

## Message from the Chairman



This edition of Connect is paying rightful recognition to the heritage and history of our hospital. As we take the opportunity to reflect on our successes and challenges over the years, it is also important to take time to consider the here and now, and the future.

Once again, I'm proud to use this newsletter to acknowledge the great work that all of our staff do particularly in the current ongoing times of challenge.

There is little doubt that we are still at the foothills of the mountain of recovery which will take many years, but I have every confidence, that as we take a moment or two to reflect on the past, we also share a determination to continue to provide superb care to our patients for many decades to come.

Best wishes,  
Frank Collins, *Chairman*

## RJAH celebrates 100-year anniversary

Thursday 5 August 2021 marked 100 years to the day since RJAH relocated to its famous Gobowen base – and the anniversary was marked by a special burial ceremony of a time capsule, as well as a swinging sixties-themed festival.

The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, then known as the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital, was officially opened on 5 August 1921 by Margaret Cambridge, Marchioness of Cambridge in the presence of its founders Sir Robert Jones and Dame Agnes Hunt.

It came after they secured funding to move from their original site in Baschurch, which had been known as the Shropshire Surgical Home and Auxiliary Military Orthopaedic Hospital.

The League of Friends, with support from Marie Carter, the Trust's Archive Officer, created the time capsule which included photos from over the past 100 years, video messages from current members of staff, and newspaper cuttings, as well as a brick that was used to build the original hospital site in Baschurch.

The League of Friends also supported celebrations by organising Festival on the Field, alongside Shropshire Festivals, which took place on Saturday 7 August.

The daytime saw a family-friendly event involving live music, craft stalls, food and drink and children's entertainment. During the evening there was a swinging-sixties themed disco for adults to enjoy. The festival was a huge hit with over 1,000 people attending throughout the day.

A special church service, taking place in Baschurch in October, will be concluding celebrations for this milestone year.



# Governors Meeting

25 November 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](mailto: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

### West Midlands

Russell Luckock (to 29 January 2022)

### 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)*

Peter David – RJAHS Voluntary Services Committee

Simon Jones – Shropshire Council

Dr Karina Wright – Keele University

## Membership figures

At the end of August 2021 the Membership figures were:

Staff	1185
Public	4895
Volunteers	464
<b>Total</b>	<b>6544</b>

# Governor Profile

## Introducing new Lead Governor



William Greenwood –  
Public Governor for Powys

William Greenwood, Public Governor for Powys, took up the Lead Governor role on 1 August after being part of the Council of Governors at the Trust since 2019.

William is Chief Executive and Company Secretary at Cheshire Local Medical Committee. After a 44-year stint, he retired from the NHS in 2008 having held numerous senior posts including Chief Officer, Executive Director, Finance Manager and Operations Manager in various healthcare organisations.

He lives near the Welsh village of Llansilin, Powys in a former dairy situated in a large garden, with his family and a menagerie of animals.

William holds a number of other voluntary roles including strategic business advisor and governing board member at Primary Care Commissioning CIC, an independent, not-for-profit social enterprise that supports the development of health and care services, and Chairman of Cambrian Medical Centre Patient Participation Group in Oswestry. He has also undertaken a variety of voluntary roles within the hospice sector and church-based organisations.

*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 Governors will next be outside the Main Entrance on Tuesday 14 December 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

### Team RJAH gear up for London Marathon

Sixteen fantastic runners are currently gearing up to run the 2021 Virgin Money London Marathon which is taking place on Sunday 3 October.

As well as taking part in the iconic race, all runners have pledged to raise a minimum of £1,500 for the RJAH Charity to support the funding of state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

Victoria Sugden, RJAH Charity representative, said: *"The efforts of our runners will raise vital funds to enhance care for our patients – we couldn't do this without our loyal fundraisers, and we are extremely grateful for their support."*

[You can donate to our marathon fundraising via JustGiving.](#)

If you are interested in organising or taking part in a fundraising event to raise money for the RJAH Charity, please email [rjah.fundraising@nhs.net](mailto:rjah.fundraising@nhs.net).

### RJAH heroes join The Duke of Cambridge at Buckingham Palace

Three members of staff attended a special afternoon tea at Buckingham Palace on Monday 5 July to celebrate the 73rd birthday of the NHS.

The event was organised as a thank you to NHS staff for their incredible work when tackling the covid-19 pandemic and it was hosted by The Duke of Cambridge in the Palace gardens.

Hayley Gingell, Infection Prevention Control Governance Lead; Joely Heighway, Occupational Therapist; and Ronnie Taylor, Healthcare Support Worker; were nominated to attend the event.

## New Non-Executive Directors join Board of Directors

Experienced chartered accountants Alison Tumilty and Sarfraz Nawaz have been appointed to RJAH as Non-Executive Director and Associate Non-Executive Director, respectively.



Alison, who is Chair at Rochdale Boroughwide Housing and has previously held Non-Executive Director roles in healthcare, has replaced Non-Executive Director David Gilbert, who has completed the maximum two full terms of office.

Sarfraz is the Director of Finance and Procurement for Ofwat, the regulator for the water industry in England and Wales. He has also held several financial leadership roles across the public sector including the NHS and Coventry City Council.

Alison joined the Board on Wednesday 1 September, and Sarfraz will be starting on Friday 1 October.

## Surgeon appointed as Professor in Regenerative Orthopaedics

A Consultant Professor in Regenerative Orthopaedics has been appointed by RJAH and Keele University.

Professor Martyn Snow, a Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, will be teaming up and supported by colleagues working in the Knee team, as well as those working within Research and the Oscell Laboratory team. Oscell is a cell therapy service within the John Charnley Laboratory at RJAH.

Professor Snow said: *"I am delighted to be joining this fantastic team and organisation. Further increasing the research portfolio at RJAH will improve patient care and I look forward to being a part of this work."*





## 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.

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](mailto:rjah.governors@nhs.net)

## RJAH apprentices hailed as Unsung Heroes

Two hard-working administrators are celebrating after being shortlisted in the Apprentice of the Year category in the national Unsung Hero Awards.

Maisie Bunn, Administrative Apprentice on the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI); and Millie Gregory, Theatre Administrative Assistant; are both up for the prize after they were nominated by colleagues for going above and beyond their call of duty.

The Unsung Hero Awards are the only awards that celebrate the work non-medical and non-clinical NHS staff and volunteers do daily.

The Unsung Hero Award winners will be announced during a ceremony taking place in November.

## MCSI patients' part of wheelchair rugby team who go for gold at Paralympics

The 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo saw the Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby Team win the first-ever team sport gold medal for GB in the 61-year history of the Games – and part of this winning team were four patients from the Midland Centre for Spinal Injuries (MCSI) at RJAH.

Coach Paul Shaw and Assistant Coach Darren Matthews are part of the coaching staff, alongside players Jim Roberts and Ryan Cowling.

Paul said: "I first came to MCSI in November 1991 after sustaining my spinal cord injury, and that's when wheelchair rugby became a passion of mine. In 1995, I first represented GB and continued to play until 2008. I then turned my skills to coaching and became Head Coach of the GB team in 2013.

"As well as the euphoria of winning the gold medal, the final whistle was also a hugely emotional moment for everyone who has been part of our incredible journey.

"We had a lot of support from our families, friends, club mates, fundraisers, sponsors, and many more. We wanted to give back to everyone and I am so proud of the team for becoming wheelchair rugby Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medal winners."

Team GB played the Paralympic final against the USA, winning 54-49. Jim, who is also team captain and originally from Welshpool, led the way by scoring 24 tries.

