

Good News!

Dear Members

As summer approaches it is my pleasure to write to you again in this, our summer newsletter.

It is a particularly exciting time for the hospital. New facilities are opening, our wards have all been deep-cleaned, a major refurbishment programme starts with Harrowden wards in September and two major new developments are being planned which we will let you know more about in the next newsletter. In addition to this, we have literally just received notification that our Foundation Trust application has been approved by the Secretary of State and we are now proceeding to the final stage of approval during which we will be assessed by Monitor – the regulator of Foundation Trusts. We hope this means that we will be finally approved by the end of the year.

The exciting news for members is that this means that our elections for the 21 public places on our Council of Members can now be held and we will be contacting you separately to give you more details in the near future. In the meantime I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to give the chance of running for election to one of these places very serious consideration. It will be one of the cornerstones of the hospital as we move into FT status and the public engagement that it adds will be a vital force for change at the hospital in the future.

In the meantime, have a lovely summer!

Regards
Steve Hone
Chairman

COUNCIL OF MEMBERS - INTERESTED?

If you're interested in standing for election or would like more information on the Council of Members, please fill in the form below and return it to:

Christine Harrison, Membership Manager, FREEPOST Plus RRHA-UHCL-YJJG, Foundation Trust Membership Office, Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust, Rothwell Road, Kettering, Northants, NN16 8UZ.

Name: _____

Address: _____

I would like to stand for Election onto the Council of Members

I would like further information on the Council of Members

60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NHS!

And to mark this we officially opened our Treatment Centre.

The Centre was officially opened by Kettering General Hospital Housekeeper Marie Joy – who has the same birthday as the NHS (July 5, 1948). Marie opened the Centre on Thursday, July 10, in front of more than 50 staff, patient representatives and local mayors and mayoresses. The Treatment Centre fully opened for business on April 2, 2007, and has provided care for more than 22,000 patients in its first year. The Trust decided it would be appropriate to officially open the Centre during the NHS's 60th birthday celebrations.

Chief Executive, Dr Mark Newbold, said: "We considered several ways of officially opening the Centre and decided that during the NHS's 60th anniversary year it would be most appropriate to be opened by a long-serving and dedicated member of staff who shares the same birthday – July 5, 1948."



Pictured: Steve Hone, Chairman. Carol Spiers, Pre-op Lead Nurse, Marie Joy, the birthday girl.

Marie Joy, 59, of Kettering, is married to Sonny and has three children. She has worked at Kettering General Hospital as a housekeeper for 15 years. She said: "I was surprised, but very pleased, when I heard that I had been chosen to open the Treatment Centre, "I think it is a nice gesture for a housekeeper to have this honour."

In its first year of operation (April 2, 2007 – April 2, 2008) the Treatment Centre has:

- Seen a total of 22,448 patients
- Carried out 6,648 surgical procedures or treatments
- Seen some 15,800 women for screening or treatment in its breast unit

In its first year the Treatment Centre has helped the Trust to meet tough Government waiting time targets. The Government wants all hospitals to see and treat all appropriate patients within 18 weeks of first referral by their GP by the end of 2008. This 18-week journey includes any waits for diagnostic tests such as MRI and CT scans.

Kettering General Hospital is on target to achieve this goal and at March 2008 had exceeded interim targets of seeing 85% of admitted patients and 90% of non-admitted patients with the 18-week target. (Trust achieved 94.3% and 92.2% respectively for these targets).

MEMBERS EVENTS

We have just held our third Health Event for Members, which was well attended by both Staff and Public Members. This event was presented by Dr Baretto from the Adult Allergy Clinic, followed by Paula Mayers, Stop Smoking Specialist. We will be looking at putting a timetable together of events, but would like your feedback on what health issues or services you would be interested in learning about. If you have any suggestions regarding future events please contact Christine Harrison on 01536 492169 or via email christine.harrison@kgh.nhs.uk.