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Subject: North Sector Newsletter - December 2024



December 2024

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Message from Neil McCallum



As we near the end of 2024, along with the Senior Leadership like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all of you who have brought its fair share of challenges for all of us, but your dedication, compassion, and resilience have shone through every step of the way. We will continue to make a real difference in the lives of our patients and staff, and for that, we thank you wholeheartedly.

During the winter months, we all know we face a period of significant challenges. It's always a challenging time in healthcare, and this year is no exception. However, we are confident in the plans we've made and in the strength of our team. It's your commitment and professionalism that ensure we meet the demands, but we also want to emphasise the importance of looking after yourselves and one another. Your wellbeing is really important, so please continue to prioritise the support you need to navigate this busy period.

Looking forward to 2025 from a personal perspective, I feel optimistic about what lies ahead. There will, of course, be ongoing challenges, but there will also be opportunities to innovate, grow, and improve the way we work. My focus remains on creating an environment where every member of our team feels valued, supported, and equipped to thrive.

Thank you for everything you have done throughout this year. Your dedication, compassion, and teamwork have been extraordinary. I have seen great things before, but it is worth repeating. I am incredibly proud of every member of Team North.

As we move forward, let's continue to build on that strong foundation and shape the future with confidence and care. We bring the best of ourselves to work every day and that is something special.

I hope you manage to get some time over the festive period to spend with those dear to you and to relax. You deserve it.



Ward 30 - Older People Service & Stroke Wards



Ward 70 - Surgical Specialties, Theatres, Critical Care and Anaes



Ward 46 - Medical Receiving Wards

Members of staff across the North Sector helped spread the festive spirit as they competed to be crowned best decorated Christmas ward.

The competition takes place every December and, yet again, the staff went over and above.

The winners from each service this year were:

- Ward 30 - Older People Service & Stroke Wards
- Ward 70 - Surgical Specialties, Theatres, Critical Care Wards
- Ward 46 - Medical Receiving Wards
- Ward 3 - Medical Specialties, Gastro and Endoscopy.

After an in-depth judging process, Ward 3 of the Medical Specialties and Endoscopy took the title as best decorated ward for 2024.

Well done the Medical Specialties, Gastro and Endoscopy team!



Ward 3 - Medical Specialties, Gastro and Endoscopy

Rejects MMC Glasgow raise £1,500 for GRI Str



Patients within the Glasgow Royal Infirmary stroke ward have received a Christmas gift thanks to members of the Rejects MMC Glasgow. Members of the motorcycle club started raising funds with a target of £1,000, which ended up with an incredible total of £1,500.

The funds have been used to buy two televisions with wheels for the stroke wards and several presents for patients to make their stay in hospital more comfortable.

Scott MacKay, an Occupational Therapist Assistant Practitioner at the Royal Infirmary Services, was one of the members raising funds alongside James MacKay.

Scott said, "We wanted to raise funds to give patients a gift at Christmas to let them know that at this time of the year, there are people out there thinking about them."

"We have chosen the stroke wards, as many of our members and their families in Glasgow have been affected by stroke, either themselves or someone in their family. We know how devastating it can be."

"We have also seen how it can affect patients' moods, and we thought we will give them a bit of cheer and encourage them to continue with their recovery journey."



The target of £400 was met within just the first week, so the group pushed themselves further. It also meant Scott had to keep a unique promise.

“During November, we chose to grow goatees, beards, etc. We promised I would dye his beard blue if people kept donating. They did, so I kept my word and dyed my beard blue!”

The Rejects MMC Glasgow visited the GRI last week as they prepared gifts for patients before Christmas.

“We are so proud of our accomplishments” added Scott. “We really couldn’t have reached our target. We are also proud of the support we received throughout our fundraising. Everyone has been so generous. We couldn’t thank everyone enough for their support.”

Jane Lamb, Lead Nurse for Older People and Stroke Services, would like to say a huge thank you to Scott, James, Stewart, and all the other Glasgow members. These are very thoughtful gifts and were given by patients at the GRI at what is a difficult time of year to be in.

Five Days of Christmas



This jolly fellow is Tommy Cybulski! This is Tommy's second year and going around the wards, with the help of colleagues like J, delivering 'treats' to help boost the morale of staff and patients.

Over the years, Tommy has bought a different outfit every Christmas to surprise his grandchildren on Christmas day. He then kindly volunteered on Christmas day wearing it to assist staff in giving presents to patients. He had an idea that he could wear some over the festive season,



They fundraise throughout the year by selling football cards, raffles, tombolas (gifts generously donated by the OPS ward, admin, and portering staff). The proceeds are used to buy treats for the ward on International Nurses Day and Christmas.

Where possible, there is a theme that matches the outfits to the

Snowman - Last year, they had snowballs, some of which were made of Turnocks. This year, as a different snowman, it was tied to the Christmas commercial, and they gave out Irn-Bru chews.

Christmas pudding - Little chocolate Christmas puddings.

Turkey - 'Drumstick' lollipops.

Nutcracker - Little cone bags with Quality Street in them (the ones featured on the old fashioned tins).

Santa - Chocolate lollipops with Christmas wrapping.



Jane Lamb said: "Last year we bought approximately 100 treats, the week went on and more people heard of the "5 days of Christmas" grew. People were waiting for us to go into the wards, and we had a lot of treats!

"This year, we stocked up on 200 treats, enough for everyone in the corridors going in and out of the wards.

"The idea was initially to visit the OPS ward to cheer up nursing staff, but you can imagine, the patients and their relatives love it too!"

Tommy won Employee of the Year for 2023 as he was recognised for having a cheery disposition and brightening everyone's day.

Thank you, Tommy, Jane, and everyone involved, for spreading Christmas cheer and making GRI a brighter place this Christmas!

Stobhill Endoscopy Nurses bring Christmas Joy to Need



This festive season, the incredible team of nurses in the Endo Stobhill Hospital decided to spread the holiday spirit in a truly

Rather than exchanging gifts through their usual Secret Santa nurses chose to make a difference in their community. They p generosity and bought gifts for children supported by the 'One Scotland' charity.

Their thoughtful initiative resulted in an amazing 29 gifts being ensuring that children in need can experience the joy and mag

A huge well done to the Endoscopy team for their kindness an your efforts are an inspiration to us all this holiday season!

Staff Wellbeing Resources

This time of year can be a difficult time for people and we want to ensure everyone has access to the most appropriate services and resources to support them.

Mental Health And Wellbeing - Mental health and Wellbeing is just as important as physical health. The hub provides links to further resources and services available that can help improve your mental health and wellbeing.

More info : [Mental Health and Wellbeing - NHSGGC](#)

NHS Credit Union - NHS Credit Union exists to financially empower our employees and their families, by offering savings and affordable products to meet our members' needs.

More info: [NHS Credit Union – People Not Profit](#)



Home Energy Scotland - With the weather changing, the cost of energy can be on your mind at the moment.

Home Energy Scotland is pleased to be working with staff in the community to offer you support with free and impartial energy advice and support.

More info: [Home Energy Scotland](#)

Active Staff - Thinking about working on your physical health? Active Staff have a range of fitness classes on offer for people of all fitness levels.

More info: [Active Staff](#)

How to get in touch

We are keen to highlight the success stories throughout the Sector and would encourage anyone to get in touch. No matter how small you think your success is, please let us know. We have a fantastic team across the sector and want to showcase the success that is carried out by our amazing staff. If you have any recommendations for the newsletter, please contact your contact who will advise on how to get in touch with the newsletter.

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