonstrate the breadth of skilled service we supply. We regard ourselves as a family, privileged to help the Wigan Borough be healthier and to do that with great partners.

I definitely want to say how really pleased I am to be part of this wonderful hospital and community service. It's everything I hoped for and more. My wife can tell when I'm happy at work – she says I'm really enjoying myself right now; so, it must be true.



"I am extremely proud to be Chair at WWL, it's a real honour to be part of this wonderful hospital and community service, and I must stress how warmly I've been welcomed by everyone I've met so far."



# Winter Planning

In an effort to keep you in the loop, some of our Governors recently took the opportunity to meet with Dr Abdul Ashish to discuss how WWL is preparing for the coming winter months.



and Dr Ashish gave credit to those who allowed the research to begin. He also highlighted the range of WWL staff who enrolled us, monitored results and crunched the numbers. Hospitals across the country joined in numerous research streams, with Wigan being recognised as a significant contributor, as gradually equipment, care and medicines emerged as weapons to beat back the horrid mortality rate.

We've heard previously about the incredible six week push to build Bryn Ward to create more bed spaces, but WWL also trialled extra respiratory care using oxygen masks to boost recovery. This treatment, Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), became recognised as an essential resource and is now used worldwide. WWL recognised the longer term value of such treatments and a nine bedded Enhanced Respiratory Unit has just been made a permanent facility at the Trust. This, with extra staff, is in part to meet some of the demands of the continuing challenge of what is known as 'long-COVID'. Those suffering from this may also be helped by the long-COVID clinics held at the Thomas Linacre Centre.

Talking of the friendly, approachable folk he meets as colleagues and patients, Dr Ashish said his career choice to stay in Wigan was an easy one. WWL offers staff opportunities to study further and research is a regular and satisfying way in which staff can develop and share ideas.

The pandemic has brought colleagues

from across the hospital and community divisions even closer together to support those areas in the most stress. The feeling of being in one 'WWL family' is a reassuring constant. The aspiration for WWL to progress from Teaching Hospital status to University Hospital status will build on current strengths and keep Wigan attractive to high calibre staff.

We also asked about the collaboration across Greater Manchester (GM) and if that development is to the advantage of patients. Dr Ashish was keen to share his view that sharing skills, ideas and resources is really helping. Small improvements trialled in one area are shared allowing others to benefit and the whole of GM to respond better. He was proud that Wigan, although not the biggest, was well respected through its clear planning and higher performance.

So, back to winter preparations. What should we do to be ready? Dr Ashish had this quick shortlist of advice for us:

- Look after yourselves and your loved one. Keep warm and be healthy.
- Get the COVID-19 and flu vaccinations.
- GPs, Pharmacists and NHS 111 are there to help. Leave A&E for life-threatening emergencies.
- Respect each other and look out for your neighbours and friends. If you're feeling poorly, get a rapid COVID-19 test before you mix with other folks.

**"My career choice The pandemic has brought colleagues from across the hospital divisions even closer together to support those areas in the most stress. The feeling of being in one 'WWL family' is a reassuring constant".**

# Seasonal Safety

## Bonfire Night



It's not long to go until this year's bonfire night celebrations and, as always, we would advise that you only attend a

safely organised and reputable bonfire and firework display.

While many of us look forward to the exuberant displays on the 5th November every year, some people are filled with a sense of foreboding in the lead up to bonfire night. People with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), such as war veterans, may suffer as a result of the celebrations.

WWL is proud to be a Veteran Aware

hospital, sharing and driving best practice in NHS care for people who serve or have served in the UK armed forces and their families, in line with the Armed Forces Covenant.

If you or anyone that you know find yourselves feeling anxious or in distress as a result of this year's festivities, you can access support via [the NHS website](#).

## Think #111First

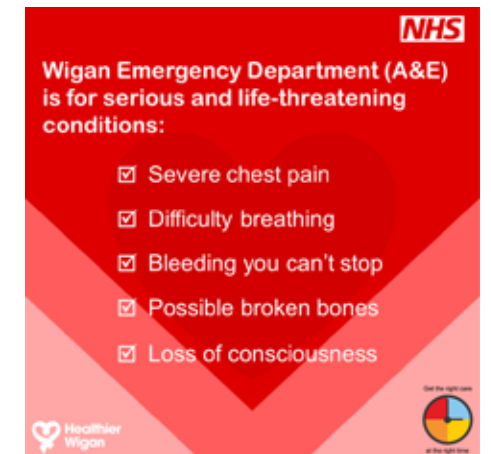
As we head into winter pressures, it is important to remember that A&E is for life-threatening emergencies only, such as:

- Chest pain/breathing difficulties/heart attack
- Stroke
- Severe bleeding that can't be stopped
- Severe allergic reactions
- Severe burns or scalds
- Serious head injury

- Serious road traffic accident
- Fall from height

If you've got an urgent medical issue that isn't an emergency, use NHS 111. Depending on your issue, NHS 111 will give you advice on how to treat yourself at home, connect you to a nurse, pharmacist or GP, or even book you in at your nearest A&E if it is necessary to do so.

You can call NHS 111 24/7, 365 days of the year.



## COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations



Paul Howard, Director of Corporate Affairs receiving his COVID-19 booster and flu vaccinations.

Protecting each other, our hospital and community services, and our patients is always important at this time of year, as we prepare for the anticipated winter pressures and make sure that as a Trust, we are in the strongest position possible to continue to provide care.

As part of this, our COVID-19 booster vaccination programme is already well under way with us running booster doses in conjunction with the yearly flu vaccination programme, giving our staff the opportunity to get both vaccines at the same time.



Richard Mundon, Director of Strategy and Planning also receiving his COVID-19 booster and flu vaccinations.



# Wrightington Hub

Wrightington Hospital is internationally recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Orthopaedic Surgery, with the expertise of its teams now being used to ensure Greater Manchester's elective recovery programme can continue to address the back log of surgeries caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wrightington Hospital, located less than five minutes from junction 27 of the M6, has been selected as Greater Manchester's hub for orthopaedic surgery, one of a number of hubs across the region selected to provide specialist care and treatment to patients from across the 10 Greater Manchester localities.

Silas Nicholls, WWL's Chief Executive, has welcomed the Trust's major role in the elective recovery initiative, explaining:

"This is excellent news for patients across Greater Manchester and will go a long way in helping WWL and the wider region to address waiting lists and provide people with the high-quality care they need.

"As an Elective Recovery Hub, it is our intention to maintain our services throughout the year and our facilities will support this. We can ensure continuity for our patients and services, something we weren't always able to do earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are delighted to be playing our part in this collective effort and we appreciate that the last 18 months have been extremely difficult for people waiting for orthopaedic surgery, but as a dedicated service and site here at Wrightington, we are already making good progress in seeing as many people as possible,

albeit this will continue to take some time.

"For patients from other boroughs who might not be familiar with Wrightington Hospital, we are a world leading centre with a large capacity of 11 theatres and six wards. We employ more than 40 of the UK's leading Orthopaedic Consultants, many of whom also have international reputations for surgical excellence.

Wrightington is at the forefront of practice and we're extremely proud of our exceptional medical and clinical staff.



"As part of the process of being a recovery hub, we are continually recruiting for a range of clinical staff to grow our workforce to be able to provide the level of care our patients deserve. We would welcome registered health care professionals or support workers who want to learn and develop within the speciality to contact us about the variety of roles we have available in our theatres, on our wards or as Allied Health Professionals."

If you are interested in working at WWL, you can [view our vacancies here](#).

Wrightington Hospital was also recently selected as a Major Revision Centre for Knee Surgery, further highlighting the expertise and specialism available.

# While You Wait

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant some operations and procedures have unfortunately been postponed. We are working hard to get people seen as quickly as possible.

If you (or someone you care for) are waiting on delayed medical care, you are likely to have concerns and questions.

Whilst you are waiting to be seen, there are things you can do to help you stay as physically and mentally fit as possible, and prepare you for your treatment. The healthier you are in your mind and body, the slower you are likely to get worse and the faster you are likely to recover afterwards.

The NHS in Greater Manchester is offering further information and advice, along with handy resources to help you manage your physical and mental wellbeing.

This includes:

- How to stay as fit and healthy as possible while you wait for your treatment.
- Where to find any extra support online.

- Where to find further information about approximate waiting times at different hospitals.
- What to do if your condition deteriorates.
- Find out more on the [While You Wait website](#).
- Information is also available on the [Healthier Wigan Partnership website](#).

We are working hard to make sure that people are being checked to make sure that their condition has seriously changed.

However, if you think your condition is getting a lot worse and you don't have an appointment coming up, you should make sure that the person in charge of your care knows this.

If you have a consultant or specialist nurse at the hospital, you should contact them and let them know of the changes to your condition. If you don't, then

please contact your GP practice instead and tell them.

Whilst we are doing our best to make sure that you get the treatment you require as soon as possible, we also need your help to make sure that waiting times don't increase due to missed or cancelled appointments.

Where possible, please try to keep your appointments, to help reduce the amount of time you have to wait.

It's also important to remember that when you fail to attend an appointment, it prevents other people from being seen in your place, meaning our NHS resources cannot be put to the best use.

If you can't attend an appointment, please let the team know as soon as possible so that they can offer the appointment to someone else and arrange an alternative for you if possible.

# Official Opening of Enhanced Respiratory Care Unit

The new Enhanced Care Respiratory Unit at Wigan's Royal Albert Edward Infirmary has been declared officially open.

At a small ceremonial inauguration of the unit at the end of September, Dr Abdul Ashish, Consultant Respiratory Physician and Divisional Medical Director for Medicine at WWL, explained the importance of the unit, how it came to be and how it will continue to help save lives and provide the most appropriate care for patients.

"When COVID-19 hit us last March and the demand for beds in our intensive care unit began to rise, there was an increased need for respiratory support due to the nature of the virus. As a result, we chose Winstanley Ward to convert into a non-invasive ventilation unit to provide respiratory support for those patients who were becoming severely ill with COVID-19.

"By doing this and having specific ward-based care available to patients, we were able to prevent a lot of patients from needing our intensive care unit or deteriorating on other wards. This was coupled with our research into the early use of CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machines, which was recognised internationally.

"Our staff were incredible in their efforts

in terms of training and expertise, and we engaged quickly to recruit international nurses so that we could begin treatment within just a few weeks."

WWL's Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls, who was in attendance for the inauguration alongside members of the Winstanley Ward team, added:

"Without this unit and the amazing team working to care for the patients who required this type of treatment, the already demanding pressures put on our response to COVID-19 would have been

much higher.

"The unit has continued to provide much needed support and forms part of our plans to make sure we are in the strongest position possible ahead of the winter months and beyond. Alongside keeping our staff and patients safe through COVID-19 and flu vaccinations, it is just as important to make sure our facilities are well-equipped to deal with anticipated winter pressures, as this will allow our teams to continue to care for patients in the safest and most effective way."



"Without this unit and the amazing team working to care for the patients who required this type of treatment, the already demanding pressures put on our response to COVID-19 would have been much higher".

# Surgical Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit Officially Opens

WWL's Surgical Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit officially opened on the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary site, Orrell Ward.

A small ceremonial inauguration took place on Thursday 21st October at the unit to celebrate the official opening and the fantastic work that has taken place to reach this stage.

The unit located on Orrell Ward at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary site, is a vital piece of the jigsaw in WWL's continuous aim to improve patient care and experience, and a crucial element of the preparations for winter preparations.

The unit provides a safe and flexible alternative for surgical patients to be assessed and receive treatment without the need to be admitted to a hospital bed; significantly enhancing the patient journey and a massive step to enabling the right care, in the right place and at the right time.

With the increasing demand placed on our Emergency Care (A&E) department brought on by not only the pandemic, but also the winter pressures faced each year, the opening of this unit could not come at a better time.

And with the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, and the usual winter pressure we face, the opening of this unit could not come at a better time.



The unit is state-of-the-art with custom-built areas, consisting of five private cubicles, a dedicated triage area, and treatment room, and will be staffed by some of the finest advanced practitioners the NHS has to offer.

Julie Barrett, Divisional Director of Surgery and Child Health, said: "It's fantastic news to hear that the new SAEC unit has now officially opened.

"Everyone involved has worked extremely hard to make this a success and I'm so proud of all the team.

A special mention must be made for the Head of Surgery and Child Health, Gemma Causer. Gemma's passion and commitment for the unit has been pivotal to the success of this project and the planning, development and running of the unit from start to finish. Gemma has done an outstanding job, and we are all very proud to have her working at WWL and for all she does for her service, team and our patients".

"Everyone involved has worked extremely hard to make this a success and I'm so proud of all the team".



# This Year's Annual Members' Meeting

This year's Annual Members' Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th November 2021 from 2pm-4pm, and will once again be held virtually.

Our Chair, Mark Jones and Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls, would be delighted if you would take the time to attend this year's Annual Members' Meeting.

We are using the virtual format again this year, to protect our members and the wider public while the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

The Annual Members' Meeting is the Trust's annual general meeting and

brings together Members, Governors, Directors, and the Chair of the Board. Members of the public with an interest in the Trust are also welcome to attend.

Our members play a vital role in helping us shape our strategies and future plans, and have a real voice in how the Trust is run and how it will grow and develop in the future.

This will be the first Annual Members' Meeting for WWL's new Chair Mark

Jones and is a great opportunity for our members and the general public to meet and get to know Mark as he begins his journey with us.

This year's Annual Members' Meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th November 2021 from 2pm-4pm. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions that are currently in place, the meeting will take place virtually, using Microsoft Teams.

This year's meeting will include an interactive quiz with prizes up for grabs and the opportunity to share your views on Our Strategy 2030, which you can [view on our website](#).

The meeting is also an opportunity for the Foundation Trust Members, who are elected to hold the Trust Board to account, to ensure that the Council of Governors are truly representing members' interests.

To register your attendance, please email [members@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:members@wwl.nhs.uk) by Tuesday 16th November 2021. The link to join the virtual meeting will be sent out on the morning of the 17th. You can also utilise this email address to submit any questions you may have before the Annual Members' Meeting takes place.

Last year's Annual Members' Meeting was also held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and [can be viewed here](#).



# #BehindClosedDoors Photography Exhibition

A Manchester charity recently put on a new photography exhibition of life in WWL's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The #BehindClosedDoors exhibition took place from 9th to 21st August 2021 at the iconic Manchester Central Library and was organised by Greater Manchester's Mental Wellbeing Charity,

The photographs were taken by WWL's Clinical Informatics Manager and passionate photographer, Petro Bekker, who volunteered to go back and work in the Intensive Care Unit at the beginning of the pandemic.

Petro said: "In March 2020, COVID-19 hit us. NHS staff with ICU training were being asked to go back and support their colleagues and with 15 years' experience I didn't hesitate to go back although it was a very scary prospect. Reality hit me. I can only describe it as a war where we could not see the enemy. Everything happened at a rapid pace and I had no doubt in my mind to return immediately to help my ICU Colleagues on the frontline."

So Petro re-joined her colleagues, where she had previously been a Senior Sister working on ICU. This was a vast difference from her new role in Informatics but relying on her wealth of experience working as a Nurse in South Africa since 1987, and continuing her career emigrating to the UK in 1999, she knew that she had a lot to offer in patient care but her trusty camera went with her.

Petro continued: "When the first wave hit us it was so overwhelming that it was impossible to capture anything. However, when the second wave came, as a keen Photographer, I knew that I had to document this journey as it was history in the making. I could not miss the opportunity to record it for future generations."

So Petro was given permission during her breaks and in her own time to take photographs within the ICU. Her colleagues fully supported her and found a great deal of pride and solace in the photographs and are incredibly excited that they were showcased in this unique and inspiring exhibition.

WWL Chief Executive, Silas Nicholls said: "Our patients, our staff and the

wider public have faced enormous challenges over the past 18 months, but the way everyone has pulled together to support each other only adds to that sense of pride already felt within the Wigan Borough.

"The teamwork and togetherness on show in the photos represents the experience, not only within our intensive care unit, but across all of our Trust services. It's important for our staff to be able to share their experiences in ways like this and I'm grateful to Petro and her colleagues for capturing such a unique perspective of the pandemic."

The photographs will now be included in [Wigan and Leigh Archives' 'Covid Archive'](#) so there is a permanent historical record of Petro's work.





# Positive Recognition

Three of WWL's Consultants have recently been recognised with regional and national leadership roles.



Dr Ashish Dhawan, Consultant Cardiologist at WWL, has been elected to the prestigious position of Chair of the British International Doctors Association (BIDA), the organisation for Doctor of International origin working in the UK.

Speaking about his election to the position, Dr Dhawan said:

"I feel proud and delighted to have been elected Chairman of British International Doctors Association.

"The overriding ethos of our organisation is equality and fairness which is very much in line with WWL's vision. The BIDA has many years of sharing a positive and productive relationship with WWL that I hope to carry forward and expand further."



Dr Abdul Ashish, Consultant Respiratory Physician at WWL, and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Respiratory Speciality Lead for Greater Manchester, has received an award for his exceptional leadership in research.

Speaking about the award, Dr Ashish said:

"I am extremely proud and humbled to receive this award, but none of this would be possible without the incredible teamwork involved in making our research projects so meaningful and successful.

"We can't gather the vital data needed for our research projects without team members and it's because of this that we can continue to be part of the UK's world-class clinical trials infrastructure."



WWL Director of Medical Education, Professor Nirmal Kumar has been awarded the Gold Award for the Best Membership Support During COVID-19 at the 2021 Association Excellence Awards.

Professor Kumar, was at the forefront of the WWL's vital UK-wide support for clinicians during the pandemic, which included the identification of anosmia (loss of smell) as a COVID-19 symptom, something which was accepted by the World Health Organisation and Public Health England.

Speaking about the award, Professor Kumar said:

"As president of ENT UK, this recognition makes me extremely proud, but the most important thing to remember is that the aim of our work was to make sure our clinicians and trainees here at WWL were safely protected during the pandemic."

# Fundraising



If you have any questions about our Charity or would like information on making a donation, contact [threewishescharity@wwl.nhs.uk](mailto:threewishescharity@wwl.nhs.uk)



In October 2021, five of our Physiotherapists ran the Manchester Marathon to raise money for our Three

Wishes 'In Pink' campaign.

'In Pink' aims to raise money to purchase a new ultrasound machine for the Breast Screening Service at Thomas Linacre Site near Wigan town centre, which quite simply means we will be able to screen more women faster.

This new machine will improve patient flow, reduce waiting times, help to identify abnormalities quicker, support faster treatment and ultimately help to

the save the lives of women (and men) across the borough.

As well as raising funds, our physios wanted to raise awareness in local women about the importance of attending screening appointments. Figures show that in every 10 women invited for screening, three will not turn up.

A total of £2,736 was raised by the team for our 'In Pink' fund.



Self-professed 'geek at heart' and long-time collector of pop culture figures

and statues, Paul Derryhouse kindly donated some Pop Vinyl Figures to our Rainbow Ward on behalf of The Pop Nightingale.

The Pop Nightingale is a toy community initiative created to give back to those in need. They have so far donated over 300 toys to WWL and over 3,800 to other hospitals and charities nationwide.

On behalf of The Pop Nightingale, Paul said: "We want to put a smile on

children's faces in their time of need, especially in the run up to Christmas".



A staggering £12,000 was raised this summer by colleagues and external donors for Three Wishes Charity to install an interactive floor projector for children on WWL's Rainbow Ward.

The monies raised have enabled us to purchase the projector to help encourage play and bring a smile to children's faces during their stay on the children's ward.

The interactive floor projection system

is suitable for all ages and provides many themes and games, including educational activities, sports, dancing, competitive play games, and much more.

The system works by using the floor projector and motion sensor, which allows moving graphics and games to appear on the ground and reacts to hand and feet movements, and gestures.



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.



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.  
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).

\* Front page image courtesy of Petro Bekker

\*Magazine produced by the Communications Team