



Pulse magazine

Volunteers' Supper page 3

July
2024

Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the July edition of Pulse! As ever, it is full of news and information and, in particular this month, a number of awards received by members of our RBFT team.



Although it is summer, despite the weather's best attempts to persuade us otherwise, demand and activity remains high as we continue to confront the challenges of ever increasing demand and the reduction of the waiting lists. As usual you, our staff, our volunteers (see the article "Thanking our volunteers") and our health system partners continue to manage to deliver great healthcare with a warm smile.

In this edition there is an update on the exciting new hospital programme, stories of our colleagues being recognised for their excellence with high profile awards at the national level and an excellent opportunity to get involved with the Royal Berks Charity with a sponsored walk.

Enjoy reading this edition of Pulse and I hope you have the opportunity to have a summer break.

Mike McEnaney
Non-Executive Director

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Thanking our volunteers

Earlier this month we held our annual Volunteers' Supper which is one small way that we can give back to our volunteers who give so much to our Trust.

We're really grateful to our hundreds of volunteers who give up their time to help support our staff, patients and visitors across our hospitals. The contribution they provide is immeasurable but during this now annual tradition, we like to honour their contribution with our annual volunteer supper served up by members of our Executive Team.

Watch the short video below to see the celebrations!



Thank you to our Catering Team for putting on an amazing dinner, the Chaplaincy for supporting the night, and to Steve McManus CEO, Janet Lippett Chief Medical Officer, Dom Hardy Chief Operating Officer, and Graham Sims Chair for dishing up!



King's Birthday Honours: Congratulations to Mark Foulkes MBE

Mark Foulkes, Macmillan Lead Cancer Nurse and Nurse Consultant at the Trust's Berkshire Cancer Centre has been awarded an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours list 2024. The honour is in recognition of his services to nursing, including during the Covid 19 response.

During an impressive 21-year career at the Trust, Mark helped to set up the Royal Berkshire Hospital's Acute Oncology Service in 2015. Through this work, and the roll out of it nationally, any patient with cancer, anywhere in England, is assessed and supported by oncology trained staff. This makes a huge difference to many tens of thousands of people every year, and Mark continues to provide long term advice and support to colleagues across the country working in acute oncology.



Over his long career, Mark also made the Royal Berkshire Hospital one of the first to have 'holistic needs assessments' to listen to and address the needs and concerns of people living with cancer.

He also helped to establish the Cancer Patient Partnership at the hospital, where patients affected by cancer have a voice in the decisions and running of the cancer centre.

Mark is a passionate advocate for UK cancer nurses, which was evidenced during his time as the President of the UK Oncology Nursing Society between 2021 and 2023. He provided leadership to oncology colleagues nationwide through Covid, and his work helped oncology patients to receive their treatment safely during the pandemic. Mark also gave evidence to the Health Select Committee on cancer recovery post-Covid.

A keen advocate of bringing treatment and care 'closer to home' Mark championed and drove through work to get a purpose-built floor set up with four chemotherapy chairs at West Berkshire Community Hospital, and helped design the Bracknell Health Space Chemotherapy Unit.

Mark said, "I'm very pleased, very proud, and very shocked to have been selected for this award. I want to share it and dedicate it to all my fellow cancer nurses across the UK who do amazing work every day, supporting our patients, their families and loved ones, and each other."

Thinking about a career in the NHS?

If you would like to join our team we are always looking for talented staff with a commitment to providing the best patient care.

View our live job vacancies on our website: [RBFT work with us](#)

Chief Nursing Officer Silver Award presented to Sharon Herring



Sharon Herring (left) receiving her award from Katie Pritchard-Thomas, Chief Nursing Officer

Sharon Herring, Associate Chief Nurse - Patient Experience, Workforce and Education, has been recognised for her work advocating for patient involvement, community engagement and equalities after receiving a Chief Nursing Officer Silver Award.

Dame Ruth May – Chief Nursing Officer for England – shared the news with Sharon, and was supported by Katie Pritchard-Thomas, Chief Nursing Officer at the Trust, who presented Sharon with her award.

The Silver Award is given to nurses who go above and beyond, demonstrate leadership in developing services for patients, and champion diversity and inclusion.

Sharon, who has worked at the Trust for forty years, was nominated for her work to develop our Junior Carers' programme which is now in its sixth year; setting up our MEET PEET initiative to reach out to seldom heard groups within some of our most deprived communities; helping with our Seeking Sanctuary work to support pregnant asylum seekers and refugees; and setting up our Patient Leaders programme to encourage patients to become health-leader volunteers and act as advocates and critical friends in the Trust.

Additionally, she has looked for innovative ways to reduce the number of patients who do not attend (DNA) their appointments, working with them to reduce DNAs by 50 per cent in some specialities.

On receiving the award, Sharon said: "I'm so immensely proud and honoured to receive this award. I owe a big thank you to the Trust for all the support and development invested in me over the years, the inspirational leaders who continually encouraged me, and finally the amazing teams I've worked with."

Andrew Daggart awarded Honorary Membership of The Royal College of Radiologists

Congratulations to Andrew Daggart, Head of Brachytherapy Physics at the Trust, who has recently been awarded an Honorary Membership of The Royal College of Radiologists.

Andrew has lectured Oncology Registrars on fundamental Physics for Radiotherapy over his entire career – both formally and informally – and it is for this, and for recent services to the Examinations Committee of the College as an external examiner in Physics, that he has been awarded Honorary membership.

Andrew has been at the Trust for 21 years and is part of our Radiotherapy Physics Team. He was presented with his Honorary Membership by Dr Katherine Halliday, President of the Royal College of Radiologists at Westminster Central Hall. Well done Andrew!



Andrew Daggart receiving his Honorary Membership from Dr Katherine Halliday

Offering more timely care to patients

As part of our commitment to providing you with the best possible care we have partnered with hospitals in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire to ensure you are seen as quickly as possible and can take advantage of the expertise and facilities across these hospitals.

We may ask that you are treated at one of these hospitals if you are able to travel there. We care about your satisfaction and well-being and we will do our best to provide you with the high-quality service and attention you deserve.

Carers Café at the Royal Berkshire Hospital

This is the first of a monthly drop-in session to provide information, advice and support for anyone who's supporting a current inpatient in the Royal Berkshire Foundation Trust.

If this is you, come along for support, information and advice over a free cuppa.



Are you interested in work experience & placements?

The Trust is committed to supporting young people and adults looking to pursue a career in healthcare. We offer clinical and non-clinical placements at set times across the academic year.

Work experience is for people who are interested in an NHS career. Shadowing our teams, you will have the opportunity to see first-hand what is involved in the job role you are considering. It also helps to give an understanding of the attitudes, behaviours and values that are expected in a healthcare setting.

For more information please visit [Work Experience and Placements - Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust](#)



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Governor Article - Sally Moore

Staff Governor: Admin/Management

I'm writing this on General Election day after 6 weeks of being 'doorstepped' by Parliamentary candidates campaigning for my vote. It struck me that many of us don't see or hear from our politicians from one year to the next unless there is an election looming. It's a shame, as the only way to know what matters to local people is by taking the time to talk – and listen - to them on a regular basis.

That's very much how I've seen my role as a Staff Governor – being the eyes and ears of our staff and feeding their views and ideas back to the Governors who then, in turn, feedback to the Chair of the governors and the Trust's senior leadership team. The Trust prides itself on being a learning organisation and, in my experience, the executive team are always keen to hear the views of staff and, wherever possible, act on them. I'm also one of the Trust's 20 Freedom to Speak Up Ambassadors and, again, I've always found the senior leadership team here to be very receptive and responsive.

From a Staff Governor point of view, it's been interesting to see how active and well informed the governors are and the time and commitment they devote to the role of holding the Trust to account. Their scrutiny of Trust activity ensures transparency and openness which I think is vital to maintaining the delivery of high levels of safe patient care. The wellbeing of staff and volunteers along with the importance of progressing our work in diversity and equality are always at the forefront of governor discussions which I hope reassures staff about the value placed on such vital issues.

I've worked at the Trust for five years now and it's my first experience of the NHS following a long career in journalism and communications and I can honestly say I've never worked anywhere where the staff are as valued as they are here. I work in the communications team and we recently organised the staff CARE awards and the long service awards. Both events highlighted not only the incredible work being done by our staff but also the fact so many of them stay with the Trust for many, many years. I think this level of loyalty and commitment comes from working at an organisation that listens and learns and is always striving to do better – as evidenced by the What Matters staff engagement programme which is currently running.

My time as a Staff Governor ends soon so I'll be passing this baton on to someone else following the recent 2024 elections. It's not a massively time consuming role, and you get lots of expert guidance from the Corporate Governance team and a really interesting insight of behind the scenes of the Trust and there's a feeling of job satisfaction in getting things done and helping to make change happen.

I hope you enjoy this month's magazine!

Sally Moore,
Staff Governor, Administration and Management

Royal Berks Charity Reading Buses Colouring Competition

The Royal Berks Charity are running a colouring competition in conjunction with one of their corporate partners, Reading Buses.

Not only will you have a blast expressing yourself through art, but you'll also be making a difference in the lives of those in need. Every entry helps raise funds for the Royal Berks Charity, supporting vital healthcare services for patients and staff in your local community.



Here's how you can participate:

- Download the colouring sheet for £2 from our website or pick them up at a community event over the summer: [Royal Berks Charity](https://www.royalberkscharity.co.uk)
- Unleash your inner artist and bring the Royal Berks Charity bus to life with your favourite colours and artistic flair
- Share your masterpiece with us by sending a photo of your colouring to charity@royalberkshire.nhs.uk by 31 December 2024.

There are some brilliant prizes on offer donated by one of our suppliers Continental Landscapes

For more information please contact charity@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Walk for wards, Sunday 29 September 2024



Join Royal Berks Charity at Mapledurham Estate on Sunday 29 September to take on 5, 10 or 15km around beautiful British countryside.

NEW for this year they have a children's scavenger hunt around the grounds of

Mapledurham House – perfect for little legs not ready to take on a 5km walk!

As well as supporting the ward of your choice, Royal Berks Charity has chosen to raise vital funds for Buscot Ward at the Royal Berks Hospital. Their aim is to raise enough funds to purchase an incubator for premature and critically ill babies. Sign up now: [Walk for Wards](https://www.royalberkscharity.co.uk)

Discounts? Did you know?

healthservice discounts

As a member of the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust you are eligible to amazing Health Service Discounts to save money on holidays, electrical goods, meals, days out and more!

To register, follow this link [Register | NHS Discounts | Health Service Discounts](#) and select Foundation Trust Member.

Don't forget to let us know what amazing discounts you get so we can share them! This month find some exclusive increased deals celebrating the NHS 76th birthday!

- [Butlins](#) – up to £100 off all school summer holidays + extra £30
- [Tastecard Exclusive](#) – 12 month FREE membership
- [Virgin Holidays](#) - £140 NHS discount
- [Amazon Music Unlimited](#) – 5 months FREE for Prime Members
- [Sketchers](#) – 20% off
- [Google Pixel 8 Pro](#) - £29.00 upfront + £41 a month

As well as NHS & Healthcare Staff Giveaways - Win amazing prizes in the exclusive NHS & healthcare staff giveaways including:

- 1 x £500 Parkdean Voucher
- 1 x Paid of 1906 New Balance Trainers
- 1 x LOOKFASTIC Beauty Egg
- 1 x Family short break at Warwick Castle Hotel
- 1 x Family short break at Legoland Windsor
- 1 x Family short break at Alton Towers Resort

Get involved and have your say

Open Meetings

Why not come along to one of our upcoming open meetings: find the details and agendas on our trust website page: [Open meetings | Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust](#)

- **Wednesday 31 July 2024, 9am: Board of Directors**
Seminar Room, Trust Education Centre, Royal Berkshire Hospital

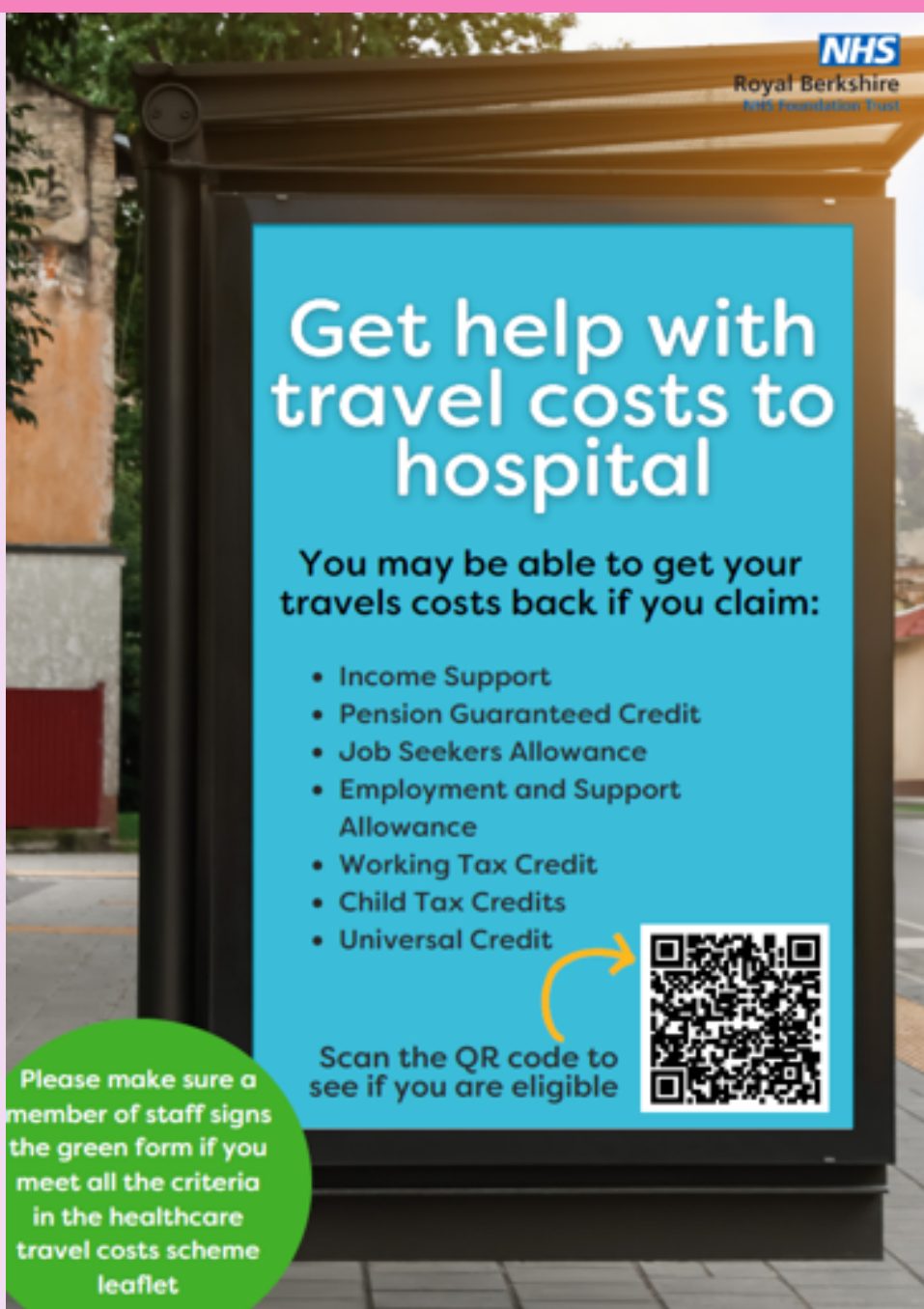
Meet your Council of Governors

Find a full list of your Council of Governors on the Trust website: [Meet the Governors](#)

Become a member

Sign up family and friends to become a member via our [online membership form](#) to receive our latest updates, shape how hospital services are delivered and be eligible to receive our NHS discounts.

Get in touch with the team: Foundation.trust@royalberkshire.nhs.uk



Pulse Magazine is written and produced by the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Communications Team. If you would like to have an article included or have any feedback just let us know at Communications@royalberkshire.nhs.uk