

Autumn 2022

NHS

Medway

NHS Foundation Trust

news



Medway



How MeFit saved my life



Best of care
Best of people

Inside:

- 'One stop shop' for patients with learning disabilities
- Charities unite for Summer Fun Day

Preparing for a challenging winter ahead

Welcome to the latest issue of News@Medway. I was deeply saddened to hear the news of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's passing. The Queen was a constant presence in changing times, and I found her to be an inspiration through her devotion to duty. May she rest in peace.

It doesn't seem like very long ago that we were enjoying warm sunny days, but we are now rapidly approaching a winter that is likely to be a difficult one.

Ensuring that we are fully prepared for a challenging winter and the increased demand for care that comes with colder weather, is something that our colleagues across the organisation have been working towards for much of the year.

Through our Patient First programme

and close relationship with system partners, we are working to ensure that we can really maximise safe discharge through the hospital; this will not only improve patient experience but free up beds, giving us more capacity for the increase in admissions we will inevitably see. In this issue, you will hear more about the work that has been taking place to ensure we are prepared for winter.

We are lucky to have fantastic support from our community and we have been grateful for the patience you have shown when facing longer than usual waits over recent months – we are doing everything we can to minimise these waits.

You have a really important role to play in helping us to manage winter pressures. By ensuring that you

choose the best place for your care (it's not always our Emergency Department) and by having your COVID-19 booster and flu vaccination if you are eligible, you can help ensure that our services are protected for those who most need them.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful staff across the organisation; their passion and commitment to our patients inspires me every day. They have a tough few months ahead, but I know they will rise to the challenge and ensure that our community receives the very best care.

Jayne

Jayne Black, Chief Executive

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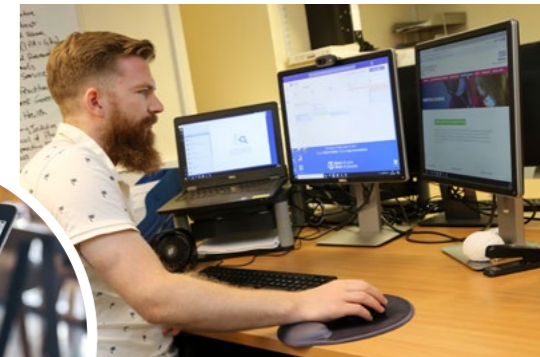
Email: communications.medwayft@nhs.net

Website is one-stop-shop for research

A new website dedicated to the work of the Trust's Research and Innovation Team has been launched.

Created as a one-stop shop for patients, the public, the healthcare industry and staff, visitors to the site can find information about the department and team, how to contact them, the research process, how people can get involved with research, plus the latest news. It also features a training section for staff.

Daniel Baddeley-White, Senior Research and Innovation Project Facilitator, said: "Some large-scale national and international projects provide funding to healthcare centres that conduct studies on their behalf. Due to the hard work of the department, we were able to pay for a website, which, we hope, will generate a better



understanding and more interest in the research undertaken at Medway NHS Foundation Trust."

You can view the website by clicking on the following link <https://medwayresearchandinnovation.co.uk>

Show your support for cancer charity

Wondering what to do with your old bras?

A bra bank is now located in the reception area of the Breast Care Unit for people to drop their new, used or surplus bras into in aid of the charity Against Breast Cancer.

For more information, visit www.againstbreastcancer.org.uk



Living with COVID-19

Keeping our patients, staff and visitors safe from COVID-19 is still our top priority and the reason why we keep our safety measures under constant review.

Although we have relaxed some of our rules, please remember that disposable face masks must still be worn by patients and visitors in all clinical areas. This includes all wards, the Emergency Department, outpatients and the MedOCC area.

You should not enter the hospital if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

For our latest visitor policy, please visit the home page of our website www.medway.nhs.uk

National recognition for Trust's data audits

For the third consecutive year, the Trust has been awarded a National Joint Registry (NJR) Quality Data Provider certificate.

The certificate scheme was introduced to offer hospitals a blueprint for reaching high quality standards relating to patient safety and to reward those who have met registry targets.

• Pictured: Nicola Spearpoint, Clinical Audit and QI Facilitator with colleagues Mr Rajesh Bawale and Mr Abhijit Dey, Trauma and Orthopaedic Consultants





Giving the gift of life



Thanks to the generosity of 11 donors and their families, 26 patients were able to receive transplants facilitated by the Trust in 2021/2022.

Dr Gill Fargher, Chair of the Trust's Organ and Tissue Donation Committee said:

"The gifts that these donors have made has ensured that a number of desperately ill people in need of life saving or life transforming transplants have been able to receive the treatment that they need.

"I would like to thank these donors and their families for the selfless actions during a time of considerable grief and loss. The benefits to the recipients of the organs, their families and to society in general are immeasurable."

One donor can save up to nine lives from organ donation, and even more by donating tissue. Nationally more than 7,000 people are currently waiting for a transplant. Last year around 1,500 donations took place and with less than one per cent of people dying in circumstances where they could donate, every donation is precious.

You can choose, at any time, whether you want to be an organ and tissue donor when you die. Talk about it with your family and friends so that they know your decision and you know theirs.

It's important to share your decision because families will always be involved before organ and tissue donation goes ahead and will be expected to support the decision you make. Families find it easier to support organ donation when they already know what their relative wanted.

You can record or amend your organ donation decision in the following ways:

- At www.organdonation.nhs.uk
- Via the NHS App in England
- By calling 0300 123 23 23.



Winter is coming: help us care for you

This winter the Trust will be ready to help patients across Medway and Swale in times of need, but there are important things we should all do to take care of ourselves and stay well, particularly as we learn to live with the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

Staff at the Trust have been working hard with system partners to develop a comprehensive winter plan to address the challenges ahead. This builds on lessons that have been learnt from last winter and previous waves of the pandemic, to ensure we are prepared for a potential surge of patients.

But we can't do it alone and as a member of our community, you can help us, while we care for you. We know that:

- If you get flu and COVID-19 at the same time, research shows you're more likely to be seriously ill
- More people are likely to get flu this winter as fewer people will have built up natural immunity to it during the pandemic

- Getting vaccinated against flu and COVID-19 will provide protection for you and those around you for both these serious illnesses.

There are two booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine you may be able to get and if you have not had a booster dose yet, you're still eligible and can book anytime.

Meanwhile the flu vaccine is a safe and effective and is offered every year on the NHS to help protect people at risk of getting seriously ill. The best time to have the flu vaccine is in the autumn or early winter before flu starts spreading, but you can get the vaccine later. If you've had COVID-19, it's safe to have the flu vaccine. It will still be effective at helping to prevent flu.

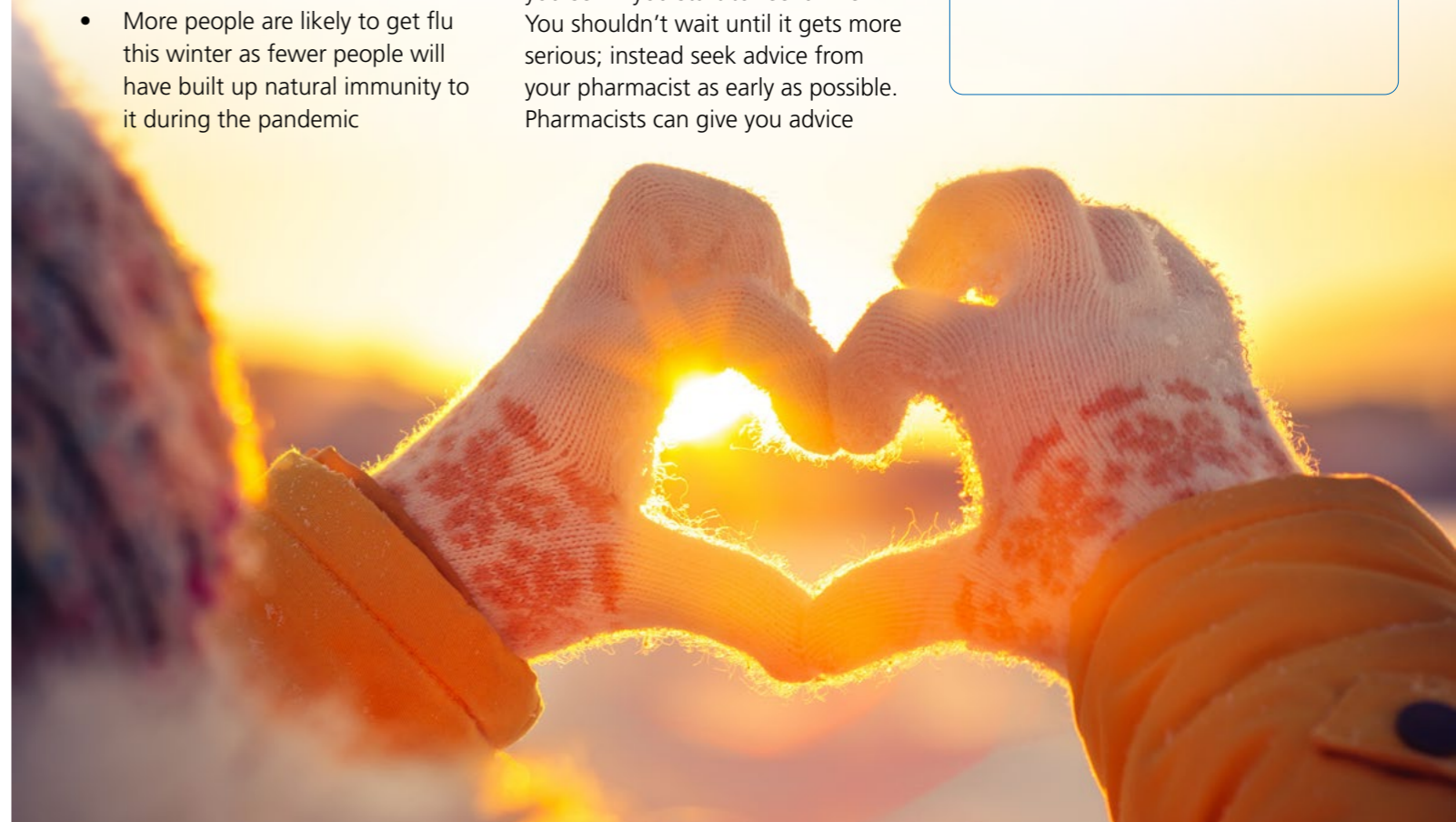
During winter and periods of cold weather it's important to look after yourself if you start to feel unwell. You shouldn't wait until it gets more serious; instead seek advice from your pharmacist as early as possible. Pharmacists can give you advice

about winter illnesses, including which medicines to take.

Finally, we would like to remind you about the current visiting measures in place at Medway Maritime Hospital which ensure the protection of patients and staff. These include wearing a mask while in clinical areas such as wards; washing your hands regularly, or using hand gel; and not entering the hospital if you have COVID-19 symptoms, unless you require urgent medical care.

Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us care for you this winter.

Click for more information:



How hospital's MeFit saved my life

By Hayley Pierre

When Stephen Mortimer was referred for prehabilitation for surgery, little did he know that it would have such an amazing impact.

Medway's Prehabilitation Service, known as MeFit, supports patients to improve their health before surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy as well as after their operation or cancer treatment. The aim is to prepare patients for the challenges of therapy, reduce the risk of postoperative complications and help patients recover quickly after surgery.

Thanks to the tests he underwent, not only was a 'silent killer' health issue picked up before he underwent two operations in three months, Stephen also made some lifestyle changes that benefitted his health after he was given exercise plans, nutritional guidance, and strategies to help improve his overall fitness.

The 59-year-old, from Gillingham, said: "I underwent a complete set of tests including body mass, strength,

blood pressure, blood tests, lung capacity, measurements and a Cardio Pulmonary Exercise Test (CPET). I was placed on an exercise bike to check my overall level of fitness and my diet was analysed.

"The staff were excellent and supportive, and they explained everything clearly. Unfortunately the first set of tests revealed I had high blood pressure so my first surgery was placed on hold and I was referred to my GP who put me on tablets to lower it.

"It really has transformed my life for the better."

Once the surgery was rescheduled I was given some simple exercises to help me lose weight and become fitter before the operation. I also had weekly virtual support meetings, and I was provided with exercises to do after the surgery to help with my recovery.

"It really has transformed my life for the better. I've cut out processed food and I eat more fish and vegetables. I

also joined a gym and I now exercise regularly. As a result I've lost weight and I understand the impact both diet and exercise have on my mental health and wellbeing.

"MeFit not only helped me before and after my operations, it saved my life."

MeFit facts:

- MeFit was launched in August 2020
- It is led by consultant anaesthetists Dr Manisha Shah and Dr Chee Chu
- The team is made up of exercise physiologists, a dietician, diabetes nurse, pharmacist and a psychiatrist to support mental wellbeing.

Latest figures:

- 107 prehabilitation patients had major cancer surgery
- 51 patients had specialist mental wellbeing clinic support
- 62 patients received advice from a specialist dietician
- Length of hospital stay after major surgery is reduced from 7.15 to 6.45 days
- Same day cancellations for major surgery is reduced from 5 per cent to 1.9 per cent
- 98 per cent of the patients felt that service helped them prepare physically and mentally for big surgery.

• Pictured: Dr Chee Chu, patient Stephen, Sam Lovage, Clinical Exercise Physiologist and Dr Manisha Shah.



New breast screening machine for Medway and Swale women

Thanks to generous donations from the public, Medway NHS Foundation Trust, The Medway Hospital Charity and the Medway League of Friends have been able to fund the purchase of a new Tomosynthesis machine for Breast Care Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital.

Tomosynthesis is a special type of mammogram that is used as a screening tool for early detection of breast cancer by creating a high definition 3D image of the breast. In contrast to a traditional mammogram, which produces a two-dimensional image, the more detailed three-dimensional image produced by the Tomosynthesis machine is clearer and more detailed.

This means that small tumours can be more easily spotted when it is reviewed by cancer specialists. The extra detail also means that detection can be earlier and fewer additional tests will normally be needed.

Medway breast screening screens 100,000 patients every three years from age 47-73 years. Mammography screening aims to decrease breast cancer deaths by detecting cancers when they are small and at an earlier stage compared to cancer diagnosed following presentation with symptoms.

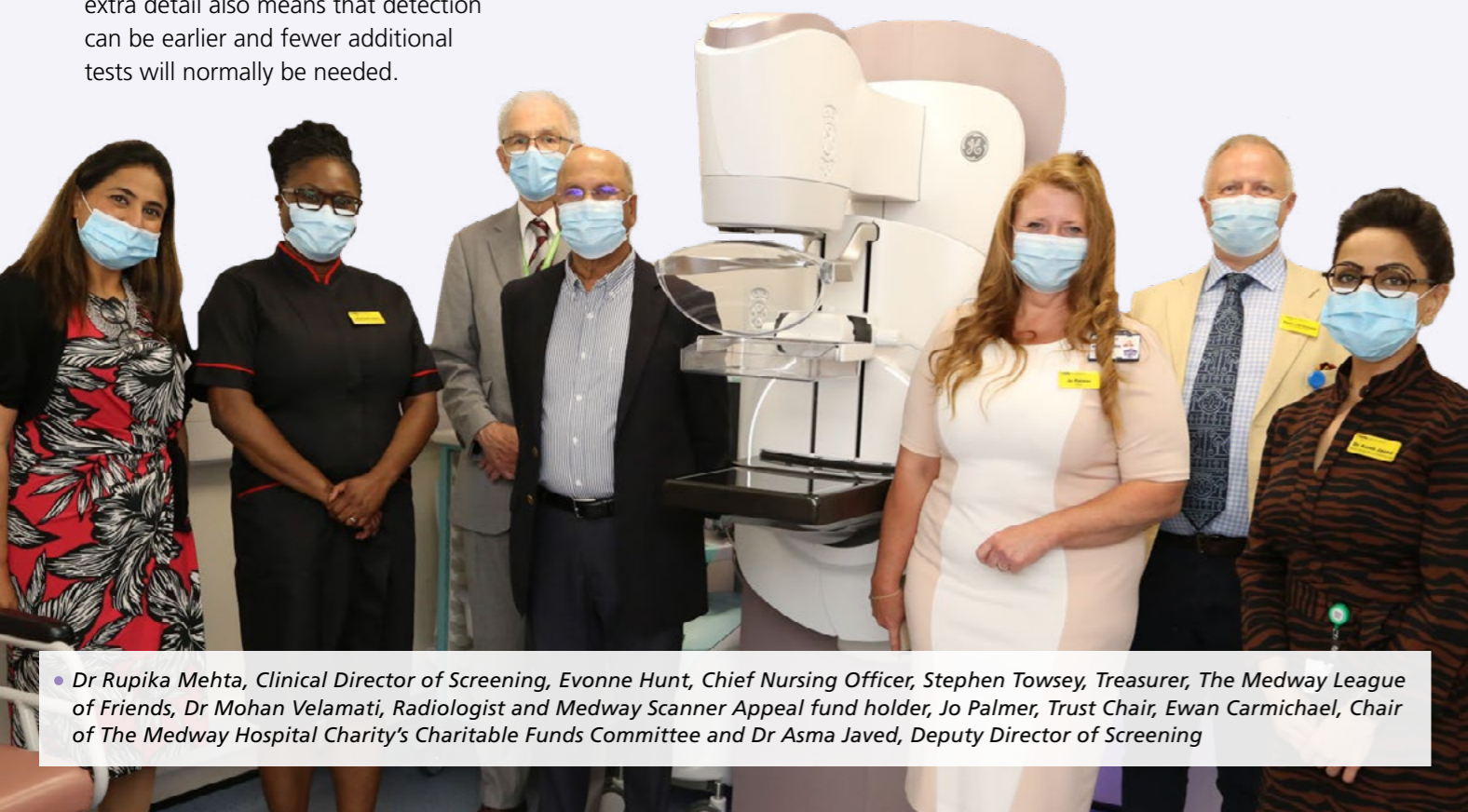
The new machine is able to support an up to 100 patients per week with 60 more screening clients, plus parallel symptomatic clinics for up to 24 patients per week.

Jo Palmer, the Chair of Medway NHS Foundation Trust, said: "As Chair of the Trust, I would like to thank The Medway League of Friends and The Medway Hospital Charity for supporting the Trust in purchasing this tomosynthesis machine for the Breast Care Unit.



"The purchase of this machine has meant that we are now able to hit 100 per cent of our breast screening targets, compared to 41 per cent in 2014.

"Thank you to Dr Mohan Velamti, who worked with the Medway League of Friends to arrange the purchase of the machine, as well as all of those who donated funds for it. Your generosity is literally saving lives."



• Dr Rupika Mehta, Clinical Director of Screening, Evonne Hunt, Chief Nursing Officer, Stephen Towsey, Treasurer, The Medway League of Friends, Dr Mohan Velamti, Radiologist and Medway Scanner Appeal fund holder, Jo Palmer, Trust Chair, Ewan Carmichael, Chair of The Medway Hospital Charity's Charitable Funds Committee and Dr Asma Javed, Deputy Director of Screening



Patients to benefit from new MRI scanner at Medway Maritime Hospital



Hundreds of patients will be able to benefit from vital scans thanks to a new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner that has been installed.

The new mobile scanner (pictured) will help patients get their diagnostic appointments quicker and reduce the number of people waiting for scans, which has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic. The unit will be open seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm, operated by qualified radiographers from the Trust's Imaging Department.

Patients are typically referred for an MRI scan by their GP or hospital consultant. MRIs allow detailed images to be taken of the inside of the body, with Doctors using scans to help diagnose conditions, plan treatments and identify how effective treatment is. The MRI procedure is painless and safe; scans don't involve exposing the body to X-ray radiation, ensuring that patients who may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of radiation – such as pregnant women, or those who are allergic or have kidney problems – can have an MRI scan where appropriate.

Jayne Black, Chief Executive at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, said: "This is fantastic news for patients – the procurement of this new scanner will add to our existing MRI facilities and boost our capacity at Medway, helping

us to obtain high-quality images for our patients more quickly.

"On average, our expert radiographers will now be able to see an extra 400 to 500 patients a month as a result of the addition of this new scanner. They will be working around the clock seven days a week to help us reduce MRI wait times, and improve our medical imaging services.

"We know that there has been an increased need for services like these since the COVID-19 pandemic and we hope the installation of this new unit will help us meet the demand."





• A specialist multi-disciplinary team from Medway NHS Foundation Trust and Medway Community Healthcare, including Dr Sarah Hare, Consultant Anaesthetist (front left) and Eloise Brett, Learning Disability Liaison Nurse (front right)

New 'one stop shop' for patients with learning disabilities and autism

A new 'one stop shop' service has launched at Medway Maritime Hospital for patients with learning disabilities and autism who require medical procedures under a general anaesthetic.

The project, which aims to improve healthcare outcomes, allows patients to have a combination of important treatments such as blood tests and vaccinations (for patients with severe needle phobia), dental and podiatry work, and endoscopies or colonoscopies, while they are sedated and following a best interest decision. Usually these procedures are completed while a patient is awake, but for people with learning disabilities

"...everyone involved with my son's care were truly amazing and they kept me updated regularly from start to finish."

and autism they can be traumatic and overwhelming without a general anaesthetic.

During their time in hospital while under general anaesthetic for a medical treatment, patients are cared for by specialist multi-disciplinary

teams from Medway NHS Foundation Trust and Medway Community Healthcare who work to ensure that all 'reasonable adjustments' are made to facilitate a safe and patient-centred experience. Under the Equality Act 2010, public sector organisations like NHS trusts must make 'reasonable adjustments' or changes, in their approach or provision to ensure that services are accessible to disabled people as well as everybody else.

One of the first patients to trial this new service was 26-year-old Jack Wood, from Gravesend, who has severe autism and a communication disorder which leaves him verbally limited.

Jack's mother, Rachel Wood, said: "Initially Jack was referred to hospital by the community learning disability team, as he needed some urgent dental and foot treatments which could only be done under general anaesthetic.

"On the day of the procedure Jack was whisked straight into theatre and we didn't have to wait around, which is something Jack can find difficult. They even managed to arrange for Jack to have a haircut and beard trim while he was sedated – this is something we haven't managed to do in a long time because of the sensory challenges associated with autism and cutting hair.

"Overall the team were outstanding and very professional, in particular Learning Disability Liaison Nurse Eloise Brett. Jack got a VIP service and so did we – everyone involved with my son's care were truly amazing and they kept me updated regularly from start to finish. They went absolutely above and beyond for Jack and I couldn't have asked for anything better."

Jayne Black, Chief Executive at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, said: "I'm incredibly proud of all colleagues who came together to launch this fantastic new initiative for our patients with learning disabilities and autism. By having more access to these important treatments, it will ensure that patients have a better quality of life and improved outcomes."

Learning Disability Nurse awarded national honour



Learning Disability Liaison Nurse Eloise Brett (pictured above) was presented with a Cavell Star Award for promoting equality in healthcare and ensuring a positive experience for patients. The award and commemorative pin badge were presented to Eloise by Trust Chief Executive Jayne Black during a special surprise celebration at Medway Maritime Hospital.

The national recognition scheme shines a light on nurses, midwives, nursing associates and healthcare assistants who show exceptional care to their colleagues, patients and patients' families. The awards were launched in 2018 in memory of British nurse Edith Cavell, who is seen as a pioneer of modern nursing and remembered for saving the lives of many soldiers during the First World War.

Eloise, who joined the Trust in 2016, was nominated for overseeing initiatives to help improve patient

outcomes while they spend time in hospital, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently she helped launch our new 'one stop shop' service.

Reacting to news of her award, Eloise said: "I'm really surprised and delighted to win this award! It's such a wonderful thing to acknowledge the work we do for patients with learning disabilities and autism at Medway Maritime Hospital. It's a really lovely moment for me and the team and one I will remember for years to come – I feel incredibly proud."

Jayne Black, Chief Executive at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, said: "This is a very prestigious award for Eloise which is testament to all the incredible work she has done to improve experiences and access to care for our patients. We are all so proud of Eloise and congratulate her on this fantastic achievement."

'Let the magic begin!'



Our new improvement approach, Patient First, is fast making its way onto our wards and into our services to help us provide excellent care, every time.

After launching Patient First earlier this year, we are now starting to see our clinical teams using its tools, routines and behaviours to make small changes that make a big difference.

With Patient First, we all focus on fewer priorities that can have a big impact quickly – and that means we can deliver real and lasting change over time.

The first four frontline teams using the Patient First improvement system are Keats Ward, Arethusa Ward, Penguin Assessment Unit (pictured right) and Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC). They are currently undergoing training and coaching to help them understand

how it can support them to improve care for patients in their area, and will soon start their improvement “huddles” each day to help drive local improvements in their areas.

Tricia Barrow, Senior Sister, SDEC, is excited to be among those leading the way with Patient First in the Trust. She said: “It’s time to start something new and trust the magic of new beginnings. This is what we are doing

on SDEC. All of us are committed to patient-centered care and are here to help our patients’ experience be the best. As we move forward in our Patient First training, we realise that there is so much to learn and will require a multi-dimensional concept of patient care. So, let the magic begin!

Selwyn Semple, Charge Nurse, Keats Ward, said: ‘I love the initiative. Keats Ward has high standards and to know that Patient First will help us ensure that we maintain those standards is so good for us.’

Patient First is being introduced in waves across the Trust. The next six teams to roll it out will be selected and informed in October and will begin their training and coaching in January 2023.



• Penguin Assessment Unit staff with Chief Nursing Officer, Evonne Hunt (far left)

Friends and Family Test

The first teams using Patient First are working hard to increase the number of patients completing the Friends and Family Test who would recommend the Trust as a place to receive care.

To encourage more patients to complete the Friends and Family Test, we are placing posters and pull-up banners in patient areas with a QR code which, when scanned with a mobile phone, takes you directly to the relevant Friends and Family Test.

Chief Nursing Officer Evonne Hunt said: “The banners and posters have gone up in the first areas, and our plan is to introduce them to other areas as soon



as we can, to drive up our response rate. Having the QR code means that patients can call up the survey quickly and easily and fill in the survey on the spot.

“I would encourage patients and visitors to do this if they can, or if they prefer, complete the survey soon after they get home. It is important to us as your feedback allows us to see what we are doing well and identify the areas where we need to improve. Focusing on what our patients tell us about their experience of care is one of the best ways we can put patients first.”

Family visits hospital to see impact of £1 million legacy



A state-of-the-art simulator for trainee surgeons to practise the skills needed to carry out orthopaedic arthroscopic joint surgery has been opened at Medway Maritime Hospital thanks to a £1 million legacy.

Ralph Barrett, a retired BBC engineer, had a serious motorbike accident during the Second World War and underwent 14 operations to save his leg. He was so thankful for the outstanding care he received that he left this incredible gift in his Will to the orthopaedic department at Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

Thanks to his generosity it is the only Trust in the region to have this suite of equipment.

His nephew Glenn Barrett, and his wife Hilary, recently visited the hospital to open the Ralph Barrett Virtual Reality Room which houses the simulator.

Jo Palmer, the Trust's Chair, said: "We were delighted to welcome Ralph's family to our hospital to showcase the impact of his legacy.

"The knee, shoulder, hip, and ankle simulator for arthroscopic skill training uses an original arthroscope, camera and other surgical instruments adapted for virtual reality simulation.

"The goal is to shorten learning curves and provide a seamless transfer of skills to the operating theatre. Virtual reality simulators accelerate the time needed to gain competency and use of original instruments provide a complete training experience and prepare users for real procedures in a surgical setting.

"We are the only Trust in the region to



Trust colleagues and Ralph's family join Jo Palmer, Trust Chair, Glenn Barrett, and Alison Davis, Chief Medical Officer to officially open the Ralph Barrett Virtual Reality Room

have this suite of equipment and we felt it was a fitting use of Mr Barrett's legacy. His leg was saved by talented surgeons and we are using his gift to train orthopaedic surgeons of the future."

The legacy has also funded arthroscopy equipment and surgical software for main theatres, an ultrasound for orthopaedic clinics and will be supporting the Trust's new Same Day Endoscopic Spinal Surgery Service.

Alison Davis, the Trust's Chief Medical Officer, said: "We are delighted to support the orthopaedic department's Same Day Endoscopic Spinal Surgery Service.

"The equipment, to be purchased from this wonderful legacy, will allow the team to develop and implement a programme that aligns with Medway NHS Foundation Trust's Patient First Improvement Strategy.

"Eligible patients will soon be able to undergo endoscopic spinal surgery and go home the same day. This will have such a positive impact on recovery and improve our patients' lives."

Ralph's nephew Glenn said: "He was an amazing man. He had a terrible

accident and was so thankful that he wanted to show his gratitude.

"I know he would be absolutely enthralled by this equipment because it's electronic and he was an electronics man, so this is so apt really. It's absolutely perfect so thank you for all of the work that has gone into this. I know lots and lots of people locally will benefit as a result of this equipment so we're really pleased on behalf of the Barrett family, and on behalf of Ralph, to declare it open."

Ralph Barrett died aged 93 in 2017. He was a member of the Special Operations Executive, dropping agents into Europe during the war and was a radio expert, going on to have a long career with the BBC.

He was largely responsible for Eurovision and the setting up of Eurovision links and the first satellite links with the USA.

When Ralph retired from the BBC, he had another career for two decades touring the country giving lectures on radios. These were not dry lectures. He made replicas of all of the equipment in his laboratory, as he called it, at home.

He was also a talented musician performing old time musicals at the Players Theatre in London.

Charity news

Family fundraises for defibrillator in memory of late father

The kind-hearted family of a man who suffered a heart attack outside Medway Maritime Hospital has raised money to fund an external defibrillator in his memory.

Bachu Kantilal Patel, 71, visited the site on 17 August 2020 for a COVID-19 test, ahead of endoscopy and colonoscopy investigations.

While having the test, he struggled to breathe, unexpectedly fell unconscious and suffered a third heart attack. Manual CPR was administered in the back of the car and then on the roadside before a defibrillator arrived.

Daughter, Mayuri Patel was with her father when he had his heart attack. She said: "My beloved father slipped into a coma and did not wake up, sadly passing away on 3 September 2020. It is because of this traumatic experience that our family wanted to fundraise for an external defibrillator at Medway Maritime Hospital to honour my father's memory.

"I set up our Just Giving page in September 2020 and raised awareness amongst our family and friends to help support our cause. We want to say a huge thank you to all those who made a generous donation for an external defibrillator, as it is a great legacy to a truly wonderful man.



"Our family would also like to thank Jo Lovell from the London Hearts Charity who further helped us in our fundraising endeavours and Donna Law, Charity and Fundraising Manager at The Medway Hospital Charity, who used additional charitable funds to support our family's wishes."

The external defibrillator is sited outside Residence 13, near the roundabout to the Green Zone car park. A code is required to access it. This is registered with Emergency Services call handlers and will be released should a member of the public call 999 and require use of it.

Your support lights up the Children's Emergency Department

was funded by The Medway Hospital Charity funding thanks to the support of its lottery players.

They are fantastic! They brighten up the area, distracting it from being so clinical.
Parent

The ceiling panels featuring images of a hot air balloon and an underwater scene can be found in treatment bay four and resuscitation room six.

New LED ceiling tiles have been installed in the Children's Emergency Department, thanks to the help of a fantastic fundraiser and make a smile lottery income.

Katie Goodliff (pictured right) took part in the Saxon Shore Half Marathon last year and raised more than £1,000 to support the project. The balance

The feedback from patients has been positive and they are making a huge difference.

If you would like to sign up to the lottery, make a smile's Laura Turner is normally in the hospital main reception on Monday and Tuesday or you can go to www.medwayhospitalcharity.org.uk/lottery

It feels like lim under water. It makes me feel relaxed.
15-year-old patient



If you would like to find out more about fundraising for our hospital, please contact Cheryl and Donna in The Medway Hospital Charity Team:

01634 825398

medwayft.charity@nhs.net

www.medwayhospitalcharity.org.uk

Hospital charities unite for the Trust's Summer Fun Day

The Trust welcomed visitors to our Summer Fun Day to shine a light on the amazing charities, which support the hospital.

Our four terrific Trust charities celebrated their hard work and variety of projects at our public event on Friday 12 August. We were pleased to see so many friendly faces join us, including members, Governors and staff.

The weather was lovely and there was a wonderful community spirit at the event. As well as bringing a real sense of fun to the hospital, it also helped to raise awareness of the many charities that support the Trust.

Visitors were able to learn more about the great work our fantastic charities

get up to and additionally raising over £500 in the process!

They were also able to browse a selection of stalls selling knitted items, cakes, ice creams and pre-loved toys and books. As well as arts and craft for all to get creative with.

There were also various vocal performers throughout the event, with Hannah Dewey and Georgina Whitcombe from All Star Performers and Sona Mittoo a member of staff showcasing her musical talents - even performing two original songs! Therapy dogs Yazzy and Mabel also came to join in the fun, as well as local community club Medway Family Badminton.

We were also lucky enough to be joined by Superman and Superwoman, so that everyone (young and old!) could have their picture taken with a superhero.

OUR HOSPITAL CHARITY TEAMS CAME TOGETHER TO WELCOME VISITORS



could have their picture taken with a superhero.

One of our attendees said afterwards: 'I am really pleased I popped over to this event with my son - he had a lovely time with all the activities. It was great to see what charities there are at the hospital. There is so much happening behind the public face of the hospital that is devoted to our benefit. Lovely event!'

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us on the day!



Date for your diary: Annual Members' Meeting

Join us at our Annual Members' Meeting on **Tuesday 18 October 2022**.

It is a chance for you to find out what has happened at Medway Maritime Hospital over the past year and the Trust's plans for the year ahead.

Chief Executive Jayne Black said: "This is your chance to hear directly about what we are doing at your hospital and how we are performing. I'm delighted to say that this year's Annual Members' Meeting is being held in the hospital in person again for the first time since the pandemic. However we know that some people find it more convenient to join virtually, so this is an option too, for anyone who wants to hear the discussion but cannot be there in person. I look forward to welcoming you, however you choose to join us."

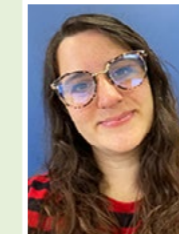
The Annual Members' Meeting will take place in the hospital restaurant, Below Deck Dining Room (Level One, Purple Zone), at 6pm on Tuesday 18 October. [Click here to book your place](#). Light refreshments will be available from 5.30pm.

If you would like to attend and need additional support to do so, please email met-tr.members-medway@nhs.net to discuss how we could help you.

You're invited to our Annual Members' Meeting
 Tuesday 18 October at 6pm
 Below Deck Dining Room (Level 1, Purple Zone) at Medway Maritime Hospital
 Windmill Road, Gillingham, ME7 5NY
 You will hear from our Chair and Chief Executive with updates about improvements at the Trust.
 To book your place, please visit: <https://medwayamm.eventbrite.co.uk>

Meet our new governors

In the last few months we have welcomed a number of new governors, and also said goodbye to others.



Becky Bellars was elected in August as our new Rest of England and Wales Governor.

Becky has worked in the NHS for almost 20 years, and currently works in the charity sector to lobby government for change and provide support to patients. Though her experience is UK-wide, Becky grew up in Medway and recognises the needs of the area.



Councillor Angela Harrison joined us in June as the new Partner Governor representing Swale Borough Council.

Angela has been a Swale Borough Councillor for many years, representing Sheerness Ward. From 2019 to 2022 Angela was Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and since May 2022, when the Council moved back to a Committee system from a Cabinet system, she has been Vice-Chair of Housing and Health.



Vanessa Page was elected in June to fill the remaining Staff Governor vacancy. Vanessa has worked for the NHS for more than 20 Years, 14 of those at Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

Currently Vanessa is the Culture and Workforce Engagement Manager based within the Organisational Development Team which is an HR function.



Tina Rowe joined us as a Medway Governor In August.

Tina has lived and worked in Medway since 2007, and is a regular visitor to the hospital. She is an experienced, qualified social worker and often works in close partnership with Medway hospital staff, and also with a range of Medway Council departments.



Professor Anan Shetty was elected in August as a new Medway Governor. Anan is an Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedics and a consultant knee and Limb Reconstruction Surgeon. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (FRCS Eng.), Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, London (FRSM).

We said goodbye to Medway Governors Diana Hill and James Chespy, and Rest of England and Wales Governor Amran Hussain. We wish them well in their future endeavours and thank them for their time and support during their time with the Trust.

To find out more about our governors and what they do, please visit our website: www.medway.nhs.uk

To get in touch, please email medwayft.governors@nhs.net or call the Membership Office on **01634 825292**.

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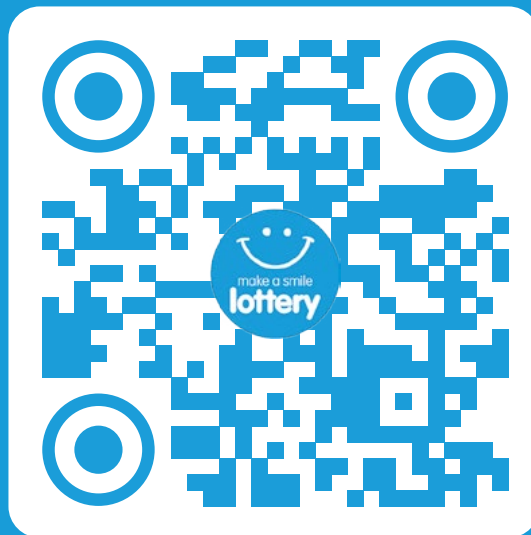
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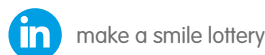
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