

Message from the Chairman

First of all, I am delighted to say that we have completed the build of our Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre, and it is now open to patients. We had a wonderful 'soft launch' on Remembrance Day.

The building will make a huge difference to our veteran and serving personnel patients, who deserve the very best standards of care. I must also again thank The Headley Court Charity for their immense support in what we are setting out to achieve.

As a Board of Directors, we are fully committed to doing all we can to make a difference during the current cost of living crisis. Our staff do fantastic things for our patients, day in day out, and it's important we look after them during what is a challenge time for everybody.

I must finish, as ever, by thanking our staff for their hard work – especially as we go into what is sure to be another hectic winter for the NHS. We continue to work closely with our partners in the local health and care system to address our challenges.

All that remains is for me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we will see you in 2023!

Best wishes,



Harry Turner, *Chairman*



UK's first dedicated centre for veteran orthopaedic care officially open for business at RJAH

Healthcare provision for veteran patients has taken a momentous leap forward after a special ribbon cutting event took place at RJAH - celebrating the UK's first dedicated orthopaedic centre for veterans being officially open for business.

The pioneering Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre following a £6 million donation from the Headley Court Charity.

To symbolise the exciting beginning of a new era for care for veterans, the ribbon was cut by Anna Turner JP, Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire; Air Vice Marshal Anthony J. Stables, Chair of the Headley Court Charity; and Michael Debens, Trustee of the Headley Court Charity.

As the ribbon was cut, a guard of honour was led by Lieutenant Colonel Carl Meyer, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, and Rebecca Warren, Vaccination Service Operational Manager. Both Carl and Rebecca are serving reservists in 202 Field Hospital.

The soft launch opening ribbon cutting event followed a special Remembrance Day Service outside the state-of-the-art building.

A small number of local dignitaries and supporters of the project gathered to mark this momentous occasion.

The £6 million two-storey building features nine standard examination and clinic rooms, an enhanced treatment room for minor outpatient procedures, an assessment room, a splinting and therapy room, as well as clinic space for virtual appointments.

In the main entrance of the building, there is a café and dedicated Veterans' Hub where Shropshire Council and various military charities will provide support to veteran patients and their family and friends.

Pictured - Members of RJAH staff outside the new building with Air Vice Marshal Anthony J. Stables, Chair of the Headley Court Charity; Michael Debens, Trustee of the Headley Court Charity; Anna Turner JP, Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire; Stacey Keegan, RJAH Chief Executive; and Lieutenant Colonel Carl Meyer, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Clinical Lead for the Veterans' Orthopaedic Service and Staff Reservist.

Governors Meetings

8 March 2023

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 / Nikki Kuiper / Martin Bennett

North Wales
Colette Gribble / Shelia Hughes

West Midlands
Tony Wright

Cheshire & Merseyside
Katrina Morphet

Powys
William Greenwood (Lead Governor)

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 – RJAHS Voluntary Services Committee
Councillor Simon Jones – Shropshire Council
Dr Karina Wright – Keele University

Membership figures

At the end of November 2022 the Membership figures were:

Staff	1184
Public	4840
Volunteers	426
Total	6450

Message from William Greenwood Lead Governor



As we approach this busy time of year for RJAHS, I thought I would reflect on some of our work in 2022.

In the last year we welcomed Colette Gribble, Simon Jones, Phil White and Tony Wright as new governors to RJAHS. In the most recent elections, Nikki Kuiper, Martin Bennett and Sheila Hughes joined us. We also said a fond farewell to some experienced and hardworking governor colleagues including Peter David, Sue Nassar, and our former lead governor of many years, Jan Greasley.

We welcomed the opportunity to return to physical Council of Governor and Trust Board meetings. We have been able to undertake patient safety visits to wards and departments, held governor surgeries in the main foyer, and attended Trust sub-committees as observers. Our involvement included interview panels to appoint a new Chair and Non-Executive members of the Board and observing meetings with the new Integrated Care Board for Shropshire, Telford, and Wrekin. In this respect, our role has changed somewhat in relation to partnership working.

Seen by many as the jewel in the crown is the development of the new Headley Court Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre in 2022, however nothing quite compares with the outstanding and continuous effort of all our staff at RJAHS, without whom, we could never reach our aspiration to deliver world class services to all our patients and their families. On behalf of all the governors, past and present, it is my absolute honour to say thank you to you all.

Pictured are some of the members of the Council of Governors – Shelia Hughes, Kate Betts, Victoria Sugden, Colin Chapman, Colette Gribble, Martin Bennett, Nikki Kuiper, Tony Wright and Karina Wright.

Engaging with our Members



Our Governors will next be in the Main Entrance on Wednesday 15 March 2023.

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

Dame Agnes Hunt Nursing Medal awarded to dedicated cancer nurse

Pip Page-Davies, Oncology Specialist Nurse, has been presented with the prestigious Dame Agnes Hunt Nursing Medal after being described as an *“asset to both her team, the hospital and the wider nursing community”*.

Pip was nominated by Geraint Davies, Consultant Allied Health Professional and Lead Cancer Practitioner, who said: *“Pip has given her all to the Trust, and over the last 15 months, she fulfilled her career-long ambition of becoming a Clinical Nurse Specialist.”*

Young competition winner’s t-shirt design has Pride of place at RJAH

A young teen from Oswestry who was selected as the winner of a Pride-themed T-shirt competition at RJAH has now seen their design brought to life.

To celebrate Pride Month, back in June, the RJAH held a design competition where the children of staff were encouraged to design Pride-themed t-shirts. The winning design was inspired by a pride of lions, the strength a pride has, and how they work together to achieve success.

Charitable funds support spinal injury patients’ rehabilitation

For patients with a spinal cord injury, community reintegration is a key part of their rehabilitation – this has just been made easier thanks to the support of charitable funds.



The League of Friends and RJAH Charity have jointly funded the purchase of a new wheelchair accessible vehicle, which cost in excess of £37,000, for the benefit of spinal injury patients at the Oswestry-based hospital.

Benefits of access to a wheelchair accessible vehicle include staff transporting patients with an improved quality of journey to and

from their home, work, and school. These visits are required to ensure the safe and good quality discharge from hospital to home after a life changing spinal cord injury.

As part of the rehabilitation programme, integration back into the community is encouraged prior to discharge home – this may include trips to local shopping centres, garden centres or to sporting venues, where wheelchair sports activities can be trialled.

Pictured – from left to right is Victoria Sugden, Charity Director; Julie Smith, Spinal Therapy Lead; Louisa Lindsay-Jones, Occupational Therapist; patient Riley Jarvis and his dad Rhys; Stacey Keegan, Chief Executive; and Harry Turner, Chair; with the new vehicle.

Bikers ‘Chase the Sun’ to raise funds for Alice Ward Garden appeal at RJAH

A group of intrepid cyclists took on endurance cycling event called Chase the Sun, raising over £13,000 for RJAH’s current fundraising appeal – Garden for Alice.

The hospital launched the Garden for Alice appeal earlier in the year, with the aim of create a stunning outdoor garden for paediatric patients and their families.

Funding is needed to enhance the current garden area to ensure it is inclusive for all the children RJAH cares for, while being accessible throughout the day and during the evening.

If you would like to make a donation you can do so by visiting the dedicated JustGiving campaign: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/gardenforalice>

Pictured – The Nova Raiders; Suzanne Marsden, Alice Ward Manager; and Victoria Sugden, Charity Director, alongside Alice Ward patients Yasmin and Riley.





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 @RJA_HNS.

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

Double delight as RJAH wins twice at NOA Awards

RJAH is in the spotlight – after being hailed as winners at the prestigious National Orthopaedic Alliance (NOA) Excellence in Orthopaedics Awards.

The inaugural Excellence in Orthopaedics Awards aims to celebrate those who have distinguished themselves in showing commitment to orthopaedics, both clinically and non-clinically, across the country.

The hospital's Green Plan won the Working Towards Net Zero – Greener NHS Award. The Green Plan outlines how the organisation can care for patients, staff and finances in the most sustainable way.

The second winner was the Path of Positivity in the Staff Wellbeing Initiative category. It was built on the hospital field in 2021, following an idea first put forward by Kate Betts, Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Technician.

Breakfast boost for hospital staff as part of cost-of-living support



Free breakfasts are now on the menu for all staff at RJAH – as part of a new package of cost-of-living measures.

The hospital is also serving up main meals at £2 – almost half the cost of the usual already-subsidised price for staff.

Both offers were launched as the whole country has been hit by a perfect storm of raging inflation and spiralling interest rates that have hit the value of the pound in our pockets.

The breakfast offer allows staff to choose between a bowl of porridge or two slices of toast with butter. The main meals 'winter warmer' deal runs on a four-week rolling menu with two options each day – a meat dish or plant-based alternative.

Free tea and coffee has also been made available for all wards and departments, as well as squash for those who do not like hot drinks.

Olivia Evans, Improvement Lead and part of the cost of living working group, said: "It has been a real honour to work on this project and see what we can do to support our staff in these tough times.

"We asked staff how they were coping and there were some harrowing stories, so it is so good that we have been able to find a way to make a small difference. RJAH is a real family, and I think it's important that you look after your own."

Pictured – Alex Mendez, Catering Assistant; serving Olivia Evans, Improvement Lead; and Karl McGuire, Healthcare Assistant; free toast and porridge at breakfast.