

# News from the Friarage

and other local health and social care services



## Dialysis unit brings care closer to home

A **NEW** renal unit has officially opened its doors at the Friarage.

The unit, funded by the Friends of the Friarage, has space to dialyse up to ten patients at one time, reducing the need for them to travel to Middlesbrough or Darlington for dialysis.

Dr David Reich, consultant nephrologist, said it was fantastic to now have a dialysis centre at the Friarage.

“We are very excited to be able to provide this service to our patients from Northallerton, Thirsk and the surrounding areas who currently have to travel quite a long way for their dialysis, three times a week,” he said.

“It is a huge step forward for those patients and will really help to improve their quality of life.”

The unit was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Ian Macdonald who has been a renal patient for nearly 50 years.

The 67-year-old from Great Ayton, who has had four kidney transplants, said it was a privilege to be one of the first patients to see the new unit.

“I’ve been connected to the renal unit for 49 years all together,” he said. “I started dialysis at North Ormesby Hospital in 1972, I was one of the first patients to go for dialysis at what was then known as South Cleveland Hospital I dialysed at home for 10 years and I am now one of the first to see the unit at the Friarage.

“The renal team are tremendous; the nurses are fantastic and they’re always really supportive. This small unit is ideal for patients like me.”

In total the Friends of the Friarage donated £300,000 for the unit’s development work and purchase of equipment.

Liaison trustee for the Friends of the Friarage Donna Jermyn said: “The dialysis unit is a terrific development



Ian Macdonald cutting the ribbon alongside his wife Sue Macdonald (right) and Cheryl Burton, service manager for renal.

for the Friarage and the local population. The Friends have been delighted to support this and I’m sure we’ll continue to take an active interest.”

During the opening Cheryl Burton, service manager for renal, thanked the Friends for supporting the unit.

“On behalf of the trust, our renal team and our patients I would like to say a huge thank you to the Friends of the Friarage and to all of their supporters. You have raised an amazing amount of money for us without which we couldn’t have opened this unit. This will make a huge difference to our patients.”



Ian Macdonald and his wife Sue Macdonald with renal unit manager Faye Brown



# Friarage to benefit from £1million buildings investment

THE Friarage is to benefit from a £1million investment to kick-start the development of a new diagnostic hub and remove disused buildings on the site which were built more than 70 years ago.

The new diagnostic hub will provide state-of-the-art facilities for patients undergoing urology and endoscopy procedures.

The hub will be located on the hospital's former ward 15 and the investment is the first phase of a £5million scheme.

The redundant buildings (the old physiotherapy and education blocks) were built during the Second World War and, as well as reducing maintenance, heating and other costs which can be recycled into frontline patient services, their removal will clear the way for more developments at the hospital in the future.

These include plans to replace the Friarage's aging theatre block with new modern operating theatres. Plans for the new theatre block are currently being developed and will go through regional and national business case development, assurance and approval processes before they can be given the go-ahead.

The Friarage's clinical director, James Dunbar, said: "The creation of the new diagnostic hub will improve the experience of patients who will be able to receive their procedures on the same day and avoid the need to book separate appointments on different days.

"The new hub will also compliment the Friarage's rapid diagnostic centre which opened earlier this year and provides faster diagnosis for patients who do not have obvious cancer symptoms.

"The removal of the old and dilapidated war-time buildings is long overdue. The age of the blocks means they are beyond repair but still cost the hospital money to heat and maintain. Taking them down will mean this money can be redirected to patient services and ensure the site is ready for future developments."

Richmond MP Rishi Sunak was at Friarage to welcome the announcement and talk to some of the senior clinicians who have been developing the plans. He said: "This is fantastic news for the Friarage.

"I've been pleased to work with Dr Dunbar and his colleagues to support their ambitious plans for our much-loved local hospital.

"This is just one part of a programme of investment in new services at the Friarage which will mean more treatments being carried out here and fewer long journeys for patients to access hospital services elsewhere."

Friarage clinical director James Dunbar, Richmond MP Rishi Sunak, Friarage service manager Lucy Tulloch and orthopaedic surgeon Andy Port (left to right).





# State-of-the-art imaging system donated to Friarage

A STATE-OF-THE-ART imaging system has been donated to the Friarage by the Friends of the Friarage to enable patients needing sinus surgery to have their care closer to home.

The equipment, which is mainly used for patients undergoing complex ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery, will not only save patients from having to travel to James Cook, but will also speed up surgery and act as a teaching tool for the hospital's junior doctors.

David Whitehead, consultant ENT surgeon thanked the Friends of the Friarage for donating £118,000 for the new equipment.

"We feel eternally grateful for all that the friends have done to support our vision and the local population," he said.

The imaging system can also be used throughout keyhole surgery in many specialties including gynaecology, urology and vascular surgery.



Dr David Whitehead with the Friarage theatre staff and the imaging system

## Vaccine team delivers 66,000 COVID jobs

**OUR** amazing COVID-19 vaccination teams have delivered more than 66,000 life-saving vaccines to healthcare workers and hospital patients.

James Cook made history as one of the first COVID-19 hospital hubs in the country, in early December. Since then, a second vaccination site has opened at the Friarage.

Among those contributing to our vaccine success is Paula Taggart, the trust's clinical quality lead for clinical support services.

When asked why she thinks the trust's vaccine hubs have been so successful Paula said: "Absolutely everyone who has volunteered to help, been drafted in and redeployed to our hubs all have the same determination to make this a success and vaccinate as many of our population within the priority groups to get us all into the new normal.

"The success of our hard work was made real when it was pointed out that we have vaccinated enough people to fill the Riverside Stadium.

"To realise that we have achieved those numbers in such a short space of time is overwhelming, emotional and makes me very proud.

"There are amazing teams all over the hospitals in South Tees and the vaccination team are just one of them."

Paula Taggart, clinical quality lead for clinical support services



## NHS North Yorkshire CCG public vaccination rollout update

Our vaccination rollout continues to make great progress and the target of offering all those aged 50 and over a vaccination by 15 April was met – this is thanks to the hard work of our GP practice and hospital staff, volunteers, and voluntary sector and local authority partners.

The programme will continue to roll out, through GP surgeries and other venues. Everyone aged 40 and over is now being invited to book a life-saving COVID-19 job.

If you are called for a vaccination we would encourage you to take up the offer – the vaccine is safe and effective and will protect you and those around you. We also urge you to attend for your second vaccination when you are invited to ensure that you benefit from the maximum protection possible against COVID-19.

# New medical education centre to open at the Friarage

THE Friarage is to benefit from a new cutting edge medical education centre thanks to the generosity of a local fundraising group.

The centre will provide state-of-the-art training facilities for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students and Friarage staff. It will also provide an increasing range of training opportunities for healthcare staff across North Yorkshire, Hambleton and Richmondshire.

Friends of the Friarage intend to donate over £300,000 for the centre's development and equipment. The Friarage's aging education centre will move to a modern education suite located in the hospital's current headquarters above Gara Ward.

The development includes an immersive simulation teaching space, a library, three teaching rooms, a computer room, a common room for all medical staff and students, offices and a video wall.

Jennie Winnard, director of education, said the upgrade will bring the Friarage into the 21st century, will attract more medical students and will allow staff to train at the Northallerton hospital rather than travel to James Cook.

She added: "I would like to say thank you to the Friends of the Friarage and to everyone in advance for their donations.

"Having such top class facilities keeps the Friarage where we all want it to be – at the forefront providing top class care."

David Macafee, director of medical education, added: "The Friends of the Friarage STRIVE academic centre will showcase Northallerton as a fabulous place for our Hull, York, Newcastle and Sunderland medical students to train in.

"Immersive simulation and these other educational facilities are great ways to recruit and retain new doctors, nurses and healthcare staff to our area.

"Thank you to the Friends for once again enhancing our simulation and educational capabilities.

"Thanks also to all Friarage staff who have continued to train and support our trainees through these COVID times."

Friends of the Friarage joint chairman Dr Antony Walters said: "We are delighted to be helping provide a bespoke modern academic centre at the Friarage.

As trustees we know that first class training facilities will attract the best medical, nursing, and paramedical students and staff.



Jennie Winnard

"Hopefully, many will wish to continue their careers at the Friarage and within Hambleton and Richmondshire thus providing excellent healthcare to us all."

## Friarage theatres highly commended

**CONGRATULATIONS** to clinical lead for theatres Sarah Baker and her team on receiving the high commendation award for the Perioperative and Surgical Care category at the virtual HSJ Patient Safety 2020 Awards.



Theatre team are pictured here with managing director Rob Harrison.

This issue is brought to you by: NHS Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group  
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