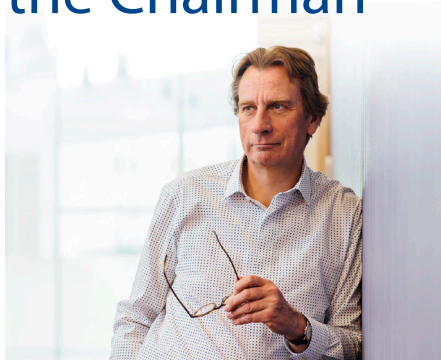


## Message from the Chairman



2020 has been an unprecedented year, not only for the NHS but for the whole of the country and the world. At RJAH, I could not be more proud of the way in which we have fulfilled our two core values of caring for our patients and caring for our staff.

The way our entire workforce responded to the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic is a testament to the NHS. In particular, the determination of everybody at RJAH to do the best they can for our patients irrespective of their own personal fears and anxieties is truly admirable. On top of this, there have been countless examples of staff finding the time to ask their colleagues and friends if they are "ok". A simple gesture but one which is priceless during such a time when many of us faced up to challenges way beyond our experiences.

All of this has made our annual awards even more meaningful. Although we were not able to celebrate our successes at a glitzy function, we were determined to recognise individuals and teams who made a significant contribution throughout the year. Never before have these awards been more deserved and on behalf of the Board of Directors we truly believe that everyone in the Trust deserves recognition for their efforts throughout 2020.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and stay safe.

Best wishes,  
Frank Collins, *Chairman*

## RJAH staff celebrated at awards event with a difference

It's been a year like no other for healthcare staff across the NHS – and that has certainly been no different at RJAH.

Now, some of their hard work in the face of some daunting challenges has been recognised with the presentation of the RJAH Stars awards.

Usually, staff and volunteers at RJAH would be celebrating at the annual Celebration of Achievement Awards, however the constraints of the coronavirus pandemic meant that this event could not go ahead.

Instead, the RJAH Stars 2020 was created – an awards event with a difference with new and creative ways to celebrate staff.

A total of eight awards were presented to individuals and teams highlighting their hard work throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Many of the presentations were made remotely using video technology, in order to ensure social distancing was maintained.

All winners were presented with a certificate and prize organised by the League of Friends with the support from several local businesses.

[You can watch videos of all the winners being presented with their awards here](#)

Award	Winner
<b>Team winners</b>	
Board of Directors Award	Information Team
Outstanding Team Award (clinical)	Theatres
Outstanding Team Award (non-clinical)	Digital Services (IT Team)
Power of Partnership Award	Attend Anywhere Project Team
<b>Individual winners</b>	
Above and Beyond Award	Sharon Long, Operating Department Practitioner
Outstanding Leadership Award	Heather Owen, Powys Ward Manager
Patient Choice Award	Leah Meredith, Healthcare Assistant on Baschurch Day Unit
Unsung Star Award	Mr David Ford, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

# Governors Meeting

Thursday 25 March

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

## Your elected Public Governors

### Shropshire

Colin Chapman / Sue Nassar / Victoria Sugden

### North Wales

Jan Greasley / Martin Coggan

### West Midlands

Russell Luckock

### Cheshire & Merseyside

Katrina Morphet

### Powys

William Greenwood

### Rest of England & Wales

Vacant Position

### Staff Governors

Kate Chaffey / Allen Edwards / Kate Betts

### Stakeholder Governors

*(appointed by organisations that work closely with the Trust)*

Peter David – RJAH Voluntary Services Committee

Cllr Karen Calder – Shropshire Council

Dr Karina Wright – Keele University

## Membership figures

At the end of November 2020 the Membership figures were:

Staff	1174
Public	4834
Volunteers	468
<b>Total</b>	<b>6476</b>

## Governor Profile



### Jan Greasley – Public Governor for North Wales

My tenure as a Governor was due to this Summer but due to the restrictions of covid-19, I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as Lead for a further 12 months. The Governors are a strong team with a wealth of diverse experience. I would not be able to fulfil my role without their support and comradeship.

Due to the limitations, Governors have not been able to have a presence at the hospital since March 2020. The responsibility for holding Non-Executive Directors to account both individually and collectively has continued

via telephone, email and online meetings with the Senior Independent Director, plus the Trust Board and Council of Governors via Microsoft Teams. It has been possible to participate in the appointment process for senior posts and other activities via the same online platform.

Staff at all levels of the Trust have worked smartly; pulling together to change and shape services during the pandemic. As a Freedom to Speak-Up Guardian, I am aware of the difficulties and emotional challenges faced by many. The Governors are rightly proud of staff for maintaining the highest standards of care for our patients as well as looking after each other and we thank them most sincerely for this. The hospital has remained at the forefront of the NHS with an excellent reputation and is working towards returning to normal levels of activity

*Best wishes,*

Jan Greasley, *Lead Governor*

*Image caption: Jan pictured in 2019, the winner of the Governor of the Year Award*

Governors are always pleased to hear from our members and can be contacted by email on [rjah.governors@nhs.net](mailto: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](mailto:rjah.ft@nhs.net) to confirm your attendance and also of any matters you wish to raise.

## Engaging with our Members

Our next Members Surgery will take place on 19 March 2021, 9.30am-12.30pm in the Conference Centre of the main entrance to the hospital.

Representatives from our Council of Governors will be on hand to discuss a number of issues and point you in the right direction to get more information.

The stand in the Main Entrance has been a great success so far and has allowed Governors to engage with more patients and visitors than would otherwise have been possible. Those of you with private matters you want to address can request a private room if necessary.

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



## News from the Trust

### Professor Roberts presented with prestigious medal for vital research

Professor Sally Roberts, who is head of the Spinal Studies and Cartilage Repair Research Group, as well as a Keele University Research Scientist based at RJAH, was awarded the Presidential Medal by the British Orthopaedic Research Society at their annual conference, which was held virtually.

She was awarded the prestigious medal for her contributions to the research of the intervertebral disc and cell based therapies to treat disc degeneration and repair cartilage.



### Virtual London Marathon runners raise thousands for RJAH Charity

Eleven remarkable runners who took part in the first ever virtual 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon collectively raised £15,800 for the RJAH Charity.

To thank the runners, a socially distanced celebration with non-alcoholic prosecco and cake was held at RJAH.

## RJAH nurse presented with Silver CNO Award



A devoted and kind-hearted nurse has hung up her uniform after almost four decades working on the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI).

Helen Silver has cared for thousands of spinal injury patients starting in 1979, and upon her retirement, was presented with the prestigious Silver Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Award.

She was presented the award in a virtual ceremony by Ruth May, Chief Nursing Officer for England at NHS England and NHS Improvement.

The CNO Awards were launched back in 2019 by Ruth and the silver award recognises nurses and midwives who go above and beyond the expectations of the role to support patients and their profession.

Helen said: "Thank you to all the members of staff I've worked alongside and all the patients I've cared for – they are so inspirational and they have kept me going throughout my whole career."

## RJAH patients benefitting from state-of-the-art £1 m hospital scanner

Radiographers at RJAH say patients are benefitting from the brand new MRI scanner, which is part of an investment of over £1 million to replace the eldest of the two scanners.

The new scanner means that RJAH is at the forefront of scanning capability and image quality, especially for those patients with hip and knee replacements.

Eric Hughes, Radiology Services Manager added: "The team are absolutely thrilled with the new scanner, and they're already seeing how much more detailed the images are, which is great for our patients.

"I'd like to thank our Estates department and MRI Radiographers, who have been absolutely brilliant in ensuring the works and installation have run smoothly. They have been fantastic throughout and it wouldn't have been possible without their help and support."







## 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](http://www.rjah.nhs.uk) or for a membership form ring 01691 404394 or email: [rjah.ft@nhs.net](mailto: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](mailto:rjah.governors@nhs.net)

# Horatio's Garden brought indoors thanks to vibrant wall murals

Plain, white walls in the bays and side-rooms of spinal cord injury patients at RJAH have been transformed to a view of the outdoors, thanks to the installation of beautiful murals of Horatio's Garden.

The majority of patient rooms and bays on Gladstone Ward – the rehabilitation ward on the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI) – have a view looking out onto the garden. However, until recently there were a small number without a view of it but that has all changed, thanks to the murals.

The murals were the brainchild of Kate Betts, Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Technician on MCSI and Staff Governor.

Kate looked into what options would work best – and it was decided that a vinyl wall mural would be the way forward. However, with no high definition images of the garden available, Kate called upon the skills of Nia Pritchard, one of the hospital's Medical Photographers.

Kate said: "I'm so pleased with how the murals look and our patients in the bays and side-rooms have all commented on how fantastic they look, so it's already making a positive difference to them."



## RJAH patient Lottie crowned regional winner in NHS Parliamentary Awards

Lottie O'Byrne, a patient at RJAH, has been selected as a regional winner in the prestigious NHS Parliamentary Awards for her support with providing care packages for children and young people who have undergone spinal fusion surgery – a procedure she had herself back in October 2018.

The 19-year-old, who was diagnosed with scoliosis, has been recognised in the NHS Rising Star Award category, which aims to celebrate those who are under 30 years old who give up their time, lend their experiences and deliver better services for themselves and others in their area.

She has been named as a regional winner for the Midlands, and will now go forward to the national finals, with overall winners being announced next year.

Lottie said: "I am so excited to have been chosen as the regional winner in the NHS Rising Star category."

"Recovering from spinal fusion surgery is so challenging – both physically and mentally – and involves learning to do basic things again such as sitting, standing and walking."

"I wanted to do everything I could to help other patients, so decided to set up Smiles for Scoliosis and create care packages as I know first-hand that it's a really difficult time and having little thoughtful gifts will help lift the spirits of both the patient and their families."

The NHS Parliamentary Awards see MPs and NHS leaders join forces to honour health and care staff who have helped to improve treatment for patients.