



# ALDER HEY MATTERS.

ISSUE #27

HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR MATTERS. EMAIL [MEMBERSHIP@ALDERHEY.NHS.UK](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@ALDERHEY.NHS.UK)

## CHRISTMAS AT ALDER HEY

**IN NOVEMBER WE HOSTED A CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON EVENT LIVE FROM OUR HOSPITAL ATRIUM FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2019.**

Father Christmas was back on his sleigh outside the Hospital and this year was joined by elves from Very who gave out gifts to some of our patients in our Christmas Grotto area. Patients, families, and staff enjoyed arts and craft activities, met some special costumed characters, listened to some special performances by Cascade Music and Holly and Niamh while enjoying some festive refreshments.

Our lights were officially turned on by four-year old Zlata who was brought to the UK by her mum Alina as they fled the war in Ukraine. Zlata has leukaemia and is being treated here at Alder Hey. Zlata was joined by some of the staff on Ward 3B who are currently treating her!

Before the main event, those outside the Hospital and patients on wards were also able to tune into a magical Christmas broadcast featuring Zlata's remarkable story alongside some wonderful choir performances from the pupils at St. Julie's Catholic High School and St. Paul's and

St. Timothy's Catholic Infant School. We also heard all about baby Frankie, who had life changing surgery and was cared for by our Neonatal Team here at Alder Hey. The broadcast can still be watched on our YouTube channel: [@AlderHeyCharityAndHospital](https://www.youtube.com/@AlderHeyCharityAndHospital).



## CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

During December we focused on celebrating the people here at Alder Hey! This included showcasing our Christmas 'Stars' throughout our Christmas content with some of our staff



One of our Christmas stars was Jodie who is our Operations Manager for the Institute in the Park.

being presented with a special Star bauble and we also celebrated our Christmas Star Awards. Over 100 staff were nominated by colleagues for demonstrating Alder Hey values of Excellence, Openness, Respect, Together and Innovation throughout 2022!

Our Christmas Celebration Lunch brought some of them together to be recognised by everyone at Alder Hey.

Our Executive Team and Charity thanked staff across the Trust for all their efforts during a busy and challenging year and dropped off some festive treats in the run up to Christmas.

We also welcomed our friends at Rapid Relief Team who gave out free cake and hot drinks to those on our main Hospital site.



Our Christmas stars staff lunch!



ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE AT ALDER HEY, WE WANT TO WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## ★ MEET OUR YOUNG GOVERNORS ★



**I'm Molly**, I've been a Patient Governor for two years now and I'm 18 years old.

I became a Governor at 16 and decided to do so because I wanted to be the voice of a young person and other young people at Alder Hey.

Being a young/cool Governor means

I can share what it's like growing up in a different decade to other governors and can therefore provide a different and unique viewpoint on topics. I find it easier to talk to young people being a young person myself.

As everyone knows, I'm famous in Alder Hey for rapping about finance! I am also part of the Alder Hey Youth Forum which gives young people a voice within our Hospital and society, and a Volunteer at my local community centre half term camp.

If you're planning on running to be a Governor, please do!  
It's an incredible opportunity.



**My name is Bella**, I am 17, and I became a Patient Governor for Alder Hey in September 2022.

I wanted to become a Patient Governor because I enjoy helping people. After being part of a youth participation group in Sefton CAMHS, Camhelions, I realised I love improving the lives of children

and young people by helping to progress the healthcare services provided to them.

Being a Patient Governor with personal experience of Alder Hey, I can bring real insight into how children and patients experience Alder Hey. I strive to provide feedback on what patients like and dislike to other governors, hopefully to then integrate changes that allow the patients to feel the safest and most comfortable whilst in hospital.

Throughout my education, I have always thrived on problem solving and teamwork, and being a Patient Governor allows me to do this. I really enjoy having this opportunity and can't wait to progress further and get more children and young people's voices heard!

## ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING 2022

**THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING TOOK PLACE ONLINE ON THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER. THE MEETING HIGHLIGHTED OUR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2021/22 AND OUR AMBITIONS TO CREATE A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.**

During the meeting forum and Camhelions members Molly, Darcie and Bella created a memorable film featuring some of the Executive Team sharing their challenges and highlights of 21/22. This included the rise in demand for mental health services from children and young people, our continued mission in reducing our carbon footprint and keeping patients and staff safe throughout the COVID pandemic. Molly and Bella also enlightened viewers on the responsibilities within their vital role as a Governor and how they feel they can affect positive change throughout the hospital.

During the event, CEO Louise Shepherd also highlighted the resilience and



*(Above) Keeping staff and patients safe with both our COVID and flu jabs*

perseverance shown by all at Alder Hey through the last year as we faced increased demand on services and significant pressures.

**Read** about Alder Hey's performance during 2021/22 in our Annual Report and Accounts.



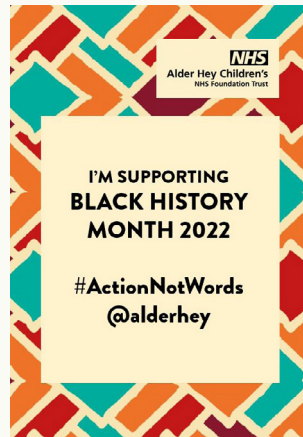
*Reducing our carbon footprint one step at a time*

# LATEST NEWS

## OCTOBER

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During Black History Month we celebrated and elevated the achievements and resilience of our Black colleagues and communities. We will also create a safe space for open and honest discussions on how we can all work together as One Alder Hey to deliver measurable change via meaningful actions.



## 5TH OCTOBER

Chief Digital and Information Officer, Kate Warriner, was included in the CIO 100 list.



## 7TH OCTOBER

Volun'teens, a new volunteering project, had a trial run offered by the Alder Hey Academy for young people with various physical/ mental health challenges. Those who participated developed new skills, met new people and most importantly had fun! The project has been kindly supported by a grant award from NHS Charities Together.



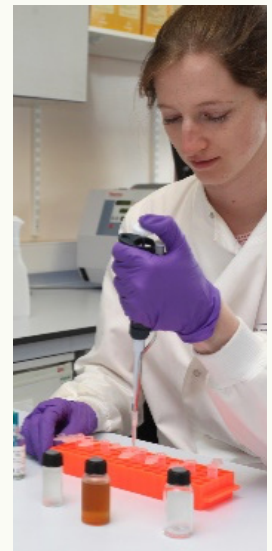
## 21ST OCTOBER

A team of nine health professionals led by Alder Hey Consultant Cardiac Surgeon Mr. Ram Dhannapuneni operated on nine children in five days in Windhoek Central Hospital in Windhoek, Namibia.



## 26TH NOVEMBER

“Meet the scientist day”. Members of the NIHR Alder Hey Clinical Research Facility team took part in a University of Liverpool patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) event: ‘Meet the Scientist’. The team brought a variety of interactive and fun science activities that explore randomisation and give families the chance to see what it is like to work in a science laboratory. This is a regular engagement event, allowing families and members of the public learn about science, take part in hands on activities, and to meet the scientists behind the research.



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A GOVERNOR?

THE TRUST HAS COMMENCED AN ELECTION ROUND FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

- Public – Merseyside (2 seats)
- Staff – Other (1 seat)

Nominations for these seats will close on **Thursday, 2nd February 2023**. A nomination form to stand for election to these positions can be completed **online**. To stand as a Governor you will need to be a member of the Trust. If you are not already a member you can register to be a member **[here](#)**.

# INVASIVE GROUP A STREP

**THERE ARE LOTS OF VIRUSES THAT CAUSE SORE THROATS, COLDS AND COUGHS CIRCULATING, ESPECIALLY OVER WINTER. THESE USUALLY RESOLVE WITHOUT NEEDING ANY SPECIAL MEDICAL TREATMENT OR MEDICINES. HOWEVER, CHILDREN CAN OCCASIONALLY DEVELOP A BACTERIAL INFECTION ON TOP OF A VIRUS AND THAT CAN MAKE THEM MORE UNWELL.**

One of these bacteria is called Group A Strep (GAS). You may have heard this in the news as it has been found in some children who have become very sick, very quickly. Fortunately, this is still rare.

There is much more GAS around this winter than in recent years, causing a lot of children to be unwell. We think this is because there is much more mixing now and these bugs are new to many young children, so they are more likely to catch and spread them.

GAS usually causes a mild illness with fever and a sore throat (Strep throat) but not a runny nose or too much of a cough.

Your child may be poorly for a few days but will usually recover. Antibiotics may help them recover quicker.

## WHEN TO SEEK HELP



If non-urgent, YOU CAN speak to your local pharmacist or health visitor. Or contact your GP practice and a qualified member of the clinical team will assess if your child needs to be seen urgently. For an urgent out-of-hours GP appointment, call NHS 111. You should only call 999 or go your nearest A&E department in critical or life threatening situations.



## CAMPUS UPDATE



### THE ALDER HEY CAMPUS HAS COME A LONG WAY AND THERE'S STILL MORE TO GO!

We were delighted to open our new community outpatient facility in October and some of our staff have also moved into new locations in recent months. Other teams from across the Trust will soon be moving into the

recently built modular building on our main site. The old Catkin building will be demolished in the new year as we continue to restore Springfield Park. This will enable works on our new Surgical Neonatal Unit to begin with construction

expected to start in early 2023. Our Neonatal appeal is still on going, if you would like to donate to our fundraiser please [click here](#).



# CHARITY CONTENT

**FESTIVE GREETINGS TO YOU ALL! THE ALDER HEY CHARITY TEAM WANTS TO SEND AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. WE UNDERSTAND THE PRESSURE THAT FAMILIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE FEELING, AND THE PINCH OF THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS. WE ARE HUMBLLED BY THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DONORS WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO FIND THE EXTRA PENNIES TO KEEP SUPPORTING CHILDREN WHO NEED OUR CARE HERE AT ALDER HEY.**

As the darker chilly nights tiptoe in we hope that you are all cosy in your Alder Hey X Matalan pyjamas. This year's pyjamas will raise vital funds to support our Surgical Neonatal Appeal. Our appeal needs to raise £3 million to help build a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where families can stay alongside their tiny babies throughout their care.



You may have also seen our TV advert to viewers showing how Legacy fundraising helps us change young lives. We have a limited number of online free Wills available to our staff and members. Please contact [Zoe.Viney@alderhey.nhs.uk](mailto:Zoe.Viney@alderhey.nhs.uk) to find out more or to claim your free Will. We have some more exciting news to share with you too! Our fabulous corporate supporters, Bean Coffee Roasters, have launched a delicious winter coffee called

Oli's Blend. Buy yours at any Bean Coffee shop, or online on our charity website! A generous £5 from every pack sold will be donated directly to Alder Hey Charity making it the perfect stocking filler that gives twice!

As always, our events have attracted hundreds of supporters again this year. Whether you have put on your running shoes or joined us for Oli's Safari Walk, you have made our fundraising events a roaring success! We were delighted to be Charity of the Year again this year for the Liverpool Santa Dash which so far has raised over £11,000 for Alder Hey.

Our big challenge for 2023 is called One Sleepless Night, a National Three Peaks Challenge for our Neonatal Appeal. We have filled all the places for our first adventure in June, so we're pleased to launch a second opportunity to join us from 25th-27th August. Sign up today on our website by scanning the QR code!



We tallied up your amazing donations from the last 12 months and you have raised a whopping £6,466,873. You have helped us buy innovative equipment, get incredible projects off the ground, undertake vital research, and continue to develop our world class healthcare campus. We would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy Christmas. Thank you again for bringing the extra magic to Alder Hey Children's Hospital through your loyal support of our charity this year!

[www.alderheycharity.org](http://www.alderheycharity.org)

