

Your **hospital**

Foundation Trust Members Newsletter



PADDY OPENS NEW PLAY AREA

More toddlers can now play outside safely, whilst receiving treatment at the Child Development Centre at Airedale Hospital, thanks to a successful fundraising campaign inspired by a special young patient - Paddy Stell, aged four. Paddy's mum, Becci Gunning, raised £2,000 from various events held by local pubs and football teams to help replace a condemned slide and climbing frame in the unit's playground.

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THIS MONTH'S MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the latest edition of your members newsletter

The Trust has just celebrated its first anniversary as a Foundation Trust. It was a very successful first year. Operational performance was excellent, we received significant external endorsement of the quality of care delivered and the Trust reported strong financial results - making a clear operating surplus for the fifth year running.

Your Council of Governors is now well established and fully functioning. A lead governor, Adrian Mornin, and committees are busily at work on membership development, board appointments and so on.

Governors have joined established Trust working parties on organ donation, patient and public engagement, equality and diversity and others issues. We have a very high calibre of governors and I should like to thank them all for their efforts in giving Airedale Foundation Trust a flying start.

Following elections in May, seven new governors were elected or appointed. Their details are on the back page of this newsletter. I welcome them warmly and I hope they enjoy their role. There is plenty to do.

You will know from the national press that the NHS is going through a period of great change. This presents the Trust with challenges (as it does every Trust in the country) but I should like to assure you that we are working hard to steer the Trust successfully through these uncertain times. We have a strong Board of directors with a clear future vision and I am confident that Airedale will thrive in the new world that is being created.

With best wishes,

Colin Millar - Chairman

LATEST NEWS

HOSPITAL MEETS STANDARDS FOR CARING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Inspectors found Airedale Hospital met the essential standards for quality and safety for caring for older people during their stay in hospital.

A team from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), made an unannounced visit to Airedale in April, as part of a national inspection programme, to assess how well older people are treated in hospital. The inspection focused on whether older people were treated with dignity and respect and whether their nutritional needs were being met.

The report found that staff understood the importance of respecting and involving people who use the Trust's services and Airedale was also praised for piloting a new scheme to help patients who have memory loss due to dementia.

Bridget Fletcher, chief executive at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust said: "It is very important to us that our patients and their families are treated with dignity and respect. We welcome the findings of the CQC and while we are delighted with the report, we must never become complacent and we will continue to listen to our patients and their families about what matters to them."

TEXT MESSAGE REMINDER FOR HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS

Airedale Hospital has just introduced a text message service to combat missed appointments in their outpatients' clinics.

In a drive to cut down on the number of patients who miss scheduled appointments, from July patients will receive a text message reminder from Airedale, three days before their appointment.

Christine Miles, director of operations at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, says: "We have introduced text messaging to remind patients of their appointment as more than 13,500 patients didn't attend their hospital appointments last year - that's one in 10 people who missed their consultation. But for us the most important issue is that these appointments could be offered to other patients. If patients cannot attend their appointment and have forgotten to tell us, the text will include a phone number to call so that we may be able to offer the appointment to someone else."

Patients will have the option to opt out of the service if they wish, and should contact the outpatients department to do this.



THIS MONTH'S MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I am very pleased to welcome you to my second update as Chief Executive.

As previously mentioned, patient experience and taking care of those who are most vulnerable are my top priorities, so it was very welcome to receive recognition from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) of our work to support older people in hospital, in particular, the 'butterfly scheme' for patients with memory loss, during an unannounced visit in April.

Since my last update, we have also completed the transfer of community services from our partners - NHS Bradford and Airedale and NHS North Yorkshire and York - to provide specialist nursing services in Bradford and Airedale and adult community services for the people of Craven. This will enable us to be more flexible about how and where we provide our care and help us to focus services around patients rather than around the hospital.

As we look forward to what could be the most challenging period in the history of the NHS, we will continue to build on our local community's support in helping us to secure the future of Airedale. We have had to earn the loyalty of our patients and local community and as we enter what could be an uncertain time for the local health economy, we must ensure that their needs are always our highest priority.

I would like to thank all our staff, our Council of Governors, and our volunteers for their continued commitment and support as well as all our patients for choosing Airedale.

With best wishes,

Bridget Fletcher - Chief Executive

PATIENT INFORMATION

A new information pod has been set up in Airedale Hospital's health information centre (formerly the library) to help patients and visitors find out more about their health, condition or medication.

A computer has been set up in an enclosed area so that patients can use video, and audio and interactive websites to discover more about staying healthy and managing long term conditions.

The service is designed to be a drop-in service but patients can also pre-arrange a specific time to use the pod, in the hospital's education centre, between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Information is available on:

- conditions and interventions
- self care and management advice
- other patients personal experiences
- advice on benefits and social care
- details of local or national support groups.

Health information centre staff will direct patients to reliable and appropriate information sources such as NHS Choices and Patient UK - but they will not offer opinions or advice.



Paul Stevenson, health information specialist said: "Patients and carers can use the patient information pod to look at whatever specific information is relevant to them personally, at a particular point in their illness – rather than simply receiving general information leaflets.

"People can often find the process of locating high quality information, specifically for their individual needs, to be time-consuming and at times frustrating. We are happy to help provide high quality patient information for patients in the usual way in the library, but we can also help visitors to explore reliable sources of healthcare information at their own pace using the new patient pod."

CHEAPER HOME WATER BIRTHS

Expectant mums are overjoyed with a new partnership scheme which has given them the chance to have an affordable water birth at home.

The community pool scheme is a not-for-profit scheme which enables pregnant women to hire a birthing pool at a subsidised rate. Airedale Mums, a group of local mums who campaign for better maternity services in the local area, are part-funding a pilot scheme offering five uses of the birthing pool in the home – together with Aquabirths at Home – and are busy raising money to help fund more. The initiative is supported by community midwives from Airedale Hospital.

Kathryn Walsh, head of midwifery at Airedale Hospital said: "Water immersion can reduce the need for drugs and intervention in the birth process for women with a low risk, straight forward pregnancy and labour, as it helps women to relax."

Ruth Weston of Aquabirths said: "Our aim is to provide low cost water births in the home for women, but also make sure they are hassle free for the midwives."

The subsidised cost for women is £50 – when it would normally cost £195 to hire a pool. Any pregnant women who would like more information on home birth or water labour and birth should contact their community midwife.



VIDEO CONSULTATION SERVICE IN THE DALES

Patients living in and around Grassington have been seeing their hospital consultant in their local community centre - thanks to the wonders of video technology.

As part of the telemedicine outpatient service offered in the Dales village, they no longer have to travel to Airedale Hospital at Steeton for their regular clinical appointments - as they are able to discuss their long-term condition with a consultant on screen by video link.

Dr Richard Pope, a consultant and director of innovation research and development at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust said: "As a practising consultant, I am really excited about how technologies can help change the way care is delivered and offer better and more personal care to patients. I have seen first hand how my diabetic patients can benefit from telemedicine and live independently and safely, whilst effectively managing their health and wellbeing."

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Governor Anne Medley and lead governor Adrian Mornin busy recruiting new Foundation Trust members in Asda.

UPDATE ON RECENT ELECTIONS

We would like to thank everybody who voted in our recent elections and we are pleased to welcome to the Council of Governors, seven new governors:

- MR DAVID CHILD** *public governor for Bingley*
- MRS JEAN HEPWORTH** *public governor for Keighley East*
- MR ANDREW BROCKLEHURST** *public governor for Settle and Mid Craven*
- MRS JANET ACKROYD** *public governor for South Craven*
- MRS VALERIE KIMBERLEY** *public governor for West Craven*
- MISS KATIE WATSON** *staff governor for all other staff*
- MRS DOROTHY LORD** *stakeholder governor for Pendle Borough Council.*

We would also like to congratulate

MRS ANNE MEDLEY who remains as *governor for Keighley West.*

GOVERNORS LATEST

To see the latest update from your governor and for their contact details please see the governor page on our website www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/FT/councilgov.html

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

All our members are entitled to the same discounts as NHS staff – just go to www.nhsdiscounts.com and register to start getting your discounts. In the box that says 'Do you work for the NHS' you need to select the box 'Foundation Trust member'.

ANNUAL OPEN EVENT – THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

All members and their families are welcome to join us for our annual open day, from 12 noon until 4.00 pm, on Thursday 1 September. Our annual general meeting will be held on the same day between 11.00 am and 12 noon.

This is a chance to get behind the scenes and take a tour, get a health check, find out about careers, see live demonstrations, visit health information stands, have free food and refreshments and much more.

Just drop in anytime – everyone is welcome.

BUDDING FOOTBALL STARS KICKSTART FUNDRAISING FOR CANCER CARE



A young football team have raised £600 to say thank you to cancer nurses at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust for the top care they gave to one of their budding fans.

Oakworth Juniors Football Club had two major charity events to boost the funds of the Haematology Oncology Day Unit (HODU) after Sue Hewitt, the wife of their club secretary Richard, was treated for breast and ovarian cancer. The events were a fundraising party to celebrate Sue's 50th birthday and a charity match with former players to mark the opening of a new club house.

Richard, who is also one of the club's coaches, said: "All the players and club members were just glad to have two brilliant opportunities to give something back to the staff who provided Sue with such fantastic care when she was ill. We are delighted that she is making such a good recovery and is really keen to get back to work."

Pat Dyminski, clinical nurse specialist said: "It is brilliant that these young people have decided to support our unit. The unit is going to be refurbished to provide more modern facilities for patients and so the funding will help to cover these costs."

CONTACT US

Foundation Trust Membership Office
Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
Airedale General Hospital
Skipton Road
Steeton
Keighley
BD20 6TD
Tel: 01535 292727
Email: members@anhst.nhs.uk
Website: www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk

If you need this newsletter in another format e.g. large print or Braille or in another language, please contact us at the membership office.

It is important that we have your latest details so that we can stay in touch. If you change your name, address, telephone number or email, please let us know.

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small trust of the year