

Fifth Edition **Autumn 2023**



Bringing Together Specialities.

Chapter of Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Autumn Newsletter

Happy New Year to you all!

As a new year starts we want to reflect on some of the amazing events that were held in the last 12 months. We hope you find this newsletter to be inspiring for what can be achieved in the months ahead.

Lucy and Katie have been working together to ensure that Nurses and AHP's are represented within BTS and particularly that your voice has been heard. We have exciting news to share.



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Inspire

Well done to the Manchester Donor Carers for their inspiring efforts.

Manchester embraced the PINK at a blood donation session in Handforth. Pink hair, pink clothes, balloons, badges and pens...so much pink that one blood donor thought he'd walked into a Barbie convention. They had fun with the dressing up and taking photos, but they also encouraged donors to have conversations with family and friends about organ and tissue donation.

Whilst blood donors had fun with photo frames, wore the "Yes" badges and took pens, leaflets were given out and they did their best to raise awareness during organ donation week.

A great way to inspire others to tackle those difficult conversations and raise awareness.



Include



The South Wales Organ Donation Team recently assisted with celebrating 25 years of the National Black Police Association. The event was held in Cardiff during October and provided a platform for improving relationships with the ethnic communities.

Their motto is;

‘One Voice. Strength in Unity’

This supports the hope of creating a brighter, more positive, and inclusive future together. They were fortunate to secure an exhibitor stand for the two-day event and had much interest from key members. The opportunity allowed them to raise the profile of organ donation and provide networking for future events within the diverse communities.

The new NHSBT Director of Nursing, Dee Thiruchelvam attended during her visit to the team, and they were able to illustrate their engagement and promotion of organ and tissue donation. At the end of the event, they were presented with a slate plaque by the Chief Constable of South Wales Police to recognise their support for the conference.



Connect

A memorial was recently installed at Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary to acknowledge the Organ and Tissue donors there. The memorial design was chosen by their donor family working group from ideas sent in by Hospital Art Studio who created the sculpture. A family team of artists who have helped create many organ donation memorials country wide. Their designs were put forward to the Wigan donor family working group who decided this best represented their families' gift of donation. The forget-me-knots are representation of their family members and the need to never forget them and their gift of donation. The butterflies representing the new life they have given to their recipients through donation. Once installed they held a lovely memorial service and opening of the memorial was attended by some of the families of the donors at Wigan hospital. It was a lovely service and the memorial has been left as a lasting reminder to all who attend Wigan of the selfless act of generosity shown by their donors and their families.



Develop

To end Organ Donation Week the South Wales Organ Donation Team held a memorial event to celebrate those that gave the gift of life. This was a new location to ensure the service could cater for multi faiths. The memorial service was held in the theatre Botanica in Welsh, English and Arabic and moved to the Great Glasshouse for refreshments, accompanied by a bereavement charity choir called “2 Wish”. Families were also presented with a pebble illustrating the tree of life and memorial seeds which were linked to the different seasons within the botanical gardens. The thought of the day was by Pericles:

‘What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others’.

‘Nid yr hyn sydd wedi ei gyfnodi ar garreg maen sy’s bwysig, ond yr hyn sy’n cael ei blethu I fywydau pobl eraill’

The feedback from families and staff members has been very positive with high engagement for a future event.





New event:

For the first time the BTS congress will be holding a **Nursing and AHP Masterclass** on Tuesday 5th March from 2pm to 6:30pm.

You can attend this as a standalone event or alongside the Congress. The focus of the masterclass is Advanced Communication skills, focusing on theory and practice of having difficult conversations and how we can all learn to communicate better.

Gala Dinner, Thursday 7th March 2024

The theme for the Gala Dinner is World Book Day and we invite all Nurses and Allied Health Professionals to come as a 'character' from "Where's Wally". A simple outfit choice that we feel will create an impact if enough come dressed the same. A team photograph will be taken at dinner and hopefully highlight how many Nurses and AHP attend the BTS Congress.

We look forward to seeing you in Harrogate.



If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter or have any questions please contact either Katie or Lucy...



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