

Message from the Chairman



Now the intense demands of the coronavirus pandemic seem to easing on hospitals up and down the country, our focus is turning to the restoration of services and, in particular, addressing the growing number of patients who are waiting for treatment.

Led by our clinical teams, staff are working tremendously hard to ensure that as many patients as possible are treated at RJAH and we offer priority care to those in greatest clinical need.

We should be under no illusions that this is going to be a long pathway of recovery and will put continued pressure on our fantastic staff and hospital overall.

Best wishes,
Frank Collins, *Chairman*

Spades in the ground to deliver new dedicated veterans centre

Healthcare provision for veteran patients has taken a momentous leap forward as work on the UK's first dedicated veterans orthopaedic centre formally began with an official ground-breaking ceremony.

The £6 million pioneering facility is being built onsite at RJAH.

The hospital had initially launched a £1.5 million appeal back in October 2018 to build a more modest outpatient facility for veterans, but is now set to boast a vaster facility, thanks to the support of the Headley Court Charity.

Headley Court was the leading medical rehabilitation base for members of the Armed Forces before the transfer of those services to a new facility at Stanford Hall. Following that move, Trustees of the Headley Court Charity, had been looking for worthy causes to support in the form of charitable grants from their reserves.

They identified the Veterans Orthopaedic Centre at RJAH, which aims to treat service personnel and veteran patients in a bespoke, military environment, which feels familiar to them, while addressing their specific needs. Having agreed to the multi-million pound grant, the new facility will be known as the Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre.

Speaking of his delight, Lieutenant Colonel Carl Meyer said: *"The breaking of the ground to mark the start of the build of the Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre is a day I have long dreamt about, as this marks the beginning of a new era of bespoke care for our veteran patients and serving personnel."*



More information about the Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre can be found [here](#).

Governors Meeting

29th July 2021

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

Your elected Public Governors

Shropshire

Colin Chapman / Sue Nassar / Victoria Sugden

North Wales

Jan Greasley (to 29 January 2022)

Colette Gribble (from 29 July)

West Midlands

Russell Luckock (to 29 January 2022)

Cheshire & Merseyside

Katrina Morphet

Powys

William Greenwood

Rest of England & Wales

Phil White (from 29 July)

Staff Governors

Kate Chaffey / Allen Edwards / Kate Betts

Stakeholder Governors

(appointed by organisations that work closely with the Trust)

Peter David – RJAHS Voluntary Services Committee

Simon Jones – Shropshire Council

Dr Karina Wright – Keele University

Membership figures

At the end of June 2021 the Membership figures were:

Staff	1184
Public	4884
Volunteers	466
Total	6534

Governor Profile

Welcome to our new Governors

The Governors at RJAHS have welcomed two new members to the council – Colette Gribble and Phil White.

Colette Gribble – Public Governor for North Wales



Colette has lived in the Colwyn Bay area for the last 40 years and has now been elected as Public Governor for North Wales.

Initially a music and English teacher, she worked for the Home Office from 1970 until 1974 in the first purpose built secure unit for young people who had committed serious Section 53 offences. A stint in Dorset followed, before moving to North Wales with her family. Colette's connection with RJAHS began several years ago.

She said: "I was fortunate to have Mr Niall Graham as my Consultant Surgeon for my severe hip problems. He changed my life with a hugely successful hip replacement four years ago. Within a few months, I was back playing my beloved tennis."

Phil White – Public Governor for the Rest of England and Wales



Phil, a former member of RJAHS staff in the Pharmacy Team, who lives in Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon is now the Trust's Governor for the rest of England and Wales.

Phil qualified as a Pharmacist in 1989 and joined RJAHS in 2005. In 2009, he was the Trust's Lead Pharmacist for the Medicine division, and took a keen interest in the prevention and treatment of blood clots, as well as specialising in Rheumatology and Care of the Elderly.

He said: "After leaving RJAHS in 2017 to work in Wales, I've been involved in the Transforming Access to Medicines review for the Welsh Government. I currently chair the Welsh Homecare Medicines Committee, undertake independent consultancy, and am a treasurer for Rheumatology Pharmacists UK."

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.



Annual General Meeting – you're invited!

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

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



News from the Trust

Getting It Right First Time visit to Spinal Disorders Team

At the March Board of Directors meeting, Mr Sujay Dheerendra, Consultant Spinal Surgeon and Clinical Lead, gave a review following a visit to the department from Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT).

The presentation included examples of the type of work the spinal disorders team does; how the team mentor other surgeons and the challenges they have faced in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

Praising Mr Dheerendra, Mark Brandreth, Chief Executive, said: "Excellent services have excellent leaders, and since you've become the Clinical Lead, you have been exceptional. You are a star of the future, Sujay."

Swinging sixties field festival to mark hospital centenary

It's 100 years this year since RJAH relocated to its famous Gobowen base from its original site in Baschurch – and staff, friends, family and volunteers are all being invited join in with celebrations.

RJAH, then known as the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital, was officially opened on 5 August 1921 by its founders Sir Robert Jones and Dame Agnes Hunt.

The 60s-themed celebration – which is being labelled as Festival on the Field – celebrates the 100-year birthday of the hospital; the 60-year anniversary of the League of Friends and 50-years of the Orthopaedic Institute.



Centre of excellence status awarded for advanced keyhole surgery practice



RJAH has been named a centre of excellence for Mr Birender Balain's practice in keyhole spinal surgery – known as Fully Endoscopic Spine Surgery (FESS) – which he has been involved in since 2017.

FESS is an advanced form of minimally invasive spinal surgery designed to provide much quicker recovery times and less recurring pain than traditional spinal surgery methods for patients.

RJAH was the first NHS hospital in the country to practice this latest generation of endoscopic spine surgery.

Mr Balain, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, and RJAH were presented with the Centre of Excellence Award by RIWOspine – who make the innovative endoscopic equipment, used by in the Theatres.

On receiving the award, Mr Balain said: "It's fantastic that the Trust has been recognised in this way for this pioneering work. Having been involved in this type of surgery for four years, I feel extremely proud."

Praise from Prue as Catering Team support hospital food review

Celebrity chef Prue Leith, CBE has praised the efforts of the Catering team at RJAH who have been supporting an independent review of hospital food.

The aim of the review, which Prue was the advisor for – working alongside food and health professionals – is to ensure patients and staff from across the NHS benefit from tastier, healthier and better-quality meals.

Members of the Catering Team formed part of an exemplar group of NHS Caterers, Dietitians and Nurses, who have worked and helped to lead on implementing the review's recommendations for tastier, more nutritious food for patients and staff.

To recognise the team's hard work and high standards, Prue has recorded a special video message for them – [you can watch this video here](#).





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

Memorial garden unveiled in lasting tribute to much-loved Professor

A memorial garden has been created at RJAH in memory of much-loved Professor James Richardson – known affectionately to his colleagues and patients as 'Prof'.

The beautiful garden is located within the courtyard outside the hospital's Baschurch Day Unit.

Professor Richardson's widow, Shona, commissioned Oswestry-based charity Designs in Mind to produce an art installation that reflected his important work on cartilage regeneration. Working with a team from the hospital, the concept flourished to produce a beautiful and tranquil garden space with screen printed glass panels depicting stem cells, specialist "cloud trees" and bespoke landscaping.

The scale of the garden was made possible by generous donations, including £10,000 from the League of Friends; £1,500 raised by Helen Cotter, a former patient of Professor Richardson's and £1,000 from The Mary Hignett Bequest Fund.

Professor Richardson passed away suddenly at the age of 62 in February 2018.

Pride as RJAH unveils rainbow windows as powerful symbol to LGBTQ+ community

RJAH has pledged its support to LGBTQ+ staff, patients and the wider community with the unveiling of rainbow windows - as part of Pride Month celebrations.

The windows in the main entrance have been transformed to reflect the colours of the Pride rainbow flag, featuring six powerful pledges made by staff.

The RJAH Charity organised the rainbow window panels, which were printed and installed by local company Welshpool Printing Group, after being designed by Tony Brindley, the Trust's Graphic Designer who is part of the Medical Illustration department.

As well as Organisational Development, the RJAH Charity and Medical Illustration, the hospital's Communication Team and Estates and Facilities also supported with the project.

Last year, the Oswestry-based hospital signed-up to the NHS Rainbow Badge scheme – an initiative which aims to show support for LGBTQ+ colleagues and patients where staff are required to pledge their support to become a badge wearer.

Stacey Keegan, Chief Nurse and Patient Safety Officer, said: *"Being a member of the LGBTQ+ community myself, I know how important the Rainbow Badge initiative is. It's so much more than just wearing a badge; this is about making sure that the people we are caring for or work at our hospital feel safe but also seen."*

