

# TALKING POINT

The magazine for South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust

March 2008

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**Hot on the trail:** Pupils from Teesside Preparatory School follow the adventures of Nick and CC on their way to x-ray and....



end up viewing the mural in the waiting area.

# Children's x-ray vision pays off!

**IF YOU'RE looking to make your hospital more child-friendly who better to ask for views than children themselves?**

Last year a series of special workshops and get-togethers were held at The James Cook University Hospital as part of a project looking at making the journey to x-ray less daunting for younger people.

Pupils from Teesside Preparatory School, plus children of members of staff, came up with a wealth of ideas including way-find-

ing routes, interactive skeletons and child-friendly information in patient areas.

Working with animator Sheila Graber, who has been involved with the trust's healing arts programme, they also filled in questionnaires and walked various hospital routes.

Now, some of those involved returned to the hospital to see the results, which include a way-finding trail from children's outpatients to x-ray where young people can follow Nick the cabin boy and his cat 'CC'.

A larger-than-life skeleton and mural for the waiting room wall has also been created.

Deputy director built environment Margaret McGloin said: "Initially we looked at x-ray because with its hi-tech equipment it can be quite frightening for children. We've involved Sheila as she's worked with children in the hospital before and is excellent at 'translating' ideas into realistic projects so she was ideally suited to this project.

"The input from the children has been invaluable and they came up with some fantastic and imaginative ideas, some of which we've managed to put into practice."

The initiative is the latest in a series of measures being carried out following the Healthcare Commission's children's serv-



ices improvement review, which assessed the quality of healthcare for children in hospital across a range of services including emergency care, outpatients, day care, inpatient care and surgery (emergency and elective).

Every year thousands of children and young people are cared for at the James Cook and Friarage hospitals but only a fraction are seen and treated through paediatrics. They also attend outpatient appointments in many specialist areas, come through accident and emergency and visit our radiology departments for x-rays or scans.

## Send us your ideas

**Talking Point is your magazine and it is only as good as you make it.**

Ideas and stories or suggestions to make Talking Point even better are always welcome.

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Talking Point is written and illustrated by the public relations team and designed by Octagon Design and Marketing Ltd. Octagon specialise in gaining advertising support for magazines so Talking Point is now produced, packaged, distributed and delivered at a minimal cost to the trust.

**Front page:** Animator Sheila Graber with some of the children who looked at making the journey to x-ray less daunting.



**Them bones....**Animator Sheila Graber (far left back) with staff from the trust and some of the children who put forward their views, together with their interactive skeleton

# Heartfelt gesture for patients

**A LITTLE bit of extra comfort has been provided for patients in the radiotherapy department – thanks to the heartfelt gesture of a local family.**

Cath Cornwell sadly lost her husband David - a patient at The James Cook University Hospital – last year but with family and friends rallied round to raise funds for the department.

And after a series of events including darts matches, tombolas, raffles, sponsored walk and charity night at Eston Labour Club, a fantastic sum of £3,500 was raised in his memory.

The money was donated to the radiotherapy and oncology patient

comfort fund and has paid for new furniture in the radiotherapy outpatient clinic waiting area and also in the treatment waiting area.

Patient liaison officer Sue Larry said: "We are so grateful to Cath and her family and friends for thinking of us. It's a wonderful donation which will certainly help us enormously with our latest project of providing some bench seating and high back chairs.

"Our patients are delighted as some had voiced concerns about the difficulty they had when using the existing chairs. We still have some money left and are looking to invest that in the patient lounge area."



**Heartfelt gesture: Consultant oncologist Nick Wadd with Cath in the outpatient clinic waiting area**



**(left to right) Clinical matron Chris Harper, Jean and Dr Guhan.**

# Fundraising is a breath of fresh air

**CARING patient Jean Wilson's fundraising efforts will benefit patients having breathing problems by helping to develop the bronchoscopy service at James Cook.**

She held a fundraising evening at New Marske Church Hall, including a raffle and tombola, cake stall and lots of fun events raising over £317 to help the service which is part of the division of acute medicine.

Jean from New Marske - who also generously donated £160 in 2007 - organised the event to thank consultant in respiratory and

acute medicine, Dr Anur Guhan and the staff who look after her. She said: "I would like to say a big thank you to my friends, everyone who helped by donating prizes and all who came along for making the evening a great success and helping to raise the money for the hospital."

Dr Guhan said: "We much appreciate Jean's continued support. She is a lovely lady and has put in a lot of effort to help us. We will put her donation to good use to enhance patient care and towards new developments in the service we provide."

# 'Bear' necessities pay off

**WHAT a difference a year has made to young patients visiting the accident and emergency department.**

Hundreds of children attending casualty in The James Cook University Hospital over the last 12 months have gone home with their own teddy bear.

The bears are generously provided by Yorkshire, North and East Ridings Freemasons as part of their TLC 'Teddies for Loving Care' Appeal for medical staff to hand out – at their discretion – to children who are in distress.

Since the appeal was launched, more than 400,000 of the children's favourites have been distributed to accident and emergency departments nationwide and in Middlesbrough hundreds have

gone to good homes.

Accident and emergency sister Sue Murphy said: "They've been a great distraction for some children in helping to take away the trauma of coming into the department.

"The kids think they're great, give them names and in some cases bring them back if they have to return to hospital to get further treatment or a plaster cast removed. Staff really like them as well as it's great to make a child smile!"

Yorkshire, North and East Ridings organiser for the Freemasons John Hemy added: "We've delivered 2,000 teddies to the department and are delighted the appeal has been so successful. We're hoping to build on that success and keep it going."



**A little bit of TLC: (left to right) John Hemy and Sue Murray with department clerk Rachel Forster and new Teesside co-ordinator for the Freemasons Edmund Levie**



## Trust chair announces retirement

**GLENYS** Marriott announced her intention to retire on the fourth anniversary of her appointment as chair of South Tees at the February trust board meeting at Hambleton Forum in Northallerton. She commented below:

"I have declined the offer of the Strategic Health Authority to continue for another four years and feel the time is right for another chair to take the trust into its next phase. I shall of course be happy to remain in post until a new appointment has been made.

"The last four years have been both challenging and greatly rewarding and I have been proud to chair this organisation and the board through its many turbulent times and more recently through its successes.

"The awards during 2007 - in particular the Dr Foster 'Good Hospital Guide's Top Performing Trust in the Country' and the Health Service Journal 'Acute Trust of the Year' - are a mark of how far we have come.

"In particular the achievement of being the only acute trust in the North east to achieve 'excellence' in the Healthcare Commission's standards for the level of our care to our patients was a notable high spot.

"I am reminded on a daily basis of the commitment and enthusiasm of staff across both our hospitals and because of your endeavours I feel able to retire in the confident assurance that the trust will continue to develop and do well.

"Having inherited a substantial deficit we have worked hard to deliver two years of balance and are heading towards a third successful financial outcome.

"We have also reduced the number of MRSA bacteraemia though this still remains a top priority for the organisation and the board's commitment is to achieve a continued reduction in all possible avoidable cases of infection.

"The trust continues to make progress towards becoming a Foundation Trust and will be working closely with potential governors (including staff) so that when the elections are announced, we are in a position to fill all our posts.

"Of course challenges still remain but I am confident staff will continue to embrace these challenges in an organisation I am very proud of."

**Glenys Marriott**

# Theatres and maternity have a ball

**THE RENOWNED (or notorious) Friarage theatres Christmas party had a slightly different flavour this year.**

They combined with maternity and decided on the more sophisticated Masquerade ball. The men were in their best bib and tucker and the women and health care assistant, Derek Robinson, plus beard, in their posh frocks. It was a fantastic evening - music by the Swale Valley stompers, entertainment and games courtesy of Pastor Scalpel (Jeff Foster, team leader in orthopaedics) and a gorgeous spread of food prepared by staff nurse Jane Axon and operating department practitioner Julie Clarke.

Theatre manager, Elaine Wood said: "The funding for this party is raised throughout the year by Jane, Julie and Jeff. They arrange boat trips, games and fun walks for the theatre staff. Not only do we enjoy ourselves but it lifts everyone's spirits throughout the year. The theatre staff, maternity and medical colleagues are very grateful for the hard work and effort these three put into making sure we all enjoy ourselves."

Obstetric and gynaecology surgeons, Fiona Bryce and Neil Hebblethwaite have been supporting a local obstetric and gynaecology service in Ghana and this year the staff decided to donate their remaining funds to support the

training of Genevieve Owusu - a local Ghanaian nurse - who, when trained would be able to support her local community in Ghana.



**Jeff, Julie and Jane who organised the party getting ready to serve the food, and Lorraine, a friend of Jane's.**



**Staff in their masks**



**Halina Baker (centre) picks up the award for the medical pulmonary rehabilitation team**



**Macmillan lung cancer specialist nurse Stacey Stockdale (left) receives the special commendation**

# Silver service with some smiles!

**TEAMWORK** has certainly paid off for the trust's lung cancer and pulmonary rehabilitation teams...

Both were awarded special commendations by the British Thoracic Society's 2007 silver jubilee awards which celebrate innovation and excellence.

The awards, which were held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, recognise the excellent teamwork which is at the heart of high quality of service delivery, as well as the commitment to the highest standards of respiratory healthcare in seven categories.

Judges were clearly impressed by the standard of applications which were very high, and recognised the wealth of experience within the health service.

Macmillan lung cancer specialist nurses Pauline Featonby and Stacey Stockdale received the lung cancer team's accolade for 'innovation in patient involvement'.



They said: "We are overwhelmed at being awarded special commendation. We both feel this highlights the importance of providing accurate and timely information to all our patients, relatives and carers."

Other winners were the medical pulmonary rehabilitation team which was awarded in the 'innovation in respiratory care' category for its management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease patients.

Operational lead in physiotherapy medicine Halina Baker and senior respiratory physiotherapist Victoria Bradshaw said: "We are so proud that our contribution towards respiratory care was recognised on a national level. It was only possible thanks to the dedicated medical physiotherapy team."



**Patient, Mr Arthur Holt, from Patrick Brompton, Bedale, chats to Dr Ashok Kumar before having an eye injection on the eye day unit at The James Cook University Hospital. Also pictured is consultant ophthalmologist, Mr Mamdouh El-Naggar, and trust chair Glenys Marriott.**

## MP pays a visit

**MIDDLESBROUGH South and East Cleveland Labour MP, Ashok Kumar, visited the eye unit at James Cook in the New Year.**

The unit is a dedicated modern day centre with a twin operating suite, recovery area and other support rooms. It is part of the trust's ophthalmology department, division of surgery, which as well as managing the unit runs clinics, separate children's clinics, and an eye casualty service in the hospital's accident & emergency department.

It is used to benefit patients from across the North east and North Yorkshire with a range of serious eye conditions, such as cataracts, squint, glaucoma and

retinal detachments. Currently around 4,500 operations are carried out each year.

Uniquely, the unit was helped in its formation by a million pound bequest by a former patient who had been treated at the eye clinic at North Riding Infirmary.

Trust chair, Glenys Marriott, showed Dr Kumar around the unit and he chatted to doctors, staff and patients during his visit. He also visited the trust's neonatal unit.

Ashok said "I enjoyed visiting this new unit. The most precious gift we have is sight, and knowing that there is a dedicated unit at hand in a local hospital is comforting for everyone living in the South Tees area."



**The teams from South Tees take to the award podium**

# Maternity team shortlisted for national award

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the maternity team at the Friarage whose innovative and dedicated work was praised at the Royal College of Midwives Midwifery Awards of 2007, in London.

The awards showcase excellence and innovation in midwifery and the team was short listed in the promoting normal birth entry. The midwives worked closely with mums to be on one-to-one birth planning to promote normality and support their individual needs.

They worked alongside their medical colleagues to prevent unnecessary caesarean sections and epidurals during labour through 'listening and planning sessions' for women who had deep rooted concerns at the prospect of labour or who have complex needs.

Kay Hutchinson, labour ward manager, said: "We are dedicated to providing a fulfilling birthing experience for all women and believe every woman counts, no matter if they are low or high



**Team work:** (left to right) midwife Diane Robinson, shift team leader Deborah Hebblethwaite and labour ward manager Kay Hutchinson who attended the awards ceremony.

dependency. Our approach makes women feel positive in the delivery suite team at the Friarage and the unit ethos, in turn building their confidence to give birth. We were pleased to be short listed and it

was close run and the winners were chosen as they had the greatest impact on the greatest number of women and being a small unit we always have a problem with this. We will continue to strive to

provide the best possible service for our patients."

Fran Toller, divisional manager for women and children, said: "The team has worked hard and deserve recognition for their efforts and this it is a tribute to their hard work and professionalism."

Dame Karlene Davis, general secretary of the Royal College of Midwives, said: "All the entrants should be congratulated on their efforts because they are helping to deliver a better service. The real winners here are the mothers and their babies who benefit by getting better care because of the vision and dedication of all these midwives who entered the awards. Both myself and all the judges were hugely impressed with the quality of the entrants.

"These awards prove that midwives are striving to find new and better ways to improve women's experience, often in the face of huge work pressures. They richly deserve their time in the spotlight."

## School's christmas coffers

**STAFF** from Sunnyside School dug deep into their pockets to raise money for the ovarian cancer research fund.

Each year instead of sending each other Christmas cards, staff make a donation to their chosen charity and this year collected £200, which they kindly decided to give to James Cook.

The Middlesbrough hospital is one of 13 research centres across the country currently taking part in the world's largest ovarian screening trial.

Currently 70% of women who develop ovarian cancer die from this disease but if diagnosed in the early stages, over 90% of women will survive – a figure that clearly highlights the need for a reliable early screening test.

More than 200,000 ladies across the UK, including just under 10,000 locally, are taking part in the trial to determine whether ovarian screening is effective and can make a difference to women's lives.

Sunnyside teaching assistant Pam Richards said: "Several



**Kind gesture:** (left to right) Teaching assistant Pam Richards, teaching staff Kathleen Metcalfe, headteacher Paul Scott, Jo Francis, teaching staff Gill Southerton, Vanessa and Karen

of our staff are involved in the research programme and after losing a close friend and colleague to ovarian cancer recently, we felt this to be a worthy cause."

Three members of hospital staff involved in the trial cervical screening nurse Karen Chapman, cervical screening co-ordinator Jo Francis and sonographer

Vanessa Chadwick went to the Coulby Newham school to receive the cheque.

Joanne said: "It was really nice for us to be able to come to the school personally to say thank you to everyone for their generosity. We've a great team in Middlesbrough and that's thanks also to all the ladies who have agreed to take part."

## On your bike

**CONGRATULATIONS** to three intrepid trust consultants who took part in a freezing ten mile cycle ride at Christmas to help local good causes.

Dr Andy Fall, consultant paediatrician, Dr John Main, consultant nephrologist and Dr Steve Murphy, consultant chest physician, completed the ride which started and finished at Newton under Roseberry to raise money for local charities nominated by the Cleveland Wheelers Cycling Club.



(left to right) Dr Fall, Dr Main and Dr Murphy.



*Well designed: The students (left to right) Robyn Coates, Lucy Schiller, Lucy Carmichael, Lisa Miles, Emma Angel Jones, Rachael Robinson and Amanda Banks.*



*Helping hand: Some of the sewing volunteers and coffee morning and cake stall volunteers who helped out at the event.*

# New gown – all sewn up



*Lisa Miles models with Lucy Schiller (left)*

**PATIENTS attending the mammography unit at James Cook have a comfortable and stylish new gown to wear thanks to patient power.**

A survey asked patients attending the unit in the radiology department at the hospital their views on what would improve their treatment and new gowns to wear when they have breast examinations were top priority.

Patient, Chris Gilbraith from Danby, came up with the innovative idea of asking fashion design students to design a suitable gown and Hilary Harris, clinical lead radiographer for breast imaging, contacted Andrea Fazakerley, head of food and textile technology, at Stokesley School.

Andrea was delighted to lend a hand and her year 12 students were keen and enthusiastic about helping out as part of a short project. Following a presentation by Hilary highlighting what was needed and giving some background information on mammography and breast problems, the students produced some very innovative designs. Chris combined the ideas from their patterns and produced a prototype design, which was then agreed by staff and patients in the unit.

Kindhearted volunteers used their dress making skills to put together the new mammography gowns at a special sew-in at Danby Village Hall.

There was also a coffee morning, cake stall and an opportunity to buy special greetings cards and pictures of flowers, x-rayed in the breast unit, with all proceeds to radiology cancer imaging services, James Cook, to improve the environment for patients in the radiology department.

Hilary said: "The event was a great success, raising over £400 towards the fund, and we are very excited about having the gown available for the benefit of patients in the future. We would like to say a big thank you to the students for their help and to Chris who volunteered her own, and some of her friends', time and expertise to make the gowns. We would also like to thank W Boyes & Co Ltd who gave us a very generous discount on material."



*Amanda Banks models with Rachel Robinson (left)*



*New gown: (left to right) Andrea Fazakerley, Hilary Harris and Chris Gilbraith with the new gown.*



*Emma Angel Jones models with Lucy Carmichael (right)*

# Successful training day - all part of the act

**AN INNOVATIVE patient safety day has used the latest methods of teaching and training to really get the message across which will ultimately benefit both patients and staff.**

Senior undergraduate students at the trust took part in the special training programme aimed at preparing them for working with colleagues from different professions and focussing on promoting and maintaining patient safety.

Patient safety is a fundamental part of the undergraduate curricular and the 140 students from medical, nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy completed the training which featured contemporary teaching methods using state of the art audio visual facilities in the clinical teaching areas in the academic centre at James Cook.

Organised by the trust's undergraduate department, which is part of the academic division, the four main themes were patient safety, inter professional education, communication and infection preven-



**Medical and nursing students do their risk assessment training at the patient safety day.**

tion and control.

The students took part in a number of learning activities including scenarios with an actor playing the part of relatives and patients. This is a different and exciting approach to training which allows the students to experience real life

situations and to think about how to handle them effectively.

They looked at a patient complaint from a relative, which focused on safe discharge planning and an inter-professional approach to a patient who had collapsed with an actor involved in both.

The training also featured the students identifying clinical hazards and associated risk and looking at medication errors and the causes and consequences and practising on life like dummies in the clinical teaching areas.

Clinical lecturer Graham Bone said: "We tried to make the day interesting and informative for the students and keep their attention by using different methods of teaching particularly using actors to play different roles. The 'hands on' approach helped enhance their learning and we received excellent feedback.

"We feel the students got a lot out of the day and we would like to thank all the tutors from the different areas who helped with the training and everyone involved for making it such a success."

If you would like further information on the training contact clinical lecturers Jo Carling and Graham Bone on telephone 01642 854121 or extension 54121 at James Cook.

## Chief architect drops in

**CHIEF architect with the Department of Health Chris Farrah recently accepted an invitation to have a look around the James Cook.**

Chris, a qualified health-care architect with experience of PFI and capital procurement, was taken around the Middlesbrough hospital by deputy director built environment Margaret McGloin.

"We were delighted to welcome Chris to the trust to have a look around, not only at the more impressive and newer parts of the hospital environment but also at some of our older accommodation such as wards one to 12," said Margaret

"We were grateful to receive his views on how this area could be improved or upgraded over the next few years."



**Whistlestop tour: Chris (right) chats about the environment with Margaret McGloin and chief executive Simon Pleydell**

## Lauren's run helps tiny tots

**INTREPID youngster Lauren Erica Whatmore truly went that extra mile to help James Cook's neonatal unit.**

Well done to Lauren, aged two-and-a-half from Ingleby Barwick, who successfully completed the Tees Pride 3km fun run in September 2007 - a fantastic achievement for someone her age.

She was born nine weeks prematurely herself and cared for on the unit and along with her grateful family wanted to thank the unit's dedicated staff and to help the tiny babies it cares for and their families.

Sister Denise Craven from neonatal said: "Lauren did really well to complete the run and we are very proud of her and delighted she chose to donate her £180 sponsorship money to us. We would like to

say a big thank you to her and everyone who helped raise the money, it is much appreciated."



**Well run: Lauren**

# Clarion call for mums and mums-to-be as trust is rated a 'best performer' on maternity services



**THE quality of maternity services provided for patients at the James Cook and Friarage hospitals has been rated among the best in the country.**

In a nationwide review of maternity services, which forms part of the Annual Health Check, the Healthcare Commission ranked South Tees as a 'best performing' trust for providing high quality value for money maternity care.

The review examined care from when women first access the service having become pregnant to being signed off by the midwife (usually around ten days after birth) and concentrated on three key themes – clinical focus, women-centred care and efficiency and capability.

Areas covered included:

- General care provided by the trust to women, such as the provision of tests and screening, antenatal appointments, birth choice options and postnatal care
- Policies and outcomes for specific groups of women in particular services for women with diabetes, mental health issues and complicated deliveries
- Value for money issues such as number and use of staff

A survey of women who had recently given birth, plus a questionnaire for staff working in maternity, was also carried out.

Divisional manager for women and children Fran Toller said: "This is a positive reflection on the maternity services we provide at James Cook and the Friarage and importantly gives assurance to patients and the public that these services are of high quality and give value for money.

"It's also a testament to the maternity teams who work really hard to provide safe care for our mothers and babies in a supportive environment.

"There are always areas where we can make improvements and we would like to engage more with women who have used/or are currently using our maternity services to hear their views, so we can develop the service provided during pregnancy and after child-



**Oh baby!: (left to right – back) deputy ward manager, Jennifer Lappin, labour ward manager, sister Kay Hutchinson, sister Jackie Jackson (front) sister labour ward Rose Cruickshank, with mum Mary Jane Binnington and four week old Ian Freddie Newbould in the maternity unit at the Friarage**

birth even further."

In 2007, there were 3,980 deliveries at James Cook and 1,277 babies born at the Friarage.

Staff are keen to set up a local group where women can share their own views and personal experiences on what the service was like. Anyone interested in taking part can also attend a regular meeting – The Maternity Liaison Committee - where current and future proposals are discussed.

The committee consists of women who have used maternity services in the last two years and health professionals working for the trust and meets every eight weeks, working in partnership to look at all aspects of maternity care.

Ladies who can spare some time to help out while on maternity

leave would be welcome as the trust is not looking for a long term commitment (i.e. years) as we appreciate women may have other commitments or go back to work.

Midwifery services manager/head of midwifery Carol Murrish added: "Patient involvement is essential if we are to provide the best possible care for women and their families based on their needs. We want patients to voice what matters most to them and work with them to make improvements. We would much appreciate it, if any ladies can spare some time to help us out to get in touch."

Women wanting further information can telephone Carol on 01642 850850, extension 53772, for a chat in the first instance.

## Comfort and care for tiny tots

CARING teenager, Emily Walker, was a welcome visitor to the Friarage's special care baby unit when she called in to see some of the tiny recipients of her handy work.

Emily, aged 14, from Wensleydale School, made colourful and cosy quilts which help keep the tiny babies cared for on the unit comfy and warm and are much appreciated by their mums and dads.

She was really pleased to see the babies and understand how the quilts were so useful when she visited along with Val Daniel, who works at the school and featured in a previous edition of Talking Point as part of Project Linus UK. The voluntary group supports local children by organising for volunteer quilters to make the very special comfort blankets which can help children when in hospital and having treatment.

Sister Anne Wall said: "We much appreciate the effort Emily has put in to making the quilts and they are a work of art and really comforting for our babies. We would like to say thank you to all the generous people involved in providing the lovely quilts for our unit for their help and support."



**Emily with some of her quilts**



**Consultant cardiologist Dr Jim Hall explains the work of the catheter laboratory**



**Meet and greet: (left to right) CMO Sir Liam Donaldson with consultant cardiologist Dr Jim Hall, trust chair Glenys Marriott, Aidan Mullan, director of nursing and patient safety at the North East Strategic Health Authority and divisional manager of cardiothoracic services Fiona Ottewell**

# To the heart of the matter



**Doesn't he scrub up well! Sir Liam gels his hands as he enters a clinical area**

**IT'S NICE to receive praise for the work you do – it's praise indeed when it comes from the Chief Medical Officer.**

But that's what was bestowed on the heart team at James Cook when Sir Liam Donaldson visited the unit to see first-hand how more patients are benefiting from life-saving treatment.

As part of Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review, 'Our NHS our future,' Sir Liam is leading a national workstream on quality and safety in the NHS.

Part of this work involves a series of regional visits, including one to the cardiothoracic division, and Sir Liam was joined by a party of people to learn more about their work.

"It's particularly nice to come here, not just because you have an excellent record in your performance, but because I was the regional medical officer here in the North east in 1986," he said.

"It's really great to see the way the service has evolved and I would like to congratulate you on

## CORE VALUES

what you're doing. It's incredibly impressive both on standards of care but because of the constant improvements you're making to the service. It's up to the standards of some of the best in the world.

"Visiting units of excellence, such as this, will help me to identify lessons that can be used throughout the NHS to improve quality of care but in addition it gives the NHS, entering its 60th year, a chance to celebrate the hard work and achievement of individuals and services around England."

The heart team is committed to delivering the best service possible to patients and has succeeded in continuously improving results. At the start of this year, it rolled out its coronary angioplasty service to also include patients living in the North Tees and Hartlepool areas.

As an alternative to thrombolysis – clot-busting drugs for people who have heart attacks – the unit was at the forefront of developing a primary angioplasty service, where a catheter is used to unblock the artery with wires, balloons and stents, as the first treatment to restore blood flow after an attack.

Research has shown that patients are more likely to survive and make a much quicker recovery than when treated with clot-busting drugs and the treatment has halved mortality rates in the past two years in the South Tees and Hambleton and Richmondshire areas.

The cardiothoracic team also continues to perform more than 1,100 heart operations each year, including keyhole valve surgery, and treats people with lung cancer, removing cancers as soon as possible.

Trust chair Glenys Marriott said: "The dedication, skill, professionalism and sheer hard work of the staff working in the cardiothoracic unit are a tremendous pride to this trust and this was an excellent opportunity to share in the work they do."

## Hal says thanks

**JAMES Cook's intensive care unit (ICU) has received a welcome £2,000 donation from grateful patient Hal Armstrong.**

Hal was critically ill for two weeks after a road traffic accident and was cared for by the dedicated ICU team before being transferred to Newcastle General Hospital to recover.

He returned to the unit, along with his father Ray, to hand over the cheque and to say thank you to clinical director of critical care services, Dr Stephen Bonner and the staff.

Dr Bonner said: "We are grateful for this generous donation and delighted to see Hal again. It is always nice when patients come back to see us once they have recovered and we would like to thank both Hal and Ray for their support."



**left to right: Acting sister Lucy Bowman, Hal, sister Debbie Craddock, charge nurse David Booth and Dr Bonner.**



**Proud as punch:** Proud parents Suzannah and Chris with little Cristiana and midwife Karen Cunion

## Their lovely little diva!

**OPERA star and the trust's very own non-executive director Suzannah Clarke is singing with joy after giving birth to her very own little diva.**

Baby Cristiana Sofia was born in James Cook on 17 January weighing a healthy 7lb 11oz, with proud partner and new dad Chris Borg at their side.

"Cristiana is so beautiful – we can't believe she's actually here with us as the birth was a bit of a long ordeal but the staff and consultant Helen Simpson were fantastic," she said.

"I really can't praise them enough

and I'm not just saying that because I'm a non-executive director of the trust board – honest," she said.

"Chris and I are both in agreement that this is the most fantastic moment of our lives – we're really proud."

Chris, whose family come from the Mediterranean island of Malta, added: "Cristiana's a star – she's our own little Malteser!"

Suzannah, who trained in Italy with Pavarotti's coach and helped to bring the Proms to Middlesbrough, added she was thrilled she gave birth in the hospital.

# Picture perfect

**MEDICAL and support staff attended a demonstration featuring an innovative central hospital based database to hold medical photographs.**

The database provides a secure site for the storage, retrieval and distribution of images for medical records and teaching purposes and can be accessed in a similar way to how the patient archive computer system PACS (Picture Archiving & Communication System) is currently used at the trust, through a password and consent controlled system.

Organised by the medical illustration department in the academic centre at James Cook, the demonstration was well attended and staff also got the opportunity to try out a state-of-the-art wi-fi camera which can be used by medical staff needing to take out-of-hours photographs.

A big thank you to all the staff who took time out of their busy schedules to attend. For further information, please contact the medical illustration department on extension 52669 at James Cook.



**(left to right) senior medical photographer, Lisa Carlsson and digital workflow director Andy Kolczak demonstrate the system to Dr Charles Lim-Fat from ophthalmology at James Cook.**

## Awash with thanks



**Gratefully received:** (left to right) sister Sue Murphy from accident and emergency, performance lead for acute medicine, Donna Jermyn, consultant orthopaedic surgeon Mr Ian Wallace and members of the SCOTS 4 platoon (second right) platoon Commander Captain Rob Earle and Sergeant Craig Scott (right).

**JAMES Cook's accident and emergency department had some special military visitors in January - soldiers from SCOTS 4 platoon.**

The soldiers from the infantry training centre at Catterick Garrison came along to hand over the proceeds of their fundraising efforts - a charity car wash at the Garrison's Tesco super store in December. Thanks to the generosity of the local military and civilian community and the hard work and stamina of the recruits £1,000 was raised.

The kindly donated £500 to the hospital and £500 to St Teresa's Hospice in Darlington. They wanted to do something to say thank you to all the staff at James Cook who helped their colleagues from SCOTS 4 who were involved in the Puma helicopter crash at Catterick Garrison in August last year, which tragically claimed the lives of three people, one of them a recruit from SCOTS 4. The other recruits were less seriously injured.

Platoon commander, Captain Rob Earle, who was injured in the crash himself, but is now recovered said: "A number of the recruits were taken to various hospitals, in particular James Cook. One of them, if it wasn't for the professionalism and expertise of the surgeons, doctors and staff, would have lost his left arm. We are very grateful to everyone who looked after them and wanted to do something to show our appreciation for the excellent care and treatment they received."

Performance lead, Donna Jermyn, from acute medicine, who co-ordinates the trust's major incident plan, said: "All the staff involved in the major incident pulled out all the stops and worked hard to ensure it was handled effectively. We are very grateful to SCOTS 4 for this welcome donation which we will use to ensure staff are prepared and trained for any major incidents we may have to handle in the future."

# Trust launches its 'deep clean' programme

**TOWARDS** the end of last year, Health Secretary Alan Johnson announced a national deep clean for hospitals as part of the ongoing campaign in the NHS to reduce the number of healthcare associated infections.

Staff will be aware the trust is now undertaking an enhanced deep cleaning programme for all wards and clinical areas across the James Cook and Friarage Hospitals and has been allocated more than £350,000 to help achieve this by the end of this month (March 2008).

A more intense programme has also begun in compliance with Department of Health requirements as part of the control measures against MRSA consisting of hydrogen peroxide fogging.

This involves a specialist contractor using the latest equipment to disperse hydrogen peroxide vapours throughout wards to decontaminate every surface and area of any germs likely to cause infections.

Director of nursing and infection prevention and control Tricia Hart said: "Infection control and patient safety remains one of the highest priorities for this trust and is key to patients having confidence in their care. While we have made progress on reducing healthcare associated infections, we are not – and cannot – be complacent.

"It is important for everyone in the trust and our patients, visitors and local community, to help reduce infection rates by understanding the importance of implementing good infection



**All steamed up: Domestic assistant Sharon Bennett steam cleans a bay on Romanby ward**

tion, prevention and control at all times.

"Our trust has been running the CLEANYOURHANDS campaign since 2004. The campaign raises awareness and reinforces that hand hygiene is every individual healthcare

worker's responsibility. The only person who can make sure your hands are cleaned before and after all patient contact is YOU!

"While programmes such as the 'deep clean' enhance our ongoing campaign, the single most effective measure in helping to tackle this issue is good hand hygiene."

The programme has involved moving patients (on a temporary basis) from an area about to be cleaned into an alternative ward environment while it is 'deep cleaned'.

As part of the decanting process, we have commissioned a new ward (33) at James Cook which ward four has moved into for the duration of the programme. Work has also begun at the Friarage including the Romanby ward (pictured).

Once a ward is complete, which is usually between 48 and 72 hours, patients will go back to their original ward.

A detailed schedule of all wards has been prepared for both hospitals to ensure the ongoing clinical care for patients is delivered seamlessly. Communications with patients and relatives are taking place in advance of any moves.

Assistant director of hotel services Paul Birch, who is leading on the programme, added: "We want to do this as quickly, efficiently and safely as possible with minimum disruption to patients and the staff. It can cause some inconvenience but people have been very understanding and I thank everyone for their on-going co-operation."



**Bedding down: EB & S Contract Cleaners, husband and wife team, Anita and Dennis Sharp deep clean a bed**



**Teamwork: Clinical matron for acute medicine, Janice Partlett, student nurse Debbie Tavendale, domestic Lorraine MacKenzie, relief supervisor domestic services Janette Baxter, hotel services manager, FHN Carol Tarren, staff nurse Donna Crouch and Kath Sanders domestic services manager oversee the work.**



Course assessor Janet Day (left) with staff nurse Sonia Crawford

# Driving up the standard of renal care



**A BIG rise in the number of people with kidney disorders requiring renal replacement therapy has prompted the trust to introduce a new training initiative.**

It is pioneering a programme at James Cook which will enable health care assistants to provide a much greater level of direct patient care and support to the renal unit's registered nursing staff.

Developed in collaboration with the vocational training department and division of speciality medicine the initiative comes in response to statistics which reveal there are now over 30,000 patients undergoing treatment nationally and that this is expected to rise by 50% over the next decade.

With support from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North East's Train to Gain service, six members of the unit's team began working towards an NVQ level 3 in January. Once qualified, they will be able to take on additional duties, releasing senior nursing staff to drive the educational and awareness programmes.

Renal unit staff nurse Sonia Crawford, who has helped develop the training programme, said: "With the increasing patient dependencies and technological changes in the delivery of renal replacement therapy, the pressures on the unit to cope also rise. By improving the skills of the care assistants, we can significantly increase quality of care and free up senior nursing staff time to provide education and advice to patients, therefore improving the patient experience.

"The only place where such training is available is in the south and the expense and inconvenience of sending staff made it prohibitive. So we decided to use the dialysis specific NVQ 3 framework, develop the appropriate training packs and train in house assessors to monitor and run the course which is now all fully verified.

"The renal unit healthcare assistants, who joined

the first wave of training in January, are very excited as there are so many positive things happening here in the directorate at the moment and this course is just one of them."

Pat Hird, renal unit ward manager said: "The training will reinforce and formalise the new systems we have been implementing and set a benchmark standard which everyone will have to achieve."

Claudia Godfrey, vocational training manager, added: "The work undertaken by the renal and vocational training staff to develop this qualification has to be commended. The teams have responded positively to the needs of the organisation and this clearly emphasises their levels of commitment to provide first class patient care by developing trust staff and equipping them with the high level of transferable skills required in today's rapidly changing workplace."

The trust initiative demonstrates exactly why the Train to Gain service was established. Jointly funded by the LSC and One NorthEast, it aims to help organisations get the training they need to stay ahead in a competitive environment by improving the skills of the workforce.

Developed as part of a wider effort by the Regional Skills Partnership in the North East to increase the productivity and further regenerate the region, the service offers impartial advice and matches training needs to local learning providers, to ensure that flexible, responsive training programmes are delivered to meet employers' needs. A core element of Train to Gain is the access to appropriate funding of qualifications from Skills for Life right through to higher education.

Chris Roberts, regional director with the LSC North East, added: "This demonstrates how a responsive, employer led training initiative should be developed. The trust identified a clear need to improve the skills of its staff and together we have created a programme which will address that."

## New faces...

**Welcome to Dr Sanjay Pathare, consultant rheumatologist who joined the trust in September 2006**

Dr Pathare is part of the of the division of speciality medicine and is based at the Friarage. Hospital on Monday, Tuesday and Friday and James Cook on Wednesday and Thursday. He also carries out sessions at the Friary Hospital in Richmond on Friday mornings.

He qualified as a doctor in 1992 in Mumbai, India, and trained in South East Scotland and the Northern Deanery before joining the trust. His specialist interests are connective tissue diseases and vasculitis.

Dr Pathare said: "I am very pleased to be a part of a unit which is very well supported by a multidisciplinary team and having friendly colleagues always helps."



**Welcome to Mr Raj Gowda, consultant urologist who joined the trust in August 2007 and is part of the division of surgery.**

He is based at James Cook but also carries out sessions at the Friarage. Mr Gowda qualified as a doctor in India at Karnatak University and did specialist training in urology in the Yorkshire Deanery before joining the trust.

His specialist interests are endourology and laparoscopic surgery. Mr Gowda said: "I am very happy to join a dynamic, friendly and supportive team. I look forward to establishing a comprehensive stone management service in addition to advancing laparoscopic renal surgery and endoscopic management of the upper urinary tract pathways."





## Sharing best practice with the MOD

**CORE VALUES**  
*CORE VALUES*

**A KEY part of the work of the Improvement Alliance is to look at ways to share and spread innovative ideas and areas of good practice across the trust.**

A successful way in which they promote this work are the free standing roll up boards that are displayed on both James Cook and the Friarage Hospital sites which demonstrate the examples of the good practice work that is currently happening within the trust.

Service improvement facilitator for the Alliance, Margaret McQuade, was delighted to be contacted by the Ministry of Defence's, Roger Eustis, head of corporate communications for the Defence Medical Education and Training Agency (DMETA) - the parent organisation of the five Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs) spread across England - after he paid the Friarage a visit recently. Roger asked if he could use this example of a sharing best practice initiative and spread this within

MDHUs elsewhere.

He said: "I spotted the display board, entitled 'Military Medics in NHS Hospitals' in a prominent location at the Friarage Hospital, where it is seen by many members of the public as well as our own staff. It is a really simple and effective way to get across our message and an example of best practice that we should be looking to adopt more widely.

"We now have defence medical staff and NHS clinicians working side by side in over 30 hospitals across the country and with the permission of the trust I will be forwarding a copy of the Friarage's poster to my military medical colleagues."

If you have any examples of good practice or innovative ideas that you would like to share within the trust with a display then please contact Margaret who is available to support you in developing your ideas into practice on extension 54772 at James Cook or email Margaret. McQuade@tees.nhs.uk

## Friendship leads to wonderful windfall

**A CARING group of friends have raised a fantastic £8,000 for the chemotherapy day unit at James Cook**

The unit is tucked away in a quiet corner off the radiotherapy department at James Cook, and is a nurse-led service providing chemotherapy to people on an outpatient basis, dealing with treatment-related problems and giving blood transfusions.

Friends of patient Valerie Clark from Maltby, organised a fundraising evening at Middlesbrough Football Club raising £16,000 to help both the unit and also the Children's Cancer Hospital in Baghdad.

The Legends Gala Dinner included entertainment from local band, The Beer Pigs and impressionist and comedian Kevin Connelly and also featured a charity auction and a raffle. A good time was had by all and a big thank you goes to everyone who supported the event and all the people who donated raffle prizes and made donations for making the event such a success

and raising this massive amount to help the unit.

Chris Tillotson, Valerie's friend said, "Val is part of a group of friends who always undertake fundraising effort every year for one charity or another. This year we decided to do something for the unit after she became ill. We did it to thank all of the staff for looking after Val and also to let her know how much she means to us all."

Sister Helen Huitson said: "We are delighted with this very generous donation and very grateful to Chris and all of Valerie's friends for their help.

"We will be using the money towards medical equipment and to provide patient comforts for our day room, such as DVDs and flat screen televisions, all aimed at making our patients' visits as pleasant and comfortable as we possibly can."

Having completed her treatment Valerie is now helping organise this year's Gala Dinner in aid of Teesside Hospice and the Middlesbrough Diocesan Lourdes Sick Fund.



**Good friends: (left to right) Sister Huitson, Valerie and Chris.**

# Barbara spreads the word

**HAEMATOLOGY** outreach nurse, **Barbara Christie**, who makes a real difference to patient care by providing an innovative service in the community, has been commended for a talk about her role.

Barbara, who is part of the haematology department team at James Cook, works along with haematology outreach nurses Jenny Lawn and Alison Wright who provide the service at the Friarage Hospital, to look after and support patients with blood disorders in their own home throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

The nurses' work involves carrying out any necessary blood tests and offering on-going psychological and emotional support and information and the service has also reduced the need for hospital visits and helped to prevent patient re-admissions to hospital.

Barbara gave a presentation about the role, which is unique to South Tees, at the North West



**Barbara chats to patient Kath Grimes in the haematology day unit at James Cook.**

Haematology Group in Oldham. The group brings together specialist nurses and nursing staff with a role in haematology to share good practice and discuss the latest innovations, treatments and care for

haematology patients.

A couple of weeks later, she was delighted to receive a very complimentary letter, along with a £30 John Lewis gift voucher, saying her presentation had scored very



highly with the delegates and had received very positive comments and feedback.

Barbara said: "The letter was a nice surprise and I was very pleased to receive the excellent feedback and recognition for the work we do in the haematology department and at the trust. We are working to further develop and improve the service by working with patients to make sure they get the service they want, which suits their needs and it was great to be able to share our ideas with other nurses and colleagues in the NHS."

Mandy Headland, divisional manager for speciality medicine, said: "We are proud of Barbara and the work she does and would like to congratulate her on this achievement. She is flying the flag for South Tees and sharing the work we do for the benefit of other hospitals and ultimately the patients."

# Middlesbrough's Mayor drops in

**MIDDLESBROUGH'S** Mayor **Ray Mallon** has been given a behind-the-scenes look at the work of two departments at James Cook.

Trust chair Glenys Marriott took the mayor around the hospital as part of a private visit, starting off in the neonatal unit where he met with staff and parents of some of the babies currently being cared for.

There, consultant neonatologists Professor Sunil Sinha and Dr Jonathan Wyllie along with

nurse consultant Lynne Paterson explained the work of the unit.

He then went along to the heart unit to hear about the latest developments in cardiothoracic services and chatted to a wide range of staff in coronary care, the catheter laboratories and theatres.

But what made staff's day was Mr Mallon then wrote about the visit in his weekly column with the Northern Echo newspaper and paid a glowing tribute to the 'skilled, dedicated and incredibly nice people' he met.



**Oh baby: The Mayor meets mum Ruth Postlethwaite and baby George on the neonatal unit**



**All heart: Staff from cardiothoracic services welcome Mr Mallon and the chair Glenys Marriott**

"I learned a lot, not just about medical procedures and advances, but also about what's really valuable to us. What we need to put into perspective," he wrote.

".....These units encapsulate what the health service in this country is about...They also taught me that while everyone has responsibilities, this is one area where not all of us are equal.

"I could no more cope with the responsibilities that the staff – the cheerful, friendly, professional staff – in these units shoulder every day

than I could run a four-minute mile. They are something special."

Trust chair Glenys Marriott said: "I was delighted to be able to show the Mayor around. I'm really proud of the staff in both our hospitals and the services we provide and it was nice to share some of that work with him.

"The column he wrote about the hospital – and in particular the people who work here and make it the place it is – was lovely and to receive that type of recognition really does a lot for morale."



**Fond farewell: Staff pack out the accident and emergency seminar room to wish Nancy well**

# Nancy's retirement marks the end of an era...

**'PLEASANT girl – neat appearance' were some of the comments jotted down when Nancy Bainbridge was interviewed for her Middlesbrough nursing job more than 30 years ago...**

The general consensus from the countless staff who turned out to mark her retirement in accident and emergency were those two personal qualities still apply, but they could now add many more to that!

After joining the staff of North Riding Infirmary in November 1973 and moving to Middlesbrough General Hospital in September 1975, Nancy has decided to put her feet up.

But her colleagues and friends were determined not to let the staff nurse go quietly and held a party to celebrate her many years service and share some of their memories over the years.

Sister Margaret Golden said: "I'm

sure we've all got many funny situations – and some sadder ones – that we share with Nancy, who is the last remaining member of the permanent night staff of accident and emergency at the old Middlesbrough General.

"I do hope she has many fond memories of her time with us as we do with her. Nancy will be greatly missed but we all send our very best wishes and wish her a happy retirement."

Nancy, who did her last night shift in early February, added: "I've got four grandchildren so hope to spend as much time as possible with them and want to help my husband out with his gardening business. We've also got a caravan so we'll be out and about in that."

"I've made a lot of friends over the years and I will miss everyone, including the younger staff who have definitely kept me young!"

# Best feet forward

**THE generosity – not to mention footwork - of a local couple have given a boost to the Cleveland Unit.**

Gary and Nicola Warren with the help of their family and friends decided to do a three-mile walk around Ingleby Barwick, taking in three pubs – Beckfields, Myton and the Teal.

Along with further fundraising, a massive £1,990 was collected which helped to buy a special bike for their son Jack, who suffers from Phelan-McDermid Syndrome – a very rare genetic disorder.

But the family also wanted to help out the Cleveland Unit - a development centre for children with special needs in the James Cook – where the three-year-old regularly attends.

Nicola said: "We wanted to do

something for Jack which would also benefit the Cleveland Unit and we were happy to help out. He's such a loving little boy and we love him to pieces."

The Cleveland Unit caters for children from birth to five years living in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland who have significant special needs. It provides assessment and offers therapy and education together through structured play so that children enjoy themselves while they are learning.

Nicola visited the unit with Jack's nana Kathleen Freemantle to present the cheque to head teacher Liz Pickard.

Liz added: "These bikes have to be custom-made but can make a huge difference to children like Jack and their families. I'm looking forward to seeing Jack get around."



**On his bike: Jack with his bike and mum (centre) with nana Kathleen Freemantle (left) and head Liz Pickard**



**Noeleen and Jane accepting the cheque from members of the Birkdale Senior Citizens Centre.**

# Ain't half grand!

**PALLIATIVE care services for patients and their families has once again benefited from a £500 donation from a local community centre.**

Caring members of the Birkdale Senior Citizens Centre in Eston enjoyed regular coffee mornings and other social activities to raise this substantial amount for the Macmillan nurses at James Cook.

The committee invited Macmillan specialist nurses Noeleen Hunter

and Jane Walker to their Christmas party where they presented them with a cheque.

Noeleen said: "We would like to say a big thank you to the centre's members for their kind invitation and very generous donation. They have been supporting the hospital team for a considerable number of years now and we would like them to know that their kindness is very much appreciated."

# A touching tribute

**A MIDDLESBROUGH family has made a poignant donation in memory of a heart patient at James Cook.**

Ron Simmons sadly passed away last year but family and friends were so impressed with the care he had received, they held a charity night at the Priory Social Club raising almost £4,000 for the South Cleveland Heart Fund.

Wife Jean and daughter Helen Pierson recently visited the cardiology ward to meet his clinician, consultant cardiologist Dr Jim Hall and staff and to hand over the cheque to the heart charity.

Jean said: "Ron would have wanted us to do something for the hospital and thought the world of Dr Hall, who gave him another nine years of life, so it was a pleasure we could do something to help out.

"We'd never organised a charity night before but it was an overwhelming success and this was our personal thank you to the hospital – we were very fortunate to be in



**Generous gesture: (left to right) Jean Simmons with Dr Jim Hall, Ron's daughter Helen Pierson and Clare McNally, acting cardiology ward and day unit manager**

the right place at the right time."

Daughter Helen added: "Dad would have wanted to raise money himself so I said at his funeral I was going to do it – we just wanted to come along to say thank you to Dr Hall for everything he did for

him and thank you to the hospital which has been brilliant."

Part of the money will go towards a special reclining chair for heart patients who have difficulty lying down in bed and staff are putting their heads together on

other ways patients can benefit from the money.

Dr Hall said: "Ron was a lovely man – I remember him well and always will. He bore his illness well and always had a kind word to say. This is a tremendous amount of money and we'll make sure it goes towards helping other patients."

South Cleveland Heart Fund is a local heart charity with all donations going to support the work of the regional cardiothoracic centre at The James Cook University Hospital. The fund is used to keep us at the leading edge of technology, paying for equipment and/or supporting doctors and nurses during their research. It also provides patient comfort items such as refurbishing of day rooms, out-patients etc.

If you would like to donate funds to help the heart fund please contact Jan Crawford, secretary to Dr Adrian Davies, chairman of the Heart Fund team, on 01642 854621.

# A very grand gesture



**Great support: (left to right) Dr Dean with Pauline and some of her supporting network**

**PATIENT Pauline Martin has made another 'grand' gesture to staff at James Cook.**

With a group of friends she describes as her 'supporting network', Pauline organised a pie and pea supper and coffee morning (with mulled wine and mince pies) in November and December.

And their efforts, coupled with a further £250 raised by friend who organised her own coffee morn-

ing, raised £1,000 for the radiotherapy department and £1,000 for the radiology department.

Pauline, who lives in Brotton, was diagnosed with cancer in 2006 and unfortunately, has a slow growing tumour on her pancreas for which there is no cure. She regularly attends the hospital for scans and injections and has already donated £3,200.

"It amazes me how much sup-

port we receive for the events and I really have to thank family, friends and everyone who turns up for their generosity, plus Carlin How Club which always lets us have the room hire for free," she said.

Consultant radiologist Dr Jeremy Dean, who received the cheque on behalf of the radiology department, said: "We're

extremely grateful to Pauline for supporting the department as we aren't usually the first area people think about.

"We're currently looking at a range of measures to make the department and its environment more comfortable for patients so this will definitely be put to good use on something that will benefit patients for years to come."

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# Touching gesture for extra patient comfort

## MEDICAL patients on ward 1 will soon be able to benefit from a new state-of-the-art bed – thanks to the generosity of a local family and industry.

When John Bland sr sadly passed away in August, his family asked relatives and friends to donate money – rather than send flowers to his funeral - to the ward at James Cook.

More than £500 was generously raised, with a further £2,500 coming from seven companies on the Wilton International Site, near Redcar, where his son, also called John, works closely with the companies via a local community liaison panel.

The money will pay for an ultra low bed on ward one, which will help protect patients more likely to fall or climb out of bed and hurt themselves, against injury.

Director of UK Public Affairs for SABIC UK Petrochemicals Bill Perfitt said: "John is vice chair of the liaison panel at

Lazenby between the Wilton site and village.

"On his behalf I put an email out to other companies, telling them about the money John and his family had donated towards

a bed but essentially saying we needed another £2,500.

"They were more than happy to get involved and help out and between the seven companies we collected donations ranging from

£100 to £500 each."

John and representatives from the companies visited the hospital to hand over a £3,000 cheque to staff on the ward.

Ward manager Pauline Oxley said: "This is an amazing amount of money and it was nice we could personally meet everyone to say thank you.

"The low level of the bed, which comes down to six inches off the floor, can help greatly reduce traumatic injury to the elderly and vulnerable where falls from a greater height would result in bruising or fracture.

"All the mattresses also have buffers so if a patient rolls over, they're not hurting themselves. However the bed can be raised at the correct height when a nurse wants to carry out in-bed care."

The companies who generously made donations are SABIC UK, Teesside Power, Artenius UK, DOW, Ensus, SembCorp Utilities UK and UK Wood Recycling.



**Bed fellows! Staff from the ward with John (front left) and company representatives**



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