

Heartfelt thanks to our communities

Staff at Dorset County Hospital say the coronavirus pandemic highlighted the true meaning and value of community spirit, and wanted to express their heartfelt thanks to our communities for their overwhelming generosity and support.

After entering the first lockdown in March 2020, communities rallied together to show their appreciation for the NHS and to help support staff through what may be the most challenging time of their career.

The Trust received hundreds of donations and staff would like to take the opportunity to express their gratitude.

Businesses provided free accommodation and Personal Protective Equipment, staff received endless gifts to brighten their days, from chocolate to hand cream, and wards were decorated with children's colourful illustrations of rainbows.

More than £168,000 has also been raised through the DCH Charity's COVID-19 Appeal.

Deputy Chief Executive at DCH Nick Johnson said:

"The coronavirus pandemic has been one of the biggest challenges faced by the NHS.

"We have been completely overwhelmed by the sheer amount of donations and support we have received from right across Dorset.

"The pandemic has highlighted the true meaning and value of community spirit and we will be forever grateful to all those who have supported us through it."

The Trust's Volunteer Coordinator Hannah Robinson, along with our dedicated team of volunteers, have organised and

distributed the donations across the hospital during the pandemic.

She said: "We have been completely blown away by the generosity of local businesses, schools and communities in Dorset who have gone above and beyond to support their NHS.

"The reaction from staff is something I will never forget. It has been so heart-warming to see the smiles brought to their faces. Knowing they had the support of the community behind them has made a significant difference.

"The response we also received from appeals has been absolutely brilliant. So many people have made us headbands, mask adapters, knitted teddies, face coverings and more.

"We cannot thank everyone enough for everything they have done for the Trust."



What's
inside?

PAGE 3 – New CT scanner installed PAGE 6 – Charity news

PAGE 4 and 5 – Governor special PAGE 7 – Celebrating hospital arts

Welcome

...to the latest edition of our newsletter for the public and staff members of Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.



If you have any comments on this edition of The DCH Way or would like to contribute something for a future edition please contact the communications team on **01305 254683** or email **communications@dchft.nhs.uk**



Site development plans take step forward

In order to free up space on the hospital site for the expansion of clinical facilities, we will be building a multi-storey car park to improve parking for patients, visitors and staff.

Approval for the development of the multi-storey car park was agreed by Dorset Council's Northern Area Planning Committee in September 2020. It is hoped the new car park will be completed by spring 2022.

We are also working in partnership to develop the land we own on the site of the former Damers School and the current Trust Headquarters to raise income to contribute to the cost of the clinical facilities building work. The development of the Damers/Trust HQ land could include a mix of health and care related facilities and housing.

Clinicians at the hospital say the plans, which include expanding the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit, are crucial to providing safe and high quality services into the future as, despite the best efforts of their teams, they are struggling to accommodate the rising number of patients they are treating – with the coronavirus outbreak making it clearer than ever that more space is needed.

Emergency Department Clinical Lead Dr Steve Meek said: "The Emergency Department was built for seeing 20,000 people a year and we saw 50,000 last year, so it was dated and cramped for space even before COVID-19.

"In particular, our paediatric facilities, resuscitation area and mental health room are no longer adequate.

"The pandemic has added a new layer of problems, with social distancing in waiting rooms, and a permanent need to design facilities in ways which better protect the vulnerable and prevent infection."

For the latest updates about our site development plans, please visit our website at **www.dchft.nhs.uk**



An artist's impression of the proposed multi-storey car park

Creating a culture of inclusion

The Trust Board has had a major focus on equality, diversity and inclusion to ensure we provide an organisation where everyone feels valued and included and where each member of staff can come to work knowing they are free from discrimination and can access the same development opportunities.

During Inclusion Week 2020 we were proud to publish our Black Lives Matter pledge to show our commitment to creating a culture of inclusion. The Trust Board also recorded their own personal pledges. They can be viewed on our website at **www.dchft.nhs.uk**

In the same week we also launched our #IAM project to highlight and celebrate the diversity of our amazing staff here at DCH. We lined the corridors with images of our staff to show that, although we all come from different backgrounds, we are one team. The exhibition now has a permanent home in Damers Restaurant.

The Trust has also set up a Diversity Network which provides a safe space for colleagues to talk about their experiences and supports projects focussing on different cultures. For example, to celebrate Diwali in November, the network arranged for a light show to be projected onto the walls of the hospital. The network also suggested creating pull-up flag banners to highlight the many nationalities of our staff.

As a Trust, our next steps will be to establish similar networks for colleagues with long-term health conditions and disabilities, LGBTQ colleagues and other staff groups. These forums will be critical to improving our understanding of the steps we need to take to make the culture at DCH more inclusive.



Enhancing patient experience

State-of-the-art CT scanner installed

A state-of-the-art CT scanner has been installed at Dorset County Hospital and is the first of its kind across the whole of the south.

The new scanner is the latest technology available and will greatly improve patient experience as it has the ability to perform scanning in a way that was not previously possible.

Wrist and elbow scans can now be performed with the patient sitting in a chair, rather than lying in an awkward position; imaging can be performed in 4D; cardiac scans can be acquired in a single heartbeat and not only the location but the type of kidney stones a patient has can now be determined, allowing more targeted treatments.

The scanner can also produce a 'heat map' of where the contrast is going in a patient's body and will give radiologists greater certainty as to where a clot may be.

Lead CT Radiographer at DCH Simon Jones said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have this piece of technology at the Trust. It will make an incredible difference to our patients – it is much more patient friendly.

"It is the most advanced CT scanner you can buy and it has so many functions that weren't available to us before."

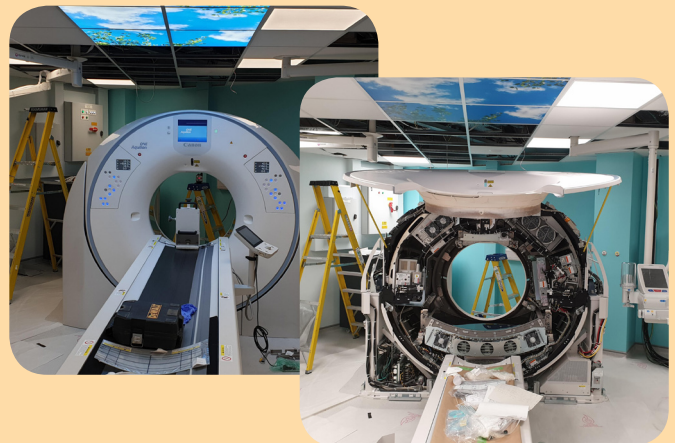
Canon Medical's Aquilion ONE PRISM CT launched in the UK this year and cost more than £1million.

The scanner at DCH is the second in the country to be installed and was funded through the Government and the Trust's capital programme.

Further development is scheduled for the hospital's Diagnostic Imaging Department to allow for two changing rooms and a cannulation room.



CT Radiographer Joseph Rodriguez, Consultant Radiologist Dr Ajay Varghese, CT Lead Radiographer Simon Jones, Senior CT Radiographer Ophelia Walters and Radiology Department Assistant Katie Bigwood



New Wi-Fi launched

A new Wi-Fi network at the hospital will enhance the experience of patients, allowing them to stay better connected to loved ones during their stay.

The Trust has partnered with WiFi SPARK to provide a free NHS network for patients, visitors and staff to enjoy a faster and more reliable online connection.

The network allows patients and visitors to browse online, use email and check in with social media. An additional chargeable premium service will also be available to allow for online gaming and streaming.

A staff network is also available for DCH employees.

The project has been partially funded by the Friends of Dorset County Hospital.

Alison Male, Patient and Public Engagement Lead at DCH, said: "We are really excited about the new network. Being a patient is not fun by any means, but having a fast, efficient Wi-Fi service can make all the difference in helping to keep you entertained and can improve the overall experience of your time in hospital.

"It can be a real worry having a friend or family member in hospital but our improved Wi-Fi will enable patients to stay better connected with their loved ones during their admission."

The new network could also be used as a springboard for further innovations and enhancements in the future to continue improving patient experience at the Trust.

Representing the view

Your Council of Governors

The Council of Governors represents the views and comments of the membership, and therefore plays an important part in ensuring decisions made by the Trust are in the best interests of the community and patients.

Public Governors

West Dorset

- **Sarah Carney** contact via membership office
- **David Cove** dhcove@btinternet.com
- **Wally Gundry** contact via membership office
- **Kathryn Harrison** contact via membership office
- **Naomi Patterson** contact via membership office
- **David Tett** contact via membership office

Weymouth and Portland

- **Margaret Alsop** contact via membership office
- **Mike Byatt** contact via membership office
- **Stephen Mason** contact via membership office
- **Marion Levick** contact via membership office
- **Sharon Waight** contact via membership office

East Dorset

- **Simon Bishop** sjhbishop@aol.com

North Dorset

- **Christine McGee** contact via membership office
- **Maurice Perks** contact via membership office

Governor Election 2020

Following a pause in the Governor Election 2020 due to the pandemic, the election process is now complete.

Thank you to all those members who stood for election or voted in the ballot.

The seats for West Dorset, and Weymouth and Portland were contested, and we are pleased to announce that the following Governors were elected from 1 October 2020 for a term of three years:

David Cove - West Dorset (third term)
 Kathryn Harrison - West Dorset (first term)
 Margaret Alsop - Weymouth and Portland (second term)
 Mike Byatt - Weymouth and Portland (first term)
 Marion Levick - Weymouth and Portland (first term)

The seats for East Dorset and the constituency were uncontested and we are pleased to announce that the following Governors were elected unopposed from 1 October 2020 for a term of three years:

Simon Bishop – East Dorset (second term)
 Tracy Glen – Staff Governor (second term)
 Neal Cleaver – Staff Governor (first term)

We are sad to say goodbye to several members of the Council of Governors following the election.

We thank them all for their hard work and dedication to the hospital over the last three years:

Gavin Maxwell Dave Stebbing Tony James

Our special thanks also go to Peter Wood who, after many years of service to the hospital, stepped down as the appointed Governor for Age UK Dorchester having reached his maximum tenure of nine years on the Council.

Staff Governors

- **Neal Cleaver**
- **Tracy Glen**

Appointed Governors

- **Annette Kent/Barbara Purnell**, Friends of DCH
- **Tony Alford**, Dorset County Council
- **Davina Smith**, Weldmar Hospicecare



For more information on membership or to make contact with the Governor for your constituency, please call the membership office on **01305 255419** or email foundation@dchft.nhs.uk



vs of our communities

Welcome message from Lead Governor Dr David Cove

A big welcome to our newly elected Governors!

Our Governor meetings are conducted in a spirit of openness, where all voices are heard and listened to and any concerns are dealt with as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Governor activities include attending Trust sub-committees as observers, appointing Non-Executive Directors and attending the Trust Constitution Review, Membership Development and Strategic Plan Committees.

The broad function of the Governors is to provide a link between the Trust and the public; to feed back the Trust's work and to help the Trust be sensitive and responsive to the public's opinion of the hospital. The Governors also hold the Non-Executive Directors, individually and collectively, to account for the performance of the Board of Directors.

I look forward to working with our new Governors to tackle any issues or concerns from staff, Trust members or the public.

Marion Levick

I will contribute my passion for good local health care for all and my very wide range of experience to the development of our local hospital.

I worked in the NHS in London and Kent for 20 years as a clinical psychologist, therapist and manager.

I contributed to a wide range of services and teams, working in general medical hospitals, pioneering psychological services based in GP practices and offering NHS community mental health services.



Mike Byatt

I care passionately about patient care and know how important it is for families and carers to know that everyone is looked after and given the best possible hospital treatment.

I know from personal experience how stressful the need for hospital admission, operations, after care and outpatients can be and how knowing you have someone to help you answer your questions and concerns, speaking on your behalf is so important as a Governor.



Neal Cleaver

I am a well known member of staff of Dorset County Hospital. I am practical, sensible and get things done.

I believe that I would be able to represent the viewpoints of staff in a fair and practical way, seeking to find resolution swiftly to the issues that people may face.



Kathryn Harrison

From 2014 to 2019 I was the Lead Governor at St George's Hospital which gave me an excellent insight into how a Trust and the wider NHS works.

I am delighted to have been elected and I am looking forward to meeting many of you and hearing your views.

Of course, face-to face-chats are more difficult in the current climate but I shall be working with the rest of the Council to try and come up with some new, safe ways that we can engage with you.

I am proud to be part of the DCH team in what will no doubt be a challenging but exciting time and it is a privilege to represent you.

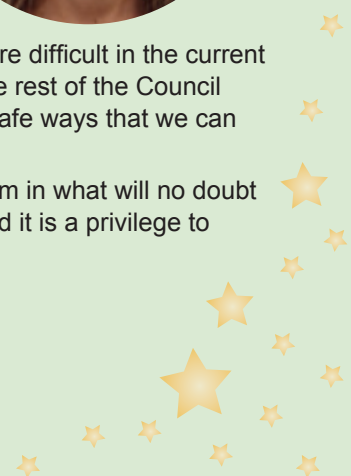


Public meetings



Meeting dates and papers can be found on our website at www.dchft.nhs.uk

For further information you can contact the corporate support team on **01305 255419** or email foundation@dchft.nhs.uk





A massive thank you to Senior Administrator Cheryl Heard who completed the virtual London Marathon on Sunday 4 October 2020 and raised more than £2,000 for the Charity's Chemotherapy Appeal.

It was a hard 26.2 miles in the driving wind and rain but she completed the marathon in 5 hours 55 minutes and 45 seconds. Well done Cheryl!

DCH COVID-19 Appeal

Show your support for NHS staff at Dorset County Hospital

Our COVID-19 Appeal launched in March 2020 and raised more than £168,000 to support staff and patients during and after the first wave of the pandemic.

The appeal has so far funded a range of items to support staff including water bottles, microwaves, coffee machines and furnishings for staff rooms. It is also funding ongoing health and wellbeing projects to support staff resilience and recovery.

Thank you for your generous support!

Free Will Scheme

A small change can make a big difference

Using the Free Will Scheme to leave a gift in your will to Dorset County Hospital is a wonderful way to give something back.

Any gift left to the hospital in a will, no matter how large or small, helps us fund new projects, equipment and training.

For more information, or to receive your free will form, contact our Head of Fundraising Simon Pearson on **01305 253470** or email **simon.pearson@dchft.nhs.uk**



The power of giving

The Power of Giving is Dorset County Hospital Charity's new core fundraising campaign brand, raising funds for specialist care areas across the Trust.

It reflects the extraordinary patient care and dedication of staff and the high regard communities hold for their local hospital. The DCH Christmas Appeal is the first special appeal to be launched under the Power of Giving campaign.

Christmas Appeal

DCH Charity has launched its very special Christmas Appeal to raise vital funds to support patient care and staff wellbeing during the Christmas period and into the New Year.

People are being encouraged to give the gift of care and help Dorset County Hospital as we work together and look forward with hope to a better 2021.

The appeal will secure valuable funding to enhance patient care across the hospital's specialist areas such as cancer care, elderly care, stroke, maternity and critical care as well as funding staff wellbeing initiatives.

You can find out more about the appeal and donate via our dedicated Just Giving page:

www.justgiving.com/campaign/DCHChristmasAppeal2020



facebook.com/DCHcharity



twitter.com/dch_charity

Tel: 01305 253215

Email: charity@dchft.nhs.uk

Website: www.dchft.nhs.uk

Dorset County Hospital Charity,
Williams Avenue, Dorchester,
DT1 2JY

Registered Charity Number 1056479

Celebrating the arts

Frink Dog goes walkies for first time in 30 years

A treasured piece of artwork donated to Dorset County Hospital by renowned sculptor Dame Elisabeth Frink left the site for the first time in almost 30 years to go on show at two European museums.

The Dog sculpture was gifted to the hospital by the artist herself - a former patron of the site - in the early 1990s at the very beginnings of DCH's Arts in Hospital organisation.

It has become one of the hospital's most treasured possessions, and is popular with staff, patients and visitors.

But in October 2020 it left the Trust for the first time to be loaned to the Gerhard Marcks Museum in Bremen, Germany and then to the Museum Beelden aan Zee at The Hague in Holland.

Suzy Rushbrook, Arts in Hospital Manager at DCH, said: "This is an exciting opportunity for Arts in Hospital to celebrate the impressive art collection at DCH which we are privileged to be able to enjoy on a daily basis.

"Elisabeth Frink was one of the major sculptors working in the second half of the 20th century and we are proud to be able to contribute to the enjoyment and education of a new audience by loaning it in this way.

"Collaborations like this help signify that Dorset and Dorchester continue to play a significant part in Frink's artistic legacy and highlight the importance of our hospital's outstanding art collection on an international level."

The new exhibition featuring the Dog sculpture is entitled Elisabeth Frink: Man is an Animal. It looks at Frink's work in the context of a much wider sculptural tradition. It will provide European audiences with a rare opportunity to discover Frink's many connections to European art and see how her work was strongly influenced by key artists such as Rodin and early Greek art.

While the sculpture is on loan, staff and visitors to DCH will be able to enjoy a new piece called Ponyrider, by Gerhard Marcks, which will be in place until the Dog sculpture returns in June 2021.



Frink's Dog (above) has been replaced by Marcks' Ponyrider (left) until its return in June 2021



Shining a light on the people behind the masks

A photographic exhibition revealing – and celebrating – the faces of health workers fighting the battle against coronavirus in Dorset was launched at the hospital in November 2020 and received an overwhelming response.

Unmasked is a project by photographer Andy Scaysbrook, journalist Emma Pittard and designer John Nesbitt.

It was inspired by the fact that to fight an invisible enemy, healthcare workers had to make themselves invisible behind masks, gowns and gloves.

Through a series of portraits photographed by Andy, the project shines a light on the 'people' behind the masks, capturing them in their lives both inside and outside the hospital.

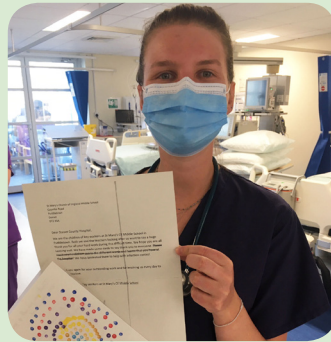
The exhibition is just a sample of the work achieved by Andy, Emma and John during the first lockdown. It was carried out while respecting social distancing guidelines and keeping travel from their Dorset homes to a minimum.

The portraits are accompanied by text – often very moving – featuring quotes from staff featured in the images.

As well as raising funds for local NHS charities, the project will hopefully serve as an exercise in wellbeing and a morale booster for all healthcare staff, as well as being a first-hand record of the incredible roles played by ordinary people in extraordinary times.



We couldn't have got through it without you



INTEGRITY RESPECT TEAMWORK EXCELLENCE