

Message from the Chairman

I want to start this message by expressing the levels of pride I had after welcoming Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh to RJAH to officially open the Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre. Thank you to everyone who was involved in making it such a fantastic day.

I also want to reflect on our first High Impact Provider-led Strategy event, or HIPS for short, where we are working on developing a new Trust strategy developed not just for our staff and patients, but by them. Work got underway earlier in the financial year with a huge engagement event, involving more than 140 members of staff from across the organisation. It was a great day, and we now have lots of plans to turn into actions. We look forward to sharing these actions with you soon.

As we return closer to pre-pandemic life, I look forward to spending more time, face-to-face, with our Board of Directors, staff and Council of Governors.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and get the chance to spend some special time with your friends, family and loved ones.



Harry Turner
Chairman



RJAH planning for growth with hi-tech Theatre expansion

A state-of-the-art extension to the Theatre building is under way – in a move that will help cut waiting lists.

The development will initially see the addition of one new Theatre, giving the capacity to carry out an additional 1,200 surgical procedures a year.

The current phase of the scheme is costing £10.3 million – with £5.3 million of that coming from the Trust's own capital funds and £5 million from a successful bid to the Department of Health and Social Care's Targeted Investment Fund – which was money made available to support schemes that promote recovery from the pandemic.

Stacey Keegan, Chief Executive, said: *"We're excited to have already secured the funding and begun work on the first phase of this project."*

"In the long term this is about growth, but we are very focussed on also getting down our waiting lists and giving all our patients the experience they expect and deserve."

"Before covid, our activity levels were around 10,700 procedures a year, and this new, additional Theatre will help us get back to that and beyond."

RJAH also has exciting plans to build three further new Theatres over the next three years, as well as refurbishing four existing ones. The development plans are evolving in conjunction with co-ordinated recruitment and retention activity to ensure the hospital has the staff and the skills it needs to make the most of the new facilities.

Governors Meetings

8 November 2023

For more information, please email:
rjah.ft@nhs.net

Your elected Public Governors

Shropshire

Colin Chapman / Nikki Kuiper / Martin Bennett

North Wales

Colette Gribble / Shelia Hughes

West Midlands

Tony Wright

Cheshire & Merseyside

Katrina Morphet

Powys

William Greenwood

Rest of England & Wales

Phil White

Staff Governors

Kate Chaffey / Allen Edwards / Kate Betts

Stakeholder Governors

(appointed by organisations that work closely with the Trust)

Victoria Sugden – RJAH Voluntary Services Committee

Councillor Simon Jones – Shropshire Council

Dr Karina Wright – Keele University

Membership figures

At the end of June 2023
the Membership figures were:

Staff	1272
Public	4938
Volunteers	421
Total	6631



Governor Profile

Simon Jones

Stakeholder Governor, Shropshire



Simon was a civil servant for over 30 years and took compulsory early retirement in 1995.

Since 2009, he has been a Shropshire Councillor, where he has previously held portfolios for Highways, Adult Services and Public Health. He has also served as Chairman of the Health and Adult Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and as Joint Chairman of the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Telford and Wrekin Council.

He is currently the Deputy Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Community Services. His Shropshire Council work involves him regularly working and linking in with healthcare services across

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

For a 12-year period, Simon was a Partner Governor for Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust.

Governors are always pleased to hear from our members and can be contacted by email on rjah.governors@nhs.net

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.

Engaging with our Members



Our Governors will next be outside the Main Entrance on Wednesday 13 September from 9:30am – 12:30pm.

Our Members Surgery provides our members with a great opportunity to let the Governors know about what you would like to learn more about at the hospital, feedback your experiences and suggestions, or what news stories you would like to receive in our members newsletters and correspondence.

News from the Trust

Reservists at training camp as hospital celebrates Armed Forces

Three Armed Forces reservists from RJAH swapped their NHS uniform for camouflage gear as they took part in a fortnight-long training exercise.

The trio were Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Lieutenant Colonel Carl Meyer; nurse and Enhanced Recovery Lead, Warrant Officer Rebecca Warren; and Physiotherapist, Captain Helen Weavers – and the exercise saw them away as the hospital and the NHS marked Armed Forces Week, which ran from 19 June to 24 June.

Hospital Friends support Theatres with £50,000 investment

The League of Friends at RJAH have invested £50,000 in two new portable ultrasound scanners, which will be used by Consultant Anaesthetists performing nerve blocks for pain relief and IV access.

Dr John John, Consultant Anaesthetist at RJAH, said: "Portable ultrasound scanners are probably the most significant advancement in anaesthesia in the last decade.

"We are grateful and fortunate to have access to a very supporting League of Friends that readily fund these initiatives as they have such a direct and immediate impact on patient care."

Veterans' celebratory tea party for the King Charles III Coronation

Military veterans had a right Royal time as they enjoyed a celebratory tea party at RJAH to mark the coronation of King Charles III.



The tea party was held at the Veterans Hub inside the Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre.

Veterans plus their relatives attended the gathering from all over Shropshire, and surrounding areas. They were treated to tea and cake, with a special quiz and a tour of the impressive simulation lab inside the centre being the crowning glory of the event.

Susan Heer, a volunteer at RJAH for almost 15 years and now a full-time veterans' volunteer, was overjoyed to see her parents enjoying the celebration to commemorate the King. Susan was raised in a Military environment – her father served 22 years in the Royal Navy, and her grandfather served in the Royal Air Force.

Susan said: "I was delighted my parents were able to attend the tea party. My Dad is now a carer for Mum, and they both made the journey from the Wirral. The Hub is very important for veterans, like my dad, to socialise and avoid isolation."

The Duchess of Edinburgh officially opens UK's first dedicated veterans' orthopaedic centre

The UK's first dedicated Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre at RJAH has officially been opened by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh.



The Duchess was at RJAH for an official visit in April, that saw her unveil a plaque marking the official opening of the pioneering Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre.

The innovative centre was built by local contractor Pave Aways onsite following a £6 million donation from the Headley Court Charity.

Lieutenant Colonel Carl Meyer, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon,

launched the Veterans' Orthopaedic Service back in 2014.

He said: "The official opening of the Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre is a day I have long dreamt about, even before our fundraising appeal launched in October 2018.

"For a number of years, we have talked about veterans being seen in an environment that brings comfort to them and by clinical teams that have an understanding of military personnel and their unique needs. This is now reality, which marks the beginning of a new era of bespoke care for our veteran patients and members of the Armed Forces."

Stacey Keegan, Chief Executive, said: "We were able to take Her Royal Highness around the state-of-the-art building and show the impact these facilities are having on our patients.

"She also met with staff from across the Trust. It was a great day that everyone enjoyed, and we would like to thank The Duchess for taking the time to visit."



Ask others to join

Over 6,500 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.

If you've got anything you think we should be sharing on social media, why not let us know about it?



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

Friends come together to celebrate volunteers at RJAH

From wonderful Ward Friends to Helpdesk heroes, the League of Friends have celebrated their volunteer family at RJAH.

The Friends celebration evening, which took place in the Headley Court Orthopaedic Veterans' Centre at the hospital, returned in full force after a hiatus due to the pandemic.

The event coincided with Volunteers' Week - an annual celebration to recognise the fantastic contribution volunteers make across the UK.

The celebration saw over 60 volunteers gather as the charity said a well-deserved thank you to members of the voluntary services for their hard work and dedication to RJAH over the past few years.

The evening included a welcome address from Charity Director, Victoria Sugden and League of Friends Vice-Chair, Lady Susan Trevor, along with the presentation of two awards – Volunteer of the Year, and Volunteer Team of the Year.



SAND and RJAH working to embrace a culture of inclusion for ageing LGBTQIA+ community

RJAH and Safe Ageing No Discrimination (SAND) have joined together in a bid to support the ageing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, or asexual (LGBTQIA+) community.



RJAH signed a covenant with the charity, committing to understand and respond to the needs of older LGBTQIA+ people in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

Stacey Keegan, Chief Executive, signed the covenant on behalf of the hospital. She said: "I am delighted to have signed SAND's covenant on behalf of the hospital – it's vital we consider and act on the needs of the ageing LGBTQIA+ community."

"The covenant consists of five pledges, which we have committed to at RJAH."