

**Granddad beats
odds to live**

**Keep Stoke
Smiling**

**Cancer beating
treatment**



Critical Condition - What happened next?

Foreword



Tracy Bullock
Chief Executive

As the new Chief Executive of UHNM I am delighted to introduce our latest edition of UHNM News. This sets out some of the fantastic work taking place at both Royal Stoke University Hospital and County Hospital and celebrates the achievements of our dedicated staff. I am very proud of them all!

We recently featured in Channel 5's new series *Critical Condition*, and have provided a few highlights here in case you missed it! Filming for Series 2 is already underway.

If you are one of the many people who have chosen to support UHNM Charity via donations, fundraising or through leaving a legacy in your Will, thank you so much for your generosity. As you will see, this really does help us to enhance the care, services and environment that we can provide to patients, visitors and staff.

Increasingly health and care organisations are working together with the aim of providing more joined up services. UHNM are members of the Together We're Better partnership and p.9 gives details of how you can get involved in a series of conversations about local services in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent over the coming months.

Your feedback is very important to us, so please remember that if you or your loved ones are experiencing any problems with our services, our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) team are on hand to help. They have offices at both Royal Stoke and County Hospital and you can drop in, make an appointment, email patientadvice.uhnm@nhs.net or call 01782 676450. Our teams also really appreciate the many compliments they receive – a big thank you to all those who take the time to do this.



Staff Nurse Rosie Castellort

Overseas nurse gains UK NMC registration

Rosie Castellort is the first overseas nursing assistant working at County Hospital to gain her UK Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) nursing registration. Rosie was already fully qualified as a nurse in her home country of the Philippines, but has had to work through a rigorous transition process to become registered here. Thanks to her hard work and determination, she is now working as a fully qualified staff nurse at UHNM's County Hospital.

Rosie said: "Gaining my UK registration has been life-changing for me. It's been really hard work, but totally worth it, because now I can progress even further if I want to. I love nursing because it enables you to really make a difference in someone's life and it's lovely when patients appreciate the care you give."

44 year-old Rosie journeyed over to the UK with her husband and two children. Rosie had been working on ward 12 at County Hospital as a nursing assistant until she gained her recent NMC registration, for which she had to complete three parts, including an English language exam, a computer-

based test and a practical assessment. Rosie said: "The English language exam is equivalent to gaining a good GCSE pass, so this was certainly a challenge for me, but I've received great support here at County. The team have helped me all the way through and I am now working on a 6-week supernumerary basis, so I'm not left completely alone. I'm really glad that I completed the transition process and gained my registration. I find nursing very fulfilling."

Paul Broad, Lead Preceptorship Nurse, said: "Good communication is essential in nursing and it's really important to us that our nurses act in a way which ensures safe, effective care. We're really proud of Rosie, she has proved that it is possible to achieve great things if you put your mind to it. At UHNM we have a great preceptorship programme and we always make sure we're there for our nurses. Preceptorship isn't just for new nurses, but also those who want to return to practice. We want people to know that they will receive support, helped to build confidence in their skills and be able to feel happy in their work."

Revolutionary surgery saves grandfather's life



Mr and Mrs Keller (centre) with the UHNM teams that saved his life



Mr Keller recovering from extensive chest wall reconstruction at Royal Stoke University Hospital

UHNM's major trauma team has saved the life of a patient given just 20% chance of survival following a horrific accident. 69-year-old grandfather Ian Keller and his wife Vivienne were enjoying a day trip on a barge when Mr Keller fell into the water and got sucked into the spinning propeller blade. The propeller cut through the right-side of his chest and arm, causing multiple injuries including damage to his ribcage and a hole the size of a football to his chest. Expert clinicians at Royal Stoke performed revolutionary chest wall reconstruction and fitted titanium plates to support his rib cage. Mr Keller not only survived but made rapid progress, being discharged from hospital less than a month later.

Mr Keller said: "I remember seeing the propeller blades coming towards me, and I knew that I had one chance to get away. I tried to swim, but the pull was too strong and I got sucked in. What happened was unlucky but I ended up with the most fantastic surgeons and supportive staff that I could wish for. The trauma nurses were excellent - absolutely the best. I can't thank the whole team enough for what they have done."

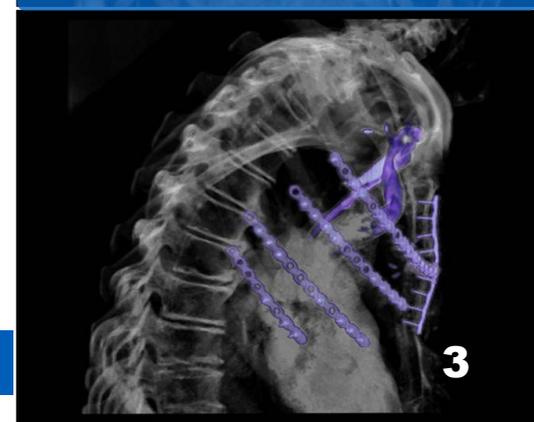
Mr Keller was under water for 90 seconds and was pulled from the canal in Nantwich by holidaymakers Richard and Sally Underwood. Mrs Underwood, a former trauma nurse, performed lifesaving resuscitation at the scene. Mr Keller was flown by air ambulance to Royal Stoke, where specialists used revolutionary chest wall reconstruction to save his life.

UHNM is now driving forward this revolutionary treatment, which has seen survival rates improve by up to 75%. The trauma team has also been given the Chief Executive's Award in recognition of their outstanding skill and dedication.

Mr Chris Satur, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, said: "When Mr Keller came in his chest was full of filthy canal water and there was a strong possibility of him developing an infection. He couldn't breathe very well and because of this, there was also a high chance of developing sepsis. But because we have been able to develop the kind of tools needed, we were able to save him and Royal Stoke is now leading the way for this type of treatment."



X-rays above and below show the extent of the damage to Mr Keller's chest, arm and ribcage





Acute Rehabilitation and Trauma Unit team

£1.5m for trauma rehabilitation patients

The Acute Rehabilitation and Trauma Unit (ARTU) at University Hospitals of North Midlands has been awarded a £1.5 million contract from NHS England to fund nine beds for the most complex trauma patients. The unit is one of only five in England to have the specialised rehabilitation beds.

ARTU is a dedicated 27-bed unit for patients with multiple trauma injuries ranging from head, spinal and orthopaedic. The specialised service delivers early rehabilitation input for patients with very complex needs and helps them to achieve their maximum potential for physical, cognitive, social and psychological recovery.

The specialist rehabilitation pathway is for patients from Staffordshire, Shropshire, South Cheshire and North Wales and works in conjunction with the Broadfield Unit at Haywood Hospital. The expert multidisciplinary team comprises nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, neuropsychologists, advanced nurse practitioners and

doctors including surgeons and rehabilitation medicine specialists.

ARTU forms integral part of the Major Trauma Centre at Royal Stoke University Hospital, and was one of the first hyper-acute specialised rehabilitation units to be developed within a major trauma centre.

Dr Clive Bezzina, Consultant for Rehabilitation Medicine, said: “ARTU has had a very positive impact on both our patients and UHNM as a whole. The unit and its skilled multidisciplinary team extends the excellent care that our post-trauma patients receive and in turn leads to a shorter time in hospital, ensuring our patients make a giant leap on the road to recovery.”

Rhiannon Alcock, Sister on ARTU, said: “Our major trauma centre is one the best performing in the country for survival rates and ARTU is a vital part of this success. The ability for patient’s rehabilitation to start from admission is one of the key benefits of the service.”

Patient able to drive again thanks to care

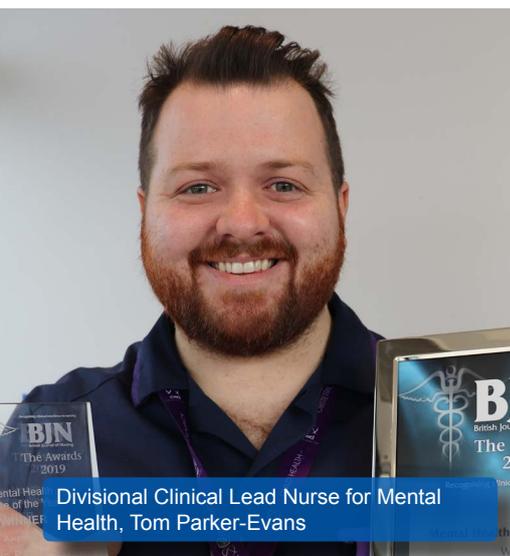


Patient James Hope is sleeping better and has been able to regain his driving license, thanks to the dedication of Polysomnographer Nathalie Bryan. James, who is a patient at the sleep clinic at Royal Stoke, was diagnosed with obstructive sleep apnoea two years ago and issued CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) treatment. James had his driving license revoked due to being on the treatment, something which was essential to him in his job, but thanks to Nathalie’s hard work and efficiency, was able to gain it back again.

James has given Nathalie the UHNM Hero award in recognition of her exemplary care.

Nathalie said: “My job is a varied one, with everything from carrying out sleep studies to analysing results, but patient contact is the most rewarding part for me, and the fact that I’m able to build up a rapport with different ones over the years. I’m really thrilled that James has nominated me for this award, it means such a lot.”

Mental Health Nurse of the Year award



Divisional Clinical Lead Nurse for Mental Health, Tom Parker-Evens, has won the British Journal of Nursing Mental Health Nurse of the Year award.

The award ceremony took place at the Shakespeare Globe Theatre in London on Friday 8 March 2019.

Candidates had to evidence their contribution to mental health nursing, how it impacted patient care and how it benefits mental health nursing as a whole.

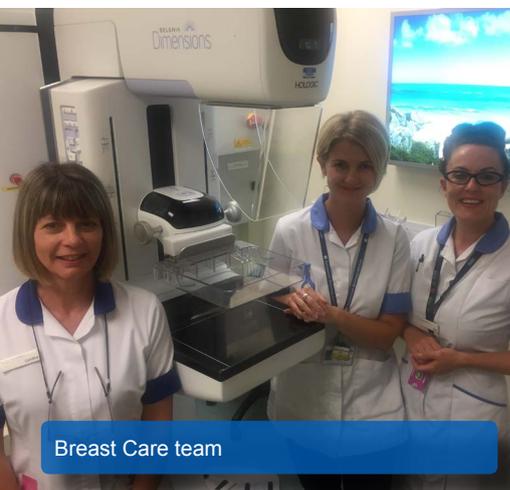
Tom Parker-Evens, Divisional Clinical Lead Nurse for Mental Health, said: "I am delighted to have won this award. Being the clinical lead nurse for mental health is quite a unique role, so it's great to get this recognition and winning this award will only continue to compound my commitment and passion for this wonderful field of nursing. It inspires me to carry on making changes that ultimately make a difference to our staff and patients."

"I have worked alongside colleagues to improve the mental health of patients who at UHNM and other healthcare centres in the region.

"I have also been determined to create a healthcare system that promotes and sustains integrated working with professionals, challenging the status quo and making it possible for mental health nurses to showcase their skills and abilities in all areas of nursing, whilst pushing boundaries and setting a new way of thinking about mental health nursing.

"I won't stop until this is adopted at a national level – My motto is 'Always believe that change is possible'."

Breast screening service showcased nationally



The North Midlands Breast Screening team have been recognised nationally for their use of a range of innovative engagement. The team, who are based at UHNM, have set a particular focus on digital technology and this has enabled them to buck the national trend of screening attendance.

They have pioneered a digital project which has contributed to increased uptake in the prevalent (first time) cohort over the past four years by 13% in certain GP practices.

The team set up a North Midlands Breast Screening Service Facebook page in 2014. NHS Digital recently ranked the service at number 11, up from 58 in the UK. It has also been showcased internationally at the European Conference of Radiology 2019 and at the NHS Expo.

The North Midlands Breast Screening Service uses Facebook to link with health inclusion groups, which share its information and videos. These include Asylum-seekers and refugees, transgender, learning disability and carer organisations. The service has been recognised by the 'Good Things Foundation', a social change charity with an interest in digital projects, for increasing the uptake for breast screening in the region where nationally it has declined.

Gina Newman, Health Improvement Practitioner, said: "I wanted to explore innovative methods of engaging with women. Reflecting on how I access relevant local information myself, I thought a social media approach would be effective. After researching

who accessed different forms of social media, I found that Facebook was the most widely used social media platform accessed by women eligible for screening.

"We have seen the Facebook page go from strength to strength, ultimately resulting in an overall increase in uptake. The community aspect of the group is very powerful and our page has the largest following for a breast screening service in the UK.

"It's great to see members supporting one another and sharing the page further with family and friends. I believe that by establishing a positive conversation targeted at local communities, we can empower women to make an informed choice and break down a number of barriers towards breast screening.

"There has also been strong, positive feedback from GP practices, who have thanked us for helping them to raise awareness of screening and increase uptake."

Breast and brain cancer survivor thanks surgeon



Amanda McDonald with her father Alan McDonald (left), Ms Erminia Albanese, (centre-right) and Louise Montgomery (right)

A patient diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer which then spread to her brain has thanked neurosurgeon Ms Erminia Albanese for her exemplary care. Oxford graduate Amanda McDonald was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013 and was told in 2015 that her condition was terminal. But three years later, following two brain surgeries and a course of radiotherapy, Amanda is now cancer-free and leading a full and active life.

Amanda, of Trentham, said: "It was such a shock to be diagnosed at 40. Words cannot express how grateful I am to have had Ms Albanese as my surgeon. To be able to articulate my thoughts and communicate effectively with people is incredibly important to me. My brain was quite literally in Ms Albanese's hands; it is difficult to explain how it feels to entrust your most valuable and indispensable asset to someone. Her bedside manner was really exceptional and she made me feel like we were a team, in it together.

"Today, I have full cognitive function – I work, run, travel and write for an advertising agency. I have a normal life which I could not have dreamed of after my initial diagnosis. The whole team are outstanding, but for her expert craftsmanship, inspiration, encouragement and superb surgical skills, Ms Albanese is world class."

Amanda has given Ms Albanese the UHNM Hero award in recognition of her work. She was joined at the presentation by her father, Alan McDonald and Louise Montgomery, Oncology Support Nurse.

Ms Albanese said: "Getting this award means a lot. I have gotten to know Amanda well over the last few years and we have developed a very good doctor-patient relationship. I love my work; it can be very demanding and emotionally taxing, but I always try my very best for patients. It's not just about the surgery, it's about looking at the wider patient picture and taking care of the person as a whole."

Lung Health MOT



Hundreds of patients in Stoke on Trent are set to benefit from a new lung health screening programme. 'MOT for your lungs' will look for general signs of poor lung health and also include tests for atrial fibrillation and sleep apnoea. The programme is being run in partnership with 'Together We're Better' and West Midlands Cancer Alliance on a pilot basis.

Dr Imran Hussain, Consultant in Respiratory Medicine, said: "There is an approximately 75% chance of being able to operate successfully if lung cancer is detected early enough, so the main point of introducing the screening programme is to save lives, as well as improve quality of life. But it isn't all about cancer – we will also be checking the health of a patient's heart. And we'll be offering advice on lifestyle changes such as smoking cessation."



SUGARY DRINKS ROT TEETH

#KeepStokeSmiling

Healthy teeth campaign boost

UHNM's #keepstokesmiling campaign is being taken to new heights, with a series of billboards set to go up across the city. The campaign aims to help educate young people in Stoke-on-Trent about the damaging effects of too much sugar on teeth. The billboards have been specially designed by students at Newcastle under Lyme College and Stafford College and are part of a wide array of tools being used by the hospital and local health partners to tackle the growing problem of tooth decay in the younger generation.

Five-year-old children in Stoke-on-Trent are in the bottom quarter of England's Local Authority tooth decay league and Stoke has four times the number of hospital admissions for decayed teeth than in the rest of the UK.

Karen Juggins, Consultant Orthodontist who is leading the initiative, said: "Grossly decayed teeth in children and young adults is one of Stoke's biggest dental health problems. The consumption of high sugar-content fizzy drinks is without doubt a large contributing factor and many of our patients seem unaware of the consequences. For example, a can of cola contains an average nine cubes

of sugar and a can of energy drink contains on average 13 cubes of sugar. We've set out on a mission to improve the dismal statistics we are seeing year after year.

"On average, a can of cola contains nine cubes of sugar"

"We're thrilled that our campaign is being given such a fantastic boost with the billboards. The artwork has been intelligently designed by some young and talented people who actually make up our target audience and they will be going up in really busy parts of the city, which means that thousands of people will see them. We also know that social media is also a fantastic way to educate our patients and promote orthodontics and good dental health, and Instagram offers us an opportunity to share reliable information with patients about their orthodontic treatment and oral health in general."

UHNM's orthodontic team has collaborated with colleagues in general



UHNM's Orthodontics Team



Consultant Orthodontist Karen Juggins with one of the campaign billboards designed by college students

dental practice and general medical practice, the community dental service and local dental public health and NHS England teams. Members of the dental trade are also supporting the campaign.

David Holdcroft, Lecturer at Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group, said: "Karen has been fantastic, coming in to speak to the students and highlight the scope of the alarming problem we have. I'm really proud of the way the students responded to the challenge and went on to create some fantastic artwork for such an important cause."



Patient cleared of cancer thanks to new ground-breaking treatment

A Stoke-on-Trent pensioner who was given three months to live has been cleared of cancer following revolutionary cancer treatment. UHNM began offering revolutionary TACE liver cancer treatment in June 2018 and 80-year-old Alan from Abbey Houlton was the second patient to receive the life-saving treatment.

The Trans Arterial Chemoembolisation (TACE) Service is a potential method of treatment for those suffering from liver cancer, using the latest technology available in the world. Previously, patients wishing to have this ground-breaking method of chemotherapy were required to travel to another regional centre more than 50 miles away. Now, for the first time this treatment is available in Stoke-on-Trent.

TACE involves the injection of a concentrated dose of chemotherapeutic agent material into the patient's arteries. During the treatment, a catheter is inserted into the main blood vessel in the groin and passed along the artery to the main blood vessel that carries blood to the

liver. The treatment has a dual effect, delivering the chemotherapy in a highly concentrated dose into the tumour and starving it of a blood supply without cuts or incisions.

“After only three sessions, I was clear of cancer.”

Dr Mona Mossad, Interventional Radiology Consultant and TACE service lead, said: “After two years of hard work with support of the Radiology department, and with the help of the Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary (HPB) Surgery and Oncology consultants, we are able to offer this amazing service to our local population, so patients with cancer don't have to travel far away from the support of their family and friends. Having the service locally enables us to start the treatment as soon as possible.”

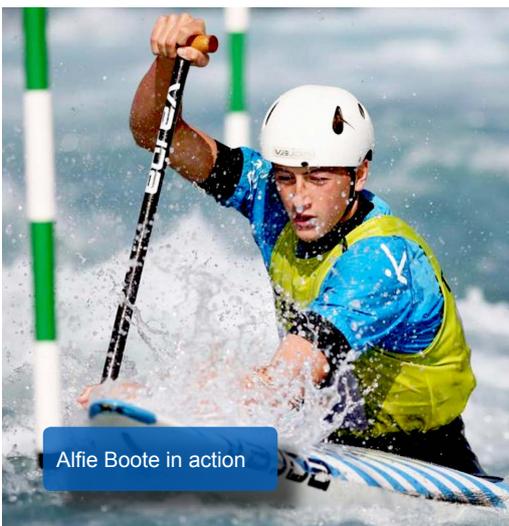
Injecting chemotherapy medications directly into the tumour has the

advantage of largely avoiding a wide range of side effects associated with conventional chemotherapy and patients are able to go home either the same day or the day after.

Dr Mossad continued: “I offered Alan the TACE treatment as his tumour was very large at this point, his life expectancy was only three months if left without treatment. After three TACE treatments we had an amazing response, Alan's last scan showed complete response with no residual tumour left. Mr Adlington and his family were extremely pleased with the results and they even sent me a beautiful flower bouquet to thank me for my care.”

Mr Adlington said: “I cannot thank Dr Mossad and her team enough, I was told that I only had three months to live if I didn't have any treatment such as chemotherapy and after being offered this new treatment by UHNM I jumped at the chance. I couldn't believe the results of my last scan after only three sessions, I was clear of cancer. Dr Mossad is a real credit to UHNM and the NHS.”

Patient to compete at Slalom World Championships



Alfie Boote in action

17-year-old respiratory patient Alfie Boote is set to compete at the Junior Slalom White Water Paddling World Championships this year. The prestigious event will be held in Krakow and sees athletes travel from all over the world to compete in the fast-paced and demanding sport.

Alfie's incredible achievement has seen him beat the odds to take part, having suffered severe respiratory complications from birth, including

numerous bouts of pneumonia, a collapsed lung and severe asthma.

Alfie, of Stone, said: "I love Slalom because I can learn new things and it's different every day, which means every time I get into the seat I face a new challenge. I was very young when I first went into hospital and have basically grown up with the children's team at UHNM. It's been a challenge living with my condition, but they have helped me a lot and have played a vital role in my life. They are the biggest reason my health is good today and why I'm able to take part in a sport I love."

Alfie's mum, Suzie, said: "Alfie was first admitted to hospital at just two weeks' old and since then has suffered multiple bouts of pneumonia and a collapsed lung. Up until the age of five there wasn't a month that went by when we weren't in hospital at some point. Fortunately for Alfie, he has had the same team at Royal Stoke look after him all the way through his treatment. Getting into Slalom has really helped Alfie to expand his lungs and he's had no admissions now for

the last two years. Slalom is perfect because it involves using short, sharp bursts of energy, rather than sustained cardiovascular effort."

Sadie Clayton, consultant nurse, said: "Alfie is absolutely one of the most determined young men I have ever met. Even from the age of one and struggling to get his breath, he has always been very active. It was clear that, although he had his problems, he was still a very robust child! Of course, in some ways the greater challenges come later in life and in going up to high school. It can be hard to keep up with everyone else, but we've supported him as best we can.

"Alfie's case is definitely something of a rarity – sadly, it's not often that a person with a severe respiratory condition is able to lead such an active life. But it's not just about the physical strength – his personality makes a massive difference. Alfie has never indulged in self-pity, he's always just got on with it."



Health and care in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Your voice counts.

As a partner in Together We're Better, we are working alongside NHS organisations, local authorities, Healthwatch and voluntary and community sector groups to achieve a joint vision of 'working with you to make Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent the healthiest places to live and work'.

www.twbstaffsandstoke.org.uk



CRITICAL CONDITION

Series two

Coming late 2019

CRITICAL CONDITION

In Spring 2019 UHNM was the sole focus of a new documentary *Critical Condition*, which took an up-close, unflinching and immersive look at the critical moments when patients in a life-threatening condition come through the hospital's doors. Filmed at Royal Stoke University Hospital *Critical Condition* showcases the relentless fast pace of the department's daily workload in a way never seen before on television.

The ground-breaking four-part documentary featuring the medical staff at Royal Stoke University Hospital received critical acclaim and followed in incredible detail the staff and patients as they confront the realities of emergency medicine. UHNM is delighted that the second series of *Critical Condition* is due to start filming in June to be screened in Autumn 2019.

Motorcyclist crushed by car saved by staff at Royal Stoke



A 65-year-old motorcyclist praised the skill and care of life-saving staff at Royal Stoke University Hospital after being run over by a Range Rover. Steve Cropper, an engineer, was left with life-threatening injuries after being trapped under the car following an accident while out for a motorbike ride along the A5 near Llangollen in Wales. The dad of three and granddad of seven from Colwyn Bay was airlifted to UHNM's Major Trauma Centre which is one of just 22 in the country.

Steve, who has ridden motorbikes since he was 16 years old, spent more than four weeks in hospital in Stoke following the accident, which was his first. He said: "It was a beautiful day and was probably my last ride before packing the bikes away for winter. I was stationary and a Range Rover pulled up behind me followed by a passenger bus but the bus didn't stop and the Range Rover just went straight over me. I was trapped underneath and struggling to breathe but somehow I managed to pull myself out. I was conscious but I think people thought I was dead because they wouldn't come close. Then the police and ambulance arrived and I was taken to Stoke by air ambulance."



Steve, who restores classic cars, suffered a pelvis fracture, broke nearly all his ribs, dislocated his shoulder and required emergency surgery to stabilise his spine. He said: "It was a very traumatic experience and I am still dealing with those consequences. I have weekly physiotherapy and I'm full of aches and pains but given the fact the hospital told me not to expect too much in the first year I am doing really well. I am made of stern stuff but it is thanks to the expert care from fantastic staff at Stoke that my recovery has been so good and can I can live to tell the tale."

As for getting back on his bike again, Steve said he was taking each day at a time. "I absolutely would get back on my bike again but I have promised my partner that I won't put her through the worry again. My children know how much the bikes mean to me also but it was such a shock for them too so we've agreed we'll leave the bikes for now."

Life-saving surgery following Cardiac Assessment



Gary Ross thought he had simply pulled a muscle after suffering from chest pain for three days but once seen by the life-saving staff at Royal Stoke University he was told he needed urgent surgery or faced the risk of dying.

After being seen by the highly-specialised Cardiac Assessment Nursing team at Royal Stoke Hospital the father of one was transferred to the hospital's Coronary Care Unit where life-saving scans and tests revealed his aorta, the main artery in the body, had torn. His urgent surgery was to prevent a catastrophic rupture and any further bleeding. One in four people don't survive the operation.

Gary, from Tean, Cheadle, said: "I had been in Belfast for a few days and had picked up a bit of a tummy bug and as I was getting over that I started to feel that every time I lay down someone was sitting on my chest. I thought it was all connected. I left it three days before calling 111, I just thought I'd pulled a muscle or something so was quite shocked when they sent an ambulance immediately.

"Once I got to hospital I had a few quick checks before being admitted to the Coronary Care Unit and within about 10 minutes of having a full scan they were down telling me I needed heart surgery almost immediately."

The 49-year-old required urgent surgery to prevent a catastrophic rupture and any further bleeding. The operation is dangerous and one in four people don't survive the operation. With every minute making a difference, he had to make an instant decision whether to go ahead and say goodbye to his family before going to theatre.

Gary said: "Everything changed straight away with a real sense of urgency but at the time I had no worries about it all, I knew it wasn't my time so I said goodbye to my Dad and my boy with no worries at all. They took me down to surgery and I woke up nine hours later, the following two days are a bit of a blur but I was discharged three days after the operation. I am still having rehab so it is slow going but I am getting there," he added.

Praise for trauma team following first episode of Critical Condition



The family of great-granddad Alan Fouracre, whose brush with death was retold in the first episode of our exclusive documentary on Channel 5 Critical Condition, spoke of their emotion watching the dedication and commitment of UHNM's staff to save his life.

Pensioner Alan, from Bucknall, had survived three other cardiac episodes before collapsing while on a trip to Hanley. The 84-year-old fell to the floor with a passer-by performing CPR providing him with invaluable extra minutes before the ambulances arrived.

His wife, Maureen described the emotion watching how the team, led by emergency medicine consultant Dr Chris Pickering, gave chest compressions, electric shocks, scans and medication, all while making sure Alan kept breathing.

"I wasn't there when Alan was first admitted by ambulance and hadn't realised until I watched the documentary just how many people had played a part in helping keep him alive. It was truly amazing to see what the doctor and the team around him did. It's difficult to express how grateful we are for what they have done."

Lucky to be alive after machete attack

David Allen, 28-year-old man from Newcastle-under-Lyme, was rushed into the major trauma centre after being attacked with a machete in October 2018. His head and neck wounds were so deep doctors feared he would die.

The father-of-three, who has learning disabilities and schizophrenia, was left with life changing injuries and still suffers the consequences of the attack now. His mum Teresa Allen said: "I never in a million years thought I would be that mum being told that my son's life hangs in the balance now and it's up to him to fight. My heart sunk to pits of my stomach when I was told. I am gobsmacked he is still alive but I can say he is the strongest man I know. If anything is to come from this I want people to see why they are sometimes left waiting in the A&E waiting rooms. The people who come to A&E with and complain because they have been waiting for a long time need to see what is going on behind closed doors and that there are amazing people saving the lives of those who really desperately need care and treatment."



How to donate



No matter how large or small, every gift will help make a difference to patients and staff at the University Hospitals of North Midlands. There are many ways in which you can donate:

Online

You can make a donation securely online using Paypal or Virgin Money Giving – just visit our website at www.uhnmcharity.org.uk.

By post

Send a cheque to us by post. Cheques need to be made payable to 'UHNM Charity'. Please enclose a covering letter telling us if there is a particular area of the hospital you'd like to support.

By phone

Call us on 01782 676444 (don't forget to have your credit/debit card ready!)

Leave a legacy to UHNM Charity



By leaving a legacy to UHNM Charity, you're helping us to go above and beyond what the NHS can provide. Including UHNM Charity in your Will, means both our hospitals become more comfortable places to be, our clinicians are able to purchase extra state-of-the-art equipment, and even more of our patients survive their illness thanks to funding for life-saving medical research.

Whichever ward or service is close to your heart, we want you to know that we hold your donations in a charitable fund that supports the area of yours or the donor's choice, and work hand in hand with doctors, nurses, and the other medical experts who make up UHNM to ensure that they are put to good use- making the greatest possible difference to patient care.

Over the years, gifts through Wills have made a huge impact on UHNM Charity, helping us to purchase the latest, cutting edge-equipment for our Trust, including a £4m PET CT scanner, and £1.5m surgical robot used to treat cancer patients.

A gift in your Will of whatever size, can help transform the care and experience for hundreds and even thousands of local patients for years to come. It can also be a tax-efficient way of managing your finances.

If you would like to know more about donating a legacy, please call 01782 676444 to discuss your plans and any wishes for how the money is spent.

Cancer Ward gets a lift thanks to UHNM Charity



Staff Nurse Rebecca Noble is pictured in the hoist with Nursing Assistant Lisa Evans

The Haematology and Oncology Ward at Royal Stoke University Hospital has been given a lift thanks to UHNM Charity. Staff and patients on Ward 201 in the Cancer Centre will benefit from a

new hoist made possible thanks to the efforts of local fundraisers.

As well being used to help move immobile patients from their beds

to their chairs, the hoist features a weighing device which will aid in chemotherapy treatment.

Rebecca Noble, Staff Nurse on Ward 201 said: "This new hoist will benefit the whole ward and ensures bed-bound patients can remain independent whilst speeding up their recovery and discharge home. It also reduces the physical demands on staff who were lifting patients by hand, with the weighing chair enabling us to better assess patients prior to any treatment."

The Trust's state-of-the-art Cancer Centre opened in 2009, and offers a range of inpatient, day, and outpatient cancer services to a population of 700,000.

Safe space bed provides peace of mind for parents and staff



Ward Sister Ann McMahon with the Safe Space Bed

Parents of patients in our Children's Intensive Care Unit have been given extra piece of mind thanks to UHNM Charity. Thanks to charitable funding, the Unit has been able to purchase a bespoke safe space bed enclosure,

designed to improve the safety of the more active patients.

Ann McMahon, Ward Sister said: "This new specially designed enclosure means parents and staff can leave

patients safely unattended in the knowledge they won't bump or hurt themselves further. The safe space fits on top of existing beds in the Unit, and features specially designed and positioned holes that allow access for equipment."

Six consultants and 53 highly-skilled nurses staff the modern, spacious eight-bed ward which has the latest state-of-the-art medical technology. The facilities also contain seven bedrooms of various sizes to accommodate the patients' families in a child and family-friendly department.

In addition to standard intensive care procedures, the unit is a nationally-acclaimed, specialist centre for non-invasive respiratory intensive care and also has specialist support services for patients who have had spinal surgery.

If you would like to fundraise for UHNM Charity visit www.uhnmcharity.org.uk for more information, or call 01782 676444 to speak to one of the UHNM Chaity team.

Become a volunteer with UHNM Charity



Who we're looking for

Anybody can become a UHNM Charity volunteer, not just previous patients and their families, and you can volunteer at either Royal Stoke University Hospital or County Hospital in Stafford.

All we ask is you've got a friendly, can-do attitude, with an enthusiasm for our work and a willingness to help others.

We'd also like you to be able to commit 3-4 hours per week in one session, over a minimum of 6 months.

How does it work?

UHNM Charity volunteers will support us in providing a 'meet and greet' and information facility for the Charity in our hospital's atriums and other key entrance points, helping us connect more effectively with fundraisers', staff, patients, carers and the public.

You'll also help with a range of other activities including accepting donations and completing appropriate documentation, swapping collection cans within the hospitals, and helping to promote our fundraisers' work.

What you'll get out of it

You'll learn new skills, make new friends and be part of an amazing group of people. But above all, you'll have the knowledge that you'll be making a real difference in improving the experience of patients and their families at our two hospitals.

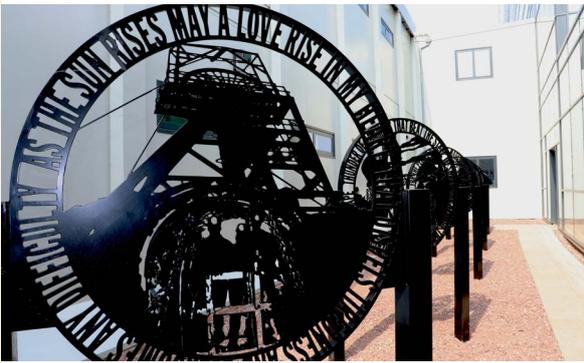
How to get involved

If you'd like more information about volunteering with UHNM Charity, feel free to get in touch with us either by calling the UHNM Charity office on 01782 676444 or emailing charity@uhnm.nhs.uk.



Staff from UHNM and PM Training proudly stand next to one of the newly installed pieces

New hospital artwork celebrates the Midland's industrial heritage



A new display of artwork celebrating the industrial heritage of our region has been installed at Royal Stoke University Hospital thanks to the generosity of those who donate to UHNM Charity.

Five steel discs depicting the region's traditional and historical industries were erected at the entrance to the hospital's new multi-million pound modular wards. The steel, mining, canal, pottery and healthcare industries are represented on the pieces which also feature poems and quotes from local people.

Alex Smith, Capital Project Estates Manager at University Hospitals of North Midlands said: "Following the successful completion of the modular ward project earlier this year, our Arts Steering Group identified an opportunity to enhance the hospital environment for staff, patients and visitors."



"These new pieces of artwork, designed and made locally and installed thanks to a grant from UHNM Charity, provide a focal point at the entrance to the new wards drawn from the memories and experiences of our patients."

The 8ft artworks, made from 8mm thick mild steel were designed by renowned local artist Andrew Edwards and made in Chesterton by training provider PM Training.

Artist Andrew Edwards said, "This work is about caring and belonging. It is a dedication to the development of Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent as an industrial city. It's important to reflect that our region is built on the hard work and sacrifice of men, women and children going back many centuries. Everyone who lives and works here is part of that continuation, building prosperity and community. We hope they all feel acknowledged by this tribute."

The next phase of the installation will see interpretation boards installed further detailing the different industries.

If you would like to fundraise for UHNM Charity visit www.uhnmcharity.org.uk for more information, or call 01782 676444 to speak to one of the UHNM Charity team.



Family and friends complete fundraising walk



The walking team

The family and friends of a road traffic accident survivor laced up their walking shoes and hit the road themselves to thank staff at UHN-M who saved his life.

A group of more than 20 walkers completed the gruelling 132 miles from Porthmadog to Stoke-on-Trent to raise funds for the critical care unit at Royal Stoke University Hospital, who cared for Cobi Fitchford following a serious car crash last summer.

The accident left Cobi with injuries to his brain, face and leg, and were so severe that after initially being admitted to Critical Care, he has only recently left our Acute Rehabilitation Trauma Unit (ARTU).

The walk took four days to complete and took the group over a variety of terrains in challenging weather.

Speaking upon his return, Cobi's cousin and event organiser Daniel Bradbury said: "This walk has been by far the hardest thing any of us have ever done, but they're a cracking group, and it's been 100 per cent worth it to raise funds for an amazing cause."

More than £3,300 has been raised from the event.

Jill Bogucki, Matron for Critical Care, said: "The critical care unit is an important part of UHN-M's Major Trauma Centre and has seen an increase in the demands for services and specialist facilities. We're grateful to fundraisers like this, who help our 400 dedicated doctors and nursing staff provide the highest quality critical care and experience for our patients and their families."





Road to recovery leads to Everest

A former patient has scaled new heights for UHNM Charity after a serious stroke left her life hanging in the balance.

Just three years after climbing her own personal mountain, Jeanette Pickup from Stockton Brook trekked to Everest base camp in March 2019 raising over £3,000 for the Acute Stroke Unit at the Royal Stoke University Hospital.

During the twelve-day trek, Jeanette lived the full Sherpa life, trekking for hours a day and sleeping in tea houses often with little sanitation.

Speaking after returning to the civilisation of North Staffordshire, Jeanette said, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger and I'm living proof of this. When I collapsed, my partner Warren recognised I was having a stroke and dialled 999. Without his quick thinking and the expertise and dedication of the Acute Stroke Unit, I wouldn't be here today, so I wanted to give something back to the team at UHNM for saving my life on that awful night."

Jeanette had partial paralysis and was taken from her home in the Staffordshire Moorlands to the Royal

Stoke University Hospital where a blood clot was found in her brain. She was quickly treated and within hours regained mobility, leaving doctors stunned with her progress. But during monitoring it was discovered she had a hole in the heart, which was later repaired. It then took her three years to get back to full fitness.

Dr Indira Natarajan, Consultant Stroke Physician on the Acute Stroke Unit, added: "On behalf of the entire Stroke Team, we'd like to thank Jeanette for her fundraising adventure, and are delighted that she has made such a good recovery."



Foreword



At UHNM Charity we're extremely grateful for the kindness and generosity of our supporters. It's because of you that we're able to provide funds to enable

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust to purchase state-of-the-art medical equipment and to enhance and improve patient experience and comfort at Royal Stoke University Hospital and County Hospital in Stafford.

Each year these hospitals provide care for over two million people who come to us for emergency treatment, planned operations and medical care, so your fundraising is more important than ever. Please continue to generously support our work, safe in the knowledge that every penny you raise will be directly spent enhancing the hospital treatment, care and experience of local people like you.

Finally, we want to keep you up to date with exactly where your hard-earned money is going within the Trust, so please be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to receive the latest news and updates from UHNM Charity.



U·H·N·M
charity

Raising funds for University Hospitals of North Midlands



Patient scales
new heights

Volunteer for
UHNM Charity

Cancer ward
gets lift

New hospital artwork

www.uhnmcharity.org.uk