

JANUARY 2018
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NHS

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Good Health

The newsletter for members of
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Investing in Your Healthcare

New Frailty Assessment
Unit opens

Dear member,



I would like take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

This is always a very busy time for our hospitals and community services as the winter weather bites. I want to thank all

those staff who have been working hard to continue to provide top quality care and services to our patients at this time of year.

In this edition of GoodHealth you will find some simple advice for looking after your own health at home, and information on how to access the right care if you are unwell this winter. There are also details of how to download a free app which gives you the information you need at the touch of a button.

As well as this, the magazine highlights some of the investments we are making across the Trust to

continue developing and improving our facilities and services to provide the very best care for our patients. These include multi-million pound investments in new operating theatres at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and a state-of-the-art new Eye Centre at the Northern General Hospital, which is rapidly taking shape.

You can also read about how an innovative 'invisible' hearing aid has transformed the life of one patient, and the excellent performance of our Diabetic Eye Screening Service. We can be proud of the quality of these services and many others, whilst always striving to improve even further.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tony Pedder, Chairman

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Improvement works taking place on A&E Main Entrance

There will be improvement works taking place on the A&E Main Entrance at the Northern General Hospital from Monday 8th January 2018 until Friday 3rd March.

Therefore, the A&E Main Entrance will be closed and there will be an alternative entrance through the disabled access door which is accessed from the Fracture Clinic walk way around the corner from the main entrance.

The new entrance will be clearly signposted throughout the period of works. Ambulance access will not be affected.

The Trust would like to apologise for any inconvenience caused whilst improvements are being made to your Hospital.

Linda hears for the first time in a decade after 'invisible' ear implant surgery



My life has changed beyond belief. As soon as the implant was switched on I could tell the difference straight away.

A surgeon from the Trust has become the first in the north of England and one of only a handful in the world, to successfully implant a fully 'invisible' hearing device into the fine bones of a woman's middle ear.

The surgery has enabled Linda Oxley to hear every day sounds for the first time in ten years.

The device was implanted by Professor Jaydip Ray, Consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon, and is completely unseen from the outside of the scalp.

The device picks up sound through a microphone and implant processor which are placed under the skin of the scalp.

The device is suitable for those people who have severe hearing loss

and who can no longer benefit from conventional hearing aids.

Linda, 67, said: "My life has changed beyond belief. As soon as the implant was switched on I could tell the difference straight away. I could hear traffic, people whistling, dogs barking, even hear the owl at night.

I'm really lucky to have had this operation. It's been absolutely brilliant."

Anyone with severe hearing loss who can no longer benefit from conventional hearing aids due to reduced inner ear function, ear canal infections, allergies to ear moulds or a closed ear canal, who is interested in having the device fitted, can be referred to the otology clinic in the Ear, Nose and Throat department at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals by their GP, specialist, audiologist or hearing aid provider.

Diabetic Eye Screening Service among best in country

The performance of the Diabetic Eye Screening programme in Sheffield is among the best in the country, according to official figures.

Data from Public Health England shows that the screening service run by the Trust, is performing above the national average for the uptake of the screening, timely issuing of results and the fast assessment of urgent referrals.

Uptake of screening is at 83.8%, and 99.7% of results are issued within three weeks.

The Trust is fourth best in the country when it comes to seeing urgent referrals within four weeks, assessing 91.1% of these patients within the timeframe. This compares to a national average of 75.4% and a target of 80%. Diabetes patients aged 12 and over are invited for the annual retinopathy

screening, which helps to detect any changes in the eye caused by their diabetes. If left undetected or untreated, these changes can develop to a stage where they become sight threatening.

Approximately 27,000 people are invited for screening in Sheffield annually, with around 450 people per week being screened.

Scott Pickles, Programme Manager, said: "The screening programme is vital because it helps to identify any changes early before they reach the stage where they can become sight threatening.

A number of measures have been taken to try and reach as many patients as possible, including holding extra clinics in the community, working with GPs to identify patients who haven't attended and giving patients reminder phone calls in advance.

Make sure you take up your screening invitation

The screening involves a quick patient history, vision test and photos of the eye. It is 30 minutes once a year which reduces the chance of sight loss. I would urge people to take up their screening invitation."



left to right: Scott Pickles, Programme Manager; Daniel Allsop, Senior Retinal Screener Grader; Tracy Sayle, Senior Clerical Officer; Rosette Lumala, Clerical Officer



New £6.7m Eye Centre takes shape

The construction of a new £6.7m state-of-the-art eye centre is well underway at the Northern General Hospital.

The purpose built centre is due to open in April 2018 and will provide a 'one stop shop' for specialist eye care for thousands of cataract patients every year.

The facilities will enable patients to be assessed, diagnosed and given an appointment for surgery all within one visit.

Carolyn Wilkie, Operations Director for Head and Neck Services, said: "We are very excited to be able to open the new Eye Centre.

"Patients will be cared for by one highly specialist ophthalmology team brought together in this new facility. The new unit is an example of an on-going programme of work we are doing to redesign our facilities and the way we deliver care to be even more efficient and convenient for our patients."

Trust invests in £30m state-of-the-art Theatres

Work has begun on a £30m theatre complex at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

The new development, which will be complete by October 2021, includes an entire refurbishment of 14 existing theatres plus the addition of a brand new four-theatre complex.

The new theatres provide cutting edge facilities for surgical patients in Sheffield.

The development, which is a two stage process, will begin with constructing the new theatres. Current activity will then be transferred to the new theatres whilst the existing theatre complex is renovated.

The work is the biggest single investment the Trust has made since the Sir Robert Hadfield Wing at the Northern General Hospital which was opened in 2007.

Kirsten Major, Director of Strategy and Operations, said: "We are is now undertaking more and more operations as a specialist centre. We perform over 34,000 planned operations each year across the Trust and also provide a 24/7 service for patients requiring trauma or emergency surgery. This is a really important investment for us to continue to provide the best possible care for our patients and improve the facilities available."

Reaching new heights

We are investing £6.5m to refurbish the lifts at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and the Jessop Wing.

Work began in September, with the Royal Hallamshire's lifts being refurbished one at a time until all the main lifts are fully modernised and refurbished.

Work on the four lifts in the Jessop Wing is also underway, with a completion date of July 2018.



New Frailty Assessment Unit opens

£2m purpose-built unit has been opened at the Northern General Hospital

The new unit, located close to Accident and Emergency, will enable frailty patients to be assessed in an environment which has been designed specifically for their needs.

The unit has the expertise to assess frail elderly patients with a home first approach, to ensure only patients with acute care needs are admitted into hospital.

Tricia Fox, Matron for Geriatric and Stroke Medicine, said: "We are delighted to have opened the brand new Frailty Assessment Unit which has been purposely designed to provide the most suitable environment to care for frail and elderly patients.

"An exciting change to the unit is the introduction of ambulatory assessment bays, where patients can be assessed from special recliner chairs rather than a bed wherever possible. This is much easier for patients who may be stiff or frail, and also means they can stay



in their own clothes whilst visiting which is more comfortable for them. Other features include a dementia friendly design such as an open plan layout, colour coordinated areas and pictorial signage."

The unit is staffed by an integrated multi-disciplinary team, who work together to provide patients with a full geriatric assessment.

The unit aims to enable patients to return home the same day wherever possible and work closely with other hospital and community services to ensure they have the correct level of support available for this.

It has 28 short-stay beds for patients who require further assessment or immediate treatment before they can return home. It will also introduce a weekly rapid assessment clinic, where patients in the community can be referred by primary and community services for a pre-booked appointment.

Kirsten Major, Deputy Chief Executive, said: "With an ageing population, the number of elderly and frail patients we care for is increasing and this is a really important investment for the Trust to continue to provide the best possible care and facilities available for our patients."

Volunteering

Over 50? Join the Trust as a volunteer!

Our Voluntary Services Team has launched an Over 50's Project with the aim of encouraging people in the Sheffield area aged over 50 to volunteer.

Volunteering can bring lots of benefits, whether it's improving employability, reducing social isolation or improving health and wellbeing. It also gives you the chance to make a really positive difference to a patient's hospital experience.

If you are unemployed, have some free time or fancy a career change, volunteering with us will provide new skills, knowledge and experience, which could help you to gain employment at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals or elsewhere.

There will be lots of social events to bring volunteers together and provide opportunities to meet new people and make new friends.

We have established three new volunteer roles specifically for the Over 50's project:

- **Dementia Companion Volunteer** - focussing on support for patients with dementia
- **Companion Volunteer** - offering companionship to patients who don't get visitors
- **Befriending and Mentoring Volunteer** - mentor some of our younger volunteers and help patients at mealtimes



Our Over 50's volunteers will be supported through their journey from recruitment to placement and beyond. We want you to enjoy your time with us as a volunteer.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Jane Elliott on **0114 271 5735** or **07384 240 922**.

To apply visit the Over 50's Project website at www.sth.nhs.uk/work-for-us/volunteering/over-50s-project.

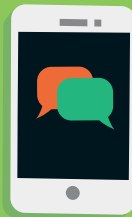
Paper applications are also available.

Feeling unwell? Choose the right service



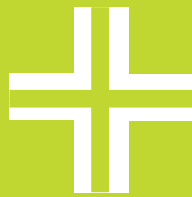
Self-care

Hangover
Grazed knee
Sore throat
Cough



NHS 111

Unsure?
Confused?
Need help?



Pharmacist

Diarrhoea
Runny Nose
Painful cough
Headache



GP (Doctor)

Unwell
Vomiting
Ear pain
Back ache



NHS Walk-in Services

If you cannot get to the GP and it is not getting any better.



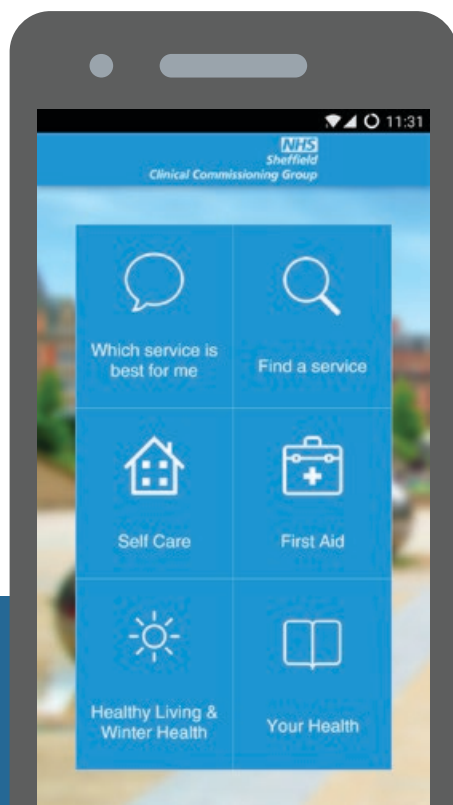
A&E or 999

Choking
Severe bleeding
Chest pain
Blacking out

Stay well this winter

If you're unwell this winter and are unsure about where to go, then our **Choose Well** guide will help you to choose the right place for treatment. Here in Sheffield we have a range of NHS services to choose from, and it doesn't have to be A&E.

Why not download our FREE app so you've always got the information you need to hand? Download for iPhone and Android. Go to the app store and search for 'NHS Sheffield.'



Self-care

A lot of illnesses or symptoms, such as coughs, colds, sore throats, upset stomachs and aches and pains can be treated in your home by using a well-stocked medicine cabinet and getting plenty of rest.

NHS 111

NHS 111 is a free to call service which will help you when you need to access medical and dental help fast but it is not an emergency.

Pharmacist (Chemist)

Your local pharmacist is a highly trained healthcare professional, and can give you advice on common illnesses and the medicines you need to treat them.

GP

If you have an illness or injury that won't go away, make an appointment with your GP.

For urgent GP out-of-hours just ring your GPs normal number.

NHS Walk-in Services

Walk-in services treat minor illnesses and injuries that do not need a visit to A&E.

Sheffield NHS Walk-in Centre

(adults and children)
Broad Lane, Sheffield S1 3PB
Open 8am - 10pm.

Minor Injuries Unit

(adults 16+ only) for less serious injuries, such as sprains, cuts and grazes.
Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Open 8am - 8pm.

A&E or 999

Accident and emergency departments and the 999 ambulance service are to be used in a serious or life-threatening situation.

Emergency services are very busy. They should only be used in very serious or life-threatening situations.

In Sheffield there is an **A&E for adults only** (age 16+) at the Northern General Hospital and a separate **A&E for children** (under 16 years) at Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Helping you to manage your own health at home

Our community services teams have been trying new ways of working to help patients manage their conditions at home.

These examples show how a small idea from our staff can make a huge difference to patients.



The nursing team are able to log into a system to check the patient has confirmed and make personal contact if the confirmation is not received.



Once the patient began using this system, their blood pressure readings lowered.

Reminder service helps patients remember their injections

The Integrated Care team taught a patient to self-administer twice daily blood thinning injections.

Due to family commitments the patient found it difficult to remember to give the injections at the correct time. Mobile phone reminders were tried but this did not work, and the Community nursing team were phoning twice daily to check injections had been given, often late in the evening.

In response, the team arranged an automatic messaging service to text the patient.

The nursing team are able to log into a system to view the patient responses. This system is working very well for the patient who now remembers to administer the injections at the prescribed time.

It has empowered the patient to carry on with their family commitments with the comfort of knowing that she will be reminded to administer her injections. The Community nursing team are now able to manage this patient more efficiently and late evening calls have stopped.

Taking the stress out of blood pressure readings

A Community Matron found that every time Community Nursing staff visited a particular patient to take their blood pressure, the reading came out high and the patient displayed levels of anxiety about having their blood pressure taken.

The matron questioned if this patient may possibly benefit from taking their own readings to ease their anxiety.

The patient was given a demonstration on how to use the blood pressure machine and how to text the reading back to the team.

Once the patient began using this system, their blood pressure readings lowered.

Using this system has enabled more accurate blood pressure monitoring, reduced staff face-to-face visits and empowered the patient.

The team are now identifying a process for rolling this out to more patients.

IVF journey is all worth it for Lindsey and Euros



Friday 13th might be unlucky for some, but not for Lindsey Jones and husband Euros.

It was on that day in June 2014 that they were told Lindsey was pregnant following IVF treatment. It was a fantastic highpoint after an emotionally draining few years following the news they would struggle to conceive naturally. This news, though devastating at the time, would ultimately be the start of

a journey that not only ended with the birth of Luc but also brought the couple even closer together.

Lindsey, 38, said: "It was like being told someone had died. The feelings and process of being told you cannot have a child naturally is really very similar, from helplessness and denial to anger and distress."

Further tests showed that Lindsey had polycystic ovaries and Euros had a low sperm count, and Lindsey was advised to lose weight. But for a year they found the stress and upset of the situation meant they struggled to make progress. The turning point came when one day Lindsey had a panic attack in the car after arriving at work. Following this, she and Euros resolved to start going to the gym and watching what they ate, with the result that by the start of 2014 they were ready to start IVF treatment. Alongside this, they also decided to start talking about their situation.

"Once we did start to talk it became really reassuring to hear how many other people had been through a fertility issue of one kind or another," said Lindsey.

They started IVF treatment at Jessop Fertility, before receiving the news two months later that Lindsey was pregnant. Of the treatment at Jessops Fertility, Lindsey said: "The nurses were some of the nicest, most caring and reassuring people I have ever met."

"I had never had any form of hospital treatment so I was very nervous, but all the staff that we came in to contact with during the process were fantastic and supportive."

"The regular scans are extremely reassuring, and for us having information about the statistics of carrying a baby to term based on your human growth hormone results helped us both to feel very calm in those early weeks."

To find out more visit
www.jessopfertility.org.uk

Jessopfertility
Bringing hope to life



Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Expert treatment to help you conceive

As one of the UK's leading hospital based fertility centres you can be confident that at Jessop Fertility we will do the very best to help you become a parent

Why choose Jessop Fertility?

- Excellent pregnancy success rates
- Wide range of treatment options for both NHS and self-funding patients
- Competitive, transparent pricing with no hidden extras
- Access to state-of-the-art technology at no extra cost
- Compassionate care tailored to your needs
- Quick access to treatment
- All the specialist support services you might need pre and post pregnancy on-site as part of one of the leading NHS maternity hospitals.
- Expert fertility specialists providing you with advice and support throughout your treatment
- Holistic counselling

Tel: 0114 226 8050

www.jessopfertility.org.uk

Scan with your
smartphone to
find out more



Surgery is 'life-changing' for active Lois

A 63-year-old who had worn glasses since she was a young child says corrective eye surgery has been 'life-changing' for her.

Lois Hunt, 63, of West Hallam, Derbyshire, underwent surgery to have a bi-focal lens fitted to correct her vision, having been short-sighted since childhood.

She had a clear lens replacement with multifocal toric lenses to correct her moderate myopia with moderate astigmatism.

Lois said the surgery had enabled her to pursue her favourite sports and activities without the need to worry about having suitable eyewear for every occasion.

She said: "After a lifetime of wearing spectacles and contact lenses since realising I couldn't read the blackboard at school aged nine, it really has been life-changing for me.

"I am a very sporty person, I swim and ski, and now I can do that without the hassle of prescription goggles.

"When I went on holiday I used to have to take long and short distance glasses, hard contact lenses (the only sort I could wear) and solution - I almost needed a second suitcase just for my glasses and eyecare stuff.

"The only glasses I need to wear now are sunglasses, which is fantastic. So much so that I have even been back-packing in India and am going to Nepal next.



"Previously I would have been worried about the hygiene, having the right solution and all that stuff; now I have none of that to think about.

"I can see long and short distance - I can thread a needle without glasses - and it should last a lifetime.

"The service and treatment at the Vision Centre was excellent, and I particularly liked the fact that the money I paid gets invested back in NHS services.

"It has been well worth it in every sense."

Be free from glasses this ski season



Sheffield Vision Centre

Laser Eye Surgery 0%* APR AVAILABLE

2 years interest free credit available

0114 2711564

for FREE no obligation consultation

One of the few Centres to offer the latest
SmILE
laser surgery

Competitive prices and no hidden extras

Leading NHS surgeons with excellent results

Exceptional aftercare included

*Lasek = £1500 per eye. 20% initial deposit and 48 equal monthly instalments of £30.14 per eye. Total cost of finance £246.72. We are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, our Firm Reference Number is 763804.

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Sheffield Vision Centre is owned and managed by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. All profits are invested into supporting NHS patient care.



Appeal launched to bring the power of water to hundreds more mums-to-be

A major new £300,000 appeal has been launched in a bid to help hundreds more women benefit from the use of water in labour when giving birth in Sheffield.

Sheffield Hospitals Charity has kicked off the huge fundraising drive in response to a growing number of mums-to-be who are choosing water as their primary pain relief when giving birth.

The appeal aims to fund the development of three new cutting edge birthing pool rooms for the Jessop Wing. The refurbished rooms will be made complete with fully accessible ergonomic pools, sympathetic décor and dimmable LED lighting to help give parents the most relaxing experience possible.

Theresa Hurst, aged 36, from Oughtibridge, has given birth to her three children at the Jessop Wing.

She said: "Both of my pool births gave me a great start to motherhood. I am convinced that, in addition to the excellent care provided by the midwives, using the pool meant the births were positive, calm and a completely natural experience.

Alison Brodrick, consultant midwife at the Jessop Wing, said "The use of water is one of the simplest forms of pain relief available to women. It has no side effects, can also reduce the length of labour and the need for further pain-relieving drugs in many cases.

To donate to the Jessop Wing Appeal, visit www.sheffieldhospitalscharity.org.uk/jessopappeal

'Bikes for Dialysis' appeal to boost quality of life for dialysis patients

Dialysis patients could pedal their way to fitness at the same time as undergoing lifesaving hospital treatment, thanks to a Sheffield Hospitals Charity appeal.

The appeal hopes to raise £25,000 to buy two static bikes for patients at the Northern General Hospital's Sheffield Kidney Institute, allowing patients to achieve physical goals and boost their quality of life.

Sarah Gilbert, Specialist Physiotherapist in Acute Medicine Therapy Services, said: "There is an ever-growing body

of evidence to suggest that exercise and strengthening during dialysis is beneficial for renal patients and should be part of a patient's treatment plan.

"Not only does exercise increase the effectiveness of dialysis by increasing blood flow which enhances the removal of toxins, it also works to improve physical function and to help maintain independence whilst enhancing wellbeing."

The charity is aiming to fund two specially designed exercise bikes suitable for dialysis chairs and beds,

along with muscle strengthening equipment and a physiotherapist to fully implement and supervise the exercise programme.

The specially designed static bikes - which cost £7,000 each - are easy to use, with patients able to see the screen, adjust settings and receive visual mileage feedback which assists them in achieving their physical goals and sustaining motivation.

To donate please visit

www.sheffieldhospitalscharity.org.uk/why-help-patients/kidney-disease

Dates for your diary

13 Feb, 5:00pm

Council of Governors
Undergraduate Common Room
Medical Education Centre
Northern General Hospital

21 Feb, Morning

Board of Directors
Seminar Room 1
Clinical Skills Centre
R Floor, Royal Hallamshire Hospital

21 March, Morning

Board of Directors
Seminar Room 1
Clinical Skills Centre
R Floor, Royal Hallamshire Hospital

12 September

Annual Members' Meeting 2018

These meetings are open to members of the public, so why not come along. If you would like to attend please contact jane.pellegrina@sth.nhs.uk or ring the Membership Office on 0114 271 4322.

Annual Members' Meeting 2017 round-up

Members were given an insight into some key areas of work within the Trust at the 2017 Annual Members' Meeting.

Attendees were invited to join themed sessions focussed on innovative work, including:

- **Perfect Patient Testbed** - the use of technology to support new ways to help patients manage their long term health conditions.
- **Dementia Matters** - exploring the work being undertaken in partnership with patients on dementia care and facilities.
- **Life in a Trauma Centre** - an insight into the work of a Major Trauma Centre.

Members were also brought up to date about events in the Trust over the previous year, and heard about plans for the coming year. There was also an opportunity to put questions to the Board of Directors.

Following the meeting there was an opportunity to visit a marketplace of stalls showcasing research studies and new initiatives.

Become a Member of the Trust

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is one of the UK's biggest and most successful NHS Foundation Trusts.

It is also one of the busiest NHS Trusts with more than 2 million patient contacts each year, more than a million of those in the community. It provides hospital and community services for people in Sheffield as well as specialist care for patients from further afield including cancer, spinal cord injuries and renal services. In addition to community health services the Trust comprises the Northern General, Royal Hallamshire, Jessop Wing, Weston Park and Charles Clifford Dental Hospital.

Being a Foundation Trust means that our hospitals are no longer run directly by the Government, instead, we are accountable to our Members. Members are patients and local people like you. The Trust's Membership is an essential and valuable asset which helps to guide our work, decision making and adherence to NHS values. We have nearly 29,000 Members and we strive to represent the diverse communities we serve.

For the Foundation Trust model to work it needs your support and input by becoming a Member.

Membership is completely free and is open to everyone and as a Member you will:

- be invited to exclusive Members' events such as open evenings and health talks where you get to hear from some of our medical experts,
- receive our free Members' magazine 'GoodHealth'
- have the chance to have your say by taking part in surveys about the hospitals and our services
- be invited to our Annual Members' Meeting
- be eligible to vote in elections for Governors or stand for election yourself

It's easy to become a Member you can complete the form below and send it to us, or email your details to jane.pellegrina@sth.nhs.uk

IT'S
FREE!

Please register me as a member of the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr	<input type="checkbox"/> Other...	
Family Name						
First Name						
Address						
Postcode			Telephone			
Email						
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	/	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
I would describe my ethnic background as:						
<input type="checkbox"/> White British	<input type="checkbox"/> White Other (non British)		<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British			
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed / Multi heritage		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Not stated			
I declare that I am eligible and would like to become a Member:						
<input type="checkbox"/> Public member	<input type="checkbox"/> Patient member					
Signed						

Members will not receive any preferential access to health services as this would be contrary to NHS principles.

Post to: Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS FT, FT Office,
Clock Tower Building, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield S5 7AU



A special visit for 101 year-old Bill

A 101 year-old former amateur boxer received a special hospital visit from some current day fighters.

The festive visit from members of Sheffield Boxing Centre was arranged as a surprise for William (Bill) Wild after staff on the neurology ward where he was a patient heard how much of a fan he was.

Bill, from the Manor in Sheffield, said: "I couldn't believe they all came to see me; I felt very honoured.

"I was an amateur boxer and fought in over twenty fights and have followed the sport ever since."

Bill was a featherweight boxer and puts his longevity down to the fitness he gained from the sport.

Glyn Rhodes MBE, who runs the Sheffield Boxing Centre said: "It was great to meet Bill. On behalf of everyone at the centre I can say it has been an absolute honour and pleasure to meet such a character."

Sam Coggeran, neurology patient flow lead practitioner, said: "Our population is getting older and unfortunately a growing number of frail and elderly people will find themselves in hospital over the Christmas period.

"After seeing how much William enjoys showing off his sparring moves and chatting about his amateur boxing fights the nurses thought it might be nice to surprise him with a visit.

"I would like to say a huge thank you to Glyn and his team, who were only too happy to oblige."

The founding of the Sheffield General Infirmary

In the 18th century knowledge of medicine and surgery was expanding, and there was a movement throughout the UK to found hospitals and infirmaries to capitalise on this burgeoning expertise.

This was often led by prosperous local merchants or manufacturers, but compared to other cities Sheffield was relatively late to found the Sheffield Infirmary, which was first mooted in 1789 and opened in 1797.

It was initially suggested by Sheffield man Dr William Younge, who wrote an anonymous letter to the great and good of the city. It took three years for a meeting to be held, chaired by the Rev James Wilkinson, to implement the idea. The hospital was backed by donations, the largest of which was £1,000 on behalf of a Mrs Fell, the widow of John Fell who made his fortune as an ironmaster at Attercliffe Forges. There was also a £200 donation from Dr John Brown, who became Chairman of the Building Committee.

Land at Upperthorpe - at the time unspoiled countryside with clean air and a water supply from the hills - was purchased and donated by Duke of Norfolk.

Further fundraising made £16,000, and the first stone of the building was laid on September 4th 1793.

The building was completed in autumn 1797, and Dr Brown was appointed the first Chairman of the Infirmary Board. The opening on October 4th 1797 was a major event for the people of Sheffield and, following a sermon by Rev. Wilkinson at St Paul's Church, there was a procession from the city centre to the new building, followed by a ceremony and commemorative dinner.

Dr Younge was appointed physician to the Infirmary, a position he held until his death in 1838.

The Sheffield Hospitals History Group has busts and portraits of John Brown and James Wilkinson among its collection, as well as a copy of the order of procession for the opening ceremony.

If you have any memories, articles or items relating to the history of Sheffield's hospitals you would like to share, you can contact the group by emailing sheffhbg@gmail.com or telephoning Sue Coulson on 0114 271 3071.

