

Some planned surgery resumed at RJAH



We are delighted to be able to confirm that planned surgery has now resumed at RJAH.

This is being done in line with national guidelines, with patients being prioritised based on clinical need.

It represents the first significant step towards restoring our routine services since all non-emergency elective work was suspended in late March.

As part of the regional response to the covid-19 pandemic, the Trust took on orthopaedic trauma work for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and for North Wales. That work will continue in the short term.

We will be contacting everyone affected as soon as possible about future treatment arrangements, so you do not need to contact us about your surgery.

If your symptoms related to your condition become worse, contact the consultant whose care you are under. Alternatively contact your GP for advice.

A message from the Chairman

I don't think any of us would disagree that the last few months have been the most challenging period that we have encountered in our personal and professional lives for well over a generation. It seems almost impossible to look back to a time when we didn't have to social distance or where we could walk into shops without fear of contracting the virus.

Within this context, it is clear that the NHS has risen to the challenge and none more so than RJAH where we have worked tirelessly to contribute to the covid-19 response across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin. Whilst the focus and attention is paid to our frontline staff, nobody who works or volunteers at RJAH has been unaffected.

As we enter the summer, we're all hopeful that we are seeing the end of the first wave of covid-19, and equally hopeful that it will not return later in the year. That said it is clear to me as Chairman, that the last few months will have a lasting impact on many staff across many disciplines, including those who have been shielding or self-isolating. We owe it to everybody to provide understanding, help and support where required, and I know Stacey and her team will be devoting time and attention to this.

Lastly, may I once again pay tribute to our Council of Governors for their support to the Board and all the staff during the challenges that we have faced throughout 2020.

Best wishes,

Frank Collins
Chairman



Governors Meeting

These meetings are open to the public

Thursday 30 July 2020

This meeting may not be going ahead due to social distancing guidance for covid-19. For more information, please email rjah.ft@nhs.net

Membership figures

At the end of June 2020 the Membership figures were:

Staff	1179
Public	4807
Volunteers	477
Total	6463



Representing People

When Parliament created NHS foundation trusts, it provided them with independence from central government and a governance structure that ensured participation from within the local communities they serve.

NHS foundation trust governors are the direct representatives of local interests within foundation trusts. Governors do not undertake operational management of NHS foundation trusts; rather they challenge the board of directors and collectively hold them to account for the trust's performance. It is also the governors' responsibility to represent their members' interests, particularly in relation to the strategic direction of the trust.

Legislation provides governors with statutory responsibilities to help deliver these key objectives. The legislation is the National Health Service Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Please note that meetings of the Council of Governors are open to members of the public. The public are asked to notify the Trust of any matters they wish to raise in advance, as this will allow the Trust to be able to respond fully and will assist in the time management of the meeting. If you would like to attend, please email: rjah.ft@nhs.net to confirm your attendance and also of any matters you wish to raise.

Your elected Public Governors

Please note: due to covid-19, no Governor elections will be taking place and all Governors who are coming to the end of their term have been extended. The usual Members Surgery sessions have also been postponed. However, if anyone would like to get in touch with your local Governor, please email rjah.governors@nhs.net.

Shropshire



Colin Chapman



Sue Nassar



Victoria Sugden

North Wales



Jan Greasley



Martin Coggan



Russell Luckock

West Midlands



Katrina Morphet



William Greenwood



Vacant Position

Cheshire & Merseyside

Powys

Rest of England & Wales



Kate Chaffey



Allen Edwards



Kate Betts

Staff Governors



Shropshire Council
Cllr Karen Calder



RJAH Voluntary
Services Committee
Peter David



Keele University
Dr Karina Wright

News from the Trust

Life on a covid-19 ward

The past few months have seen Ludlow Ward – usually the hospital's private patient ward – look after patients with suspected or confirmed cases of covid-19.

Helen Cooper, who leads the team on Ludlow Ward, says the pandemic, from preparation to today, has been a "rollercoaster" but the teamwork demonstrated, not just on the ward, but throughout the hospital has been "fantastic".

Helen said: "There has been a lot of anxiety. We have been caring for a very different cohort of patients. We went from caring for routine patients to high dependency, trauma patients who were completely bed bound.

"The whole team have provided selfless care to each patient, as well as those who have been redeployed from their usual area to work on the ward. The Infection Prevention and Control team have also given us amazing support.

"Despite the challenges, the whole experience has been educational and the support we have received from other wards and departments has just been phenomenal."

While Ludlow Ward was the hospital's dedicated covid ward, a handful of patients in the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries have also received outstanding care after contracting the virus.

Annual General Meeting – you're invited!

The Trust's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Thursday 24 September at 2pm.

Our members are invited to join in with the event, which will include talks where you can hear first-hand about the work of the Trust.

The Trust will be in touch with members nearer the time to confirm details.



Hospital teams supporting coronavirus efforts across the country



Throughout the covid-19 pandemic, several departments at RJAH have been supporting the local and national efforts in a variety of ways.

Firstly, the Orthotics Production and Manufacturing team at RJAH turned their skills to PPE – churning out hundreds of face visors to support care homes and hospices with the covid-19 response.

The team, who usually make orthoses that aid patients with mobility issues, have been creating visors – a vital piece of Personal Protective Equipment – for staff at Hope House Children's Hospice in Oswestry, as well as care and nursing homes in the local area and elsewhere in the West Midlands, and as far afield as Lancashire.

Also, three RJAH Researchers all volunteered to join a team of highly-qualified experts at three Lighthouse 'mega-labs' across the country in a bid to increase coronavirus testing.

Dr Jade Perry, Dr John Garcia and PhD student Mairead Hyland, are all supporting at the Alderley Park Lab in Cheshire, hosted by the Medicines Discovery Catapult, where they test tens of thousands of samples for Covid-19 infection.

The three volunteers all have a background in science with the expertise and experience needed for their new roles and have completed their training to work in the new labs.

Local businesses supporting RJAH during coronavirus pandemic

A selection of local businesses pledged their support to RJAH during the covid-19 outbreak.

Donations of food, toiletries and other items have been donated to the hospital to support staff and patients during the pandemic, as well as companies who are manufacturing in-demand products for the hospital.

Henstone Distillery, based in Oswestry, decided to halt production of alcoholic drinks to instead focus its attention on producing bottles of hand sanitiser for RJAH as well as other hospitals and care homes across Shropshire.

After seeing a number of posts on social media regarding the shortages of the hand wash, the distillery tracked down the ingredients listed on the World Health Organisation's website.

Another local business, Turtle Covers, switched their production from custom-made car seat covers to medical scrubs in a bid to support RJAH.

The company, who are based on Gledrid Industrial Park on the outskirts of Oswestry, had seen news coverage around the lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), and decided to put their skillset and resources to use by making scrubs.

A total of 500 sets of scrubs were produced and distributed to Consultant Surgeons and other doctors at RJAH.



Ask others to join

Over 6000 people have chosen to become a member - anyone over 14 years of age can join and there are a number of benefits, including invitations to events.

As a member you:

- Become part of a wide network patients, carers, local community members and staff supporting RJAH for the future.
- Have a say in how the hospital is run through voting for governors (or by being elected as a governor) and by sharing your views in our member surveys.
- Receive regular news from the hospital, invitations to our members' events and a copy of the Governors' annual report.
- Support the hospital as an NHS Foundation Trust by encouraging friends, family, patients and carers to sign up as members too!

To join online please visit: www.rjah.nhs.uk or for a membership form ring 01691 404394 or email: rjah.ft@nhs.net

Get Connected!

Join us on social media and keep up to date with the latest news and events going on across the Trust.

We have an active community on Facebook with over 8,000 likes.

You can also find us on Twitter and Instagram at @RJAH_NHS.

And if you are talking about the Trust, remember to use our Twitter handle and help us spread the word!



Feedback matters

Do you have any feedback on this bulletin?

Is there any other information you would like us to include in the next edition? Do you have any articles you would like to submit? By passing on ideas and suggestions about the report - or any other feedback - you can help us carry out our role more effectively.

Contact the editors – Katrina Morphet and Allen Edwards at: rjah.governors@nhs.net

Wedding bells at RJAH for Roy and Jill



Even a life-limiting illness and a suspected case of Covid-19 were not going to stop Roy Wilson marrying the woman he loves.

And that's exactly what happened at RJAH on 27 April, as Roy and long-term partner, Jill Hird – now Mrs Wilson – tied the knot.

The couple were married by hospital chaplain, Rev Simon Airey in a special ceremony that was only able to go ahead thanks to special dispensation from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In April, Roy, aged 70, suffered an accident at home when he broke his femur. He was taken to hospital and it was there where he was later diagnosed with terminal bone cancer.

Following his diagnosis, Roy decided there was no time like the present to marry his long-term partner, Jill – and after a conversation with the chaplain, the wheels for the couple's marriage were in motion.

However, his hopes of marrying in hospital were put under threat as he started exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, but there was relief as a test returned a negative result.

Roy said: *"This has been a long time coming. It's been a really special but emotional day. I'm absolutely exhausted but it's been wonderful. We can't thank the staff and chaplain enough for making this happen for us."*

Cheers as Beryl heads home after beating coronavirus

There were cheers and tears at RJAH as 87-year-old Beryl Hewlett was wheeled off the ward to start her journey home – more than a month after contracting coronavirus.

Beryl, from Whitchurch, had required urgent trauma surgery after suffering a fall that left her with a broken hip.

She was first treated at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital before being transferred to RJAH when she suffered an infection in her wound. She underwent a covid-19 test in late March after staff detected a high temperature and she developed a persistent cough.

Beryl tested positive for covid-19 back at the end of March and was been unable to go home – because she lives in assisted living accommodation, and could not therefore return until she had tested negative for the virus.

That led to her being transferred to the hospital's Ludlow Ward, which is usually the private patient ward but has been used to manage patients with suspected or possible cases of covid-19.

Beryl left the hospital at the beginning of May to continue her rehabilitation.



In the next edition of Connect read more about how overall patient experience at RJAH has been rated best in the country by patients.