

# WorcestershireWay

For patients, staff, visitors and volunteers

APRIL 2018

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# New test for breast cancer has cut waits dramatically



Dr Terry Jones, Consultant Histopathologist, carries out the new breast cancer test

**Breast cancer patients in Worcestershire are now benefitting from drastically reduced waiting times for treatment thanks to a test now carried out in the laboratories at Worcestershire Royal Hospital.**

The test, which is new in the county's hospitals, has cut the time doctors have to wait before being able to decide which treatment to give patients, from three weeks, down to just two days.

Where previously, the test to determine the best treatment to give the patient was sent out to a regional laboratory in Birmingham, each stage of the advanced test is now

completed by staff in the Histology department at Worcestershire Royal.

Carrying out the test within the Trust means the time taken to produce the results has been massively reduced and doctors can decide the best course of treatment as quickly as possible, improving the prognosis of patients with certain types of breast cancer.

The new test also means a huge cost saving for the Trust which previously had to pay for each test to be reviewed and sent back.

After an internal verification process, the

results from tests carried out at Worcester were found to have a 100 per cent accuracy rate, meaning patients can be confident that the treatment they receive, as a result of the test, is accurate and supported by scientific evidence.

Now the testing procedures used at Worcestershire Royal have received national accreditation after undergoing an inspection by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS).

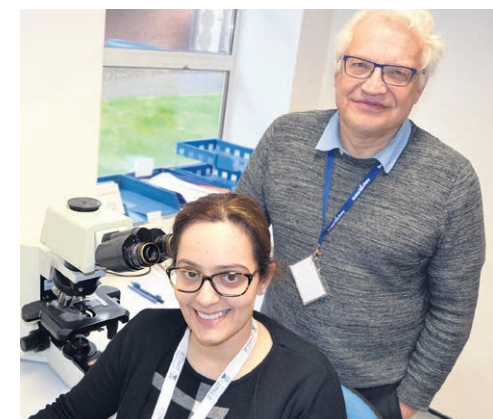
Steven Thrush, Consultant Breast Surgeon at Worcestershire Royal said: "We are delighted with the introduction of this test

*because it results in a significant reduction in turnaround time. This benefits patients because it allows treatment plans to be put in place and treatment to start earlier."*

Mandeep Deo, Specialist Biomedical Scientist who introduced the test at Worcestershire Royal said: "We used to outsource this test to a specialist centre with a long turnaround time and a hefty price implication. Now we turn this test around within a couple of days and it is significantly cheaper for the Trust.

"The inspection of our procedures by UKAS has given us accreditation for carrying out these tests and means we can now look at potentially providing this service to other local hospitals and NHS Trusts in future."

Consultant Histopathologist at the hospital, Dr Terry Jones, said: "This is yet another example of how flexible and innovative the histology department is at Worcestershire Royal. We are extremely proud of the development and hope to expand the service to new diagnostic tests in the near future."



Mandeep Deo, Specialist Biomedical Scientist and Dr Terry Jones, Consultant Histopathologist in the department.

## Welcome



Michelle McKay, Chief Executive of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

### Welcome to the latest edition of Worcestershire Way.

As I write, the sun is finally shining on what is being widely reported as the hottest April day in 70 years. But despite the promise of warmer days and weeks ahead, our emergency departments are still continuing to feel the much reported 'winter pressures'.

The work carried out as part of the countywide winter plan has helped us cope better with more activity, but there is still more to do. By the time you read this, work will have started on the long-awaited link bridge joining the main Worcestershire Royal Hospital to the older Aconbury East building. The bridge – which will allow us to safely and easily transfer patients between buildings – is the first piece in the jigsaw that will lead to us opening four additional ward areas in Aconbury. There will be more on this in the next edition of Worcestershire Way.

Improving the quality and safety of our care remains a key focus, and the recent launch of our Quality Improvement Strategy (more on this page) serves to focus the minds of all staff on our aims to improve patient safety, enhance clinical effectiveness and efficiency, and deliver person centred care. We are delighted that this strategy has been shaped by our patients and their families, as well as our staff, and we are looking forward to seeing the improvements it will bring.

Our work to develop an intentional culture through our 4ward programme is also bearing fruit. Nearly 3,000 staff took part in our second Checkpoint in March to score themselves and their colleagues on whether and how often we are displaying our 4ward behaviours. The results reveal a Trust Culture Score of 55% - up from 28% in November. This is a three year programme and I look forward to seeing our culture score continuing to improve. The result will be a happier, more supportive and more productive working environment – which will, of course, improve care for our patients. You can read more about 4ward at [www.4ward-waht.co.uk](http://www.4ward-waht.co.uk)

# Ambitious plans to improve quality and safety of care

A new strategy that sets out ambitious plans to deliver improvements to the quality and safety of the care we provide for our patients has been formally launched to staff across the Alexandra, Kidderminster and Worcestershire Royal Hospitals.

The Quality Improvement Strategy – and plans which underpin it - has been drawn up with input from our staff, patients, carers and other key stakeholders and reflect some of the things which matter most to those important groups.

The three main aims of the strategy are to improve patient safety, enhance clinical effectiveness and efficiency, and deliver person centred care by enhancing our compassion and communication.

In keeping with one of the Trust's 4ward behaviours, we aim to "do what we say we will do" and use the ambitions and actions set out in the plans to reinforce quality and safety as the prime drivers of everything we do.

Vicky Morris, Chief Nursing Officer at the Trust, said: "Having focussed considerable time and effort on delivering some immediate improvements and tackling some of our most urgent quality and safety issues, we are now seeking to move to a more comprehensive, planned, strategic approach.

"This will help to make a real difference for the better for our patients and support



our staff in their efforts to deliver the high standards of care to which they aspire.

"Whether you are a patient, carer, member of staff or anyone with an interest in the quality and safety of local health care, we hope you will find in the strategy a clear statement of our intent, a strong commitment to continual improvement and a realistic and easy to follow route map of the next stages of our improvement journey."

Find the strategy at [www.worcsacute.nhs.uk](http://www.worcsacute.nhs.uk)



## New HIV support group championed by Trust team

A peer support group for HIV patients in Worcestershire has been set up, thanks to the Trust's HIV support team.

The Team, based at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, are working in partnership with the Eddystone Trust, a local charity that provides HIV support and advocacy services to HIV positive individuals throughout the south west of England.

The group will be the first of a number of patient initiatives planned by the Trust in partnership with the Eddystone Trust and other HIV charitable organisations which aim to support people living with HIV in Worcestershire.

Samantha Green Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialist, HIV Service at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust said:

"The peer support group will offer individuals who are diagnosed as HIV positive an opportunity to share experiences with each other."



Jamie Styler, HIV community worker, Eddystone Trust explains:

"It is really important for people living with HIV in Worcestershire to be able to share and support each other. The group is about providing support, beyond the care and treatment patients receive in Hospital, in a social forum, in a secure and safe environment."

The group plan to meet on Thursday evenings from 6pm to 7pm at the Friends meeting house in central Worcester.

If you would like more information about the group and to find out the date of the next meeting, please contact Jamie on 07587 638810 or email [jamie@eddystone.org.uk](mailto:jamie@eddystone.org.uk)

## New ambulance registration desk in A&E to improve handover process



Work has been completed in the A&E department at Worcestershire Royal Hospital on a new ambulance registration desk to improve the handover process.

The work is part of a number of changes to help improve the flow of patients through the department.

The new handover desk for patients who arrive in A&E via ambulance allows crews to register patients and hand them over to our A&E staff more quickly.

# New Theatre Admissions Unit officially opened at Worcestershire Royal Hospital



Robin Walker MP with the Theatre Admissions Unit team and Trust leaders in the new unit

**A dedicated Theatre Admissions Unit (TAU) has been officially opened at Worcestershire Royal Hospital by Worcester MP Robin Walker.**

The TAU means patients coming into hospital for surgery have a dedicated, comfortable space where medical assessments and examinations can be undertaken before their procedure takes place.

The new facility has six private consultation rooms and a dedicated seating area with comfortable chairs which were generously funded by the Friends of Worcestershire Royal Hospital. It is located just a short walk away from theatres.

Dr Julian Berlet, Consultant Anaesthetist and Divisional Medical Director for Specialised Clinical Services, said: "We have been working on creating this dedicated space for over two years and we are

*delighted it is now open as it will provide an enhanced experience for our patients, as well as improving efficiency on our wards and in our theatres.*

*"Previously, prior to surgery patients had to wait to be admitted to a ward for their pre-operative assessments, but now this offers a dedicated space where they are admitted directly and can go through any concerns or queries with the surgeon, anaesthetist and nursing staff in private. Being located just a short distance from theatres, it also means that theatre lists can start promptly, avoiding any unnecessary delays."*

Amanda Moore, Deputy Divisional Director of Nursing for Specialised Clinical Services, added: "The new TAU is great news for both patients and staff.

*"It offers a calm and quiet space where patients have more privacy and dignity, and*

*enjoy a more efficient experience. For ward staff, it frees up their time to concentrate on patient care and discharging patients no longer in need of an acute hospital bed, which in turn improves patient flow through the whole hospital. We are delighted it is now up and running."*

On his visit to open the unit Robin Walker, MP for Worcester said: "Congratulations everyone, it's great to hear what a difference this unit is already making to patients. I am delighted to be able to officially open the unit."

To hear more on the TAU from Dr Berlet and Mandy Moore:

 visit the Trust's Facebook page @WorcsAcuteNHS

 or watch a video of the new unit here: [https://youtu.be/pfTHf\\_z2-O4](https://youtu.be/pfTHf_z2-O4)

**Five minutes with...**  
Amrat Mahal, Head of Children's Services



Amrat Mahal is the new Head of Children's Services at the Trust.

As well as being responsible for strategic planning, leadership and management of Children and Young People's nursing, Amrat will lead on the development of robust and effective care pathways that enhance the clinical care and experience of neonates, children, young people and their families and carers.

Amrat will ensure that children, young people and parents' views are heard and listened to. Patients and relatives have already informed one important development – they were members of the recruitment panel which appointed Amrat!

**Who would you invite to a dinner party, dead or alive?**  
Barack Obama

**What was the last book that you read?**  
The Girl on the Train

**What advice would you give your younger self?**  
Go with your heart, be happy

**Favourite holiday location?**  
USA

**Broadsheet or Tabloid?**  
Broadsheet

**Best thing about your job?**  
The people I work with

**Favourite film?**  
Bridesmaids



## Painting brings colours to life in Worcestershire Oncology Centre

**A beautiful painting of Worcester Cathedral was kindly donated to us in April.**

Artist and former patient Andrew Smith donated the piece to us as a thank you for the life-saving cancer treatment he received in our hospital.

'The Pathway', as the painting is called, will soon take pride of place in our Oncology Centre so that it can be enjoyed by patients, visitors and staff alike.

Mr Smith handed the painting over to Matron, Louise Pearson and Macmillan Counsellor, Gareth Vaughan, during a recent meeting of the Worcestershire Head and Neck Cancer Support Group (THANCS).

## Urology Intervention Centre opens at Alex

**A dedicated Urology Intervention Centre (UIC) has opened at the Alexandra Hospital.**

The UIC – which has been up and running since December - means patients coming into hospital for outpatient urology tests and treatments can be seen in a dedicated clinic. The service is helping to avoid admission to hospital.

The newly refurbished facility has a private consultation room and a dedicated seating area away from the main outpatients department.

Mr Aniket Deshpande, Locum Consultant Urological Surgeon said: “We are delighted to offer patients visiting the Alexandra Hospital a dedicated space for urology examinations. It provides an enhanced experience for our patients, as well as having earlier access to diagnostic tests, resulting in noticeable improvements in our cancer targets.

*A more efficient service for our patients means reduced admission to hospital and increased patient satisfaction as noted in the feedback we’ve already received from our Friends and Family Test.”*

Emma Grubb, unit manager for the UIC, added: “The new UIC is great news for both patients and staff.

*“The UIC provides patients with a calm and quiet place where consultations can be held in private rooms. Patient privacy and dignity is maintained at all times and they enjoy a more efficient experience, with specialist advice on hand.”*

*Pictured right: Mr A Deshpande, Locum Consultant Urological Surgeon, Emma Grubb, Manager for UIC and Cearann Reen, Ward Manager Urology at The Alexandra Hospital, Redditch.*



## Hand Hygiene Week spreads important message of Infection Control across our three hospitals



Healthcare Assistant Linda Connolly was on hand to give staff, patient and visitors advice during Hand Hygiene Week

**In March the Infection Control team held a Hand Hygiene Week to highlight the importance cleaning your hands has on preventing the spread of germs.**

Effective hand hygiene remains the single most important action staff can undertake to prevent the spread of germs that can cause healthcare-associated infections.

The week involved information stands to demonstrate the importance of hand hygiene to staff, visitors and patients, specialist training exercises for staff to reinforce the Five Moments of Hand Hygiene, as well as local publicity and a

‘Twitter Takeover’ by the Infection Control team to share their messages to a wider audience.

Another key message shared during the week was that our patients are always welcome to ask any member of staff caring for them to clean their hands using soap and water or the alcohol gel. Remember - it’s OK to ask!

If you’d like to hear more from the Infection Control team, why not follow them on Twitter.

 @IPCwaht



**Good hand hygiene** prevents the spread of healthcare associated infection.



**Use soap and water or gel** in accordance with the 5 moments of hand hygiene.



**Patients: It is OK to challenge** your healthcare staff about hand hygiene.



**Staff: In clinical areas you must be bare below the elbow.** With the exception of a single plain ring.



**Staff: Is your hand hygiene competency** up to date? Contact the IP&C team for more information.

## Family make donation to say thanks for care

Mother and Daughter Caroline and Sarah Nicklin have raised £2650 as a way of saying thank you to the haemato-oncology team who looked after their late husband and father Patrick.

The family raised the impressive amount by holding an afternoon tea party. Sarah said: “The reason we held the tea party was just to say thank you for the fantastic care provided and looking after Dad so well, but most importantly it was to raise awareness for all the hard working staff from the haematology department.”

The money will be donated to Cure Leukaemia which works closely with the haematology team at Worcestershire Royal and funds a full time Clinical Trials Nurse.

Caroline and Sarah handed over the cheque during a visit from ex-England footballer and leukaemia survivor from Worcestershire, Geoff Thomas, and Cure Leukaemia CEO James McLaughlin.



# Our three hospitals receive patient safety award for joint surgery data



The presentations of the Quality Data Provider certificate at each of Worcestershire's three acute hospitals in Redditch, Worcester and Kidderminster

## All three of our hospitals have received a top patient safety award from the National Joint Registry (NJR).

The award recognises the high standards of patient safety achieved for orthopaedic surgery on hips, knees, ankles, elbows and shoulders at the county's hospitals.

The Trust – which runs the Alexandra, Kidderminster and Worcestershire Royal hospitals - completed local data audits and met six targets relating to patient safety to be awarded as a 'Quality Data Provider'.

The NJR is a national health watchdog that monitors the performance of hip, knee, ankle, elbow and shoulder joint replacement operations in hospitals across

the country in order to improve clinical outcomes for the benefit of patients.

Data is collected on these surgeries in order to ensure quality, evidence and standards for joint replacement surgery are as effective and safe as possible. The National Joint Registry is currently the largest registry of its kind in the world.

Charles Docker, Consultant Surgeon and Clinical Lead, Trauma and Orthopaedics, said: "Good data is essential for patient safety as it means patients can be confident in the outcomes of surgery at the hospital and so this unique award demonstrates the high standards we are meeting in our hospitals."

*"The award is also a good story for patients as it gives an opportunity to inform patients of how we use data from their surgery to protect them and our future patients."*

Dr Suneil Kapadia, Chief Medical Officer at the Trust said: "Improving patient safety is of the utmost importance and something we all take very seriously, so we are very proud that our efforts have been recognised with this award."

*"These awards demonstrate that we are collecting the most complete and accurate information possible which helps the NJR make many of their decisions regarding quality of care and patient safety as well as overall cost effectiveness of joint*

*replacement surgery."*

National Joint Registry medical director, Mr Martyn Porter, said: "Congratulations to colleagues at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. The Quality Data Provider award demonstrates the high standards being met towards ensuring compliance with the NJR and is often a strong reflection of a departmental effort to achieve such status."

*"It is clear that for surgeons and patients alike, the necessity for having accurate and complete data is an absolute requirement."*

Full details about the NJR's Quality Data Provider certificate scheme can be found online at: [www.njrcentre.org.uk](http://www.njrcentre.org.uk)

## Kidderminster Hospital becomes backdrop to new short film



Filming a scene for 'Pandemic' in A Block at Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre

### A disused space at Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre has become the backdrop for a modern film retelling of the Frankenstein myth.

The former 'A Block' was used as the setting for the short film 'Pandemic', commissioned by the Science Museum in London as part of their Frankenstein festival in April, marking the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's classic novel.

The gruesome story - aimed at 12 to 14 year olds - premiered on April 6 and focuses on a pandemic that sweeps the world causing heart failure amongst its victims. It follows geneticists as they begin the process to create a half-human half-pig creature which can be used to grow hearts that can be successfully transplanted to humans - all funded by a dark, private investment company.

Director John Bradburn - a film producer and lecturer at the University of Worcester

whose work includes over 20 music videos for bands from all over the world - said: "We used both office and former ward spaces and the scenes we filmed show the characters coming to get some neonatal equipment to look after the creatures with."

"The film was a massive success. We had 550 through the doors and a 90 per cent approval rating."

We also had Jenny Agutter in the film (on Skype) and that was a real coup."

The film featured as part of the Science Museum's Frankenstein event which explored the ethical, scientific and technical questions surrounding whether or not we should create 'life' through immersive theatrical events, hands-on activities and experimental storytelling.

A trailer for the film is available to view at <https://vimeo.com/261396186/df9a0cfe44>

# A team effort dramatically improves survival rates for Sepsis patients

**The number of patients surviving from Sepsis in Worcestershire has dramatically increased after a successful project across all our hospitals.**

Sepsis, also known as blood poisoning, is the life-threatening reaction to an infection, in which the body attacks its own organs and tissues.

After the Trust – which runs the county's three hospitals - made improving the survival rates of patients identified as having Sepsis a top clinical priority, the death rates from the condition have been significantly reduced to better than the national average.

There are around 260,000 cases of sepsis a year in England, with around 44,000 people dying every year as a result of the condition. Anyone can develop sepsis after an injury or minor infection, although some people are more vulnerable.

The project involving all three hospitals has ensured more patients are screened for Sepsis, with those found to have the condition being treated much more quickly. A new dedicated Sepsis nursing role was created to oversee clinical advice and staff training about the condition.

Over 1,000 clinical members of staff across the county have been trained on specifically identifying the condition in patients, which has helped to detect and treat those with the condition more quickly.

Sepsis can be difficult to diagnose because early symptoms can be confused with other conditions, highlighting the need for greater awareness of its causes, signs and symptoms. Early symptoms of sepsis in older children and adults can include a high temperature (fever) or low body temperature, chills and shivering, confusion, cold or blotchy hands and feet, and not passing as much urine as normal.

As well as extensive training for staff, the project has involved introducing a new care pathway for patients which improves the prevention, diagnosis and management of sepsis. This includes key definitions, treatment guidelines and staff roles and responsibilities when caring for different patient groups.

Specialist IT improvements have also helped bring in line systems across Worcestershire's hospitals so that staff can more easily and quickly report patients who have been identified as having Sepsis.

Patient information leaflets were produced to provide Sepsis survivors and those more at risk of developing Sepsis with information about the condition and its treatment as well as their rehabilitation and recovery.

Dr Mike McAlindon, Clinical Lead for the Sepsis Quality Improvement Project at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust said: "Sepsis is an important cause of



Hospital staff raising awareness of Sepsis

death in people of all ages and is a major cause of avoidable mortality. Thanks to the hard work of staff across our Trust we've managed to dramatically reduce the mortality from Sepsis over the past year.

"This is good news for patients as now they can be assured that if they come to hospital with Sepsis, they will receive a good level of care, giving them a better chance of survival."

## Maternity professionals and passionate parents join forces to shape future services



Fay Baillie, LMS Project Lead; Emma Mayes, Chair of Worcestershire MVP; Christobel Hargraves, Chair of the LMS; and Charlotte Wilkinson, Chair of Worcestershire MVP at the Delivering Choices Safely event.

**Maternity professionals and mums from across Herefordshire and Worcestershire have come together to start shaping the future of maternity and newborn services across the two counties.**

The 'Delivering Choice Safely' event, organised by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Local Maternity System, brought together midwives, neonatal nurses, paediatric and obstetric medical staff, alongside passionate parents to discuss how services in the two counties can continue to be developed to enable every child to have the very best start in life and reduce health inequalities.

Attendees were asked to discuss a range of topics, and explore how, by working together, improvements can be made in areas such as neonatal outreach; continuity of carer for mums-to-be; good health and wellbeing throughout pregnancy and beyond, and prematurity. Examples of outstanding practice were also shared, with attendees asked to explore how these could be replicated in other areas.

Christobel Hargraves, Chair of the LMS, said: "The Local Maternity System brings together providers and commissioners of maternity services with the aim of improving care for mums, their babies and families across

Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

"This event was an opportunity for all partners to come together and think innovatively about how we work across boundaries. There are fantastic examples of where a germ of an idea, combined with huge passion, can really make a huge difference to both the maternity services we can deliver and the experience for local mums."

Emma Mayes and Charlotte Wilkinson, Chairs of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Maternity Voices Partnerships (MVP), said: "Everybody involved demonstrated how passionate they were about improving services for mums-to-be and their future families throughout their pregnancy and birth journey. This is an exciting opportunity to work innovatively and ensure our maternity and newborn services are the best they can possibly be."

To get involved or register your interest in joining either the Herefordshire or Worcestershire Maternity Voices Partnership call 07710075062 or email worcestershire.mv@outlook.com or herefordshiremv@outlook.com



Watch a short video from the event at: <https://youtu.be/edgi-m3mlI8>

# Diabetes team help teach teenagers how to manage their condition into adulthood

**Our paediatric diabetes team have launched a new campaign to support teenagers to manage their diabetes and prepare them for adult life.**

Many teenagers with diabetes have received care from the same clinicians for as long as they can remember and are used to being closely monitored.

However, between the ages of 16 and 18, they must transition in to the adult diabetes service which places the focus on managing their own condition – this can seem daunting and unfamiliar for some.

To help teenagers transfer to adult services more smoothly, the paediatric diabetes team have produced a new video and information leaflets to explain the changes and help these patients to feel more confident to manage their condition more independently.

The video was produced using real patients in their late teens who are going through the transition process. Jade Doody and Tom Essex, are still using the paediatric service but are due to transfer to the adult service shortly.

The video follows their journey as they discuss their fears and concerns with Abi Hill and Chris Bright who have been through the transition process themselves.

The transition process aims to develop independence and responsibility for patients' own diabetes care and general

health. The information and education helps young people to develop their skills in communication and decision making, improving their sense of control and independence so they can make the best informed choices about their own health.

Around 30 young people in Worcestershire go through the transition from paediatric to adult diabetes services each year, with the patient choosing when they move, any time between their 16th and 18th birthdays.

Chris said: *"It's your opportunity to take control of your care. When I first moved in to the adult service it was a little bit of a worrying time, but there's a lot of support out there so they really help you transition. You get the opportunity to ask questions so the move really isn't as difficult or as big as you might think."*

Tom said: *"It's given me peace of mind, knowing that they worried about the same things that I do."*

Jade said: *"I found I got a new perspective on the adult services. It's nice nurses and doctors telling us everything, but it's really nice to know what it feels like from a first person's perspective."*

You can find out more information about transition, and watch the video on our website: [www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/diabetes-childrens-services](http://www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/diabetes-childrens-services)



## Canal fall man praises lifesaving care at Worcestershire Royal



Steve Martin with his mum

**A jogger who fell into a Stourport canal and was submerged for over half an hour miraculously survived his ordeal after he was rushed to Worcestershire Royal Hospital for urgent treatment.**

Medics estimate that Steve Martin who fell into the canal after suffering a cardiac arrest, was in the freezing water for 35 minutes before he was spotted and rushed to Worcestershire Royal.

As well as the dedicated life-saving care Steve received, his miraculous recovery was aided by the freezing water temporarily preserving his organs and stopping his body from shutting down.

Dr James France, Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Worcestershire Royal Hospital said: *"Undoubtedly the fact that Mr. Martin was a keen runner and in very good health improved his ability to survive the initial submersion in the canal."*

*"This, combined with the very rapid drop in body temperature which is likely to*

*have been protective to his heart and brain; and the excellent pre-hospital care given by the river rescue team and the ambulance service, meant that when he was brought to the emergency department his chances of survival were greatly increased.*

*"Once here, the A&E and intensive care teams worked together to gradually increase his body temperature whilst aiding his breathing and protecting his heart. It is truly a great outcome and all the staff are delighted for him and his family."*

Steve said: *"I thought I was dead. But my time wasn't up and I'm still here. I am so grateful to all the staff. Everyone needs to be thanked for everything they've done to look after me. I'm totally overwhelmed. I'm hoping to work on my strength and keep building it up. I eventually want to get back to running again but I will definitely be more careful."*

## Dedicated Friends volunteers clock up 190 years service



From left, Audrey Spells, Pauline Grainger, Rosemary Lester, Pat White, Jean Rumsey and Helen Whittington serve up nearly a double century of service with the League of Friends

The coffee shop team from the League of Friends at Kidderminster Hospital have recently clocked up over 190 years service, nearly a double century of serving drinks and light meals to visitors and staff at the Hospital.

The six members of the coffee shop team include 90-year-old Helen Whittington and Pauline Grainger who have both worked there for 37 years.

Jean Rumsey, who is 92 this year, and Audrey Spells have notched up 32 years apiece while Pat White and Rosemary Lester have completed 27 and 25 years respectively.

Mrs Rumsey told local newspaper, The Kidderminster Shuttle: "We are part of a big family of volunteers and have made some wonderful friendships along the way."

"We all feel it is important to support our local hospital and many of our customers feel the same way."

We have League of Friends' charities at each of our main Hospitals sites, the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch, Worcestershire Royal and Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre. If you are interested in volunteering or helping to raise funds please get in touch with them directly.

### Alexandra Hospital League of Friends

☎ 01527 512009

✉ alx-friends@nhs.net

### Kidderminster Hospital League of Friends

☎ 01562 67653

✉ wah-tr.KTC-Friends@nhs.net

### Friends of Worcestershire Royal

☎ 01905 731456

## Could you host an NHS Big 7Tea and raise funds for your local hospital?

The NHS is turning 70 this year and what better way to celebrate one of the nation's most loved institutions than with a cup of tea?



But this will be more than just a regular brew. On and around 5th July, people up and down the country will get together to raise a cuppa to our beloved NHS and raise funds for NHS charities.

The NHS has touched us all and NHS Big 7Tea is a chance to celebrate and say thank you.

You might want to invite your friends to a street party, brew up for your family, crack open the staff room tea bags, or commandeer the local village hall.

We would be absolutely delighted if you chose to raise money for our Charitable Fund (which supports the Alexandra, Kidderminster and Worcestershire Royal Hospitals) or our current fundraising appeals for a new prostate cancer robot and second maternity bereavement suite. To find out more on these visit [www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/our-trust/fundraising](http://www.worcsacute.nhs.uk/our-trust/fundraising)

However you choose to celebrate a Big7Tea support pack will provide you with everything you need to host the perfect party. Visit [www.nhsbig7tea.co.uk/](http://www.nhsbig7tea.co.uk/) to download yours today.

### Share your memories

To mark NHS70, we're gathering old information and photographs over the decades, with a view to holding an exhibition.

Do you have any old photos or articles about any of the health improvements we've seen in Worcestershire from years gone by?

From new hospitals or wards opening, to visits from famous faces - if you've got an interesting photo, please share it with us as we celebrate #NHS70

You can send us your photos via email at: [wah-tr.Communications@nhs.net](mailto:wah-tr.Communications@nhs.net) or by post to:

Communications, First Floor  
3 Kings Court  
Worcestershire Royal Hospital  
Charles Hastings Way  
Worcester, WR5 1DD

## Boost for Maternity Bereavement Suite Appeal

Successful fundraising events have raised a further £19,500 for Worcestershire Royal Hospital's Maternity Bereavement Suite Appeal

Maria and Stuart Grennan raised £18,000 by hosting events such as a barn dance, and raffles. The couple, who were supported by staff in the hospital's current bereavement suite when their daughter Maggie was stillborn, said: "Maggie's Legacy will be an ongoing fundraising campaign to help give the team all we can to continue the amazing work they provide."

A Cabaret and Dance evening organised by local fundraiser Fred Holland raised a further £1500.

Bereavement midwife Trudy Berlet said: "I cannot believe the support and generosity that we have had to help us raise the money for an additional bereavement suite and all the other elements that go with providing bereavement care. The importance of the right environment and care cannot be underestimated at such a devastating time."



Stuart and Maria Grennan (Far left), present a cheque for £18,418, raised in memory of their late daughter Maggie, to Melanie Hurdman (Second from right), Matron for Maternity Services, and Trudy Berlet, Bereavement Support Midwife, (Far right)

The suite will provide a private space for parents, where they can begin to grieve the loss of their baby.

Donate at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/worcestershire-maternity-bereavement-suite](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/worcestershire-maternity-bereavement-suite)