

RHNN NEWS

AUTUMN/WINTER 2016

Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth II
and the RHN



Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability

Welcome

Contents

Welcome to the latest issue of RHN News.

For most organisations summer is a quiet time, but it's been a busy few months for us at the hospital.

We celebrated our patron, Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday, with local street parties and two lucky members of staff attended the official party on the Mall. To mark this occasion we looked back at Her Majesty's visits to the hospital – which you can read more about on page 4.

We also celebrated Founder's Day with members of the public who were invited in for the first time (page 7).

Our Chief Executive has had an eventful and rewarding first year at the RHN so he shared his thoughts about it with us. We also say thank you to some of our marvellous fundraisers and remember the life of a very special fundraiser, Mrs Keturah Hain MBE.

I really hope you enjoy this issue.

Delali Foli
Editor



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We're online! Follow us @RHNUK   

The RHN is a medical charity hospital, independent from the NHS. We care for adults affected by severe neurological conditions and brain injuries with specialist long term care and rehabilitation.

Founded in 1854, the RHN finds ability in disability and works to advance the science of care through research and education.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please email comms@rhn.org.uk

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A year at the RHN

Meet our Chief Executive, Paul Allen

June this year marked the official first anniversary of Paul Allen joining the RHN as Chief Executive. Though initially joining as an interim in April, within six weeks the Board made the decision to offer Paul a permanent appointment.

We spoke to Paul and looked back on his first year here...

RHNN: What brought you to the RHN?

PA: I came to the RHN at quite short notice as it was an interim position. I knew very little about the hospital but arriving here eight weeks before the Care Quality Commission inspection gave me great focus and a steep learning curve.

I quickly discovered what it meant to be an independent charity hospital and all about its long, proud history and good reputation.

RHNN: What made you stay?

PA: After just six weeks of being here, I went from seeing this as a temporary role to definitely wanting to stay, if offered the opportunity by the Board! It was a number of things that struck me - the obvious need and plight of patients, the real need for the services provided and the incredibly supportive staff. Added to the size, style and ethos of the hospital, it was an exciting opportunity to lead an organisation carrying out vitally important work and with bags of potential for the future.

RHNN: When you're asked about the work we do – how do you respond?

PA: I say - we provide care to people with brain injuries that result in some of the most severe disabilities you might ever see. We're an independent charity, which means many of our patients are funded by the NHS but we are not a part of the NHS. This also means that we have more control over our destiny.



Paul Allen and staff member Marianna Szabo drawing winning tickets for the Patron's Lunch

We fulfil a need for people who are often forgotten about or are simply unknown. Our patients are not a group that would naturally make the headlines for example. It's a very special place meeting very severe and compelling needs.

RHNN: Why is this job so important to you?

PA: My brother had a neurological condition, so I have a personal connection. I've been a family member experiencing this so I believe looking after families is just as important as caring for our patients.

In the early days, seeing some of the patients shocked me in a way and certainly moved me, and I understand why some people wouldn't want to work here, but for me it's a privilege to have the opportunity to be part of the great work of the RHN.

RHNN: What are your hopes for the future of the RHN?

PA: I'd like the hospital to be here for another 162 years at least! As our Chairman Des Benjamin says, "we are stewards, custodians for a period of time". So of course you want to leave something in a better shape than when you found it.

I want our quality to be first class in all respects, and not just care, but wards and other facilities, food and other standards across the board.

I also want to cement our reputation as a leader in our field while our clinical work and innovation continues to be supported by research.

If you'd like to read more about the hospital's work, visit www.rhn.org.uk/what-makes-us-special

(right to left) RHN Chairman Des Benjamin, Wandsworth's Mayor, Cllr Richard Field, Douglas Reed (great-great-great grandson of our founder Andrew Reed) and Chief Executive Paul Allen.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the RHN

Since the 1800s there had been a member of the royal family associated with the RHN.

Our first patron was The Prince of Wales in 1880, the first in a long line of monarchs who would support our work. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been our patron since 1952.

As The Queen celebrated her momentous 90th birthday with the country this year, we opened up our archives and took a look at some of her visits to us over the years.



From top: 19 May 1976 – HM opens Chatsworth Wing and meets some of the patients. 27 October 1989 – HM officially opens the Brain Injury Unit. The opening of Drapers Wing in 1985.

The Patron's Lunch

On Sunday 12 June, 2,000 members of the public (including two of our staff) were fortunate enough to be a part of the historic, largest ever street party along The Mall.

Anna Jones, Occupational Therapy Art Technician was one of the lucky staff members who went to The Patron's Lunch.

Talking about the day Anna said, "After queuing in the rain for an hour and a half with our contraband umbrella and negotiating a poncho from the organiser, we worked our way through security and onto The Mall.

"As if by magic, it stopped raining and being in good British spirit, we joined another queue for cups of tea, and then another queue to get our much awaited M&S hamper, which was amazing!

"Then we got to sit down and enjoy the parade and see the Royal Family... It was very surreal to be so close and for everyone to be singing happy birthday to The Queen after only seeing her on TV before!"



Photo credit: Anna Jones



SW15 street parties

As not everyone could be on The Mall to celebrate, some of our Putney neighbours held street parties to take part in the festivities closer to home while fundraising for us.



RHN staff receive the London Living Wage

From 1 January 2016, the RHN started paying staff the London Living Wage, one of the first London hospitals to commit to doing so.

Over 100 staff, including domestic assistants, ward technicians and basic grade health care assistants have benefited from this and saw their pay rise to £9.40 per hour.

Ward technician Olu Oke said, "We are so happy that the hospital appreciates the very hard work that we do." Domestic assistant Richard Lane said, "We appreciate what the hospital has done because it means they know that we work hard."

Some of our wonderful Domestic Team



It's no secret that London is an expensive place to live, so being able to do this for valued staff has been a real boost.

Chief Executive Paul Allen said, "These members of staff carry out vital roles, delivering a high quality service to our patients. I am delighted that we have been able to reward them with the London Living Wage, which I believe is what a fair, responsible, caring employer pays."

For further information about the London Living Wage, visit www.livingwage.gov.uk



Deirdre wins again!

Earlier this year, long time resident and champion RHN fundraiser Deirdre Tydd, won the Judges' Outstanding Achievement Award at the Charity Staff and Volunteers Awards.

The annual awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements and dedication of volunteers and charity staff across the UK.

Though Deirdre was initially nominated in the Community Volunteer of the Year category, the judging panel said, "We think that in view of Deirdre's outstanding achievements despite being a full time wheelchair user, the judges' category would make for nice recognition of her work."

We couldn't agree more!

It's great to see another trophy in Deirdre's collection.

Senior Occupational Therapist is Boston bound

One of our senior occupational therapists, Amber Murray Smith recently earned a coveted place on the Elizabeth Casson Trust Tufts Scholarship, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Tufts is a private university in Boston with an excellent reputation highly regarded for occupational therapy (OT).

The scholarship worth around £30,000 means Amber will be gaining her master's degree.

Amber's application process included delivering a presentation about her professional experience and personal attributes to two OT professors and an Oxford Brookes OT lecturer.

On hearing that she had been successful, Amber said, "I was absolutely in shock and over the moon when I got the call. It took a few days before my feet touched the ground."

Thinking about what this opportunity will mean for her future, Amber said, "I'm really excited to be able to represent occupational therapy not only from the UK, but from the RHN. I hope that studying abroad will lead to many opportunities for international networking and sharing



examples of best practice, which I will share with the RHN team when I return."

We wish Amber all the best and look forward to hearing about her time away when she returns next summer.

To learn more about what our Occupational Therapists do, visit our website www.rhn.org.uk.



Founder's Day

In June we celebrated Founder's Day. Patients, staff and for the first time, members of the local community came together for an afternoon of activities and live music.

The festivities were opened by our Chaplain Geoff Coyne, with a welcome word from our Chairman Des Benjamin, Chief Executive Paul Allen, Wandsworth Mayor, Cllr Richard Field and Douglas Reed, the great-great-grandson of our Founder, Andrew Reed.

Though the weather wasn't on our side it didn't dampen our spirits at all, everyone had a great afternoon!

Mrs Hain in 2010



Mrs Hain in 1941

Last year we were sad to hear of the passing of a long-time friend of the RHN, Mrs Keturah Hain MBE.

Known widely amongst the Surrey community, Mrs Hain passionately raised money for numerous charities for over 40 years. Fortunately for us, the RHN was one of her favourites.

In the 1970s, the annual celebrity garden parties she hosted at home in her beautiful garden were the 'must attend' events of the social calendar. Celebrities of the day were invited along to socialise, learn about the work of the hospital and to donate money. Each year the guest list grew as did the amounts raised.

In time, enough money was raised to build the Chatsworth Wing of the hospital and one of the rooms within it was named 'Hain' in homage to her incredible efforts. Chatsworth Wing was opened in 1976 by HM Queen Elizabeth II who after the ceremony took tea with Mrs Hain.



Mrs Hain with her four children

Not one just to simply raise money for a cause, Mrs Hain would also often visit the hospital and the patients, many of whom she came to know well.

Over the years she would tirelessly continue to fundraise for the RHN while also setting up and contributing to various other charities.

Such was Mrs Hain's commitment to the RHN, her children even made arrangements for us after her death. We were nominated as the charity of choice and funds were raised at the funeral service - we received a wonderful final gift of £1,250.

We are extremely grateful for all the time and energy Mrs Hain gave to us, as well as the money she raised on our behalf. Her legacy will undoubtedly be with us for many more years to come. We would also like to again thank Mrs Hain's family for remembering us, at their time of loss.

If you would like to leave a gift for the RHN or are interested in legacy giving, please visit www.rhn.org.uk/support-us or call a member of the team on **020 8780 4557** or email ibarrett@rhn.org.uk.

Haberdashers' Gala Dinner

On Thursday 12 May, on a glorious spring day, over 100 RHN supporters donned their finest evening wear and attended our very special fundraiser, the Haberdashers' Gala Dinner.

A very special relationship with the Haberdashers' Livery Company enabled us to host our second, and now annual, fundraising event – with all costs covered by the Haberdashers' generosity and that of our wonderful sponsors, Healthcare and Locum Recruitment Ltd.

Our guests were welcomed with a champagne reception in the Livery Hall's gallery area by our President, Leonora, Countess of Lichfield, and Chairman, Des Benjamin. The reception gallery, which overlooked the gardens and courtyard, also gave guests the opportunity to take a look at the wonderful selection of auction items and decide which they'd bid for.

Dinner was served in the impressive Hall, with guests entertained by talented musicians from the Guildhall School of Music. They also heard from



our very special guest speaker Jaxx Cave, an ex-patient of ours.

Introduced by Ruth Maxwell, Vice President of the hospital, and welcomed by both Paul Allen and Des Benjamin (CEO and Chairman), Jaxx spoke of her incredible recovery from an almost fatal injury sustained when she was hit by a bus in 2010. Since then Jaxx has walked 100km for the hospital, and run the London Marathon, raising thousands of pounds in the process. There wasn't a dry eye in the room once Jaxx had finished speaking.



Ex-patient Jaxx Cave

Guests were then invited to bid on four auction prizes, including an original oil-on-canvas piece, which sold for over £2,000! A pledge made at the end of the evening resulted in a huge number of exceptionally generous gifts, in addition to the amazing just over £53,000 raised for our Brain Injury Service.

Due to the success of both this event and last year's Drapers' Gala Dinner, we will be holding an even bigger event at Goldsmiths' Livery Hall next year, on Thursday 11 May.

Thank you to the Haberdashers' Livery Company, Healthcare and Locum Recruitment Ltd and all of our wonderful supporters who made this event such a success.

Tables for the May 2017 event are available now, so if you or your organisation is interested please email events@rhn.org.uk.



Staff spotlight

This issue, the spotlight is on Domestic Services Assistant, Amaju Ometrie

How long have you worked at the RHN?

I have worked here since November 2013.

What are your main duties?

Cleaning the hospital, though the type of cleaning depends on the type of ward as certain wards require specialist cleaning. We do the washing up after patients' mealtimes. We also clean the offices, main corridors and general areas.

How does your shift pattern work?

Our shifts rotate every four months so we get to work across the whole hospital and get to know everyone. We generally work from 8am - 4.30pm making up 40 hours a week.



How does your team work together?

We have a very interwoven team and on some wards we work in pairs. I would describe the Domestic Services team as one finger of the RHN – every finger matters and you can't do one thing without the others.

How would you describe yourself?

I am a very friendly, sociable and happy person. Life is short, so why make enemies when you can make friends?

Thank you

As ever, we'd like to thank those of you who have given up time, fundraised and volunteered for us. Here are just a few of the people and organisations who have made a difference recently.

| Event | Name | Amount raised |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Virgin London Marathon 2016 | Paul Cook | £3,000 |
| RHN Row Hard | Astro Communications Ltd | £1,806.40 |
| Bupa 10k | Zunaira Sohag | £677.50 |
| Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge | Steve Ward | £1,838.36 |
| 108 holes in one golf day | Joe Biggs and Tristan McIlroy (The Roehampton Club) | £2,888.75 |

And an extra special thank you goes out to the amazing 13-strong team who took on the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 in July on behalf of patient, Trudi Kemp.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Simon Kemp | Theo Kemp | Sam Kemp | Alice Bennett |
| Stephen Green | Rupert Rees | Andy Riley | Tim Baker |
| Judy Baker | Anne Davidson | Neil Davidson | Cordelia Carr |
| Richard Hawkins Hooker | | | |

They raised an incredible £19,210.98 (and counting). What an achievement!

Visit www.rhn.org.uk/thank-you for more.

Front row - Trudi Kemp
 Second row (from the left) - Judy Baker; Anne Davidson
 Third row - Sam Kemp, Theo Kemp, Simon Kemp, Neil Davidson and Tim Baker



What's on

23 October

5k, 10k and half marathon (Innovation Sports, Race Series 2016)

Battersea Park

Innovation Sports have been organising races on Clapham Common now for over 10 years. This year you can enter the 5k, 10k and, new for 2016 is the half marathon distance of 13.1 miles with a children's 2k option!

Race entry includes: live chip timing, medal, snack bar, water, fruit, baggage storage, toilets, music and PA.

For registration and entry fee details visit www.rhn.org.uk/events.

2 December

Christmas Fair

RHN, West Hill

A one stop shop for stocking fillers, gifts and a healthy dose of festive cheer.

8 December

Christmas carol concert

Holy Trinity Church, Beaumont Rd, London, SW19 6SP

Join us once again for our popular, annual Christmas carol concert. For ticket information call 020 8780 4565.

If you would like more details on any of our events, email events@rhn.org.uk or call **020 8780 4565**.

Open lecture

17 November

Heritage Lecture: Victorian Philanthropy

Specialist training courses

6 October

An Introduction to Music Therapy Techniques in Neuro-disability

10 November

An Introduction to the Assessment and Management of Communication in Complex Brain Injury

6 December

Managing Behaviours that Challenge in Brain Injured Individuals: the Positive Behaviour Support Approach

All courses and open lectures are held at the RHN unless stated otherwise.

For further information visit www.rhn.org.uk/events.

To book a course or open lecture, call **020 8780 4500 ext 5140** or email institute@rhn.org.uk.



Rehabilitation and long term care for people with profound disabilities caused by brain injury.



Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability

A national medical charity
Registered Charity No. 205907

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