

CELEBRATING THEIR NVQs

Earlier in the year members of staff from the Facilities Department were celebrating at a special presentation ceremony after receiving recognition and congratulations for gaining their NVQ qualifications.

As part of a commitment to workplace NVQ training, staff members took Laundry, Cleaning, Catering, Customer Service, Administration

or Distributive Operations qualifications, with the assessment provided by Skelmersdale & Ormskirk College tutors.

With the support of internal verifiers from the college, teams of the Trust's own assessors worked with candidates undertaking their NVQs.

Liz Basterra, NVQ Programme co-ordinator at Skelmersdale & Ormskirk Colleges said "Congratulations to all the students on demonstrating that they are working to nationally approved industry standards and who have now achieved their NVQ award. It is not easy undertaking a qualification as well as doing your job each day and they deserve to be recognised for all their hard work".

On presenting the awards Steve Taylor, Director of Capital and Facilities commented "I am delighted to be presenting these awards as I am acutely aware of the hard work and dedication they put into their work and congratulate them on their efforts."

ALL THE FUN OF TIDDLYWINKS FAIR

Tiddlywinks Nursery based at Ormskirk hospital held its first annual summer fair in September this year. The event was organised by the newly formed Parents Committee and despite it being held on the same day as the Southport Air Show, turned out to be a huge success.

Thanks to the weather being kind and donations from local businesses too numerous to mention, £700 was raised on the day; all to be spent on new equipment and facilities for the children attending the Nursery.

The Fair was officially opened by May Oxford MBE, Chairman of the Ormskirk Hospital League of Friends and paid a visit by Rosie Cooper MP for West Lancashire both of whom their visit very much.

The children enjoyed an afternoon of face painting and a fancy dress competition which attracted Incy Wincey Spider, Bob the Builder and Master Yoda to name just two of the many attractions together with stalls galore.

Michelle Durney and Ruth Johnston, two of the organisers said "We were exhausted at the end of the day but all the hard work and organisation was well worthwhile when we saw everyone, especially the kiddies enjoying themselves, 'thank you' goes to all who helped out on the day".



Enjoying the day

CHRISTMAS 2005 Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

THE GRAPEVINE

a newsletter for staff, patients and visitors

Happy Christmas

CRITICAL CARE UNIT - PRACTITIONERS

The New Ways of Working in Critical Care pilot is part of a two year programme initiated by the Department of Health and is due for completion in April 2006. One of the aims of the pilot was to expand the roles of health care assistants (HCA) working in the critical care setting. The expansion of the role meant that once successfully completed, the HCA's would become Critical Care Assistants.

The HCA's chosen within our unit were at either NVQ level 2 or 3. Part of the requirements to becoming a Critical Care Assistant was a commitment to complete the NVQ 4 which was the educational pathway chosen by our Trust. The scheme has allowed the HCA's to expand their skills through a competency and educational based framework. Skills gained include Arterial Blood Gas sampling, setting up and dismantling of a haemofiltration machine and taking venous bloods.

Once qualified the HCA's will be able to care for level two patients within the critical care unit and also assist in the care of a level 3 patient under RGN supervision.



AU REVOIR TO JAN

Many colleagues and old friends gathered to say Au Revoir to Jan Beck on her recent retirement from the Trust. Jan has worked for the Southport hospitals for over 30 years but began her general nurse training at Stonehouse Hospital, Lanarkshire in 1964. On completing her training she worked on a medical ward until she moved to Glasgow Royal Infirmary to train in ITU. Deciding ITU work was not for her she embarked on midwifery training and practised as a midwifery sister in Preston.

In April 1973 she moved to Southport and became ward sister on K Ward at the Promenade Hospital. Over the ensuing years Jan became a sister on nights, Acting Nursing Officer, Assistant Manager and in 1988 took up the post of Assistant Director of Nursing Services at the newly built Southport & Formby DGH. In 1994 Jan became General Manager of the Medical Group working with the late Eric Chew and in 2002 became Deputy Director of the Medical Group. During Eric's absence because of ill health, Jan took up the role of Acting Director of the Medical Group and in 2004 became Director of Nursing and Midwifery.

Jan is very much looking forward to 'free time' although with a husband who has recently retired, two daughters and four grand daughters there may not be too much of this!!



Au Revoir to Jan

GENES FOR JEANS

£180 : 00 was raised by staff in the Corporate Office and Medical Secretaries by wearing their best jeans for work on Genes for Jeans Day.

Thanks to everyone who contributed.



Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

Trust Board Dates for 2006

All meetings commence at 2:00pm In the BOARDROOM, CORPORATE OFFICE SOUTHPORT & FORMBY DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Wednesday 18th January | Annual General Meeting at 6:00pm |
| Wednesday 15th February | Lecture Theatre |
| Wednesday 15th March | Clinical Education Centre |
| Wednesday 12th April | Wednesday 18th October |
| Wednesday 17th May | Wednesday 15th November |
| Wednesday 21st June | Wednesday 13th December |
| Wednesday 19th July | |
| Wednesday 13th September | |

Followed by the

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

EDGE HILL AWARDS

Some of the fifty-eight presented with Certificates of Achievement covering a wide range of subjects including:

European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL)
NVQs covering Customer Service Levels 1/2/3
NVQ Management Levels 3 / 4
Introductory and Certificate in Team Leading
First Line Management

Managers from the Trust and course leads from Edge Hill Enterprise recently gathered at Edge Hill College to join some of the 58 Trust employees who had gained Certificates of Achievement. These represented achievements in management, NVQ and IT related subjects:

These students are the first wave of successful candidates to receive awards as a result of the partnership learning approach established between Edge Hill Enterprises and Southport and Ormskirk Trust.

Steve Igoe, Director of Resources from Edge Hill warmly welcomed the candidates before Andrew Johnson, Chairman of the Trust presented the certificates. This was a double bonus for Andrew as he was able to receive his own certificate after completing his ECDL award.



Showing off their certificates

JAYARAM MENON



Jayaram Menon

It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden and untimely death of Mr Jayaram Menon in September. Mr Menon had been Consultant in Orthopaedic Surgery at Ormskirk hospital since 1984 and more latterly the Clinical Director of Orthopaedics for the Trust.

Jay, as he was affectionately referred to by friends and colleagues, arrived in the UK in November 1972. He commenced his Registrar Training at Leeds and Pontefract Hospitals; took up the post of Orthopaedic Registrar at Whipps Cross Hospital, spent time as a Tutor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Manchester University and also some time in Iran. He was appointed Senior Registrar in 1980 working at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Preston Royal Infirmary, Hope Hospital, Salford and Wrightington Hospital prior to taking up the post of consultant with Ormskirk hospital 1984.

He spent many years helping provide surgery on a voluntary basis in India and was the driving force behind the annual Orthopaedic Ball raising money for the orthopaedic services of the Trust.

A keen Rotarian, he raised money for local and international causes including sponsoring joint replacements in his home state of Kerala in southern India. In collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Southport and Calicut, southern Indian Mr Menon had performed numerous joint replacement operations at the Baby Memorial

Hospital in Calicut on patients who would have had no hope of receiving such an operation without this collaboration.

He will be remembered by his friends and colleagues not only for his clinical skills and commitment to his patients, but also as a wonderful, helpful man who was always concerned more about others than himself. In his leisure time Jay enjoyed his golf and had recently played at St Andrews. He also enjoyed singing classical Indian music and listening to it.

He was a great family man and leaves Raji his wife and son Nikki who is also a doctor like his mother and late father.

Allan Stephenson, Director of Planned Services said "Jay Menon will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues at Southport and Ormskirk hospital where he had played an integral part in leading the clinical development of orthopaedic services. This culminated in the recent reconfiguration to create a Trauma Unit and an Elective Surgery Unit. But most of all he will be missed for his kindness, consideration and humanitarian outlook on life".

Mr Menon was remembered at a Celebration of his Life recently held at Ormskirk Civic Hall. During the evening tributes were made to him by family, friends and colleagues and donations totalling £5000 will contribute to continuing the operations in India. Southport Links Rotary Club has applied for a grant from Rotary International which will top up the total donation to Mr Menon's charity work in India to the magnificent sum of £17,500.

Mrs Menon and son Nikki wish to convey their sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to Mr Menon's Celebration of Life.

Sandy Cribb, PR & Communications Manager,

Southport & Formby District General Hospital. Telephone: (01704) 704494 Fax: (01704) 704541 e-mail: sandy.cribb@southportandormskirk.nhs.uk

A GRADUATES PERSPECTIVE

The NHS graduate scheme, which will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary next summer, offers unique opportunities for talented graduates to gain valuable managerial experience within the NHS, develop their leadership skills and influence the future provision of services. There are currently three schemes covering the areas of General Management, Financial Management and Human Resources which all combine "on the job" training with study for formal qualifications.

Competition for places on the scheme is fierce; last year 6500 applications were received for the 180 available places. This year the Trust has been successful in its bid to host two of the graduate trainees – Liam Connolly (General Management Trainee) and Kirsty Ryder (Finance Trainee). Liam Connolly joins us after studying for his PhD in Physics at Sheffield University whilst Kirsty Ryder joins after studying Computer Science at Manchester University.



Liam and Kirsty

As part of the scheme, the trainees undergo an intensive orientation period, where they spend 3 months shadowing and observing every conceivable aspect of healthcare provision. This includes such varied activities as working with the porters and domestic staff, observing major surgery, shadowing ambulance crews, observing a typical night shift in A&E, helping out on the wards, attending management meetings and also spending time in the Primary Care setting. It is anticipated that such an experience will allow the trainees to experience the wide range of healthcare provision within the NHS and hopefully to understand the fundamental interconnectedness of the services. By seeing each service from the point of view of service provision, it is hoped that they will gain an appreciation of the patient experience and of the pressures faced by front line staff, which will give them valuable insights during their managerial career.

Here the two trainees reflect on their experience during the orientation period:

Liam:

For me, the most striking thing about this Trust is the sheer friendliness and approachability of the staff, across all departments. Without fail they have all been

more than happy to talk to me about their work and its context and to let me shadow them through typical days.

The second thing to strike me was the sheer incredible complexity of the organisation. I have observed so many different departments all of whom have distinctive working cultures and yet despite the complexities patients are more often than not able to transfer between departments smoothly and efficiently.

Without doubt, it has become obvious to me that by far and away the greatest asset the trust has is its staff, who across all departments have impressed me with their incredibly strong work ethic and dedication to the job.

The range of work I have observed has been truly fascinating, with particularly memorable experiences including observing major orthopaedic surgery, seeing a typical night in A&E and shadowing an ambulance crew. It has been a real privilege to be allowed to work with all of these people and I would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome and being so open and friendly.

Kirsty:

I really benefited from being able to see how well the different departments in the trust work both as units and together, providing a virtually seamless service to patients. From my impressions, I am not sure that you would find such dedicated staff outside of the NHS that would do such a difficult job even without the budget constraints that they are under, and do it so well.

My feeling is that a lot of nationwide initiatives such as Choose & Book and NHS Direct, will enhance the patient experience. Greater IT cohesion across services, and less repetitive paperwork, and more automated systems in the future would allow nurses to concentrate on caring for patients and ease frustrations.

This chance to see how management decisions affect nurses and other vital members of the workforce, and ultimately the patients, was an incredibly useful insight, which will help me in whatever future decision-making that I might be involved in. I think the key learning was that as a trust we need to work as a team to achieve results within the limitations imposed by the government.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has been so helpful throughout my orientation, and has taken the time to explain what they do in such an honest and thoughtful way.

LIZ YATES DIRECTOR OF NURSING

At the beginning of December the Trust welcomed Liz Yates who has taken up the role of Director of Nursing following the retirement of Jan Beck.

Liz trained at Preston & District School of Nursing and worked in Trauma and Orthopaedics before becoming Directorate Manager of Accident & Emergency Services. A very busy working life did not deter Liz from embarking on further education resulting in a B.Sc and MA from the University of Central Lancashire.

Liz has come to our Trust from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust where she was Associate Nursing Director.

Liz is married to Peter a Detective Sergeant and has 3 sons. In her leisure time Liz enjoys horse riding, walking and socialising.



Liz Yates

DONATION TO GYNAECOLOGY WARD

Earlier this year, Denise Hare of Neverstitch Close, Skelmersdale unexpectedly ended up in the Gynaecology Ward at Ormskirk & District General Hospital. As a consequence she is now able to make a donation of £1,535 to the Ward.

Denise said of her stay at Ormskirk, "The staff in the Gynaecology Ward at Ormskirk Hospital were very kind and supportive during my stay there due to a miscarriage, 15 weeks into my pregnancy. Their care and understanding helped my husband Alan and I through a very difficult period. I felt I would like to support them to continue giving the high standard of care I benefited from, by having my hair completely shaved off, which I did in May this year at the Vic Pub in Skelmersdale."

"Family, friends and colleagues were very generous in their support; hence raising the magnificent sum of £1,535 for the Unit.



Denise and Gynae Ward Staff

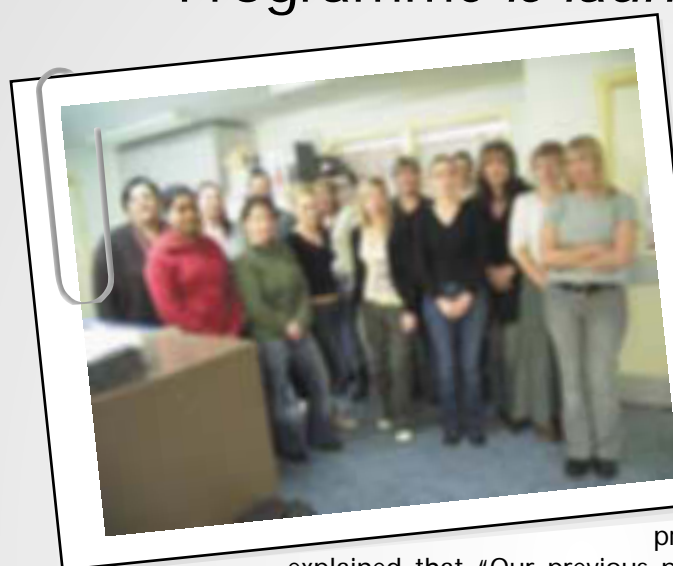
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

During Breast Care Awareness month in October, the Breast Cancer Support Group held a tombola at Southport hospital when every prize was something pink! Over £1,000 was raised which will be used by the Support Group to fund complementary therapy for patients undergoing treatment.

Pictured are Adele McNamee, Barbara Webster and Joan Pyrke with some of the many prizes to be won.



The New Staff Nurse Development Programme is launched!!!



A new development programme for newly qualified staff nurses was launched in October. The programme was developed in response to the positive staff feedback of our previous programmes and the work being undertaken across the whole NHS on the support and development of staff.

Olive Walshe, Professional Development Nurse has run the previous programme for over 5 years, explained that "Our previous programme was only open to limited numbers of staff each year, leaving other qualified nurses without the same opportunity. The feedback from staff is excellent and the new programme will ensure that all newly qualified staff nurses have the same development opportunities and support during these early stages of their career."

Nurse Advisor, Jackie Clark is also pleased to announce that the programme will be developed further, "to ensure that staff nurses will have access to the same opportunities and standards of training throughout their career here. The programmes are focused on both career development and in achieving the high standards of care we pride ourselves in here at Southport and Ormskirk. We have also started looking at adopting the same approach for our healthcare assistants who also provide an invaluable contribution to patient care. The professional development team will work alongside the staff on developing these programmes over the coming months".

Information is available for staff via the Trust's intranet website or by contacting Jackie Clark or Olive Walshe.

GRATEFUL TO HOSPITAL SHOP

Over the years, many wards and departments throughout Ormskirk hospital have been grateful to Audrey and Ron Stuart who run the Hospital Shop with their very willing band of helpers, for their donations enabling them to provide additional benefits for patients and staff.

The pre-operative team are the latest to receive help from the Hospital Shop - a recent donation from them has contributed to the refurbishment of their clinic area in the outpatient department. Their donation has paid for the installation of a sink in one of the clinical rooms, new flooring and the decoration of three clinic rooms. Phil Lawrenson, Pre-operative Team Leader (right) is pictured with Ron and Audrey in the newly refurbished area.



RUMOURS OF MERGER AND CLINICAL CHANGE

The Chief Executive has personally spoken to over 700 staff who attended briefings in both Southport and Ormskirk which were followed by a candid question and answer session. As a summary for those staff unable to attend, the following covers the main points of the briefing.



Jonathan Parry
Chief Executive

- Change is taking place in all organisations within the NHS in response to both clinical and managerial pressures
- This Trust, in common with many others across the Strategic Health Authority and the country, is not able to progress to Foundation Trust (FT) status as the Government requires it to do by 2008. This is primarily due to the debt that the Trust has historically accumulated, due in large part to being on three sites and not being properly reimbursed for the patients we treat, the staff we employ or the buildings in which we are housed
- There are two concurrent pieces of work being undertaken which seek

to address our inability to gain Foundation Trust status:

- The first is the Report by Gill Dolan entitled 'Shaping the Future' which seeks to look at options for the future configuration of clinical services in Southport and Ormskirk.
- The second, commissioned by the Strategic Health Authority, is being undertaken by McKinsey Management Consultants and seeks to examine options for the attainment of Foundation Trust status. Whilst the brief to McKinsey does not rule any options in or out, it is possible that merger and clinical reconfiguration may be suggested
- Staff are asked to await the outcome of these two Reports, the result of which will need to be carefully considered by the Trust Board. No decisions have yet been taken
- Although the Trust has a deficit, we continue to meet our targets on cleanliness, waiting times, clinical efficiency and risk management. We continue to outperform many neighbouring trusts on the indicators that matter
- When the outcome of the two reports are known, further briefings will take place. Change will take a long time to deliver. In the immortal words of Corporal Jones 'Don't Panic!'

Thanks for your continued dedication in the treatment and care of the patients, during this brief period of uncertainty.

SPINAL PATIENTS REMEMBERED

A family's kind donation of more than £900 has enabled the Spinal Injuries Unit to purchase books entitled Moving Forward: An A – Z of Spinal Cord Injury compiled by the Spinal Injuries Association. These books, produced at a cost of £30 each, will be given to each new patient admitted to the Unit.

Alec Burns from Rainhill, is pictured presenting the first copy of the Book to Pradip Sett (left) Director of the Unit and Jackie Bevan (2nd right) Occupational Therapist, in memory of his late wife Denise, who was admitted to the unit in 1988 after being paralysed by a virus.

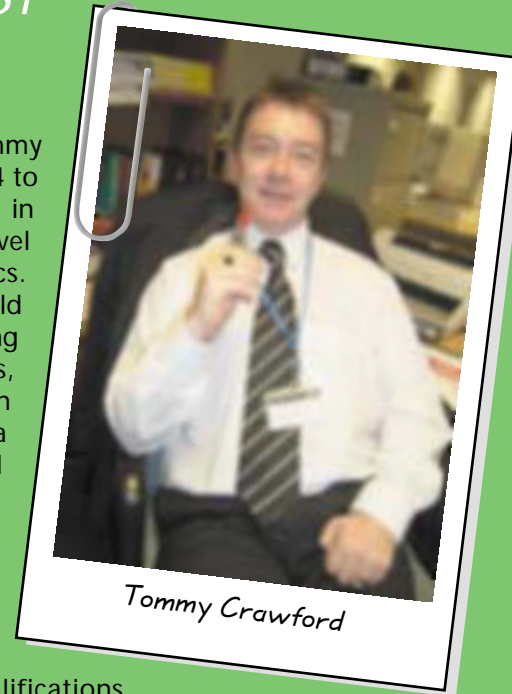
Denise's mum, Maria is also pictured along with John Wayte, Chairman of the Spinal Injuries Association.



TOMMY CRAWFORD JOINS THE TRUST

Originally from Belfast Tommy moved to Hertfordshire in 1994 to attend university, graduating in 1997 with BA Hons in Travel Management & Politics. Following this he worked in Yield Management for Easyjet during the airline's start-up days, before going on to work in purchasing for Britannia Airways, the Thomson Travel Group and its parent company TUI. During this period Tommy was based between offices in London, Paris and Hanover. In between all this travelling he found time to gain further procurement related qualifications, including the Chartered Institute Graduate Diploma.

In terms of practical knowledge Tommy has worked on numerous procurement projects in broad areas across Professional & Corporate Services, Facilities and Property, General Services & Overheads, IT and Telecoms and is now looking forward to his first public sector role as Supplies & Commercial Manager for the Trust.



Tommy Crawford

RCN EMERGENCY CARE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2005

Four Emergency Care Nurses took the opportunity of attending the 20th anniversary of this prestigious conference held at the De Vere Carden Park Hotel in Chester from the 11th – 13th November this year.

The theme of this year's conference was "Anytime, Anyplace Everywhere" reflecting the work of Emergency Nurses throughout the world.

Liz Whiting, Emergency Nurse Practitioner on the Minor Injuries Unit at Ormskirk gave a 30 minute presentation on "Who is Thomas Splint" including a history of traction, uses of traction, correct application of the Thomas splint in the Emergency Department and a practical demonstration on preparation and application of the splint.



The photo shows Lyn Swift, Advanced Nurse Practitioner on A&E
Liz Whiting, Emergency Nurse Practitioner M.I.U.
Sara Hepworth and Alison Barber, Sisters on the Paediatric A&E

They all agreed the programme over the 3 days was excellent, with presentations reflecting the array of current topics relating to emergency care, globally.

Not least, the social calendar was very enjoyable – this included a medieval banquet with fancy dress compulsory and a 'black tie and masked ball' providing a grand finale to an excellent 3 day conference.



PHARMACY DEPARTMENT

Work on the new Pharmacy Department at Southport hospital which began in the summer is just nearing completion. The development has taken over the old medical secretaries and consultants' offices to provide a bright new waiting room, dispensary and ward distribution area. This has allowed the old dispensary to be developed into much needed office space for Specialist and Interface Pharmacists and to bring back the Medicines Information Service from the Ormskirk site.

The changes have been difficult as Pharmacy staff have had to continue providing normal services and in addition cope with the service moves whilst in the middle of a building site! "Thankfully we have not had to resort to our contingency plans too often, in particular being able to continue Aseptic Services from our recently re-developed aseptic suite." commented Adrian Brown, Pharmacy Manager. Adrian cannot praise his staff enough for their patience and perseverance and conveys his thanks to them all.



Nicola and Sally



Waiting Area

JAN WOODS – NEONATAL



With six boys and a new baby girl under her belt, you would think Liverpool mum Jan Woods had enough on her plate.

But no, because her new baby daughter Molly, who has Down's Syndrome, received such amazing treatment at Ormskirk Hospital, Jan has raised over £3,600 through a charity night, to be split between the Neonatal Unit and Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

Not only that, Jan and her friend Lynn who also had a Down's Syndrome daughter around the same time, contacted other parents in a similar position. They joined forces with the Southport support group and became the Sefton Up on Downs support group to provide more support for parents with similar children.

Molly Woods was born last year and not only were Jan and her husband Patrick surprised to have a baby girl after six boys, they were surprised to be told she had Down's Syndrome.

Jan said: "It was a great shock to learn that Molly had Down's Syndrome.

"She also had a small hole in her heart and needed oxygen so had to spend two weeks on the Neonatal Unit at Ormskirk.

"It was a very difficult time for the whole family but it was made a lot easier for us all by the wonderful staff at the unit.

"They were so thorough, especially Caroline Travers and Karen Devine. They talked and talked to me about what Molly was going through and what to expect in the future."

Up on Downs meets every four-six weeks and can be contacted on 0151 286 1898. More than 20 families have joined the group ranging from babies to a 28-year-old.

Pictured above are: Jan Woods (right) with daughter Molly, and Lynn Deegan with daughter Emily. Receiving the cheque are unit manager Caroline Travers and staff nurse Karen Devine.

DONATION OF GIDEON BIBLES

The family of a patient who spent her last months on Bob Martin Ward at the Southport General Infirmary are donating 50 Gideon Bibles to the Trust. Charlotte Harrison was 95 years old when she died and had been a "Friend of the Gideons" for a number of years.

The copies of the New Testament with Psalms will be presented by her niece, Mrs Diane Cull said of her aunt, "She was a member of the Newsham Park Chapel in Liverpool and her faith was very important to her, as was the teaching of the Bible. The care she received while she was in hospital could not be faulted, the staff were kindness itself."

The offering taken at Miss Harrison's funeral service is being used to purchase the Bibles. The "Friends of the Gideons" come from all walks of life and support the work of Gideons International throughout the UK and the rest of the world.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Endoscopy nurses from both the Southport and Ormskirk sites and Lesley Ritchie, Clinical Manager of the Treatment Centre, accompanied by family and friends and faithful companions Bonnie and Clyde and Cara embarked on a sponsored walk from Freshfield Station down to and along the beach and back to Southport.

A very enjoyable day was had by all whilst raising £395 for Children in Need. Apart from a few aches and pains the following day, everyone had a great time, so much so they are now thinking of starting a mini-ramblers club.

Staff in the corporate office raised £191 : 59

Well Done Everyone who took part.



Outpatient staff raised £287

I A N W A T S O N



Dr Ian Watson

Dr Ian Watson, Consultant Biochemist with the Trust since 1990 has recently been elected the Chair-Elect for the Association for Clinical Biochemistry, the national professional society for Clinical Biochemists in the UK. Almost all clinical biochemists in the NHS and private laboratories are members together with a substantial number of countries around the world. He will become Chair of the Association in May 2006 for a period of 3 years.

Dr Watson says 'I am honoured to be asked to undertake the leadership of the profession, particularly with so many changes happening or planned for the future such as Agenda for Change, National Occupational Standards, Healthcare Scientists framework and Skills for Health. The role of the Association is to ensure the highest standards of patient-focused practice in Clinic Biochemistry to enable diagnosis, monitoring and screening.

'To the lay person, clinical biochemistry is something of a mystery – what exactly does it do?' says Dr Watson who goes on to explain 'it is the scientific discipline that measures components in blood or urine to diagnose disease, monitor changes due to disease, therapeutic interventions and screening for underlying disease. When a sample is taken, it is sent to the hospital laboratory for analysis. Usually biochemistry of a person's blood is analysed after the red

cells have been removed by centrifugation and measurements have been made on highly sophisticated rapid machines.

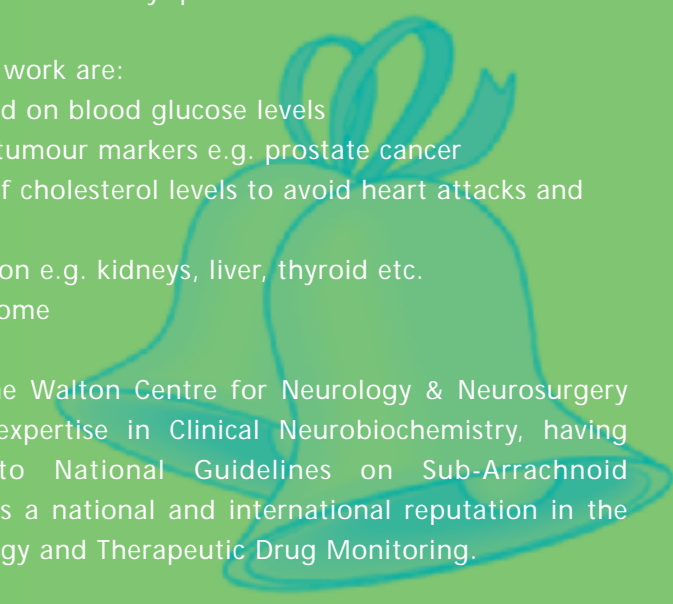
The Southport and Ormskirk laboratory deals with about 1200 samples per day with an average of 6 tests per sample, some 7200 test per day. Typically we turn round results in 4 hours, though some tests may take longer. Urgent tests for Accident and Emergency are available in under 1 hour. These tests are performed by science graduates called Biomedical Scientists.

The interpretation of the results require a high level of knowledge to identify the probable disease or disease changes. Highly qualified Clinical Biochemist staff with Membership of the Royal College of Pathologists do this job; they may be medically qualified or scientifically qualified to PhD level.

Examples of the biochemistry work are:

- Diagnosis of Diabetes, based on blood glucose levels
- Monitoring of cancer with tumour markers e.g. prostate cancer
- Identification and control of cholesterol levels to avoid heart attacks and strokes
- Assessment of organ function e.g. kidneys, liver, thyroid etc.
- Screening for Downs Syndrome

Dr Watson also advises at the Walton Centre for Neurology & Neurosurgery where he uses his special expertise in Clinical Neurobiochemistry, having substantially contributed to National Guidelines on Sub-Arachnoid Haemorrhage. He also enjoys a national and international reputation in the joint fields of Clinical Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring.



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MEDICAL/ONCOLOGY DAY UNIT

In 2003, the Southport Lions decided they wanted to raise some money to help cancer patients at the Trust - hence the ChemoCare Campaign was born and launched last year.



Danielle with Professor Clem Kiire, Christine Sheridan and members of the Lions



Danielle with members of staff

The ambitious target of £30,000 was set and the collection tins started to rattle around Southport and in Formby, Ormskirk and other local areas. Various money raising ideas were developed including producing a badge with a red squirrel mascot which could be sold to show people supported the Campaign. The Champion Newspaper Group lent their support to the campaign and ran a competition in the paper to name the mascot.

Danielle O'Brien, aged 11 from Birkdale won the competition with her suggestion of Wilbur. Danielle was told she had Burkitts Lymphoma in 2002 and she spent nine months in hospital receiving treatment for her cancer. The tube used to give her the medicine she needed was called 'a wilbur' and when Danielle's mum, Debbie, suggested her daughter enter the competition this was the name she chose.

Chris Sheridan, Cancer Services Manager said; "The response by the people of Southport and beyond to the ChemoCare Campaign run by

Southport Lions has been fantastic. While we were always planning to refurbish the Medical/Oncology Day Unit, to have the additional money has meant we have been able to produce a much more pleasant environment for the patients, some of whom spend several hours having their treatment.

"The money has meant that we have been able to provide luxuries like a computer with internet access which we would otherwise not have been able to afford, as well as buying various pieces of medical equipment. The money has also gone towards a lot of the furniture, paintings, a TV and we will be getting some garden furniture for the summer.

"It was really nice to be able to have a small opening ceremony, at which we could officially thank the Lions from Southport, Formby, Ormskirk and Douglas Valley for all their efforts. It was also great to have Danielle O'Brien perform the opening as she had won the competition to name the ChemoCare Mascot."



C O N N E C T I N G FOR HEALTH

You may have heard of Connecting for Health – better information for better health – a new NHS Care Records Service which will help NHS organisations in England to store patient health care records on computers that will link information together, quickly and easily. All the links between systems should be completed by 2010. It will help:

- make care safer, referrals faster and administration easier
- give patients more information
- protect patients' confidentiality

Other electronic information services will work with the NHS Care Records Service to improve care. They are:

- Choose and Book – the new electronic service that allows patients requiring a referral to a specialist for certain conditions to have a choice of at least four hospitals or clinics and to book initial hospital appointments at a place, date and time that suits them
- Electronic Transmission of Prescriptions (ETP) This will allow a patient's prescription to be sent electronically from their GP to the pharmacy and will make prescribing and dispensing safer and improve patient convenience.
- Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS) PACS will make images such as x-rays and scans available at the touch of a button enabling faster diagnosis. PACS is being made available to local NHS organisations during 2005 and should be available nationally during 2007.
- Quality Management and Analysis System (QMAS) – this system is already up and running giving GP practices and Primary Care Trusts objective evidence and feedback on the care delivered to patients. This allows practices to be paid according to the quality of care they provide.
- National Network for the NHS (N3) – N3 will provide IT infrastructure, network services and broadband connections to meet NHS needs now and into the future.

For more information about NHS Connecting for Health, please visit www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk

What is role of the Registration Authority?

This service has been created to ensure that all users of the Connecting for Health systems use a common security and confidentiality approach. For Healthcare Professionals to access the Programme they need to be registered to the Spine User Directory. The service responsible for managing and administering this process is known as the Registration Authority. All NHS organisations which require access to Connecting for Health systems are required to establish a local Registration Authority.

Why are Registration Authorities needed?

- * To ensure compliance with Government guidelines
- * Ensure compliance with best practice
- * Implement single national NHS policy and process
- * Provide assured identity
- * Provide basis for a national access control framework
- * Assure patients their medical records are secure and safe



Nikki Cooper, Rob Kinney and Julie Whelan

Rob Kinney has recently taken up the post of Trust Registration Authority Manager and is ably assisted by two Registration Authority Agents - Julie Whelan and Nikki Cooper.

Although working in the Trust for only a couple of months, Rob, Julie and Nikki are now familiar faces in all wards and departments across the Trust – asking questions, taking photographs and providing essential users of the Connecting for Health systems with Smartcards which allows them access to the system. Once a user has been successfully registered they will have a User ID, pass code and Smartcard which will permit their access to the appropriate systems and information.

Between them they bring a wealth of experience to the Trust. In a past life Rob was involved in Customer Training and Programme Management in Telecommunications which involved living and travelling around the world. Julie's background is within newspaper publishing and Nikki comes to us from Manchester University where she gained a degree in Maths and Management and a Masters in HR Management.

ZERO TOLERANCE

In recent months there has been a lot of press coverage nationally about violence and aggression towards NHS staff. The NHS Security Management Service is sending a strong message to people who abuse NHS staff – stop, or you could be prosecuted. Our Trust along with others throughout the country support the Zero Tolerance Zone initiative in the National Health Service.

Kevin Clarkson, Deputy Chief Executive with special responsibility for Integrated Governance including Risk Management commented "We think it is completely unacceptable for any professional within their workplace, irrespective of position, to experience threatening behaviour or violence. We have a Trust policy for Zero Tolerance towards Violence & Aggression and will support members of staff who wish to take legal action in the event of them being involved in such behaviour."

A recent case reported nationally involved a 37 year old man attending an A&E department in Sutton Coldfield who punched a nurse who was trying to treat him, twice in the face and head and attacked a security guard who came to her aid. The case was referred to the Legal Protection Unit at the NHS Security Management Service who took a private prosecution, in partnership with the hospital against the attacker. He was later charged with 2 counts of ABH and 1 count of affray and sentenced to a 12 month supervision order as well as having to pay £1,600 compensation to his victims.



EARLY DIAGNOSIS CAN HELP SAVE LIVES – NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

“Get yourself checked out early for lung cancer” is the message from lung cancer nurses during November’s lung cancer awareness campaign.

If you have a cough that won’t go away or you’re coughing up blood; or if you are much more tired than normal or feeling very out of breath get checked out straight away – it could be the early signs of lung cancer – and early diagnosis saves lives.



Local lung cancer nurses raised awareness of lung cancer and its symptoms as part of a campaign from The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation and Macmillan Cancer Relief in November. Lung cancer nurses support people and their families when they are first diagnosed with lung cancer, helping them to make decisions about their treatment, giving them practical and emotional support.



Lung cancer claims the lives of 92 people a day but more could be saved if only it was detected earlier. For 80 per cent of people with lung cancer their disease is inoperable because it has

been diagnosed so late. If people were diagnosed at a much earlier stage, it would be possible for many more of them to have an operation that could potentially cure their cancer.

“Lung cancer is now the UK’s biggest cancer killer in both men and women,” said Janet Thompson. “We want to hit home the message that early diagnosis saves lives and we hope that by encouraging those most at risk of lung cancer to recognise the symptoms early and visit their GP, we can reduce the number of deaths from the disease. If lung cancer is diagnosed early, chances of survival are increased by 40 times, which is why early diagnosis is so important.”

While smoking is a major risk factor for lung cancer, 15 per cent of people who develop lung cancer have never smoked. This campaign is about raising awareness of lung cancer and helping to reduce the stigma surrounding the disease.

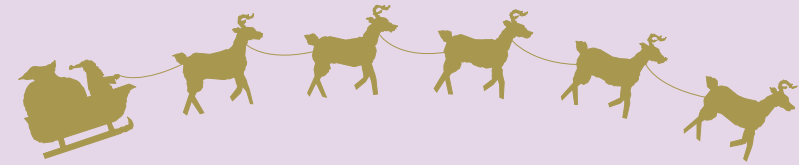
The main symptoms of lung cancer are:

- chest infections that won’t go away, even with antibiotics
- a cough for more than three weeks
- coughing up blood
- feeling more tired than usual
- feeling very out of breath
- losing your voice but no sore throat
- chest pains
- losing weight, but not sure why

If any of these symptoms are experienced for more than three weeks, people are urged to visit their GP, particularly if they smoke or used to smoke.

For further information about lung cancer, contact Janet Thompson, Lung Cancer Nurse on 01704 705161 or e-mail janet.thompson@southportandormskirk.nhs.uk.

Or the public can call the Roy Castle Helpline on 0800 358 7200 or the Macmillan Cancer Line on 0800 808 2020.



DOMESTICS KEY TO TACKLING INFECTION RATES

A dedicated team of domestics to ‘deep clean’ ward equipment can reduce the rate of Clostridium difficile by two-thirds, according to nurse consultant Martin Kiernan from Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust. Martin was speaking at the Health Protection Agency’s Annual Conference held at Warwick University, when he told delegates that a ‘task team’ of cleaners at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital had cut the average number of C.difficile cases from 10 to 3.3 at any one time.

‘Cases of C.difficile returned to previous levels when the task teams were diverted to cleaning up brick dust from 17 different building projects at the trust, he added.’

Mr Kiernan said ‘the Trust has accepted that the ‘task teams’ are a good thing and will double the size of the service, making it out of hours and weekends’ he told the conference. The chief executive is very proud of our in-house cleaning.’

The domestic team were recruited because the cleaning of clinical equipment was ‘dropped off the end of the list’ for nurses who were taking on more junior doctors’ duties.

The team cleans hospital equipment such as commodes, bath hoists and intravenous drip stands on each ward for half a day each week, and a further clean is triggered if there are three cases of health care-associated infection discovered on a ward in a four-week period.



Dedicated domestics



Martin Kiernan

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LIBRARY- OPENING SOON!!

A new and exciting initiative is coming soon to Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust to enhance patient care.



The aim of the library is to manage bio-medical equipment from a central point and to ensure that equipment such as air mattresses, infusion pumps etc. are clean and easily accessible for patient care in this Trust.

In the past, staff have spent many frustrating hours trying to locate biomedical equipment. The project was initially conceived by the Electro-biomedical Engineering Department (EBME) and the Tissue Viability Specialist Nurse and is now being taken forward by Catherine Carter, previously from Infection Control and Mike Dockery previously stock controller in Facilities.

All air mattresses will be managed by the library with more equipment coming into the library in the near future.

The Medical Equipment Library is situated in the old Neonatal Unit on the Southport site.

PLAY IN HOSPITAL WEEK – BRING YOUR TEDDY FOR A HEALTH CHECK!



As part of Play in Hospital Week in September, the Children’s Outpatient Department at Ormskirk & District General Hospital invited children of all ages to bring their teddy for a health check!

Hospital Play Specialists Amanda Walker, Lisa Spike, Caroline Bailey, Janet Sergeant and Ann Worsley were on hand to help the children join in the fun and games. These included face painting, badge and sticker making, name the Teddy and win a prize, a Teddy Tombola and ‘Pin the Plaster on the Teddy’.

Amanda Walker, Play Specialist at Ormskirk Children’s Unit said, “A lot of my friends think I spend all day finger painting, but it’s far more complicated than that! Yes, one of our tasks is to help prevent children who are staying in hospital getting bored and to help them have as pleasant an experience as possible, but our main duties are in the various clinics helping the doctors, nurses and other clinical staff. If a child has to have an injection or some other test, then it is our job to distract them, helping to take their mind off what is happening by interacting with them.”

It is recognised that if a child is less worried about going into and staying in hospital, then recovery can be quicker. To help with this, Amanda and her colleagues invite children to come to the hospital prior to their stay. She explained, “We invite children who are coming to stay for a length of time and their parents to come and look round before hand. It gives them a chance to see where they will be staying, meet some of the staff and see what else there is in the hospital. We can also help children with some of their phobias, particularly needle phobia. I also hold an event on Saturday mornings with an interactive Teddy Bear, that children can ‘take blood’ from or put bandages on or learn something more about being in hospital.”

SMOKEFREE HOSPITAL

In line with the Department of Health’s initiative for a SMOKEFREE environment from the 1st January 2006 Southport & Ormskirk Hospital will become SMOKEFREE – this will include all buildings, entrances, hospital grounds, car parks and walkways.

This will mean that staff, patients and visitors will not be allowed to smoke within the buildings or the grounds.

Working towards this deadline will include:

- the Trust’s intention to remove the smoking shelters / area on both the Southport and Ormskirk sites
- the Smoking Cessation team have been offering help and support to any member of staff who wishes to stop smoking. This has been offered in the form of ‘Drop In Sessions’ or by direct contact with the team.
- Patients are being made aware of our SMOKEFREE status with admission letters / appointment cards and Patient Information Booklets



For further information on Smoking Cessation, please contact a member of the Team on (01695) 598416 or 0800 195 2131 or the National Helpline on 0800 169 0169.

SIU BIKE RIDE

Roy Moss from Croft near Warrington has been a wheelchair user since having a motorcycle accident in September 1995. To mark the tenth anniversary of this life-changing event, Roy and a group of friends cycled from the North West Regional Spinal Injuries Unit in Southport to his home - a distance of some 32 miles.

Shortly after his accident many of Roy’s friends raised money for him by cycling from Warrington to Southport so Roy decided to do this ride with the intention of raising money for the Spinal Injuries Unit. Roy used his specially adapted hand cycle attachment with his wheelchair and while most of the others used more conventional road and mountain bikes, there was one recumbent tricycle rider.

The event was generously sponsored by Dalgarno Solicitors of Birchwood Park, Warrington resulting in the grand sum of £5,000 : 00 being raised by generous family, friends and colleagues.



Siu Bike Ride

LONG SERVICE AWARD CEREMONY

Forty-four employees of Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust who have worked for more than 20 years for the Trust were honoured at the annual Long Service Award Ceremony in July.

Mr Andrew Johnson, Chairman of the Trust presented staff from all areas of the Trust with capital bonds to the value of £125.

In advance of the event Mr Johnson said, “We know that one of the most important assets the Trust has is its staff. These long service awards are a token of our appreciation to our colleagues who between them have given just under 1000 years of valued service to the Trust.”

Twenty-four of the 44 staff receiving the award this year attended the ceremony in the Lounge of the Clinical Education Centre at Southport & Formby District General Hospital.



APPOINTMENT OF ONCOLOGY DIETITIAN

Shaun Seldon commenced in his role of Oncology Dietitian at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust in September 2005.

Shaun qualified with a Bachelor of Health Science (Nutrition & Dietetics) from The University Of Newcastle, Australia in 1999. His employment history includes working as a Clinical and Community Dietitian in Australia and in the UK. Oncology experience includes his most recent position working as an Oncology Dietitian at Nepean Hospital, Australia. Other specialist areas worked include Renal and HIV. He has also worked as a private Dietitian in Sydney for 12 months.

Shaun will be looking after the dietary needs of Oncology inpatients at Southport & Formby District General Hospital and is also available to consult with patients weekly in clinics on both the Southport and Ormskirk sites.

He can be contacted on bleep 177 or by telephoning (01704) 703485 (direct line) or extension 3485. Please fax referrals to Nutrition and Dietetics Dept on 01704 703623. Shaun welcomes any referrals requiring Nutrition Support and dietary advice for Oncology patients.



Shaun Seldon

BAKUL SONI



Bakul Soni

The North West Regional Spinal Injuries Centre based at the Southport & Formby DGH is pleased to announce that one of its long serving consultants has been elected to Fellowship of the International Spinal Cord Society (ISCOs). The Society, established over 50 years ago, promotes the welfare and independence of people with spinal cord injuries throughout the world.

Bakul Soni has worked at the Centre since 1984. The award of Fellowship is made by a worldwide body of his peers and marks the culmination and

recognition of an outstanding clinical career. Bakul is an internationally recognised expert in spinal cord injury management and has specialised in the implantation of devices that allow patients of all ages with severe spinal cord injuries to breathe independently, and reduce the debilitating effects of muscle spasms. Staff and patients, and indeed his family, are justifiably proud of his achievements and we all offer him our sincere congratulations.

The NWRSIC is a highly specialist centre, serving the people of the North West unfortunate to have suffered injury to their spinal cord resulting in permanent paralysis. It's 39 beds provide intensive and acute care from the point of injury, a comprehensive rehabilitation service, and lifelong support for people managing life in a wheelchair.

The Centre is based at the Southport & Formby District General Hospital site in Town Lane and welcomes visits from member of the public and educational groups keen to understand more about spinal cord injury. There is an active public support group who raise funds to support the Centre's work and people with spinal cord injury in the community.

ORTHOPAEDIC BALL

In August this year the 3rd Orthopaedic Ball was held at Formby Hall Golf Club when 200 people attended the black tie event. Mr Menon, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon hosted the evening with his very own brand of humour.

A superb meal was enjoyed by all followed by dancing until the early hours. Due to everyone's generosity over £2,000 was raised – some of which is going towards the purchase of a 'TENS' machine for the Trauma Ward.

The Ball, which has become an annual highlight in the Trust's calendar, was organised by the late Mr Jay Menon, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Nicola Ivanovic, Liz Whiting and Pat Keeley.



LEAGUE OF FRIENDS GARDEN PARTY

For the 45th year running the Ormskirk League of Friends held its annual garden party in the grounds of the hospital on a beautiful sunny day in June.

As always the event attracted people from far and wide who were more than happy to take part in the many activities and purchase a range of goods from the numerous stalls.

May Oxford, Chairman of the League commented "The success of our garden party is down to the goodwill and help from not only the League members, but from staff throughout the hospital. We are grateful to everyone who contributes in making it such an enjoyable occasion for the young and old alike and helping to raise the magnificent sum of £3000".



Garden Party

EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

And it was just that says Sue Lewis, Sister on the Critical Care Unit. Sue entered a competition in the Nursing Standard to attend the International College of Nursing Conference in Taiwan, not imagining that she would win. But two weeks after entering the competition she received a telephone call to say she had won! With more than a little feeling of apprehension, Sue set off alone on the fifteen hour journey to Taiwan. However, on boarding the plane she found she actually knew a number of people on their way to the conference, one of them being Mike Travis, an RCN Council Member from the North West Region.

On arrival in Taipei Sue booked into her Hotel room - a room with a view of the World's tallest building, 101 Tower, boasting the fastest elevator in the world, transporting passengers to the 89th floor in 39 seconds – the first of many wonderful memories.

Of course, attending the conference was the highlight of Sue's week in Taipei, giving her the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. Sue attended sessions at Congress from International Summit on Global Nursing, HIV/AIDS Networking and Nursing at the Forefront of Innovation to name but a few. Invitations to receptions in the evenings offered Sue the opportunity to talk to delegates from Italy, Holland, Africa and Japan and to learn about their experience of nursing in the homeland. Sue also had a chance to meet Christine Hancock, the outgoing President of the ICN who is an inspiration to everyone who meets her.

Of the many highlights of the trip, there are two that stand out in Sue's mind the first being the Florence Nightingale Foundation Luncheon. Dr Afaf Meleis, Dean of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania, a prominent medical sociologist, was the guest speaker. Dr Meleis is world renowned for her dedication to Women's Health and Development and Immigrant

Health Care. The second memorable session was the Virginia Henderson Lecture given by Pelanete Stowers from the Samoan Board of Nursing who questioned Virginia Henderson's approach to nursing care and whether it would be relevant in today's society. Secondly Stephen Lewis, United Nations Special Envoy for HIV / AIDS in Africa, will be remembered for his impassioned speech on health and human rights.

Sue also took the opportunity of sightseeing around Taipei – a very busy and vibrant city housing some beautiful buildings such as the Lungshan Temple and the Memorial Hall with a visit to the Jade and Flower Market a must.

Sue was very sad to leave Taiwan at the end of her week long trip; especially all the new friends she had made, none the least the local people – always smiling, always willing to be of help.

Sue cannot express her appreciation enough at being given the privilege of attending such a memorable occasion – certainly an Experience of a Lifetime.



Barbara Walters

Sue

Judy McCrae

DONATION TO NEONATAL UNIT

At the beginning of August 1999, Debbie Harding from Formby was waiting to have her first child sometime in the October. She knew the birth would change her life, but she didn't realise just how much. Unfortunately she was rushed into hospital and baby Ryan was born by emergency caesarean section at just 31 weeks weighing in at 2lb 1oz. He spent the first seven weeks of his young life in the neonatal unit at Southport.

In the six years since then, Debbie, who owns the Formby based Debbie J Dance Academy has raised over £1,600 for the neonatal unit at Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust. The latest donation of £525, raised at a dance show put on by Debbie's students was made this week to Caroline Travers, Nurse Manager of the Neonatal Unit at Ormskirk & District General Hospital.

After Debbie and Ryan presented the cheque she said, "After I had Ryan, my husband Steve and I were so impressed by the care he received in the neonatal unit we felt we had to do something to show our appreciation. As I run the Dance Academy and we always have raffles when we put on shows, it seemed only natural that the money we raise go to the neonatal unit at the hospital."

Caroline Travers added, "I got to know Debbie and Ryan when he was born and it has been great to see him as he has grown up over the years. We are extremely grateful to Debbie and all her dancers for the money they have raised, it will be put towards a new incubator for the unit, which costs around £12,000."



Debbie and Ryan with staff