



The congregation at We Reflect, Salisbury Cathedral



A message from Nick Marsden, Chairman, Salisbury District Hospital

At the time of writing Salisbury District Hospital, like hospitals across the country, remains incredibly busy. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cast a long shadow over the hospital, our staff and our patients. We have high levels of bed occupancy, long waiting lists, large numbers being seen in A&E and many challenges that can delay discharges. It is impressive to see how in the face of these continued challenges the whole hospital team is pulling together to maintain safe and compassionate patient care, supported by our colleagues in social care.

I was delighted to be able to attend the recent We Reflect service at Salisbury Cathedral where NHS staff and those working in the care sector came together with the community to pause and reflect on all that has happened over the past two years.

As always, I would like to thank the Council of Governors for the support they give to the Trust and their continued focus on representing the views of the communities we serve.

Newsletter welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this Governors Newsletter. I hope the articles help give you a better understanding of some of the pressures and achievements at the hospital and the work of the Council of Governors.

As, we trust, the pandemic recedes, restrictions in the community have been lifted however some remain on the hospital site, such as the wearing of masks and elements of social distancing. Please check the latest guidance before coming to the hospital.

The hospital remains exceptionally busy, particularly in A&E and the difficulty in discharging some patients that need further domiciliary or residential care is acute. The Executive Team are working with Councils and other hospitals in our region to try and find solutions.

Ongoing COVID-19 infections remain a concern and the exceptionally high backlog of elective procedures is being tackled. The Governors have been asking, on your behalf, that the hospital ensures that those on waiting lists for treatment are kept informed of where they are in the queue. Understandably, those that have the most severe need are being seen first.

Despite the busyness the NHS is there for everyone, 24 hours a day and this remains true today. However, there are a few simple

things we can do ourselves. For minor illness it is useful to have a well-stocked home medicine cabinet, 111 is there to offer help and advice by phone and online and our local walk-in centres can offer services such as treatment for infections, rashes, upset stomachs and emergency contraception. But please don't delay reporting any worrying symptoms early so the right treatment can be put in place as soon as possible.

Lucinda Herklots,
Lead Governor

Alastair Lack

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of previous Lead Governor Alastair Lack.

Before retiring Alastair was an accomplished and pioneering Doctor and became a respected and invaluable member of the Council of Governors. Alastair will be missed by the Trust, his colleagues and the local community. Our most heartfelt condolences are extended to his wife Maggie and their children.

Reflections on being a Public Governor for the Rest of England Constituency

I am serving my third term in this role and in all honesty the specifics of how best to fulfil my responsibilities as a direct representative of local communities continues to puzzle me, mostly because of the size of the task!

However, as healthcare delivery moves into integrated care and partnership working with neighbouring hospitals the role may come into its own as more patients being treated in our hospital come from outside Salisbury's traditional boundaries and local Governor constituencies. The Rest of England Governor will be there as a supporting link between such patients and the hospital.

Governors also have statutory duties including holding the Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) to account for the performance of the Board. All we Governors use our knowledge, networks and experience to inform Trust priorities and strategic decisions and help it be responsible and accountable to local and non-local people, patients and staff. This bit of the job is clear and I do this partly by being the Governor Observer on the Trust Finance and Performance Committee. I'm a retired healthcare professional with senior NHS management experience so feel I 'get' the NHS agenda and know 'what good looks like'. The Board Chair, three NEDs and

relevant Directors sit on this committee and I observe the discussion and decision making processes and submit my observations to the Council of Governors.

In summary, I think this role will always be one of 'work in progress' but it brings a sense of contribution to the NHS and the community Salisbury District Hospital serves. My term of office is drawing to a close but I thoroughly recommend the role to my successors.

Mary Clunie

Rest of England Governor



Medicine for Members lectures

Salisbury District Hospital has been holding Medicine for Members lectures since 2009. To date, over 36 lectures have been held on various care services provided by the Trust.

Local people get the opportunity to find out more about the causes, diagnosis and treatment of diseases that affect them. The aim of these lectures is to give people an insight into how the body works, highlight the clinical conditions that are treated and provide some practical tips to keep safe and healthy.

Due to the pandemic, these lectures had been suspended but the Trust is trialling a series of lectures through Zoom and hopes to be able to present these in person once social distancing measures at the hospital are lifted while continuing via Zoom for those that are unable to attend in person. A full program of lectures will be released soon.



My Name is Mercy

In March 2021 the Trust, supported by the League of Friends and the Stars Appeal, commissioned poet Martin Figura as poet in residence. Martin was asked to capture how it felt to work at the hospital during the pandemic.

Some of the poems have been read by Stars Appeal patron Oscar winning actress Olivia Coleman. This outstanding collection of work My Name is Mercy has now been published and is available at the League of Friends shop.

The reviewers have said:

"The cumulative power of this slender collection is profound and memorable."

"It is the poetry of the everyday made extraordinary. I think it is a massive achievement and a book which will last long after the pandemic has passed."

"...the poems are deeply moving, like a war artist's output, because the poet, in exemplary fashion, allows the voices and their emotional content to come across as naturally as the description."

Copies are available from the League of Friends shop and Salisbury Cathedral shop.



We Reflect at Salisbury Cathedral

We Reflect with Salisbury Cathedral

On the eve of the anniversary of the first national COVID-19 lockdown Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust joined with Salisbury Cathedral to hold a special service for NHS staff, carers and the local community.

The service included specially commissioned work entitled Three Journeys from Paula B Stanic that told the story of the pandemic in three parts – Lament, Thanks and Hope - through the eyes of a child of NHS workers, a carer and someone being cared for. These beautifully crafted

words were combined with poetry from the hospital collection My Name is Mercy read by the poet Martin Figura and music from the Cathedral Boys and Community Choirs. All elements of the service were delivered by NHS and care staff, volunteers or family members with the address by The Dean of Salisbury.

Highlights of the evening can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/G4LP9XI-D1k> and the whole service is available to view via the Cathedral YouTube channel here https://youtu.be/kiLq1tbBI_4

What do Governors do and how do we do it?

When we come to hospital as a patient or a visitor, it's easy to forget just what a large and complex organisation it is.

With around 4,500 staff and a huge estate, there are a myriad of departments, not just delivering medical care but also providing support to enable our clinicians to deliver the best possible care. Catering, laundry, maintenance, IT and research,

to name but a few. As an example, our catering staff produce well over half a million meals a year and have to cater for the widest range of dietary constraints for our patients.

All of these departments and functions have to be managed to ensure that they come together to provide a comprehensive service and your Governors role in this is to keep a watching brief on your behalf, and ensure that the Board of Directors is managing the Trust in an efficient and effective way. We do this in two main ways. Firstly by working with and through the Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) who are appointed by the Governors from outside the NHS to directly represent the public interest on the Board and secondly by monitoring the activities of the numerous committees which oversee and seek to improve the particular operating functions of the Trust. These include Clinical Governance, People and Culture,

Cake with Joe & Jayne

The hospital has launched a new series of podcasts hosted by staff members Joe and Jayne.

The series explores the various elements that make us who we are with the aim of understanding and appreciating each other better. The initial three episodes can be listened to by searching for Cake with Joe and Jayne or at <https://shows.acast.com/cake-with-joe-and-jayne/episodes>. Feedback has been incredible with downloads approaching 1,000 within the first 30 days.



Membership and Communication, Finance and Audit, among others. Governors are appointed to attend these sub-committees as observers, to ensure that they are being effective and to advise the Council of Governors on any issues they believe need to be pursued in the interests of our patients, and of our staff too.

Managing an organisation of this size and complexity is a difficult enough task at the best of times and the past couple of years have certainly not been that. Challenging, to say the least, for everyone involved and with more challenges ahead, your Governors will continue to provide a responsible sounding board to ensure that the Trust continues to offer the highest possible level of healthcare for our community.

Barry Bull
Governor for East Dorset



Stars Appeal Wi-Fi now faster and easier to use!

Thanks to supporters of the Stars Appeal, people in hospital now have access to Wi-Fi that's both faster and easier to use.

The charity has been funding free Wi-Fi at the hospital since 2015 but has recently upgraded the service to make it quicker and easier to access. As well as making the connection speed ten times faster, users no longer have to register to use the service. Instead, just select '_StarsAppealFreeWiFi' from the list of available networks on your phone, tablet or other device, wait for the blue welcome screen to appear and then click connect!



Can you help us raise £1million to enhance our Hospital?

Through the Stars Appeal, the NHS Charity for Salisbury District Hospital, we're aiming to raise £1million in 2022 to fund additional care and equipment helping patients and staff across the hospital.

Among the projects we are fundraising for this year are Salisbury's first 3D Ultrasound Scanner for the Gynaecology Department, a specialist tool for diagnosing cardiac patients, contactless eye testing equipment for children and enhanced furnishings and décor in a new fracture clinic. This is in addition to the charity's ongoing projects such as Hospital Chaplaincy, free Wi-Fi and counselling and other support for hardworking hospital staff.

Details of the projects that the Stars Appeal is fundraising for, and have recently funded, can be found at www.starsappeal.org/what-were-fundraising-for.

Of course, many of you reading this will already be Stars Appeal supporters – thank you! Everyone at Salisbury District Hospital really appreciates your support which makes

a big difference for patients and staff. A special thank you goes to everyone who supported the Stars Appeal Christmas Raffle – we raised £27,000!

How you can help your hospital charity

- Take part in Walk for Wards at Wilton House on Sunday 3rd July.
- Remember the Stars Appeal in your Will.
- Make a monthly gift at www.starsappeal.org or call 01722 429005 to donate.
- Organise a fundraising event or challenge.

Find out more at www.starsappeal.org or call the Stars Appeal office on 01722 429005.

Thank you for your support.

Getting in touch



Get in touch with your Governor by going onto our website: www.salisbury.nhs.uk, click on About Us, then Governors and then Constituencies and Governors. Once there, choose the Governor who represents your constituency, or contact us by post at the following address:

Salisbury District Hospital, Trust Offices,
Odstock Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 8BJ

To help with our costs, where possible we would like to send this newsletter by email. If you are happy to receive it this way, please contact Isabel Cardoso at: Isabel.cardoso@nhs.net or on 01722 336262 ext 5479.

This document is available in large print, audio tape or another language on request.