

## Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

### Generous donations help Swan Fund reach nearly £60,000

A fund set up to benefit patients who are receiving end of life care, and their families, has raised nearly £60,000 since its launch six years ago.

The Swan Fund was set up by Jules Lewis, the Trust's End of Life Care Facilitator, on 10 July 2015 with a £500 donation collected at the funeral of her father, Harold, who died at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. The fund has now grown to nearly £60,000.

The generous donations, from individuals, families and organisations, have helped to fund many improvements – including new Swan Rooms across both hospital sites which provide privacy and dignity for patients who are at the end of their life, and their families.

Most recently, the Swan Fund helped to purchase a skylight on ITU at the Princess Royal Hospital, and soothing mood lights for all wards. The Swan Fund also funds a Wedding Box which allows staff to plan a hospital wedding for a patient, decorate their room and toast the bride and groom. There have been two weddings in the last 12 months for patients.

Jules (*pictured far right, first row with the End of Life Care team*) said: **“Since 10 July 2015, when I set up the Swan Fund, the fund has raised nearly £60,000. Considering the last 14 months, it is hard to believe that we have managed to raise on average £10,000 a year and we are so grateful to everyone who has donated. I am very proud of all that the End of Life Care team has achieved thanks to such amazing support.”**



The fund is also supported by The League of Friends of the RSH and the Friends of PRH through Swan Memory Boxes, which can be used by relatives and loved ones to keep special items in as keepsakes.

### Integrated care in practice: suspected but non-specific symptoms of cancer

Expressions of interest are being sought for a GP with a special interest in suspected but non-specific vague symptoms of cancer, to work with SaTH to establish a new urgent referrals pathway for patients presenting with these symptoms. Please click [here](#) for further details of this new venture and how to apply.

GPConnect contact: Alison Jones, GP Engagement  
Stretton House, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Mytton Oak Road, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Telephone (01743) 492591

Email: [alison.jones25@nhs.net](mailto:alison.jones25@nhs.net)

Website: <https://www.sath.nhs.uk/healthcare-professionals/gpconnect/>

## Benefits team secures millions for people with cancer

The Macmillan Benefits Team at the Trust has secured over £8.5 million in financial help for people with cancer in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin over the last three years.

The incredible total raised by the team at SaTH has been increasing each year and in the last financial year totalled £3.6million.

Angela Pattison, Macmillan Welfare Rights Unit Manager, said: **“This is a fantastic achievement and we are going from strength to strength as a service, each year.**

**“Over the last three years we have received 2,088 referrals into the Macmillan Welfare Rights Service for the Shropshire area. These referrals were received from a mix of Cancer Nurse Specialists, self-referrals and external partners.**

**“As a service we work holistically with the patients and their families. The last 12 months have been hard for everyone. Ensuring patients are able to access support, advice and assistance with benefit applications, and information to enable them to maximise their household income and make life a little easier through a difficult period, is so important.”**

Comments received by service users include:

**“Would recommend Macmillan to anyone. Treated with care and sensitivity throughout.”**

**“I would just like to say how lovely and respectful all the staff were, it means a lot on this journey to have nice people around you.”**

**“Excellent service. I had no idea that I was eligible for any benefits. Thank you for all your help.”**

Should anyone need assistance they can talk to their Cancer Nurse Specialist, the Macmillan Information Centre at [Shropshire.Macmillan@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Shropshire.Macmillan@wolverhampton.gov.uk) or call 01743 261369 and leave a message requesting a call back.



*Pictured above are Jackie Machado and Kate Povall, Welfare Rights Officers based at the Hamar Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital*

## Online booking system for patients requiring a blood test

A new online booking system was launched on 19 July for patients requiring a blood test. From this date, patients aged 16 years or over have been able to book their own appointments at one of three current locations:

- Elizabeth House at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital
- Mallong Health at the Princess Royal Hospital
- Whitchurch Community Hospital.

To use the online booking system patients need their NHS number and an email address, and then follow the link [www.sath.nhs.uk/bloodtests](http://www.sath.nhs.uk/bloodtests)

The patient's GP or other health professional will decide if a blood test is required and will provide the patient with a blood form. This form is needed to book the appointment online, and the patient must also take it with them on the day of the test. Patients who are experiencing problems booking through the online system or who have no online access can still call the blood test booking line on (01743) 492510. More information is available [here](#).

## COVID-19 measures to remain in place at Shropshire's acute hospitals

The requirements to wear a face covering and to social distance at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital have remained in place after Monday 19 July, as have the restrictions on visiting, to help control the spread of COVID-19.

This announcement from the Trust follows the issuing of national guidance from Public Health England. Although COVID-19 restrictions ended in many settings as from 19 July, staff, patients and visitors at all healthcare settings have needed to continue to follow existing restrictions. This means that visitors, patients and staff must continue to wear hospital-supplied face masks in all indoor areas, hands must be sanitised and washed regularly, and a two-metre distance must be maintained.

Current visiting restrictions have also remained in place with, as before, allowances being made for compassionate visiting, on certain wards (including Children's and Maternity), and for those patients with specific requirements, such as dementia and end of life care. More details on visiting arrangements can be found on the Trust's website at <https://www.sath.nhs.uk/>

Hayley Flavell, Director of Nursing at SaTH, said: **"Although much changed after 19 July, at SaTH – and across the healthcare system – we are still on the frontline of the continuing battle to deal with coronavirus, at a time when cases and hospital admissions are rising again. We also continue to care for some of the most vulnerable members of the community and therefore ask for the support of everyone in helping to protect them by continuing to stick to the restrictions in place. We know that visiting is an issue of great importance for patients and their friends and family so we are continuing to actively explore how the restrictions here may be eased in the near future and we will update again as soon as is possible."**

## Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin COVID-19 Programme Team wins award

The Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin COVID-19 Programme Team, who have worked tirelessly to ensure residents are vaccinated against coronavirus, were recognised for their excellent work by winning the Community Support and Fundraising Award, presented at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust Annual Awards on 9 July.

Julie Clarke, Director of Public Participation at the Trust, commented: **"There has been such a wonderful outpouring of appreciation and support for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and on behalf of everyone at SaTH I would like to say a big thank you. We want to celebrate the successful vaccination programme which has done an incredible job to keep our community and staff safe. Therefore, I was delighted to announce on 9 July that the winner of the Community Support and Fundraising Award went to the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, led by Angie Wallace."**

At the Awards, Angie Wallace, Senior Responsible Officer and Programme Director for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin's COVID Vaccination Service, accepted the award on behalf of the team and said: **"This is fantastic recognition of the hard work, dedication and achievement that teams from across our partnership have delivered in the past few months. It is a true example of system working with individuals and teams from the voluntary and community sector, NHS organisations and the two local authorities coming together and delivering a great programme of work and I couldn't be prouder! Well done to the whole team, for this is a fantastic achievement and I am delighted for you all."**

## Garden to honour Captain Sir Tom Moore unveiled at PRH

A garden created to honour Captain Sir Tom Moore at the Princess Royal Hospital was unveiled on 5 July – the day the NHS celebrated its 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday. An unused courtyard has been transformed into a haven for rest and reflection for staff at the Trust as well as for patients and visitors.

It has been landscaped and features seating pods, private areas, lighting and flower beds with curved willow fences. It has been named Captain Tom's Courtyard to recognise his incredible fundraising efforts for the NHS during the pandemic.

The garden was designed by scientist Emma Mayho, who works in the cardio-respiratory department across both hospital sites, and who is also currently studying for her Royal Horticultural Society exams. Emma entered and won a competition hosted by the Shropshire Star to re-design the area, which was sponsored by Reconomy, the UK's leading provider of outsourced waste and resource management services based in Telford.



A garden is also being created outside the Ward Block at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital where work got under way in early July, and which will be called Captain Tom's Garden. It is expected to be completed later this summer. *Pictured left is an artist's impression of the RSH garden.*

Julia Clarke, Director of Public Participation and Director responsible for SaTH Charity, said: **“Each year on 5 July, the birthday of the NHS, we celebrate our amazing staff and volunteers – so it is fitting that it should be the date that we officially open a garden to celebrate Captain Tom who did so much to say thank you to the NHS. The garden is a wonderful area of beauty for staff to enjoy a break, and for our patients and their families. It has been made possible thanks to a generous donation from Reconomy and a grant from NHS Charities Together, with support from CLC Construction Ltd and our teams in Estates.”**

## Skylights installed on hospital ward in loving memory of patient

Six more beautiful skylights have been installed in side rooms on a ward at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in memory of a patient, to bring joy and comfort to others being cared for.

Derek Saffhill and his family donated £3,000 to SaTH Charity in memory of his wife Lorraine, who died on Ward 23 in May last year after a six-year battle with cancer. Derek chose the skylights - LED lit ceiling tiles featuring natural sky scenes - for the side rooms on the oncology ward as they had brought so much joy to Lorraine while she was being cared for there.

[SaTH Charity](#), the official charity of the Trust, matched the funding to enable them to be installed in six more rooms. Peter Warren, Ward 23 Ward Manager, said: **“Although the skylights were installed only a week ago, I have already received a letter from a patient saying what a difference it has made and that it allowed him to escape and imagine he was looking at the sky. As many of our patients come into the ward frequently, having a different skylight in each side room will really make a difference and they are a wonderful gift in memory of Lorraine.”**

Julia Clarke, Lead Director for SaTH Charity, said: **“SaTH Charity was delighted to match the generous donation from Lorraine's family so that six side rooms could have skylights installed. We would like to thank the family again for thinking of others and supporting the work of the ward by helping to make it such a lovely environment.”**