

Update from Alison Jones, GP Engagement

New equipment for audiology thanks to League of Friends, RSH

The League of Friends of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital has helped to fund new audiology equipment which will help patients suffering with dizziness and balance difficulties. Interacoustics Balance equipment is now in place at the Princess Royal Hospital, making SaTH one of only a few Trusts in the country that can offer this new diagnostic service.

It will also help detect the early signs of Parkinsons, strokes and schizophrenia. Darren McHale, Consultant Audiology Scientist and Head of Audiology at the Trust, said: **“We are absolutely delighted to be able to announce the installation of state of the art balance diagnostic equipment and Visual Eyes system from Interacoustics, following generous funding of over £20,000 from the Royal Shrewsbury League of Friends Charity.**



“Dizziness and balance difficulties can have a profound effect on people’s lives and it is estimated that 1 in 10 working age adults suffer some degree of disability due to dizziness.

“It is estimated that 24% of dizziness can be attributed to a vestibular disorder. The new equipment allows us to investigate the function of the ear and brain control of a patient’s vestibular system and compare them with normal ranges.

“Having a detailed understanding of the patient’s balance system allows us to provide targeted treatment plans including specialist physiotherapy which help many return to more normal levels of function.”

Richard Steventon, Executive Chairman of the League of Friends, said: **“The League of Friends of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital are proud and pleased to have helped fund the latest balance diagnostic equipment for the audiology service. We are impressed that such equipment will significantly improve diagnosis timescales.**

“It is seen as innovative and a development of the service to benefit the patients and all the clinical staff wanting to have such state of the art technology. Thanks to all the people who support and continuously donate to the League of Friends funds.”

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SaTH Charity and the Ophthalmology department launch campaign

SaTH Charity and the Ophthalmology department have launched a campaign to raise up to £100,000 to buy equipment that will increase the ability to detect patients' sight-threatening eye conditions.

The Eye Clinic Team (*members pictured below*) has set a challenge to raise between £80,000-£100,000, and 40 determined staff, along with their children, climbed to the summit of Snowdon on 9 October. The team will also complete Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis in spring/summer next year. SaTH Charity is encouraging donations to help fund items to diagnose conditions leading to blindness such as Macular Degeneration, Diabetic Retinopathy, Retinal Vein Occlusion and Retinal Detachment. This will help patients to maintain vision and independence by achieving quality of vision and also quality of life.

Ms Devaki Nayak, Consultant Medical Retina Specialist, is leading the campaign, along with support from senior colleagues Mr Prasad Rao, Ms Lakshika Perera and Mr Suresh Sagili. Ms Nayak and Ms Jenny Price, Operational Manager for Ophthalmology said: **“We will be organising multiple fundraisers to achieve this goal, Snowdon being the first of our challenges. Early diagnosis and shorter waiting times both lead to earlier treatment which will save sight. We want to have the very best equipment to help us do this. We are looking for help from every corner as anyone can develop problems leading to sight loss. We are asking companies, individuals and groups to get involved. Please join us with your own events and fundraisers at [Fundraising to save eyesight in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Mid-Wales - JustGiving](#) and let's save more eyesight in our Trust.”**

Julia Clarke, Director of Public Participation, said **“SaTH Charity's purpose is to help provide the latest equipment and to improve our patients' clinical outcomes. SaTH Charity will be supporting this campaign to its fullest potential, and we look forward to hitting that target of £80k-100k with liberal donations from the public.”**



Primary Care study evening on Gynaecology: Tuesday 16 November 2021

A virtual study evening for primary care will be led by Dr Banchhita Sahu, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist and Lead for Gynaecology Oncology at the Trust, on **Tuesday 16 November, 7pm - 9pm.**

This interactive session on MS Teams will cover the Gynaecology 2 week wait pathway and the new proforma, with plenty of opportunities for questions and answers.

All interested primary care colleagues are very welcome to take part in the session, and please email Alison Jones, GP Engagement at SaTH, at alison.jones25@nhs.net if you would like to join the meeting.

Thank you to our AHPs

On 14 October the Trust said a very big thank you to all of its AHP (Allied Health Professions) colleagues. This is an annual opportunity for AHPs to celebrate being part of the AHP family, and to showcase to others the impact that they make on the delivery of high quality care.

There are 14 AHP roles which include dietitians, occupational therapists, operating department practitioners, orthoptists, osteopaths, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, prosthetists and orthotists, diagnostic and therapeutic radiographers, chiropodists and podiatrists.

Beth Jones (*pictured right*) is an Occupational Therapist, and writes:

“I work within the inpatient therapies team. My role involves the assessing of patients’ function on the ward, in order to support with the discharge planning of them leaving the acute setting, either back to their home or further rehabilitation or assessment. A large part of my role is facilitating patients to remain or regain independence as much as possible.”



Dianne Lloyd, Therapy Centre Manager, said: **“Our Therapy Centre employs approximately 350 dietitians, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and speech and language therapists who cover all areas of the hospital, from babies and children to end of life care. We also provide the largest therapy outpatient service in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and Dietetics and Speech and Language Therapy services across the whole county.**

“Like everyone else, the pandemic has impacted on our services and our staff, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of our therapy colleagues for their hard work and commitment over the past 12 months.”

Louise Barnett, Chief Executive and Hayley Flavell, Director of Nursing, in a joint statement said: **“As the third largest healthcare group at the Trust, our AHP colleagues are involved in so many vital aspects of our provision of care and we would like to say a big thank you to them, and to acknowledge the huge difference they make to our amazing teams across the Trust.”**

Routine blood tests in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin resume

Routine blood tests for patients in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin resumed earlier this month as the shortage of blood test tubes eased.

Work is now taking place to clear the backlog of non-urgent blood tests which were paused on NHS England (NHSE) guidance.

Patients who are already waiting for blood tests can now book routine appointments, although there will be an extended wait while the backlog of appointments is worked through.

Blood tests for urgent health problems have continued while routine tests were paused.

The online booking system for blood tests carried out at SaTH has also reopened. It is available at www.sath.nhs.uk/bloodtests

NHSE has advised that the blood test tube shortage situation has eased but is not fully resolved. Local restoration arrangements will be kept under review.

Information for primary care on the new BadgerNet system introduced into SaTH's Maternity Services

SaTH has recently introduced a new Maternity System called BadgerNet on which women with new pregnancies are being booked.

If a GP is seeing a newly pregnant woman, the maternity services team would like to encourage the woman to self-refer her pregnancy, as detailed in [BadgerNet Maternity Notes - SaTH](#)

In summary, BadgerNet is an electronic system aimed at giving women more access to and control of their pregnancy records and care notes. BadgerNet's Maternity Notes is an online portal and app that allows a woman to access her maternity records over the internet through her PC, tablet device or mobile phone. The information that the woman can see is generated in real-time from her hospital-based maternity system, using details entered by her midwife or other health professionals involved in her care.

This new service allows the woman to have more convenient and timely access to key information, and ensures that her choices on what she wants to happen at each stage are clearly captured for all those caring for her to see.

What does a newly pregnant woman need to do?

If a woman has been booked to have her first midwife appointment she is encouraged to download the BadgerNet app before she arrives. Details on how to do this can be found at [Badger Notes Guide](#)

Prior to her first appointment she will receive a telephone call on the number she provided when she self-referred. This will be from one of the booking coordinators who will help her register for the app.

If the woman has already had her first midwife appointment then she will not be required to download the app as she will remain on the system that she booked on and will have her hand held records.

For women without access to the internet, or who would prefer not to use the electronic system, the referral phone number is (01743 261085) via which they can self refer. If you have any questions regarding BadgerNet please contact sath.digitalmidwifery@nhs.net

Are you pregnant?

You can now self-refer to our Maternity Service.

To do this, [click here](#), or scan the QR code below.



Trust moves The People's Academy online

The Trust is relaunching its award-winning People's Academy as an online course in November 2021. The People's Academy has been successful in helping local people understand more about the NHS and their local hospitals and will be delivered in a series of four two-hour sessions over four weeks using Microsoft Teams, covering **the NHS; our hospitals; our population; and, opportunities to #GetInvolved.**

Julia Clarke, Director of Public Participation at SaTH, said: **"It is more important than ever that the public are able to become involved with their local NHS hospitals and I am delighted that we are relaunching our People's Academy in this new format."**

The course provides opportunities to meet staff from across the Trust and everyone completing the course will be sent a certificate of attendance and a pin badge.

To register for The People's Academy via Eventbrite please click here: <https://sathnhs.eventbrite.co.uk/> or for more information please email sath.engagement@nhs.net or call (01743 492390).