

Message from the Chairman



At the time of writing this message, we have now opened our brand-new theatre – this is a significant step forward in our efforts to reduce waiting times and improve access to care for our patients. This facility will play a key role in helping us meet government targets on elective recovery in the months ahead.

Across the wider NHS, we're seeing major structural changes as NHS England transfers its functions to the Department of Health and Social Care. Here at RJA, we stand ready to respond to both the challenges and opportunities this shift presents, and we are already scanning the horizon to identify how we can make the most of them.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you and farewell to Craig Macbeth, who is retiring after many years of dedicated service. His contribution has been invaluable, and he leaves with our best wishes.

We are delighted to welcome Angela Mulholland-Wells to the Trust as our new Chief Finance and Commercial Officer. Angela brings with her a strong commercial background, and we look forward to working with her to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the organisation.

Comedian Harry Hill helps open new therapeutic garden for young patients

A new outdoor therapeutic garden has officially opened at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, offering a safe, inclusive, and calming space for young patients and their families.

Garden for Alice, located outside Alice Ward, the hospital's dedicated children's unit, was unveiled on Thursday 8 May during a special ceremony attended by comedian Harry Hill, Anna Turner JP, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, and Stacey Keegan, Chief Executive.

The garden has been designed to enhance the wellbeing and recovery of young patients, featuring therapeutic zones such as a bespoke garden room for year-round use, a rain garden, vegetable patch, woodland walk, and areas for rehabilitation, learning and play. Tranquil spaces also provide opportunities to relax and connect with nature.

The £240,000 project was made possible thanks to a successful fundraising appeal led by the RJA Charity, launched in 2022. Initial designs came from student landscape architect Olivia Copley, with Awscape Landscape Architects delivering the final plans.

A touching tribute within the garden is a newly planted apple tree, dedicated to Maggie Barnes, a beloved teacher remembered fondly by many.



Governors Meetings

10 July 2024
25 November 2024
12 March 2025

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

Your elected Public Governors

Shropshire
Victoria Sugden (Lead) / Colin Chapman / Vacant

North Wales
Shelia Hughes / Jan Greasley

West Midlands
Tony Wright

Cheshire & Merseyside
Neil Turner

Powys
Vacant

Rest of England & Wales
Russell Luckock

Staff Governors
Allen Edwards / Kate Betts / Nicki Bellinger

Stakeholder Governors
(appointed by organisations that work closely with the Trust)
Peter David – RJAH Voluntary Services Committee
Vacant – Shropshire Council
Karina Wright – Keele University

Membership figures

At the end of March 2025, the membership figures were:

Staff	1372
Volunteers	410
Public	5219
Total	7001

Governor Profile

Jan Greasley

Public Governor for North Wales



"I have always been passionate about the NHS. I started my 40-year NHS career at RJAH as a student nurse, before qualifying as a Registered General Nurse at Wrexham Group Hospitals. I returned to RJAH as a Ward Sister and held several clinical and managerial positions before specialising in health service quality."

"Upon retirement I enjoyed the maximum eight-year term as a Welsh Assembly Government appointed volunteer member of the former North Wales Community Health Council. This experience allowed me to be conversant with the needs and challenges of the health provision across North Wales."

"Since 2021 I've been a Trustee with the hospital's League of Friends, and have returned to the Council of Governors, having previously held roles including former Lead Governor and Freedom to Speak Up Guardian, my motivation is to ensure patients and staff are the front and centre of everything we do at RJAH."

"Other than my interest in health, I'm an instructor with a professional dog training club, and enjoy walking and gardening."

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.

Charity update

Voting is now open for our **Volunteer Awards Evening!**

It's time to celebrate the amazing volunteers who make such a difference every day.

The two award categories are:

1 Volunteer of the Year – recognising an individual who has gone above and beyond.

2 Volunteer Team of the Year – celebrating an outstanding team effort.

Whether it's someone who always goes the extra mile or a team that embodies the spirit of volunteering, now's your chance to give them the recognition they deserve.

Cast your vote now by clicking here and help us shine a spotlight on our wonderful volunteers. 

Voting closes on Wednesday 28 May, so don't miss your chance to have your say.

Get active with **20Thrive** and support RJA

RJA Charity has launched 20Thrive – an exciting new fundraising initiative encouraging people of all abilities to take on a fitness challenge in 2025.

Whether it's running, cycling, swimming, or another activity, every effort helps support patients and staff at RJA.

The charity is also a proud partner of the Chirk 10k, taking place on 13 July.

To join in and make a difference, contact the RJA Charity team:
rja.fundraising@nhs.net
01691 404401 or 404588



News from the Trust

Patient support app marks milestone with **10,000 patients registered**

Myrecovery, an app which aims to support patients through their orthopaedic care, reached a major milestone, with 10,000 patients being registered on the app.

The app, which was developed by surgeons to support patients to prepare for and recover from surgery, first launched at RJA in September 2022 for foot and ankle patients.

It has since been rolled out to patients under the care of arthroplasty, sports injuries and upper limb specialities, as well as musculoskeletal patients who are registered with a GP in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

For more about myrecovery, click here to visit the RJA website. 



RJA hailed as exemplar for **Cleaning Services**

The Trust has been chosen to join the NHS Exemplar Trusts Programme in Cleaning for recognition of the efforts and dedication in maintaining high cleaning standards.

To receive this accolade, the Facilities Team were required to submit an application, providing evidence against a checklist of criteria outlined by NHS England, as well as a site visit from a team of representatives.

Being an Exemplar Trust means the Cleanliness Team will work closely with Exemplar Trusts and the NHS England Team to drive continuous improvement and innovation. This could involve piloting new initiatives or providing feedback on guidance.



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 RJAHS 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 13,000 followers.

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



You can also find us on X and Instagram at @RJAHS_NHS



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

RJAHS triumphs with four finalists in prestigious NOA Awards

RJAHS has been named a finalist in four categories at the 2025 National Orthopaedic Alliance (NOA) Excellence in Orthopaedics Awards, recognising innovation and collaboration in orthopaedic care.

Shortlisted initiatives include OurSpace, the Trust's staff wellbeing portal, in the Workforce Initiatives category, and Operation Lazurite - a partnership with the Ministry of Defence supporting Afghan families in Shropshire - in the Partnerships and Integration Initiative category.

Two projects are finalists in the Supporting Patients on their Pathway category: a paediatric pre-admission service enhancing children's surgical experiences, and the Assistive Technology Service, which empowers spinal cord injury patients to use smart devices.

Stacey Keegan, Chief Executive, said: "It's great to see so many fantastic initiatives in the Trust shortlisted in the NOA Excellence in Orthopaedics Awards - they are all so deserving."

Winners will be announced at the NOA Members Conference on Thursday 15 May.

New minor diabetic foot service launched at RJAHS in collaboration with SaTH

A new minor diabetic foot service has been launched at RJAHS, following two successful pilots.

The service, in partnership with The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), provides essential surgical intervention for diabetic patients with tendon-related foot conditions, such as claw and hammer toes.

The service focuses on minor procedures, like toe tenotomies, to prevent the progression of foot deformities that can lead to serious complications, including ulcers and infections. This is especially important in Shropshire, which has one of the highest amputation rates in the UK.

Developed by Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons Ms Catriona Heaver and Mr Chris Marquis, the service offers timely interventions in a day case setting, improving long-term outcomes for diabetic patients. The collaboration with SaTH ensures a smooth, patient-centred approach, using best practices from existing hand surgery pathways.

The new service has received positive feedback from patients who have already undergone procedures and is seen as an important step in providing preventative care and reducing the risk of serious complications for diabetic patients.

The launch of the service represents a significant development in diabetic foot care in the region, reflecting a commitment to improving patient outcomes.

By offering these minor procedures, the service helps reduce the severity of foot deformities, heal wounds, and prevent ulcer reoccurrence, providing critical support for those with diabetes.

