

Welcome



I hope you enjoy reading this fourth issue of Inside King's.

It has been a busy summer for everyone at King's, and in July, we joined other Trusts and healthcare organisations across the country to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the NHS.

As part of our NHS 75 celebrations we were delighted to host a visit from Her Royal Highness

the Duchess of Edinburgh who officially opened our new King's Academy. This superb new training facility is located in the Loughborough Junction area of south London and you can read more about it on page eight of this magazine.

I'm very proud to say that we were recently confirmed as the leading Trust in the UK for organ donation, having facilitated 46 organ donations over the past 12 months, helping to save and improve many lives in the process. Andy and Karen are just two patients who have benefited from the generosity of others, and their brave and inspiring transplant stories feature in this edition of our magazine also.

In October, we will officially launch Epic, our new electronic health record. This represents a major and exciting new step for us, as well as patients and staff at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, who will be going live with the same system at the same time. Turn to page four of this magazine to find out what Epic means for staff across both Trusts, and patients who use our services.

At the time of going to press, I was delighted to learn that King's has been shortlisted for Trust of the Year in the Health Service Journal (HSJ) Awards. It has been another challenging year for the NHS and this nomination is testament to the hard work of all our staff.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue, and thank you again for your support, and interest in King's.

Crie

Clive Kay
Chief Executive



Meet the team

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Staying up to date

As well as reading Inside King's, you can stay up to date about what's happening at the Trust via social media, and our website.



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www.kch.nhs.uk

If you have any comments or feedback on this magazine then please contact:

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Contents

OUICK READS

The latest news and events from our hospitals

KING'S HITS TV SCREENS 06

King's features in the second series of Channel 4's ground-breaking *Emergency* series

PASSING OF KING'S PIONEER Read our obituary for Mark Monaghan who received an MBE shortly before his death

75 YEARS OF THE NHS Find out how we celebrated NHS 75 at King's

DENTAL SCHOOL CENTENARY 09 Read about the history of our dental hospital

BOUNCING BACK King's Security Guard Carlos is saved by colleagues after suffering a stroke at work

SURGERY SHOWCASED Neurosurgeon Keyoumars Ashkan re-unites with patient whose operation made headline news

ORGAN DONATION SUCCESS 12 Read about King's status as the leading donor hospital in the UK

GEARING UP TO FUNDRAISE A local Orpington family cycle 1,189 miles in memory of their precious daughter

King's Lung Function Unit celebrates first anniversary

S taff at the Lung Function Unit at King's are marking one year of testing, diagnosing and treating patients in new state-of-the-art facilities.

The clinic space was relocated to a new area of King's College Hospital, and now provides improved ventilation, a brighter environment, and individual rooms for patients and their loved ones.

Tracey Fleming, Respiratory Physiology and Sleep Service Manager, said: "Patients and staff were involved in helping to develop our new Lung Function Department and these brand new facilities have transformed the way we deliver care and treatment.



Above: Tracey Fleming, Respiratory Physiology and Sleep Service Manager, with patient Penny Shelley

"Thanks to our new unit, we've been able to see many more people much more efficiently, significantly reducing waiting list times."

Penny Shelley, who regularly visits for treatment, said: "From when you arrive in the well-lit reception area, to having a private room for tests, it is much improved. The team of course are as friendly and welcoming as always."

For more King's news, visit:

www.kch.nhs.uk

New health record system launches in October

n October 5, King's will be launching its new electronic health record system, known as Epic, which promises to transform the way we deliver care.

Staff at King's currently use a number of different health record systems depending on which service or department they work in, and the launch of Epic will mean staff will need just one login and one system to find the information they need to care for patients.

Work continues at King's, and at Guy's and St Thomas' where Epic is also launching in October, to prepare us for Epic. We are currently training thousands of staff in how to make the most of the many benefits of the new system.

Angel Choy works as a pharmacist at King's and is looking forward to using Epic: "We'll be able to order medications at our fingertips, wherever we are, and send the order directly to dispensary and more importantly, we can make



sure that our patients receive their medication promptly."

We'll be sharing more about the launch of Epic and how it will benefit staff and patients in a future edition of Inside King's.

OUICK

New Willowfield Building officially opened

he new Willowfield **Building at King's** College Hospital has been officially opened by Helen Hayes, MP for Dulwich and West Norwood.

Services have been moving into the new four storey building in phases since last autumn. Willowfield now hosts surgery, urology, pain management, neurology and neurosurgery, therapies, dermatology, rheumatology and respiratory medicine.

At the opening, Helen unveiled a plaque and met with Professor Clive Kay, Trust Chief Executive, and staff based in the building to find out more about the services provided.



Above: Helen Hayes MP cuts the ribbon with Caroline Elston, Site Medical Director for Denmark Hill and Clive Kay, Chief Executive

The 3,450 sq m building is made up of 132 steel-framed modules which allowed it to be constructed in just nine months. The space freed up by services moving to Willowfield will be used to make improvements to the journey of patients requiring assessment or short-term treatment in hospital.

King's shop opens

he Friends of King's Gift Shop at King's College Hospital has bounced back after being closed for almost three years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both the physical shop and mobile trolley shop closed in early 2020 but with the support of a huge number of teams across King's, the shop reopened just before Christmas last year. The shop offers a range of new products and King's merchandise such as teddy bears and greeting cards.



Above: Shop volunteers Hannah and Josephine

The shop is located on the ground floor of Cheyne Wing at King's and is open from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

South London Trusts launch Clean Air Plan



ing's recently published its first ever Clean Air Plan in partnership with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

Currently every single hospital, medical centre and care home in London is located in an area that exceeds the World Health Organisation's guidelines for the concentration of air pollutants.

The three-year plan outlines how air pollution will be addressed, while raising awareness of the issue and ultimately improving the health of patients, staff and local communities.

Key commitments in the 2023-26 plan include expanding ambient air quality monitoring, then targets set to reduce pollution for 2024/25.

The plan is available to read at

Emergency on Channel 4

This summer, you can go behind the scenes with staff from King's College Hospital, as our teams return to TV screens in August in a new series of the Channel 4 documentary *Emergency*.

The series shows the minute-byminute decisions made by NHS staff across the world-leading London Trauma Network, including those based in the Major Trauma Centre at King's.

In this new series of *Emergency*, Channel 4 are given even greater access, with cameras joining London Ambulance Service teams for the first time to see the innovative and life-saving care that can be provided moments after traumatic and life-threatening injuries occur.

Dr Malcolm Tunnicliff, Emergency Medicine Consultant and Clinical Director for Trauma at King's College Hospital said: "It's fantastic to shine a light on the innovative treatment provided here at King's as part of the London Trauma Network. The team are dedicated to going above and beyond to care for patients and their families, so it's great to be able to honour them in this way showing their incredible skill and compassion.



Above: Ibraheim El-Daly, Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon

"I and the whole team are immensely grateful to patients and their families for their kindness in supporting us to film at such an important time in their lives."

From serious road traffic accidents to knife violence and the dangers faced by older people from a simple fall, the programme reveals how NHS staff provide world-leading and compassionate care right the way through to what we all hope will be a successful recovery.

Since 2010, London's Major Trauma Network has established a worldleading reputation for improving survival of the most seriously injured patients led by Major Trauma Centres including here at King's, St Mary's, The Royal London and St George's together with Major Trauma Units, London Ambulance Service and Air Ambulances.

Ibraheim El-Daly, Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon is among members of Team King's who appear in the series. He explained:

"Participating in Emergency was important to show the life-changing decisions we take on a daily basis to help our patients, while also providing a glimpse into the challenges of the job and what it's like working in the NHS.

"I enjoy the fast-paced nature of Orthopaedics – every case requires me to think on my feet, managing risks to successfully alleviate a patient's pain and improve their movement."

Pioneering echocardiologist dies after receiving MBE



Above: Mark receives his MBE from the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London Sir Kenneth Olisa

n esteemed King's professor who led clinical and academic echocardiography at King's for more than three decades has sadly died after receiving an MBE for his services to cardiology.

Prof Mark Monaghan, who had been fighting cancer, was one of the longest serving members of King's until his retirement two years ago. The Cabinet Office agreed to bring Mark's MBE presentation forward due to his illness, and allowed the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London Sir Kenneth Olisa to conduct the ceremony in the garden of Mark's family home. Mark sadly passed away almost three weeks later on the evening of Sunday, June 11, surrounded by his family.

Mark was nominated for his MBF for being the first to use contrast agents to enhance cardiac imaging using ultrasound – a technique that is now used worldwide – as well as co-founding the British Society of Echocardiography, and authoring more than 400 peer-reviewed papers, three books and multiple book chapters.

Mark was also born at King's and it was his uncle, the then Medical Director, who first encouraged him to join the hospital as an 18-year-old trainee in 1973.

Aside from two sabbaticals at Stanford University in California, Mark has spent his entire career at King's, rising to the post of Consultant Clinical Scientist and

Head of Echocardiography by 1990. He served as Director of Non-Invasive Cardiology and also for a time as the Clinical Director for the Cardiac Care Group. He was also made a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and worked closely with the British Heart Foundation and British Cardiovascular Society. Mark mentored countless students. clinicians, echocardiographers and scientists – many who have gone on to distinguished careers themselves around the world.

Mark met his future wife, Frances, at the hospital and they went on to have three sons - all born at King's and christened in the hospital chapel - and four grand-children.

Speaking at his MBE presentation, Mark said: "If I was a stick of rock and you broke me in half it would say 'King's College Hospital' in the middle.

"I don't think anywhere could be as helpful and supportive as King's has been to me. The feeling you get there is that it's a real family; it's such a lovely atmosphere.

"I feel delighted and very honoured [to receive the MBE]. Hopefully this will inspire others, too. My career at King's has been very enjoyable but this has been the icing on the cake."

Celebrating 75 years of the NHS at King's

elebrations took place across the country this summer for the National Health Service's 75th birthday.

We were delighted to join in with the festivities here at King's, with the Brixton Chamber Orchestra providing the soundtrack for the day with performances at King's College Hospital, Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) and Orpington sites, while on the wards, teams held tea parties and took part in a Trust-wide Bake Off competition.

The entrances to our sites also had an NHS 75 makeover, with flags and bunting put up with specially designed birthday branding.

We also officially opened our new King's Academy on the day the NHS marked its 75th birthday. The academy, which will serve as a dedicated training facility for nurses, midwives and allied healthcare professionals, was opened by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh.

The Duchess was given a tour of the new facility by Professor Clive Kay, Chief Executive and Tracey Carter, our Chief Nurse and Executive Director of Midwifery, and saw first-hand the type of training that will take place in the academy.

Thank you to all our staff, patients and communities for helping us to celebrate this milestone birthday for the NHS!



Above: HRH the Duchess of Edinburgh cuts the cake at King's Academy



Above: Baby Matilda, who shared her birthday at the PRUH with the NHS



Above: The front of King's College Hospital was lit up blue to mark NHS 75



Above: Brixton Chamber Orchestra performs at the PRUH



Above: The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit team at King's College Hospital

Centenery of King's Dental School



dental courses.

A series of events were held this summer to mark 100 years since the creation of the King's College Hospital Dental School.

A symposium and four-day Oral Health Promotion Fair were held in July, and a gala dinner will be held in November to mark the day of the centenary.

From its foundation in 1839. King's had a dental department but it wasn't until 1923 when the dental school opened within the footprint of the original King's hospital buildings. The first King's dental school on the Denmark Hill site was opened on 12 November 1923 in the Matthew Whiting Ward



Above: The dental school being constructed in 1963

and consisted of 30 dental chairs, 5 dental students and offered the following paid dental services: scaling and polishing, fillings, dental extractions, dentures and removable orthodontic appliances.

Opposite: The Dental School in the 1960s

The Dentists Act of 1921 limited the practice of dentistry to qualified and registered practitioners and it was this legislation that likely resulted in the establishment of the King's dental school to ensure there wasn't a shortage of dentists and to cater for the increased demand for

The building as we know today was built on the site of St Matthew's church and was opened in May 1966 to accommodate 250 dental students with 80-100 dental chairs for adult/paediatric restorative and 14 dental chairs for orthodontics. The present building has 168 dental chairs and provides both undergraduate and postgraduate dental/oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) training.

The King's dental hospital is the southeast London hub for dental/ facial and craniofacial trauma, the regional hub for orthognathic surgery and provides a service for patients in the main medical hospital which require cardiac and renal/kidney dental assessments or treatments before surgery.

King's Security Officer bounces back after stroke

Opposite: Carlos with the team that saved his life



The longest serving Security Officer at King's College Hospital is back at work following a potentially life-threatening stroke.

Carlos Moonsam, who has worked at King's for more than 30 years, became unwell during a shift in May 2022. While in the security office he tripped on some stairs and lost consciousness. He said: "Out of blue I suddenly lost my balance, and that's all I really remember.

"It came as a huge shock to hear I'd had a stroke. Physical fitness is a big part of my job as a security officer, and I train every day. Stroke was not on my radar."

A brain scan revealed a dangerous blood clot and Carlos, 62, was given

an emergency thrombectomy to surgically remove the blockage and restore blood flow to his brain.

Doctor Naga Kandasamy, Consultant Neuroradiologist at King's, said: "Thrombectomoy is an incredible treatment that can save patients' lives and alleviate the devastating effects a stroke can have. But stroke is a medical emergency, and this treatment needs to be given as quickly as possible. The incredible recovery Carlos has made shows the difference it can make. It's wonderful to see him back at work again."

Dr Thomas Booth, a Consultant Neuroradiologist who helped to treat Carlos, said: "It makes me very pleased to see Carlos doing so well. In the background there was a whole team behind us who helped Carlos, including radiographers, nurses, anaesthetists and the anaesthetic practitioners that support them."

Carlos, from Greenwich, has returned to work full time after his treatment and care from the stroke team at King's. He added: "I'm so grateful to everyone at King's who helped take such good care of me. I wouldn't be here without them, and now I'm back working at the place that helped save my life."

lan Taylor, Head of Security and Helideck Operations at King's, said: "Carlos is our longest serving member of the security team and is highly respected across the Trust. It was a huge shock when Carlos fell ill and I have to admit that we all thought that we may never see Carlos back to work with us again. It is fantastic that Carlos was treated so well and has returned so quickly to the fold, as he has to be one of the kindest and committed individuals I have known."

Consultant Neurosurgeon and patient reunite after world-famous surgery

A patient who played her violin during brain surgery has been reunited with the King's surgeon who removed her tumour.

Professor Keyoumars Ashkan met up with his patient Dagmar Turner after their experience was chosen to be showcased at the Hunterian Museum, located in the Royal College of Surgeons of England building.

Dagmar, a keen violinist since she was a child, was first diagnosed with a slow-growing tumour in 2013 and had a seizure while playing. After undergoing radiotherapy to try and treat the tumour, surgery became necessary when it became more aggressive. However Dagmar only agreed to undergo surgery if her ability to play the violin remained unaffected.

"I am truly honoured, and grateful to Dagmar, to have had the opportunity to perform surgery in this way."

Prof Ashkan

In 2020, Professor Ashkan and his surgical team woke up Dagmar during the operation so that she could play the violin to help surgeons ensure no damage was caused to



Above: Dagmar undergoing surgery – a photo selected as a finalist in the NHS 75 photography competition

the crucial areas of her brain that controlled hand movement.

Their surgical procedure, which was captured on film, will be replayed in a room at the Hunterian Museum with the film interspersed with interview footage of Keyoumars and Dagmar.

Prof Ashkan explained: "Dagmar had expressed it was vital that we preserve her ability to play the violin, and as doctors we're always wanting to advance science to improve the quality of our patients' lives.

"I am truly honoured, and grateful to Dagmar, to have had the opportunity to perform surgery in this way."



Above: Dagmar and Prof Ashkan meet again at the Hunterian Museum

Dagmar said: "Ash is fantastic – I absolutely adore him, he's such a good sport. It's been a long recovery but I'm doing well and recently took part in a three-hour violin rehearsal."

Transplant patients go for gold

Two seriously ill patients have recovered and enjoyed sporting triumph after having life-saving transplants at King's.

Karen Rockell, 68, was diagnosed with a rare auto immune disease and developed liver cancer meaning she required a donor organ. Having undergone a successful liver transplant at King's, Karen travelled to Australia in April this year to represent Great Britain in the World Transplant Games, winning three gold medals, one silver and one bronze in swimming.

A few weeks later in June, she presented one of her medals to Mr Parthi Srinivasan, consultant surgeon at King's, who carried out Karen's liver transplant.

Karen, who lives in Northampton, said: "From the sonographer who spotted the signs of cancer on my annual liver scan, to the team who kept me going while I waited on the transplant register, and to



Above: Karen with Mr Parthi Srinivasan, who carried out her transplant

Mr Parthi Srinivasan who carried out my life saving surgery, I've been lucky to have benefited from incredible care and treatment from the team at King's. I can never say thank you enough.

"As a way of giving back to King's, and the broader transplant community, I am Co-Director of the UK Organ Donation and Transplantation Research Network. I have also teamed up with two other people to set up a LISTEN patient public involvement and engagement group to support research at King's. "I also owe everything to my donor and their family: I would not be here without their gift of life."

Mr Parthi Srinivasan said: "Karen's medal was the most touching gift I have received from a patient throughout my career, and I will take good care of it for her. It has been a privilege to see Karen go from strength to strength after her surgery, and we'd all like to congratulate her on a fantastic performance at the World Transplant Games."

Mr Srinivasan added: "Karen is a great example of the life-changing impact of organ donation. We are able to save lives through the kindness and generosity of our patients and families who prevent another family from facing the loss of a loved one."

Another King's patient who went on to sporting success post-transplant is Andy Taylor from Watford. The 57-year-old won a silver medal for Team GB at the 2023 World Transplant Games in Australia and is currently in training to take part in the 2025 games in Dresden.

"I will never forget the moment the call came. When I woke from 12 hours of surgery, I was so grateful to my donor, their family, and the amazing team at King's who transformed my life."

Andy Taylor



Above: Andy with his silver medal at the World Transplant Games

"My father was an international athlete and kidney transplant recipient, and I always saw playing sport as an important part of my recovery," he explained.

"But in those early days after transplant surgery, learning to walk again was my biggest challenge. Gradually I built my strength back up, and I felt I was ready to follow in my father's footsteps and take on the World Transplant Games." Andy has Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD), a hereditary condition which can lead to kidney failure. He spent two years on dialysis before getting a call from King's to come in for a kidney and liver transplant seven years ago.

Andy, a father of two, said: "I will never forget the moment the call came. When I woke from 12 hours of surgery, I was so grateful to my donor, their family, and the amazing team at King's who transformed my life." Andy competed in his first British
Transplant Games in 2019, winning
gold in the men's doubles badminton
and silver in men's table tennis. He has
since further competed in the British
Transplant Games and the European
Transplant Games in 2022, and this
year he achieved a silver medal at
the World Transplant Games, along
with his badminton doubles partner
and fellow kidney transplant recipient
Vincent Mayne.

Andy's next goal is the World Transplant Games in Dresden in 2025. He said: "You have to have a positive mindset, and I'm determined to do everything I can to honour the memory of my donor. Their amazing gifts and generosity transformed my life! I encourage everyone to discuss their organ donation wishes with their friends and loved ones. Your family won't know how you feel about organ donation unless you talk about it."

The latest figures from NHS Blood and Transplant show that 46 patients donated their organs after death at King's last year (April 2022-March 2023), which is more than any other Trust in the whole of the UK. A team of specialist nurses in organ donation based at King's help to make sure organ donation conversations are a part of end-of-life care, saving and transforming the lives of other patients.

Find out more by visiting NHS Organ Donor Register at <a> www.organdonation.nhs.uk where you can sign up as an organ donor and share your decision with your family.

Pedalling towards better care



Above: Team Dobson at the London Landmarks Half Marathon

local family from Orpington cycled 1,189 miles in June, raising money for King's College Hospital Charity. They cycled in memory of their beloved daughter Evelyn, who tragically and unexpectedly passed away at just 11 days old. Funds raised will go towards improving hospital accommodation for parents of seriously ill children at King's.

As part of their incredible fundraising efforts to honour the memory of their beautiful daughter, Evelyn, the Dobsons took on a gruelling cycling challenge, traversing the length of the UK,

from Land's End in Cornwall to John O'Groats in Scotland.

The cycle was the last in an impressive string of fundraising challenges and events put on by the Dobsons, who are raising money for the parents' accommodation in the Paediatric Critical Care Unit at King's College Hospital, where they spent three days when their daughter Evelyn was critically unwell. So far, the team have raised £37,500.

It is a cause close to the Dobsons' heart. On 9 September 2021, their beautiful daughter Evelyn, was born in the early hours of the morning.

Initially things seemed fine and the family were allowed to go home to start their life as a family of four. Sadly, things took a turn for the worse when her parents Alexandra and Jonathan noticed something was wrong less than 24 hours later. Evelyn was quickly admitted back to hospital for further testing.

For nearly a week, a dedicated team of consultants, doctors and nurses carried out a number of tests to try and find out what was wrong. On Saturday, 18 September, it was discovered that something was seriously wrong with her liver, and Evelyn was rushed to King's, where the nurses and doctors did everything they could to save her.

During these days, Alexandra and Jonathan's hearts shattered as they tried to come to terms with what was happening to them and their beautiful baby. Despite the tireless work of the amazing nurses and doctors, Evelyn's heart stopped on the afternoon of the 20 September, and tragically, she passed away.

Determined to turn their grief into a lasting legacy, the Dobsons have channelled all their energy into fundraising for a much-needed refurbishment of the parents' rooms for critically ill children at King's.

IN DEPTH

Alexandra said:

"There is absolutely nothing that can prepare you for the news that you are going to leave hospital without your little girl. While we know more families will tragically experience the heartbreak we endured, and we can't prevent that, we can help to make that experience a little bit more bearable."

On-site accommodation can make a huge difference for parents whose needs can be so often neglected. The long hours spent at the bedside and stress-induced lack of appetite pose a very real risk of parents breaking down from exhaustion. While Alexandra and Jonathan were grateful for having somewhere to stay, only minutes away from their daughter's bedside, they noticed changes that could be made that would make a dramatic improvement to their overall experience.

In the midst of such a traumatic event, thinking of simple things, like having a double bed for parents to share rather than two single ones, and a table and chairs to eat dinner on, can go such a long way in reducing the burden that parents face.

Alexandra said:

"When you are in the darkest moments of your life, the last thing you need is to be in an environment that makes everything more difficult. All we wanted was to be able to step into a soothing and practical space,



Above: Evelyn meeting her older brother Samuel

"There is absolutely nothing that can prepare you for the news that you are going to leave hospital without your little girl..."

Alexandra

away from the constant bleeping of the wards, so we could at least process what was happening to us in comfort. While the staff at King's are just incredible, the parents' accommodation really needs upgrading."

Alexandra and Jonathan were unable to do anything to save

Evelyn, but they are choosing to do something great in her memory.

Jonathan said: "We want to do something that helps parents like us, who are in the worst possible situation. While we experienced first-hand what truly incredible work the staff at King's do, working around the clock and doing everything they possibly can for their patients, there are definitely improvements that can be made in terms of hospital facilities."

It is hoped that the funds raised by the Dobsons will be able to completely refurbish three hospital accommodation rooms at King's, providing safe spaces to parents and carers. A place where they can escape the stressful and overwhelming hospital environment, providing a quiet space for much-needed rest. Parents will have somewhere comfortable, clean and calming to look after their wellbeing, in the knowledge that their child is just moments away. The Dobsons hope these rooms will act as a lifeline during the most worrying of times for many families.

Every mile pedalled will have contributed towards investing in better environments, which are a vital part of delivering outstanding care.

Please show your support and help the Dobsons reach their fundraising target to help more families going through the unimaginable

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/forevelynrose

