From your local governors

We recently welcomed our new modern matron, Lynne Greig (right), to Blyth Community Hospital. Lynn will look after all wards and outpatient services at the hospital.

**New modern matron at Blyth**

**New healing arts project partnership to boost wellbeing for patients**

Northumberland Arts Development and Blyth Valley Arts and Leisure (BVAL) have joined forces with us to set up the first reader in residence at Blyth Community Hospital as well as touring art exhibitions which will also visit Wansbeck General Hospital and leisure centres in the area.

The project, led and funded by the three organisations, is part of our longstanding healing arts programme which uses art as a therapeutic medium to improve the hospital environment for patients - particularly the elderly - visitors and staff.

**New ‘hospital to home’ team**

Our new ‘hospital to home’ team, based at Wansbeck General Hospital, has been established to further improve our discharge process, ensuring seamless care and providing advice and support on services in the community for our patients.

The team will work with clinicians and in partnership with primary care professionals, to ensure safe and efficient discharge of adult patients from hospital to their home. This includes working with medical staff in A&E to avoid admission where appropriate, and facilitating discharge from the medical admissions unit and hospital wards to avoid admission and readmission to hospital for those patients.

The team will also work into Blyth Community Hospital to facilitate safe and efficient discharge for patients being treated there, with plans to introduce short term support service care and a therapy team to the hospital in 2014.

The ‘hospital to home’ team consists of a community matron, social workers, care managers, nurses, an occupational therapist, a physiotherapist, a mental health specialist and a short-term support services team supervisor.

**Your Blyth & Wansbeck governors**

As governors we represent you, our members, and make sure this constituency has a voice. Our role is to listen, let you know about local healthcare services and feed back your views to the trust.

You can contact us via the foundation team on 0191 203 1296 or by emailing foundation@northumbria.nhs.uk if you have anything you would like to discuss.

Your local healthcare services

**Dear member,**

Left to right: Eric Young, Joyce Middleton, Ken Patterson, Simpson Crawford, William Dowie, Pauline Greaves, Mike Elphick, Brian Kipling, David Wilkinson, Eric Jones and Julia Mann.
COUGH
TICKLY, CHESTY AND DRY
But the worst cough of all is the one that won't go away
For more information visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/cough

COUGH
ENOUGH

Our Shared Purpose programme, funded by The Health Foundation and in partnership with Age UK, is our commitment to improve care for our elderly patients. Working with eight wards, our focus has been on improving the recruitment and training of staff, patient environments and patient experience. In our first year we have:
• Prevented readmissions in orthopaedics by introducing a dedicated helpline to advise patients.
• Welcomed objective assessments of staff from Age UK.
• Trained our teams to better deal with patients with dementia, delirium, and depression.
• Ensured the staff we recruit share our values and incorporated Shared Purpose values into their induction.

For more visit: www.northumbria.nhs.uk/sharedpurpose

We're always listening…
...for ways to improve quality and the care we provide to our patients. Whether it's a duplicated letter, a missed opportunity to prevent an unnecessary trip to hospital or a simple suggestion on how we can improve our patients' experiences - we want to hear from you. To give us your feedback please visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/listening

Members’ events
We hold regular events to give our contributor members information on a range of healthcare topics. You can find out more about these events by visiting www.northumbria.nhs.uk/events
If you would like to be more involved, receive updates and information on the things you're interested in please complete the attached form. Please provide your email address so we can keep you up-to-date. By doing this you could also be in with a chance to win a brand new Kindle Fire.

Charity and volunteering
Our registered charity, Bright Northumbria, supports a number of projects which make a huge difference to our patients. To find out how you can help us please visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/charity

More about you...
To be in with a chance to win a brand new Kindle Fire, kindly donated to us by Pulman Volkswagen, please complete the form below making sure you include your email address (winners will be notified by email by 28 February).
Name
DOB
Email address

Level of involvement
We are keen to know how involved you would like to be as a member:
Supporter
If you would like to give us your thoughts and ideas but do not have a great deal of time to spare, this level of involvement may suit you. You will receive an annual members' newsletter and voting information only.
Contributor
If you are interested in learning more about your local health services and would like to attend local seminars, any public events we're holding or governor meetings, this is the level of involvement for you. You will receive the annual newsletter, voting information, invitations to events, e-updates and information about further involvement opportunities.

Interests
We only want to send you information that you are interested in:
Local health services
Healthcare updates
Events
Volunteering
Meetings and seminars
Consultations
Charity
Other

Charity and volunteering
Our registered charity, Bright Northumbria, supports a number of projects which make a huge difference to our patients. To find out how you can help us please visit www.northumbria.nhs.uk/charity

We were recently named: PROVIDER TRUST OF THE YEAR 2013 AWARD

Investing in your healthcare
Work on the new Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital in Cramlington is now well underway and when it opens in 2015 it will be the first hospital in England dedicated to providing emergency care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
The hospital is part of our £200 million investment in healthcare for the 500,000 population of North Tyneside and Northumberland.
From 2015, patients with serious conditions from Northumberland and North Tyneside, who are very sick with a sudden or prolonged illness or who have serious injuries, will go to Cramlington where senior consultants will be available. Once stable, the patient will then be transferred to their nearest general or community hospital for ongoing care.
New services and developments are being planned for our three general hospitals - Hexham, North Tyneside and Wansbeck - which will continue to treat the majority of patients for a wide range of conditions when the new hospital opens. Services for less serious or minor injuries or illnesses will continue to be delivered at our general hospitals, with patients being seen more quickly as they will not have to wait for urgent cases to be dealt with. Planned operations, outpatient clinics and diagnostics will also continue to be provided at these hospitals.