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THE great north
 CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
 Foundation

The Sir *Bobby Robson*
 Foundation 

Our Winter Newsletter

Issue 04 | Winter 2022



Jon Goodwin, Head of Grant Programmes at Newcastle Hospitals Charity

In my role as Newcastle Hospitals Charity's Head of Grant Programmes, it is often my privilege to be among the first people to see the innovative, creative, and passionate grant applications that come to us from the dedicated staff of Newcastle Hospitals.

In the last financial year, I was delighted that we were able to support Newcastle Hospitals with £10 million in grant funding to benefit the patients, staff, and wider communities of Newcastle Hospitals.

You can read about some of the most recently supported projects inside this newsletter, including the refurbishment of the Newcastle Fertility Centre waiting room, and the funding of new electronic entertainment items for the Great North Children's Hospital.

However, there is always more that we can do. We have some exciting plans in development right now, so watch this space for more details.

We're also taking this opportunity to spotlight some of our upcoming festive initiatives, including some brand-new gift cards that make great presents and help us make a big difference.

As always, we're all so grateful for the ongoing support of our local community - thank you.



Charity-funded palliative care post brings 'Gold Standard' end-of-life care

To help the Trust achieve the best possible standards in end-of-life care – defined as care provided to people who are in the last 12 months of life – we are proud to have funded a new, year-long role for a Palliative Care Educational Facilitator. This person will help educate frontline staff on the best way to assist and care for patients coming to the end of their lives.

The facilitator will champion the Gold Standards Framework (GSF), the current 'best practice' for end-of-life care, and support wider ward teams to put the skills learned through the GSF into practice.

Topics covered will include:

- Identifying that a person is in their last year of life
- Advance care planning
- Effective communication
- Bereavement

The facilitator will help to empower staff to deliver improved end-of-life care, eventually leading to recognised GSF certification for ten wards.

Sarah Turnbull, Senior Nurse for Palliative and End of Life Care (pictured centre), applied for the funding.



She said: "This unique and innovative role will have a profoundly positive impact on end-of-life care at Newcastle Hospitals, improving both the quality of care and the confidence of our staff."

"This is an area that can be challenging for healthcare professionals. The GSF programme of education will provide them with high levels of knowledge, while the facilitator will help them develop the skills needed to implement this education into their practice. The facilitator will offer invaluable support, expertise, motivation, and encouragement to these healthcare professionals, leading to improved quality of care for all patients who are nearing the end of their lives."



In This Issue



The Great North Children's Hospital Foundation updates



The latest from The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation



Exciting upcoming events



Our latest news

Bringing arts to the park – Springbank Pavilion

We've had several exciting projects running in the Arts Programme, including a new pilot arts & wellbeing hub, Springbank Pavilion, which launched in September in Leazes Park. This is in partnership with Urban Green Newcastle.

At Springbank Pavilion we have free creative activities, all based in nature, that staff, patients, and our wider communities can access for free. This includes workshops (hosted with local arts organisations Chilli Studios, Curious Arts and GemArts) as well as an in-hospital booklet filled with wonderful artist activities that can be enjoyed anywhere. Find out more and book by scanning the QR:



Recently, we also worked with Trust staff and acclaimed artist Johannah Churchill on a photography project. Staff were given their own cameras to take images of their daily work life, and in collaboration with Sunderland University, attended a full-day black & white photography developing workshop, (pictured left).

Finally, we were pleased to bring live music to the Great North Children's Hospital with a visit from the talented National Youth Orchestra, who brought smiles to staff, patients and visitors alike!



Waiting room refurb for Newcastle Fertility Centre



We were pleased to support the recent refurbishment of the Newcastle Fertility Centre waiting room, creating a welcoming and soothing space for patients to wait for their appointments.

Prior to this refurb, the waiting room had not been updated for some time and after holding a focus group with patients, it was agreed that some modernisation was required.

The Fertility Centre supports couples and individuals seeking fertility treatment and undertakes around 600 IVF cycles each year. Patients can often spend a lot of time in the waiting room whilst undergoing treatment.

Stacey Turnbull, Senior Sister in Reproductive Medicine, who applied for the grant, said that they wanted to "provide a calm and relaxing area" for patients during what can be a very anxious time.

Improvements included a fresh coat of paint and new flooring, with our grant funding being allocated to re-cover the furniture. The finished result is a modern, comfortable space that has made a real difference to the patient experience.

Gift cards for good

The festive season is just around the corner, and the more organised among you may be well on your way with your gift shopping! If you need some inspiration, why not choose a gift that does good? Our new festive gift cards can be purchased from just £10 and are sent blank to be personalised with your message. There are three unique designs to choose from, each supporting a different area of the Newcastle Hospitals, so you can choose a cause that is close to your heart.

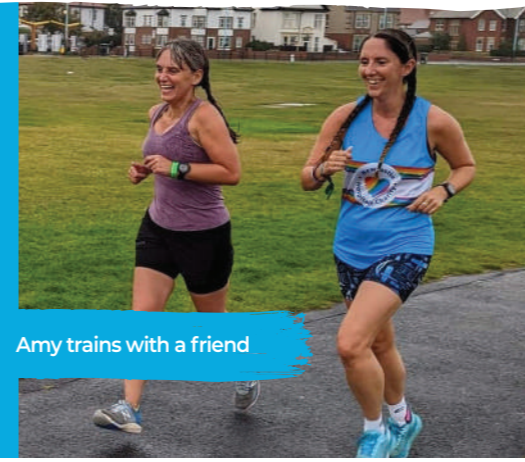


Find out more and purchase your cards here.



From hospital to half marathon – Amy's Great North Run story

"I decided to run for Newcastle Hospitals Charity because, in August 2021, the Neurosurgery team at the RVI saved my life."



Amy Baston was always a very active person, enjoying long walks, runs, and skipping. So, it was worrying for her when she started having daily headaches, followed by difficulty with her memory.

On 10 August 2021, she went to Cramlington A&E, where on arrival she struggled to even say her name. Unfortunately, it was discovered that Amy had a 4 cm abscess on her brain. She was rushed to the RVI and put under the care of Mr Surash and his neurosurgery team.



Amy underwent a craniotomy to remove the abscess, before spending 11 days on Ward 16. She was trained to do her own IV medication at home, meaning she could be released earlier to be reunited with her daughter Hope and partner Dan. It was shortly after this that she decided to take on the Great North Run for Newcastle Hospitals Charity.

Amy explained: "18 days after being discharged, I was sat on my sofa, with my IV antibiotics running through, watching the Great North Run 2021. I got very emotional watching the race, wondering if I'd ever be able to do something like that again. On that day I decided that I would run in 2022 and raise money for the RVI. I found Newcastle Hospitals Charity and signed up there and then. My partner also signed up, and he had never run more than 10K before.

"I cannot express my gratitude enough to the staff at the RVI, especially the neuro team, Ward 16 staff, and the people who cooked my lovely meals. Running for the Charity was a way that I could give back. The NHS are worth their weight in gold, I can't thank them enough."

Amy raised more than £800 and has generously decided to take on the Great North Run for us again in 2023.




Thank you!

As the Great North Run returned to its original route, ending with panoramic beach views in South Shields, we were so lucky to welcome more than 400 runners back to our charity marquees. We cannot thank you all enough for taking on that 13.1 miles to help our hospitals go further and to support our funds.

Why not make 2023 your year to tackle this iconic half-marathon? We have one of the lowest fundraising targets around, and a dedicated fundraising team to support you all the way.



Charity funding helps entertain young patients



Kathryn Downing with the newly funded items

Spending a lot of time in hospital is tough for anyone, let alone if you're a young person or teenager.

Recently, we have funded some additional electronic entertainment items on Ward 1B at the Great North Children's Hospital, which looks after patients who have neurological and neuro-surgical related conditions.

This £300+ grant allowed the ward to purchase new controllers for their video game consoles, replacing older or broken models, as well as DVD players to allow patients to watch movies.

Kathryn Downing, Play Specialist on Ward 1B, who applied for the grant funding, said: "Many of our patients are on the ward for long stays and due to their illnesses or pre-existing conditions they are not always able to engage in physical play. Items like the consoles and DVD players help maintain a sense of normality away from their home."

"Parents also enjoy taking the opportunity to relax with their child or stay occupied if their child is in theatre or sleeping for long periods during their recovery."

Jon Goodwin, Head of Grant Programmes at Newcastle Hospitals Charity, said: "This project was a great example of how the smaller things can make a big difference for a family's hospital experience. It shows how even a relatively small amount of money can have a positive impact!"

Family fundraising ball shines light on Batten disease



The Rich family at the Sweetheart Ball

A glittering night of celebration marked the return of The Sweetheart Ball, organised by Gail and Matthew Rich. The couple fundraise in honour of their two daughters, Nicole and Jessica, who both are living with the rare condition Batten disease.

The night, which was held at the Grand Hotel Gosforth Park, raised more than £12,000 for The Great North Children's Hospital Foundation.

The family were inspired to raise funds for The Great North Children's Hospital Foundation, as Nicole and Jessica now receive their 'life-saving' treatment at the hospital every two weeks. Previously, the family had to travel to London for this very specialist treatment, which was a huge strain – not only mentally and physically, but also financially.

Gail said: "When the girls' treatment was transferred from London to The Great North Children's Hospital in Newcastle, it changed our lives. We were and are, so grateful to Newcastle Hospitals for making this happen. We feel incredibly fortunate to have this amazing hospital in our home city."

Gail and Matthew also run their own charitable foundation, The Nicole and Jessica Rich Foundation.

Recently funded



Young Persons Advisory Group

A grant of £76,462 has renewed the Foundation's support of the Young Persons Advisory Group (YPAGne) for another two years.

YPAGne is a group that ensures young people have a voice in services and activities at The Great North Children's Hospital.

The group, which is often held up as a prime example of young people's engagement in the healthcare system, has thrived in recent years, receiving national recognition for its work.



Sonia Graham (L) and Teri Bayliss (R) meet with Amazon Gateshead after their generous donation

Financial hardship fund offers lifeline to hospital families

Amazon Gateshead have generously donated £12,000 to support a pilot hardship fund project at the Great North Children's Hospital.



The new hardship fund aims to support families facing the unexpected financial weight of a child in hospital. Especially in the current climate of spiralling living costs, this fund will allow those families most in need to alleviate some of their financial burdens and focus more on being there for their unwell child.

This fund enables us to provide grants very quickly to help families pay for a range of items, such as urgent support with clothes, toiletries, and emergency food. It will also address concerns that may prevent parents from spending time with their child in hospital, such as childcare costs for siblings, plus one-off emergencies such as car repairs, to allow families to travel to the hospital.

Teri Bayliss, Charity Director at Newcastle Hospitals Charity, said: "We're so grateful to the team at Amazon in Gateshead for this donation. It will make a huge difference to families and children facing long-term stays at the Great North Children's Hospital, knowing that they have access to this additional support should they need it."

"When you have an ill child, costs can quickly add up – whether that is paying for transport to the hospital every day, spending more on meals outside of the house, or facing reduced income as one parent leaves their job to care for their child. This donation from Amazon will help us to support these families in need."

2022 Christmas gift guidance



Every year, we are blown away by how generous our local community is in offering donations of toys, pyjamas, food and other festive items to the Great North Children's Hospital. However, we do ask that if at all possible, this year you raise or donate funds, rather than items. This will allow us to direct the funds to where they are really needed this festive season, allowing us to do the most good for our staff and patients.

If you would still prefer to donate items, please contact us at nuth.gnchdonations@nhs.net and we can discuss which gifts are most needed.

The Three Days for Bobby team and Steve Harper at St James' Park



Three Days for Bobby goes Dutch!

Every year, a group of friends from Sunnyside, Whickham, and further afield, come together to raise money for us with a cycling challenge called Three Days for Bobby.

This year marked their 10th fundraising ride, so they decided to make it extra special by cycling between two of Sir Bobby's former clubs, Newcastle United's St James' Park and PSV Eindhoven in the Netherlands.

Over the years, the group has raised more than £50,000 for our Foundation and we are a cause that is extremely close to their hearts.

Stephen Hay, a Northumbrian Water Network Controller from Sunnyside, organises the ride each year.

Stephen said: "This was always going to be a special ride because it's our tenth, but it's become really important to me and my family because my dad, Peter, passed away earlier this year with glioblastoma multiforme (a brain cancer).

"Dad was involved in a lot of our rides and one of his oldest friends, Graham, has come up from Leeds to do this year's ride in his place. We also lost a very special woman called Silvia a few weeks ago, also to cancer, so we'll be riding with the two of them in our minds.

"That's why The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation is so important to us and why we want to support its work."

The Three Days for Bobby cyclists set off from St James' Park and our Patron, Steve Harper, was on hand to see them off.

Steve, Newcastle United Academy Director, said: "I know Sir Bobby would be passionately supportive of these cyclists and I can almost hear him talking to them about their bikes, what they're wearing and giving them tips.

"He was so passionate about everything in life and he left a brilliant footprint on football, but his greatest legacy is his wonderful cancer Foundation. And you can feel that when you see twenty-odd guys of all different shapes, sizes, ages and abilities, getting on their bikes and challenging themselves to help raise some money."

Dan Burn meets young cancer patients



NUFC visit lights up children's cancer ward

This September, Newcastle United star, Dan Burn, paid a special visit to Ward 4 to meet children receiving cancer treatment.

More than a dozen young people – from babies to teenagers – and their families were thrilled to spend time with the defender, who spent time chatting with the families, signing autographs and taking pictures.

For the last five years, we have had a strong working partnership with NUFC's charity, Newcastle United Foundation, and every year more than 50 young people, their siblings and families benefit from it.

Through our funding, Newcastle United Foundation employs a dedicated Project Coordinator at the Great North Children's Hospital, Gareth Williams, who works to bring fun and engagement to children with cancer through a variety of activities.

Gareth, who creates activities to engage youngsters who support any football team or may have no direct interest in sport, said: "Hospital stays are very difficult for children and young people, as well as their families, which is why our key priority is to do everything we can to make the hospital experience a little easier for everyone.

"We aim to help maintain and build self-confidence by keeping young patients active, entertained and engaged at a time when they really need additional support."

Teri Bayliss, Charity Director at Newcastle Hospitals Charity, said: "We are very proud of our partnership with Newcastle United Foundation and our funding of Gareth's role, so it was wonderful to see Dan take the time to visit our young patients."

This special visit took place in September, during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Through your donations, we also support young people and children with cancer by funding four posts within the Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer Unit.



Mr Kenny Rankin, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Freeman Hospital

Innovative Sarcoma research

Newcastle Hospitals has received £1.4m from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to trial an innovative method that could reduce the impact of sarcoma surgery on patients.

Thanks to your support, we were able to play a key role in securing the funding through The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation Clinical Trials Design Team, which is based at Newcastle University and works with cancer researchers to design and develop new trials.

Mr Kenny Rankin, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Newcastle Hospitals and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Newcastle University, said: "This funding application to NIHR would have been unlikely to succeed without the input from The Sir Bobby Clinical Trials Design Team.

"The team's well-staffed with experts in statistics and research methodology, which allowed us to design a really robust trial. They were proactive and made themselves available to discuss any aspect of it whenever needed. I look forward to working with them all again to deliver this groundbreaking surgical trial, which is due to start recruiting patients early next year."

Sarcomas are a group of rare cancers affecting the tissues that connect, support, and surround other body structures and organs.

Surgery usually involves removing the tumour along with an area (margin) of healthy tissue around it to make sure no cancer cells are left behind. The healthy tissue is sent to a laboratory to confirm whether the cancer has spread to these margins.

While every effort is made to reduce the impact of surgery, removing healthy tissue can leave patients with long-term pain and disability, and in some cases limb amputation is required.

This new trial uses a harmless green dye called ICG (indocyanine green), which is injected into the vein of a patient the afternoon before surgery. The ICG dye then builds up in the sarcoma and clears away from the normal tissues around the cancer.



A sarcoma glowing green under skin

During surgery, the surgeon can use an infrared camera to look at where they are operating and areas of cancer will glow green through normal tissue. This helps the surgeon to remove the affected areas and leave the right amount of healthy tissue behind.

We funded The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation Clinical Trials Design Team in 2018, through a £433,838 grant. Each team member has different expertise and together they help ensure new research is designed in the best way possible and worked with

Kenny for two years prior to the award of the NIHR funding.

As well as working to develop trials across a broad range of cancer research topics, the team also supports research studies that are already underway.

Recently funded



Support for cancer research staff roles renewed

When the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre was established in 2009, the Foundation funded two training posts for a Junior Doctor and a Junior Research Nurse and has done so ever since. These grants reflected Sir Bobby's own enthusiasm for "training the next generation", and the Foundation has recently renewed its commitment to these vital roles, extending its support to 2025 with a grant of more than

£300,000.



Alan and Thelma left a lasting legacy to Newcastle Hospitals

Lasting Legacy – Alan and Thelma’s story



volunteered to take schoolchildren on guided tours around Blyth Power Station, while Thelma was Secretary to the Senior Partner at Merz and McLellan Consulting Engineers.

Very sadly, three years ago, the devoted pair both died from cancer within just five months of each other. Together, they left an extremely generous bequest for Newcastle Hospitals Charity leaving an incredible £771,000 in support of the work of the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care.

last wishes and came to the Freeman Hospital last month to hand over the cheque in person to Professor Ruth Plummer, Director of the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Centre.

Maureen says: “Meeting with Professor Plummer felt like the right thing to do for Alan and Thelma. We wanted to come along to the hospital to find out more about the work that will be funded thanks to our friends’ generosity, and she was able to talk to us in depth about the amazing work of The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.

“Alan and Thelma wanted to leave a legacy that would help other people locally who are facing cancer. I know they thought a lot of Sir Bobby and the work of his Foundation because we all talked about it together. In fact, my husband, Duncan, and I have also chosen to make a bequest to the Foundation in our will. It’s really one of the best things you can do because you know it will make an enormous difference in the lives of others.”

Leaving a donation to charity in your will is a huge decision and something we never take for granted. The kind individuals who leave a gift to us are helping to make major improvements at Newcastle Hospitals, covering a wide range of areas. Recent legacy gifts have supported premature and unwell babies, young patients in the Great North Children’s Hospital and our expert cardio teams.

A legacy donation is not just a transaction, it is a symbol of a life lived and the faith held by our supporters in the work we do.

This year, we were proud to be chosen by not one, but two generous people who wished to leave a gift – Alan and Thelma Scrivens from Darras Hall.

Married for 52 years, the couple met through friends and enjoyed a very happy life together. Alan worked for the CEEB and, after retirement,



Close friends Maureen and Duncan met with Professor Ruth Plummer (centre) to fulfil Alan and Thelma’s last wishes

After they passed away and the estate was finalised, their close friends, Maureen and Duncan Lee, fulfilled their generous

If you would be interested in leaving a gift in your will to support Newcastle Hospitals, please get in touch for a no-obligation chat on 0191 933 0232 or email amanda.waterfall@nhs.net for a copy of our Legacy Brochure.



Join us:



Gateshead Half Marathon and 10K

Our fund, the Great North Children’s Hospital Foundation, is the official charity partner for the Gateshead Half Marathon & 10k, which returns to the region on Sunday 30 April 2023!

We need you to join our team and help raise funds to support our youngest patients. By running for us, you can take advantage of a discounted entry fee, as well as support from our dedicated fundraising team.

The road-closed course takes in the famous landmarks of Gateshead including Gateshead Millennium Bridge, Sage Gateshead, BALTIC, Tyne Bridge, Swing Bridge and finishes in the iconic Gateshead International Stadium. Choose whichever distance suits you best; the 10K or the half marathon.

Registration: £20

Fundraising target: £150

Your entry fee will include:

- Running t-shirt
- Fundraising support
- Chip-timed results
- Unique themed medal
- Free official event photos
- Post-race goodies

Get involved by scanning the QR code, or by contacting us on 0191 213 7235.



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