

INFO VIEWPOINT

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Colney Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR47UY Tel: 01603 286286 www.nnuh.nhs.uk

· Hospital Radio Norwich

To request a song or a bedside visit, call 01603 454585 or from your Hospedia bedside unit dial *800

• Main Restaurant - West Atrium Level 1

Open daily from 8am - 1am

• Café Bar - Outpatients East

Open Monday to Friday from 7.30am - 4.30pm

• Coffee House - Plaza (West)

Open Monday to Friday from 7am - 6.30pm, Saturday 9am - 4.30pm, Sunday 9am - 3.30pm

• Little Costa - Outpatients West

Open Monday to Friday from 7am - 6pm

•POD - Plaza Fast

Open Monday to Friday from 7am - 8pm, Saturday 9am - 6pm • WRVS shop - Fast Atrium

Monday to Friday 8am - 8pm and weekends 10am - 6pm

•WH Smith, M&S Food - Plaza (West)

Open Monday to Friday 7am - 7pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm and Sunday 9am - 4pm

•The Stock Shop - West Atrium Level 2

Open Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 3.30pm

· Cash Machines

East Atrium, Level 2, WH Smith and the Restaurant

Lost property

Call 01603 286803 or ext 2803

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

For confidential help and advice call 01603 289036

Chapel

Open to all. For details of services or to contact the Chaplains call

Cromer Hospital

Mill Road, Cromer, NR27 0BQ.Tel: 01603 646200

• Cotman Centre, Norwich Research Park: Cellular Pathology, Radiology Academy

- Innovation Centre, Norwich Research Park: Microbiology
- Francis Centre, Bowthorpe Industrial Estate, Norwich NR5 9JA, ext. 4652: Health Records

 $\bullet \, \text{Norwich Community Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich NR2} \\$

•20 Rouen Road, Norwich, NR1 1QQ, ext. 6954

THE PULSE

Editorial Team 01603 289821 ext. 5821

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Letters

Dear Chief Executive.

I was recently sent a questionnaire regarding my emergency treatment and diagnosis at Norfolk and Norwich hospital, which I have duly returned with the highest possible ratings I could give.

I would like to give special thanks to everyone involved in my treatment, from the ambulance crew who carried out a thorough initial examination to reassure me that my problem wasn't life threatening, to all the hospital staff involved during my stay, with particular thanks to Dr. Shah, who treated me with the care and patience beyond anything that I would have expected with so



many patients to treat in such a busy place.

One hears so much criticism of the NHS, but from my experience I can only say that it couldn't possibly be faulted at Norfolk and Norwich hospital and would be grateful if you could pass on to your staff my thanks for their complete commitment to patients under their care.

in y f

@NNUH thank you to all the team

that helped last few days with my

Sandeep in urgent care, all the staff

nurses in emergency assessment, all

the porters, teams in scan, everyone

in Coltishall Ward. I couldn't have

asked for better care. Thank you all.

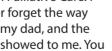
to you all for looking after him for us.

emergency surgery. Charlie & Dr

My regards, Ralph Roberts

Social media @NNUH

Where do I start!? The staff on Kilverstone Ward went above and beyond for the time my dad stayed on the ward. He died peacefully and with dignity and was cared for in the most amazing way. Big thanks to Steph, Chloe, Becky, Danika, Beth Lane, Mark(who made the tea), Dr Williams, Dr S Gilbert and Gibley, Dr Rupert(I don't know his surname), Marjorie, Anna, Victoria, Laura, and others whose names I may have missed, and Lorna and Matt from Palliative Care. I will never ever forget the way you cared for my dad, and the kindness you showed to me. You made me tea, gave me hugs and reassured me. Thank you so much



We're so delighted to have Dad back home after 10 days in @NNUH The staff on Dilham ward have been wonderfully caring. Massive thank you

Dani on Facebook

Lisa on Twitter

Anita on Twitter

Please send your contributions, comments and suggestions to communications@nnuh.nhs.uk or write to Communications, NNUH, Colney Lane, Norwich, NR4 7UY

Fundraiser's legacy helps to launch new epilepsy service at NNUH



A new facility to support in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy has been launched at NNUH following a donation of £130,000. The donation formed the legacy of Malcolm Porter, a dedicated fundraiser and campaigner for epilepsy support from Acle. Although having never suffered from epilepsy himself, Mr Porter was committed to raising awareness of epilepsy, having seen the issues faced by colleagues during his working life in the building trade.

Over a thirty year period, with support from family, friends, supporters and local groups, Malcolm coordinated a variety of fundraising events including carnivals, raffles and concerts in aid of the Appeal. When Malcolm passed away at the end of 2012, the total raised by the appeal stood at more than £130,000. Funds from the legacy have been used to establish a dedicated unit with video telemetry technology, within the NNUH Neurosciences facility. Video Telemetry (VT), through the use of an EEG (electroencephalogram), enables clinicians to monitor patients who have been diagnosed with epilepsy or who have a potential diagnosis of epilepsy during an inpatient stay. For a patient, this means being connected via scalp electrodes to a computerized monitoring system and within view of a video camera. These electrodes are able to record information on a patient's brain

activity which can then be analysed by a clinical team.

The introduction of the VT unit will have significant benefits for patients, providing convenient access to dedicated care closer to home. Prior to the introduction of the NNUH service, it would have been necessary for patients to travel outside the region or to London for this type of specialist monitoring.

Dr Jeff Cochius, NNUH Consultant Neurologist, said: "We're delighted to be bringing video telemetry to Norfolk, providing patients with a dedicated space with the most advanced technology, to help better understand or manage their condition.

"Mr Porter was the driving force behind a huge fundraising effort to bring state of the art treatments to epilepsy sufferers; our sincere and grateful thanks go to him, his family and local supporters for enabling the introduction of this new service." Julie Porter, Malcolm's Porter's daughter, said: "I know that my Dad would be thrilled to see his efforts come together to introduce this exciting new service at NNUH. He was committed to ensuring that the money raised provided direct benefits for people with epilepsy, and I can't think of a more fitting way to use his legacy.

"As a very proud Norfolk man, he would have been so pleased to be part of introducing something which will benefit many Norfolk people."



Since joining the Trust in October I have visited a number of departments and wards, and have had a warm welcome from everyone. I have been impressed by all the staff and volunteers I have met and the care and commitment they give to our patients every day.

So I was delighted to have the pleasure of attending the Staff Awards, a fantastic annual event which celebrates our staff and volunteers. The award entries were amazing and were all examples of staff and volunteers at our hospitals going the extra mile for patients with their kindness, compassion and superb professionalism.

We also recognised colleagues who have worked for the Trust for 25 and 40 years, contributing decades of incredible service to the NHS and our hospitals - an achievement we can all respect and admire.

I would also like to thank every member of staff and each volunteer for the kindness and care that they give to our patients every day.

I'm sure you will enjoy reading about the Staff Awards winners on pages 6 to 12 as much as I have.

> Sam Higginson **Chief Executive** Norfolk and Norwich **University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

FUNDRAISING NEWS TRUST NEWS

Boudicca Appeal reaches almost 250k on anniversary

A woman who was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year has urged everyone to back the Boudicca Breast Cancer Appeal to create a new breast cancer unit at the hospital.

Maria Carroll, from Sprowston in Norwich, was seen just days after finding a breast lump in May this year and was fortunate to be able to have her diagnostic tests on the same day. Now, as the N&N Hospitals Charity marks the appeal's one-year anniversary, 33-year-old Maria has given her support to the Boudicca Appeal to create the unit which would mean all patients receive the same-day diagnosis service.

The charity launched the appeal last October, and thanks to donations from individuals and organisations, it has now reached almost £250,000.

The new equipment includes a Stereotactic mammography system which uses low-dose x-rays to help locate a breast abnormality and remove a tissue and is less invasive than surgical biopsy.

The appeal aims to raise £800,000 to create the unit where patients can have the necessary images taken, undergo a biopsy and see their consultant in one appointment. Currently, not all patients are





Anyone who would like to find out more can call the N&N Hospitals Charity on 01603 287107, visit www.nnuh.org. uk or donate directly at www. justgiving.com/campaign/ boudicca provided with this same-day diagnosis service because of limited capacity in the existing unit.

Professor Erika Denton, NNUH
Medical Director, said: "We have a
very skilled team supporting our
breast cancer patients every step
of the way. The Boudicca Appeal
is enhancing the care they can
provide by expanding our facilities
and enabling new equipment to be
purchased. It is gratifying to see the
level of support we have received
from the local community and how it
is benefiting our services."

Head of Fundraising, Louise Cook said: "We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Norfolk. We have met some amazing fundraisers who have done so much to raise money for this appeal.

"We have had charity walks, fundraising balls, cake sales, raft races, fashion shows, abseils, fetes, car washes and everything in between – if it can be done, our amazing fundraisers have done it.

"As we enter our second year, we can't wait to see what ideas our fundraisers come up with. Please consider supporting us, or getting your workplace to choose us as their charity for the year.





Norfolk & Norwich Hospitals Charity





Maria Carroll, right, and friend Janet Howard are supporting the Boudicca Appeal.

Maria's story

When Maria Carroll found a lump in her breast in May 2019, she was only too aware of the importance of getting it checked out quickly. Her nan had breast cancer so Maria knew to regularly check for lumps and other breast changes.

The 33-year-old from Sprowston saw her GP and a few days later she was at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital where she saw Consultant Simon Pain and underwent a mammogram and biopsy, which confirmed the cancer.

Maria said: "In my head and deep down I thought 'it is cancer' but you try and stay positive. I saw Mr Pain straight away, had the mammogram then biopsy, I was lucky to have it all. Had I needed to wait for the tests, I would have been more anxious."

"I have had four lots of chemotherapy following which the tumour had really shrunk then I had the mastectomy and reconstruction at the beginning of September. I will have more chemotherapy and hopefully that will be the end of the treatment. The cancer was Grade 3 but fortunately hadn't spread to the lymph nodes.

"Not everyone is fortunate to get seen as quickly as I did and get all the appointments through as quickly as I did and the wait must be horrible.

"This is why we are supporting the Boudicca Appeal and hope that everyone can be seen quickly."

Norfolk and Norwich Liver Group donates specialist equipment



The Norfolk and Norwich Liver Group and NNUH staff with the new liver scanner.

The Norfolk and Norwich Liver Group has raised a total of £205,000 towards three sets of equipment used for the early detection of liver disease at NNUH over the past seven years. The latest donation has enabled the hospital to purchase a third Fibroscanner machine which has boosted the number of liver-based research trials, helping to improve patient care.

Dr Simon Rushbrook, Consultant Hepatologist, is part of a team of five specialists who treat patients with liver disease, with a further consultant due to join next year. Dr Rushbrook said: The fibroscanner enables us to check for liver scarring in a non-invasive way. Without the need for a biopsy, we can detect a problem before patients notice any symptoms.

"The equipment vibrates the liver and we can tell from the readings whether the liver is healthy, whether there is mild scarring or more serious scarring, known as cirrhosis of the liver, which stops the liver performing properly and can be life threatening. Early identification of a liver problem can help us to avoid complications or enable the patient to make lifestyle changes which can help.

"We would like to thank the Liver Group from the bottom of our hearts for all their hard work and commitment."

Bill Dingle, from the Norfolk and Norwich Liver Group, said: "Liver diseases are on the increase but thank goodness we have at this hospital, a gold standard delivery of liver services, so we knew that the Fibroscan 430 mini plus costing £77,000 would be put to good use benefiting local people.

"Our group has worked ceaselessly to reach this target and we would like to say thank you to all those groups who have offered their support."

Dates for your diary

Trust Board meetings

Wednesday 5th February 2020 Wednesday 1st April 2020

Council of Governor meetings

Thursday 13 February 2020 Thursday 2 April 2020

If you wish to attend one of the above meetings, please email **communications@nnuh.nhs.uk**

World Cancer Day

Tuesday 4 February 2020

Experts will give a range of talks for the public in the Benjamin Gooch Lecture Theatre to mark World Cancer Day. For more information, visit www.nnuh.nhs.uk

Dementia Advice and Information Fayre

The fourth NNUH Dementia Information and Advice Fayre will take place between 10am and 4pm on Monday 4 May 2020 on level 1 of the East Atrium.

Thank you to...

Patient Jack Parker and his wife Angie Parker for raising £2,000 for our skin cancer research fund through a live music event and raffle held at the Pentney Country Club.













Staff Awards 2019

Thirty individuals and 16 teams from NNUH were recognised for their outstanding efforts and achievements at our Staff Awards, held at OPEN in Norwich on 9 November, with guest host Jonathan Wills from ITV News Anglia. Patients and colleagues nominated employees and volunteers and you can read about the winners in the following pages, including our long service award recipients.



Recipients of the 40 years' service award line up for the camera.



The Partnership Award winners: The Aylsham Discharge Suite.

Partnership Award

This award goes to either a Trust or service provider, team or individual, who has offered the most outstanding support to their colleagues. WINNER: Aylsham Discharge Suite
The Aylsham Discharge Suite opened
at the beginning of the year with
a brand new team who possess
complimentary skills and abilities to

support a high standard of service delivery. Since opening, the team has demonstrated resilience and enthusiasm in developing an amazing cohesive and caring team.

Apprentice of the Year



WINNER (CLINICAL):

Eleanor Lovett, HCA, Coltishall Ward, pictured left with Paul Jones, Chief People Officer.

WINNER (NON-CLINICAL)

Shana MacDonald, Patient Focused Booking Clerk, Neurology, pictured right.

Ellie has gone above and beyond to help staff with anything required. She has consistently shown a dedicated and positive attitude towards her work within the department and also to studying and achieving her NVQ, balancing the two workloads appropriately.

Shana was one of the most hardworking apprentices we have had in the department. She absorbed information and learning and put it to good use.

She is helpful to all staff, actively seeks out jobs to help, is lovely with patients, and was an all round good role model for young people joining the Trust.

Team of the Year



This award celebrates outstanding teamwork that really makes a difference to patients. **WINNER:** Endoscopy, pictured above **FINALISTS:** PPCI Team, pictured top right, and The Thomas Browne Library

Team, pictured bottom right.

Endoscopy underwent a major move to the Quadram Institute (QI) in December 2018.

The move was smooth and seamless due to the hard work and dedication from all staff working in Endoscopy, without everyone pulling together





as a team this would not have been possible. Each and every team member has been fantastic and contributed to the huge success of the opening of the QI and the continued running of the therapeutic services at the NNUH.

Employee of the Year





This award goes to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Trust life, making a difference to the lives of patients and colleagues.

WINNER: Vicki Currie, Lead Clinical Scientist, main picture with Chief Nurse Professor Nancy Fontaine. SILVER AWARD: Helen Copsey, Motor



Neurone Disease, Care and Research Network Co-ordinator, pictured top left and Erica Everitt, Tracheostomy Specialist Practitioner, pictured bottom left.

Vicki has had an extremely challenging 18 months at work, introducing a "world first" Bravos

brachytherapy afterloader. Whilst doing this she simultaneously managed the development of new treatment techniques, keeps her eye on the safety of the treatment planning system and somehow still finds time to perform numerous little gestures to the benefit of those around her.



Ward of the Year

This award recognises the inpatient ward which has consistently delivered high quality care to its patients.

WINNER: Cringleford Ward, pictured above.

SILVER AWARD: NICU, pictured right

Since their move in November 2018, the Cringleford team has developed into a well organised, highly motivated and high achieving ward. The reduction in elective orthopaedic beds has proved challenging, but their drive and determination to ensure all beds are used as efficiently as possible has led to some new and innovative ways of working. Their focus on quality



and patient safety has also seen the inception of a newly imagined "safety huddle" which helps identify any patients at risk, in a ward where the number of side rooms make this

Special Award for Outstanding Contribution to our Hospitals



WINNER: Infection Prevention and Control Team, pictured left with Professor Nancy Fontaine, Chief Nurse.

The team has made a tremendous effort over the last year, ensuring the Trust received a green rating for infection prevention and control from our regulator. This expert team works right across the organisation, managing difficult issues, sharing their expertise and motivating staff. Our patients feel the benefit of their actions every day through an improved environment and low levels of hospital acquired infections.

Unsung Hero - Non-clinical

This award is for those working in a non-clinical role who deserve recognition for their exceptional service, reliability and adaptability.

It is sponsored by Dave Batchelor, whose late wife, Denise Batchelor, was a medical secretary for 19 years.

WINNER: Ed Aldus, Deputy Divisional Operational Manager, Emergency Department.

SILVER AWARD: Jamie Allison, Apprenticeship Administrator, and Mark Wall, Workforce Information Analyst.

Ed works relentlessly and tirelessly for the whole department and staff alike. The Emergency Department is an exceptionally busy and stressful area and there are so many problems to face, but he does this calmly with a smile. The department is a better place because of him.







Above: award winner Ed Aldus with Dave Batchelor. Far left: Mark Wall and, left, Jamie Allison.

Unsung Hero - Clinical





Rob England



Aaron Hyland

This award is for those working in a clinical role who deserve recognition for exceptional service, reliability and adaptability.

WINNER: Niall Pearcey, Resuscitation Officer, pictured far left with Chief People Officer Paul Jones. SILVER AWARD: Rob England, Theatre Support Worker and Aaron Hyland, Radiology Department Assistant, Cromer Hospital.

Niall has been a champion of patient safety. He is a good teacher who encourages learning and is very supportive.

Niall is calm and approachable, always going the extra mile to help. He is very deserving of this award and our patients are safer because of him!







Left: Hugh Darrah with Chief People Officer Paul Jones. Ralph Richley pictured top and Jacky Pond pictured bottom.

Volunteer of the Year

More than 700 volunteers contribute immensely to our hospitals. This award recognises those who have made an exceptional contribution to their teams or shown dedication and commitment.

WINNER: Hugh Darrah.
SILVER AWARD: Jacky Pond and
Ralph Richley.

Hugh is a wonderful person, he volunteers on the ward three

times a week. He is a fun, bubbly hardworking character who brings happiness to both staff and patients. He works extremely hard at keeping the ward tidy and will not stop till his job is done properly.

Volunteer Team of the Year



WINNER: The Radiology Volunteer team, pictured above with Chief People Officer Paul Jones. SILVER AWARD: The Cromer Hospital Vounteer team, pictured right. Our team of Radiology Volunteers help with the flow of patients, keeping things moving during very busy clinics. They are invaluable members of our team and we appreciate their help immensely.





Leadership Award

This award is for an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership.

WINNER: Carrie Nolan, Administration Manager, Rheumatology. SILVER AWARD: Jon Harrowven, Senior Operational Manager and Carrie is selfless in her support of staff and always has a view of where her department is going and how to steer the ship to get there.

She is particularly brilliant at balancing lots of daily demands and somehow she manages to bring the ducks into a row and swim nicely forward together.





Left: award winner Carrie Nolan with Sam Higginson, Chief Executive. Above: finalists Jon Harrowven (top) and Katie Symonds (bottom).

Edith Cavell Award

Katie Symonds, Respiratory Matron.

WINNER: Rachael Cocker, Nurse Director for the Emergency Department.

Rachael is calm, professional and non-judgemental in all her actions yet it is continuously evident that the patient is paramount in every thought she makes and decision she takes. Rachael is a visible presence in the Emergency Department, ensuring that patients are safe and staff are happy and she extends this beyond the weekly staff "open hour" she holds, often popping on an apron and gloves to help with tasks around the department.

Taking up a leadership post in an area you are not familiar with is something that Rachael has taken in



her stride – her altruistic nature and organised manner are characteristics that many nurses would do well to adopt – if the ED nursing team can be influenced by, and learn from, her example, then we are closer on our #journeytooutstanding than we realise.

Clinical Teacher of the Year

WINNER: Katy Errington, Biomedical Scientist.

SILVER AWARD: Dr Jean Mackay, MRCP Tutor and Mr Peter Tassone, Consultant in ENT.

I have worked with Katy for nearly twenty years and have always found her the most dependable, dedicated and enthusiastic worker I have ever met. She is a wonderful trainer and mentor to staff and is so generous in her time which she readily gives to others.







Above: award winner Katy Errington with Erika Denton, Medical Director. Far left: finalist Peter Tassone and left Jean Mackay.

Research Award

WINNER: Dr Paul Clarke and NICU research team
SILVER AWARD: Clinical Research and Trials Unit

The work of Dr Clarke and his team is invaluable. They are constantly taking on new studies with premature babies which ultimately will help with medical research for the future. They all work incredibly hard to accumulate, assess and submit cases, and reports for the studies to complete their work.





Above: award winner Dr Paul Clarke and NICU research team, pictured with Medical Director Erika Denton. Left: Silver Award winners the Clinical Research and Trials Unit

Patient Choice Award - Individual

This award is backed by the Eastern Daily Press. Patients were invited to nominate a member of staff who has "gone the extra mile" to care for them. These awards were presented by NNUH governors Jane Scarfe and Erica Betts.

WINNER: Kari Kordtomeikel, Bereavement Midwife. SILVER AWARD: Dr Alex Glover, Doctor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Charmaine Grapes, Healthcare Assistant.

Kari's nomination read: "Kari supported us when our son was stillborn. Her care and attention was outstanding and she supported us with the best knowledge, care and compassion. Every family I speak to echoes the same sentiment - she always makes us feel like the most important people in her day and that nothing is too much trouble."







Top, Kari Kordtomeikel, left, Dr Alex Glover and right, Charmaine Grapes.

Patient Choice Award - Team

This award is backed by the Eastern Daily Press. Patients were invited to nominate a team who have "gone the extra mile" to care for them. These awards were presented by NNUH governors Jane Scarfe and Erica Betts.

WINNER: Dilham Ward. **SILVER AWARD:** Kilverstone Ward and the Breast Oncology team.

Dilham's nomination from a patient said: "I have had four stays on Dilham Ward and each time the staff were very friendly, helpful and caring. "They spent time listening to any worries and concerns and helped me on all occasions to recover from my major operations."

"I am very grateful for all the care they have provided."







Left: Dilham Ward, top right, Breast Oncology and right Kilverstone Ward

Fundraising Awards



Lewis Weatherburn.

Our staff are our greatest supporters and often go above and beyond the call of duty to raise money for the hospital charity as well as performing their own jobs. In 2019, we are celebrating our staff fundraisers as part of the Staff Awards for the first time. Our winners were presented with their awards by Sam Higginson, NNUH Chief Executive.



Megan Frosdick.



Dr Sarah Knapp.



Dr Aravind Shastri.



Breast Care team.

Lifetime Achievement Award







Top: Anne Clark, middle, Debbie Laws and bottom, Jo Walmsley.

WINNERS

Anne Clark, Deputy Occupational Therapy Services Manager

Anne's nominations read: "Anne is hugely respected by the whole Therapies departments and is such a big role model for so many of us. Anne is incredibly supportive, whilst also being questioning and challenging. She sets incredibly high standards for herself and expects us all to do the same, to provide the best patient care that we can. Anne has mentored and inspired generations of occupational therapists and we all thank her for that. She has always gone above and beyond for her patients and now for her staff. She rarely leaves on time and is always at the end of a phone. Anne is the epitome of the PRIDE values and we are very lucky to have her!"

Debbie Laws, Emergency Planning, Resilience and Response Lead "Debbie has a long and varied career in the Trust and she is always proudly

"Debbie has a long and varied career in the Trust and she is always proudly a nurse before anything else. Her impact on the organisation over the years has been significant. Debbie progressed to acting as Lead in the Operations Centre, assisting the teams through a variety of significant operational pressures. More recently Debbie's skills have been applied to leading the Emergency Planning and Business Continuity in the Trust. Her knowledge and application of this is incredible and she has guided the Trust through a number of critical incidents, always remaining calm and professional. With Debbie's pending retirement in 2020 this seems like a perfect opportunity to recognise a lifetime of significant achievement."

Jo Walmsley, Senior Operational Manager

"I nominate Jo after observing her for 24 years and being inspired and impressed by her dedication and professionalism. When Jo was working as a nurse, she always went the extra mile to make patients feel safe. She made time to answer questions, have a supportive chat, allay our fears. As an operations manager, she shows the same qualities as in her clinical role. She is a rock solid colleague; hard working, collaborative, dedicated, kind and self-deprecating. She is a safe pair of hands and I can think of no other Trust employee whom I'd prefer by my side in a crisis."

Cromer Hospital receives £1m from Norfolk farmer's legacy

The generosity of a Norfolk farmer is set to improve health services in North Norfolk after Cromer Hospital received one of its biggest ever donations.

The family of Douglas de Bootman presented a cheque of more than £1m to the N&N Hospitals Charity after the retired farmer left the proceeds of his estate to Cromer Hospital in his will.

Mr de Bootman spent his life farming at Pentney, near Swaffham, before retiring and buying Church Farm in Thursford with his wife Janet.

After Janet died of cancer in 2010, Mr de Bootman continued to live in Thursford and spent much of his time looking after the grounds of his farm and discovered his love of painting.

The 88-year-old died in March 2018 following a short illness.

His niece Karen Ballard, from King's Lynn, said her uncle liked helping others and he revealed to her a week before his death that he was leaving his legacy to benefit Cromer Hospital.

"He was very active in his retirement up until three or four weeks before he died," she said.

"He had quite a lot of land and used to get up early in the mornings and spent his time taking care of the grounds: cutting the grass, pruning the trees, chopping wood etc. He was very skilled at carpentry, welding, and agricultural engineering. He loved being outside with his Labrador and in his retirement took up painting, which it seems he had a natural skill.

"He was such a quiet, sensitive gentleman. He and Janet enjoyed a few holidays in Scotland. My uncle liked a quiet life, in Thursford he had a few elderly neighbours who he liked to help and vice versa.

"We are happy that the money is going to the new cancer unit at Cromer Hospital as cancer affects so many people in many ways."

The sale of Mr de Bootman's estate has resulted in Cromer Hospital receiving £1,078,519.30. Following the donation, the garden at Cromer Hospital will be named the de Bootman garden.

The Trust is currently working with Macmillan Cancer Support to create a state-of-the-art cancer care and support centre, which will increase



Douglas de Bootman

chemotherapy and treatment space at Cromer Hospital.

Louise Cook, Head of Fundraising for the N&N Hospitals Charity, said: "We are overwhelmed by this incredibly generous donation, which will make a significant difference to thousands of patients in North Norfolk.

"Mr de Bootman's legacy will undoubtedly help improve the facilities and services at the hospital and will be felt by patients, staff and visitors for many years to come."



Cancer Manager Matt Keeling (left) and Cromer Matron Anita Martins (right) receive a cheque on behalf of Cromer Hospital from Pat de Bootman and Karen Ballard, sister-in-law and niece of Mr de Bootman.