



The home of
THE great north
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Foundation

The Sir *Bobby Robson*
Foundation 

Our Summer Newsletter

Issue 03 | Summer 2022



Katie Hickman,
Arts Programme Manager at
Newcastle Hospitals Charity

As we look forward to the prospect of a warm summer, here at Newcastle Hospitals Charity we are delighted to see so many of our projects flourishing and benefitting the hospital community.

In my role as the Arts Programme Manager at Newcastle Hospitals Charity, it has been my pleasure and privilege to oversee some very exciting new initiatives, including the installation of new artwork at the Leazes Bistro at the RVI and the arrival of Johannah Churchill's Watchful Waiting series at the Freeman Hospital. You can read more about our growing Arts Programme inside this newsletter.

We are also pleased to share updates on some of the most recent grants we have awarded, including a pioneering ANRP machine that will improve transplant outcomes, as well as smaller things – like craft materials on the Paediatric Assessment Suite to help calm and engage younger patients.

We're also taking this opportunity to spotlight some of our generous fundraisers, who have come into 2022 with so much passion, enthusiasm, and kindness. We're all so grateful for the ongoing support of our local community – thank you.



Huge step forward for community partnerships

Newcastle Hospitals Charity has recently awarded more than £500,000 in grants to a range of partner charities, as part of an increasingly collaborative approach to supporting patients and creating healthier communities. The benefitting partner charities are:

Healthworks, an award-winning Newcastle charity, received **£71,320** for the provision of exercise sessions for patients suffering from long Covid after leaving hospital (pictured). Another local organisation, **Newcastle Carers**, has been awarded **£44,966** for a project that will ensure Newcastle Hospitals' staff have the skills and knowledge to identify and support patients with unpaid caring responsibilities.

The Centre for Sustainable Healthcare received **£48,961** to deliver a programme of activities engaging staff, patients, and the local community with the creation of outdoor recovery spaces near our hospitals.

MediCinema received **£128,648**, which will enable them to offer additional screenings and a wider range of films at their state-of-the-art facility in the RVI.

Radio Tyneside, our volunteer-run hospital radio station, was awarded **£3,600** to meet some of its core running costs over the next three years.

Children's Cancer North were awarded **£205,000** to cover the cost of two full-time, four-year PhD studentships at Newcastle University's Wolfson Childhood Cancer Research Centre.

Jon Goodwin, the charity's Head of Grant Programmes, is excited about the potential of these new partnerships:

"Newcastle Hospitals Charity has a long history of working with external charities like Citizens Advice, Daft as a Brush, and Newcastle United Foundation, and we're delighted to build on this with these new grants. The charitable sector has a huge role to play in helping us make a real difference for our patients, staff, and communities, and there is so much more we can do together."



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We are delighted to be working in partnership with Urban Green Newcastle to develop and pilot a unique arts & wellbeing hub in Leazes Park, to benefit NHS staff, patients and their communities. This trial facility will allow the people of our Trust to engage with nature through a programme of creative activities.

In May, we were pleased to install the display of Johannah Churchill's loaned works from the series 'Watchful Waiting' at the Freeman Hospital where Johannah trained as a nurse from 2007 to 2010. Johannah is now a highly respected photography lecturer at Sunderland University and has exhibited widely. We're excited to be working with Johannah and a small

number of Newcastle Hospitals staff in the coming months to develop a new portrait project.

Following on from a partnership with The Open University, we also held a successful Creative Writing Competition with 3 finalists who received book tokens as a prize, and will be displaying their original works in the hospitals.



**Watchful Waiting
at the Freeman
Hospital**



Football match and disco honours dad and raises funds for cardio trials



Earlier this year, Michelle Brown organised a charity football match and disco in memory of her dad, 'Square', who sadly passed away the year before on 11th February 2021. Michelle's dad had multiple procedures and treatments at the Freeman Hospital and Michelle wanted to give something back to the wonderful staff for all their help.

Michelle's husband, Rob, formed a football team 'Square's All Stars', named after her dad. They played against Brandon Cricket Club FC. Friends and family attended the match and disco to honour the memory of 'Square' and show their support. Michelle raised an amazing £2,170 in total for the Newcastle Cardiovascular Trials & Research (NECTAR) Fund, part of Newcastle Hospitals Charity, which aims to improve the experience for our patients with cardiovascular disease.



**Michelle's
dad 'Square'**



**Aimen Amer, Consultant
Transplant Surgeon at the
Freeman Hospital**

New technology to increase number of life-changing organ transplants



A £74,345 grant from Newcastle Hospitals Charity is helping to drive forward organ transplantation in the North East, by funding a cutting-edge Abdominal Normothermic Regional Perfusion (ANRP) machine.

This machine, which will be one of the first in the UK, restores circulation to abdominal organs, helping to keep them viable between donor and recipient, leading to an increase in successful organ transplantation and a reduction in complications after surgery.

It is anticipated that having this machine will enable Newcastle Hospitals to undertake an additional 25 liver transplants, four pancreas transplants, and 12 kidney transplants each year, transforming lives.

Aimen Amer, a Consultant Transplant Surgeon at the Freeman Hospital, applied for the grant. He said: "It was exhilarating to hear that Newcastle Hospitals Charity had agreed to fund the purchase of an ANRP machine. This will significantly transform the transplant service that we provide, and I look forward to a strong partnership with Newcastle Hospitals Charity to achieve that."

Having this technology in place will also keep Newcastle at the forefront of healthcare innovation and it is hoped that other trusts will learn from our experience with the machine, spreading the benefits of this grant across the country and beyond.

NMAHP staff at Newcastle Hospitals will benefit from this research funding

Newcastle Hospitals Charity supports creation of new Research Development Institute

We are delighted to have made one of our biggest ever grants, awarding £3.2 million towards the introduction of an exclusive new Institute, dedicated to the progression of research talent amongst Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals (NMAHPs) at Newcastle Hospitals.

The Institute will support staff throughout their research journey, giving them flexibility and independence as they establish research alongside their clinical practice. This will bring huge benefits for both patients and colleagues.

"This incredibly generous grant is fantastic news and will help us drive forward our innovative vision to introduce a unique Research Institute, harnessing the potential of our growing research active community," explained Executive Chief Nurse, Maurya Cushlow.

"Thanks to this major award, Newcastle's new NMAHP Research Development Institute will support hundreds more staff to turn their research ideas and aspirations into reality."

The award, over the next five years, will provide a range of dedicated clinical academic fellowships from pre- to post-doctoral and will address a range of issues that are usually associated with finding time for research within busy clinical roles.

Linda Tinkler leads the Nursing, Midwifery and AHP research capacity building agenda at Newcastle Hospitals. She said: "Our work in recent years has been focused entirely on listening to our NMAHPs, then seeking to develop and put in place the structures and support required to address their research capacity building needs.

"This much welcomed investment is a true demonstration of the commitment to this agenda and will enable us to support so many NMAHPs to make their ambitions a reality."

Regular giving



Making a regular gift to Newcastle Hospitals Charity is invaluable.

For as little as £3 a month, you can help us continue our important work at Newcastle Hospitals.

Make your gift today by completing the enclosed form, or scan the QR code below to donate online.



Scan me



Funded LEGO model brings comfort to young patients



A hospital stay can be daunting for children, especially when they must undergo scans and procedures involving machinery that can seem loud and scary! To help tackle this in Paediatric Radiotherapy, Newcastle Hospitals Charity – via our Great North Children's Hospital Foundation – has funded the build of a custom LEGO model of a radiotherapy machine, to help show young patients what to expect. The model, which has been built by local LEGO architects Brick This, will be large enough to fit a Barbie-type doll in, to show the patient where they will lie in the machine. Bethany Cockburn, a Nurse Specialist in Paediatric Radiotherapy, who applied for the funding said: "Radiotherapy can be scary, especially for children, and especially when you see the machine for the first time. This fab model is going to be so, so useful in helping us explain to young children how their treatment is going to work, and it also looks cool – like something from Star Wars! Steve from Brick This has been a joy to work with and the process of applying for a small grant from Newcastle Hospitals Charity was straightforward too."



The LEGO Radiotherapy Machine in progress



Mercedes Benz of Newcastle team, with Emma McQuitty, (centre) Fundraising Coordinator at Newcastle Hospitals Charity

Mercedes Benz steers fundraising efforts to support Newcastle's Great North Children's Hospital



We are so grateful to the amazing team at Mercedes Benz of Newcastle, who have chosen to fundraise for Newcastle Hospitals Charity, in support of The Great North Children's Hospital. They're organising various fundraising events; from bake sales to skydives, and even creating custom charity air fresheners to help raise funds.

Staff at the dealership were invited to choose a local good cause to support and decided on The Great North Children's Hospital, as many staff could personally relate to the amazing work being carried out at the hospital to support children and their families.

Rebecca Crewe, Managing Director at Mercedes Benz of Newcastle, said: "I was delighted that the team chose to support The Great North Children's Hospital here in Newcastle, this partnership will allow us to focus our efforts on making a

difference to this incredible charity. Part of our commitment at our dealership is 'Giving Something Back' to the local community; whether it's through fundraising days, time, rallying for donations or working with local charities to help those less fortunate, we are proud to say our colleagues never let us down on the charity front! In fact, every colleague is given one day paid to go and make a difference in the local community, that's how seriously we take our responsibilities. We are excited about the new relationship with The Great North Children's Hospital Foundation, and we look forward to working with them throughout 2022."

Why not support the team's fundraising efforts by visiting their dealership on Scotswood Road to pick up a charity car air freshener?

Artwork created by
young patients on PEAU



Getting crafty: funded craft materials brighten hospital stays for young patients



Newcastle Hospitals Charity – via The Great North Children's Hospital Foundation – is proud to supply craft materials to Play Specialists at The Great North Children's Hospital.

Lynda Fawcus, Health Play Specialist, speaks of the impact they have had on the RVI Paediatric Emergency Assessment Unit (PEAU):

"Creative activities are a popular choice with young people of all ages and abilities on the unit. Crafting can help anxious children to relax and distract them from the unfamiliar hospital environment and parents, carers and siblings often get involved, which can reduce stress associated with a hospital admission. Newcastle Hospitals Charity have been extremely supportive of PEAU and have always helped provide a range of craft materials for the children to work with. Without them we'd be unable to provide creative activities for the children and young people on the unit. So, I would like to say a huge thank you for this support!"



Seb (L) and Esme (R)
supporting the Great
North Children's
Hospital Foundation



Esme inspires her family's 100k challenge



The Robson family (Victoria, Paul, Sebastian and Esme) set themselves the challenge of running and walking 100km to raise funds for The Great North Children's Hospital Foundation – their way of giving a little something back to the hospital that supported them. To date, they have raised over £1,600!

In April 2020, daughter Esme was sadly diagnosed with a rare condition called Familial Adenomatous Polyposis and had to undergo major surgery in July 2021 to remove her large colon. Esme is now over 6 months post operation, 'happy and loving life.' She will need to be continually monitored to ensure everything is well and so the care provided by The Great North Children's Hospital will continue to be part of her life.

The Robson's started their challenge by completing the Riyadh Fun Run and Half Marathon, before continuing the challenge to complete their 100km target throughout March 2022. To reach their target they completed a Colour Run, numerous evening walks and a fun run/walk at school.

Esme's mum, Victoria, said: "We are so incredibly lucky. The Great North Children's Hospital provided the most amazing care and support we could have wished for. There were so many people involved in Esme's care and we wish we could name them all - we want to say a huge thank you to you all."

Recently funded



The Crafters Club Flamingo Land Trip

Based at the RVI, the Crafters Club is a club for children who have sadly suffered burn injuries, and their families, offering peer support opportunities and fun social activities.

The club has its own dedicated fund - part of The Great North Children's Hospital Foundation - which recently awarded £5,100 for a summer trip to Flamingo Land for 25 Crafters Club families.



Kay Murray completes Sir Bobby's Football Run in the USA

Globetrotting Football Runners!



Sir Bobby's Football Run began during lockdown last year and has now become a way for football fans across the UK, and North Easterners living all over the world, to support our work.

A top-flight footballer runs around 10km during a game and Sir Bobby's Football Runners were challenged to do the same, whenever and wherever they liked during April, and to do so wearing their favourite football shirt.

The response was amazing and we had Football Runners in the USA, Hong Kong and Australia, as well as across the UK.

Despite living thousands of miles away from her native Teesside, Kay Murray ran her 10k in Connecticut wearing her beloved Middlesbrough football shirt.

A studio host of ESPN's football coverage in the USA, Kay began her broadcasting career at Boro TV and remains as passionate about her hometown club as ever.

Like too many people, Kay's family has been affected by cancer and the drug trials work at the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research

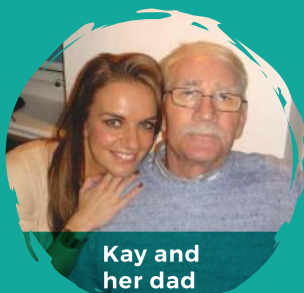
Centre, in the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital, offered hope when it was most needed.

Kay says: "My dad received treatment at the Sir Bobby Robson Centre and I know how important the work there is for cancer patients, both now and for the future.

"The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation means everything to me because it gave my dad hope and some happiness in his final days. The work they do is vital and it's something the whole North East benefits from and can take pride in."

Last year, there were almost 3,000 patient visits to the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Centre and there are currently 48 clinical drug trials underway there.

Around half of the trials are linked to TARGET National, a pioneering genome sequencing project, also funded by our Foundation, which uses a patient's individual DNA to match them to the very best possible treatment available.



Kay and her dad

Parker runs like the wind for The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation

Five-year-old Parker fundraising at St James' Park



A five-year-old Newcastle United fan has raised £283 for our Foundation by running laps around St James' Park.

Parker Raine is one of our youngest supporters and ran three times around the outside of the stadium alongside his dad, James Raine.

Parker, from Sunderland, has held a season ticket at Newcastle for more than two years and loves learning about its history.

James says: "Whenever we're in Newcastle, he always wants to go to the Sir Bobby statue at St James' Park.

"He recently saw some footage of Sir Bobby on the television and we talked a lot about him. Parker's previously done a little run for charity and he decided he wanted to do something to help Sir Bobby's charity this time. We're all extremely proud of him."

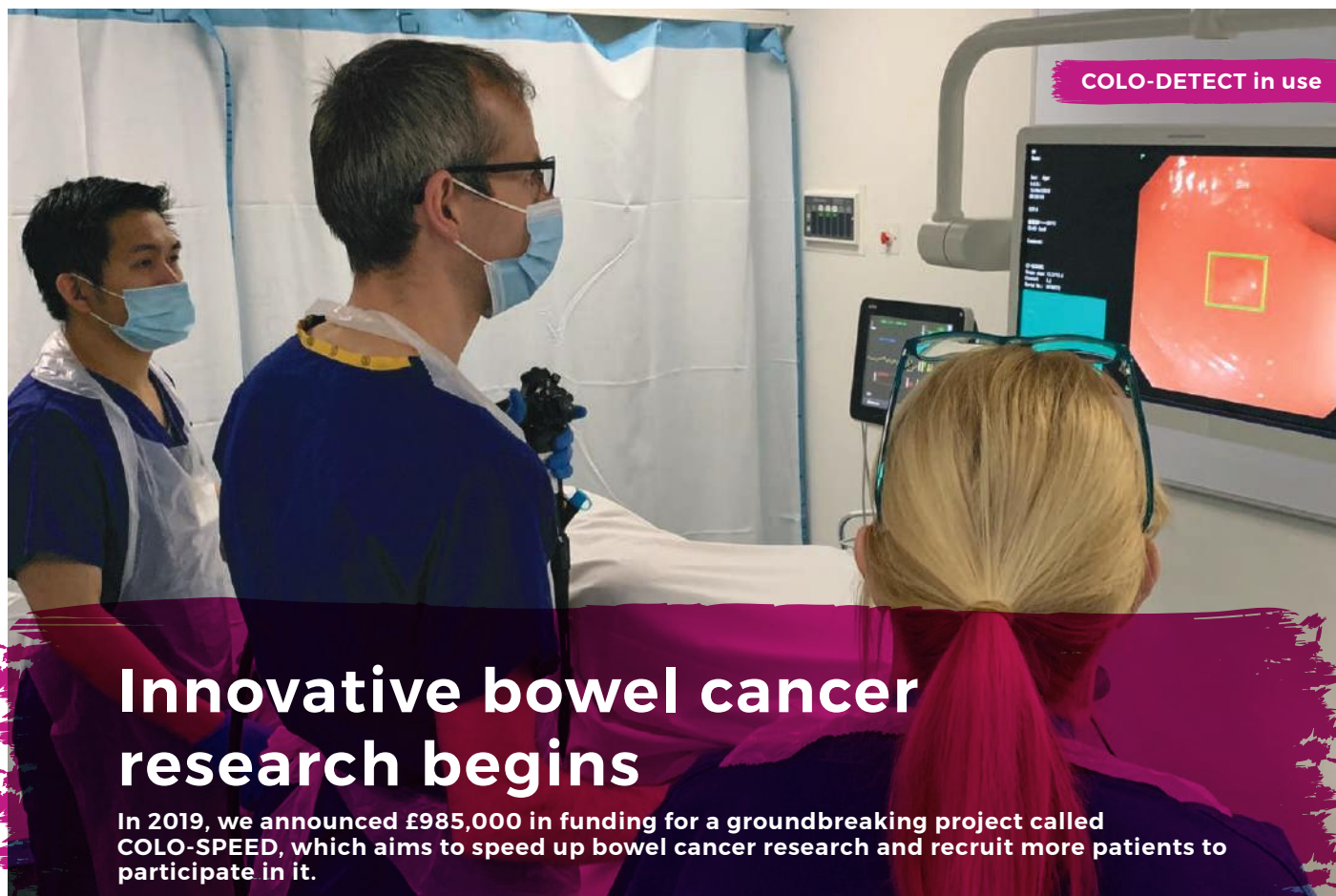
Parker reached his fundraising target of £100 in just a few days thanks to family members and went on to raise almost three times as much.

James adds: "It's good to try and teach kids from a young age about helping others. I'm also really proud that he chose to support a charity that means a lot to me personally. My grandad was the main male figure in my life growing up and I'd spend two or three nights every week at his house.

"He was diagnosed with cancer when I was 24 and I moved in to help care for him. So, I know how important the work of Sir Bobby's Foundation is and it's fantastic to know his great-grandson has done something to help other people with cancer."



Parker after his fundraising run



Innovative bowel cancer research begins

In 2019, we announced £985,000 in funding for a groundbreaking project called COLO-SPEED, which aims to speed up bowel cancer research and recruit more patients to participate in it.



Team ION scale Scafell Pike

ION peaks for Sir Bobby

We are very proud to be ION's chosen charity of the year and the fintech company, fittingly based on Sir Bobby Robson Way in Newcastle, recently challenged themselves to climb England's highest peak, Scafell Pike.

It took five hours to complete the seven and a half-hour walk and the group of 12 celebrated raising a fantastic £1,200 by holding a Sir Bobby Robson Foundation banner at the top of the mountain.

Our thanks and well done to all involved!

The benefits of COLO-SPEED are now being felt and the first industry-funded trial to source participants through it is well underway and making a positive difference.

An initial 500 patients are now taking part in a UK first, the clinical trial of an innovative artificial intelligence (AI) device designed to help clinicians to identify polyps during colonoscopies - examinations used to detect changes or abnormalities in the bowel.

Led by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, nine regional endoscopy units, including Newcastle Hospitals, are taking part in the groundbreaking study, which is called COLO-DETECT and is trialling the use of GI Genius - the new AI device.

Most bowel cancers develop from a type of polyp, called an adenoma, that becomes cancerous. It is important to find as many polyps as possible to decide whether they need to be removed, as this may prevent a polyp from becoming cancerous in the future.

GI Genius integrates with existing colonoscopy equipment and analyses images from the camera in real-time. It highlights any areas it thinks may contain a polyp, these areas can then be inspected more closely to determine if a polyp is present and whether or not it should be removed.

The £896,000 COLO-DETECT trial has been funded by Medtronic and will be recruiting more than 2,000 patients over the next 12 months through COLO-SPEED.

Both COLO-SPEED and COLO-DETECT are led by Professor Colin Rees, a Consultant Gastroenterologist at

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, Professor of Gastroenterology at Newcastle University, and one of Europe's leading experts in endoscopy - the procedure used to diagnose most forms of bowel cancer.

He is working closely alongside Professor Linda Sharp, Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at Newcastle University.



Professor Colin Rees

Regular giving

You can make a regular gift to Newcastle Hospitals Charity, or one of our funds, by completing the enclosed form



Great North Run 2023



You might have spotted more and more joggers taking to the pavements as the 2022 Great North Run approaches. If you feel like you've missed out, why not get in early for 2023?

We're looking for supporters who are ready to take on Newcastle's iconic half-marathon in September 2023 in aid of Newcastle Hospitals Charity or our funds - The Great North Children's Hospital Foundation or The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

By taking part, you'll be helping us to fund a range of initiatives - from cutting-edge research to vital improvements to the patient experience and environment,

plus innovative, creative, and touching projects from all aspects of the hospital community.

You'll also benefit from a supportive fundraising team to help you along your way, one of the lowest charity fundraising targets in the area (£250), a free running vest, and a warm welcome and a cuppa in our charity tent at the end of the run.

To sign up, please email nuth.charity@nhs.net or call 0191 213 7235. We hope to see you there!



The greatest gift - leaving a legacy



A gift to Newcastle Hospitals Charity in the form of a legacy is the greatest honour the charity can receive and makes an extraordinary difference to our work at Newcastle Hospitals.

We understand that estate planning and choosing who you will honour with gifts in your will is a hugely personal and important decision - so every time we are selected, we really are immensely grateful.

If you're thinking about leaving a gift in your will to us, we can support you with access to a free will writing service and a dedicated charity staff member to answer any questions you may have.

We can also talk through how you want your gift to be used, to ensure it best reflects your wishes and values. For example, you can choose to leave a general gift to Newcastle Hospitals Charity, which will be used where it is most needed within the hospitals, or you can choose a specific area or ward to benefit from your kindness.

To chat to a member of our team about your options - with no obligations - please call us on 0191 213 7235 or email nuth.charity@nhs.net.