



With you, for you

SPRING 2026

WIN
a family ticket to
visit the home of
William Morris

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

PAGE
11



Work with
homeless wins
health equity award
PAGE 3



Full refit for
Stroud Theatre
PAGE 5



Colleagues trial eBikes
in Cheltenham
PAGE 8



Six colleagues
become Queen's
Nurses
PAGE 9



Welcome

It's an award-heavy issue this time around, with widespread recognition for colleagues across many teams and services.

We were delighted that collaborative work with NHS Gloucestershire ICB to support homeless people was recognised at the Personalised Care Awards. It's an area of work which often goes unsung, and an example of our wider commitment to health equity in the community.

As always at this time of year we celebrate the best work of the past 12 months at our annual Awards – we've a summary of the winners in this edition, and we'll pick up more detailed stories of some of their work in the coming months.

Our apprentices also get their moment in the spotlight, while our tissue viability work to provide leg ulcer care has also been recognised by the Health Service Journal.

Don't skip over the Final Word on the back page, which comes from a service user this edition.



Get in touch

We welcome your ideas, thoughts and suggestions. If you would prefer to get your newsletter by email, please let us know. Please contact the communications team:

 **0300 421 7146**

 **GHC.comms@ghc.nhs.uk**

SALE OF FORMER DILKE SITE



The former Dilke Hospital site in the Forest of Dean has been sold to an education provider. The sale completed on 31 March 2026, after the site was placed on the market following the hospital's closure in 2024.

The new owners - Gloucestershire Independent College - will issue a further statement in due course setting out its vision in more detail. That vision includes ambitions to create a high-quality educational setting for young people aged 14-25 on the autism spectrum, with complex needs and multi-learning disabilities.

Alongside the day college, the ambition is to create a partnership that will see the realisation of a therapeutic unit and a health and wellbeing centre that will support not only students, but also the wider community.

The intention is to develop the site in a way that reflects both its history and its future potential as a place of learning, support, therapeutic care and community connection.

Healthcare work with homeless wins Health Equity award



Our Complex Homelessness Partnership Support team scooped the Health Equity award at this year's South West Integrated Personalised Care Awards.

Hosted by Coalition for Personalised Care, the awards ceremony was held at Wells Town Hall, Wells, in Somerset.

Lisa Carr, Personalised Care Programme Manager at NHS Gloucestershire ICB, and Hayet Laverack, GHC Service Development Manager and Personalised Care Lead, who are working collaboratively on the implementation of personalised care, collected the award on behalf of the team.

Team leader Katie Conlon said: **"I'm not usually one to get emotional, but I have shed a tear. I have immense pride in what we have achieved as a group, while tackling challenging circumstances. As a team we**

were lucky to be nominated, but by rights, this award deserves to be fully shared with our esteemed colleagues in Homeless Healthcare, managed by Dawn Harris. "They face the same challenges, share the same goals and have supported CHPSS more than they'll ever know.

"As well as the team, I want to thank Mel Reed and Lisa Langford, who have been an excellent support and inspiration to us occupational therapists within the team.

"Thank you also to Charlotte Tucker and Jenny Ryan, who have shown amazing support and patient understanding as the team has grown. Charlotte spending a night sleeping rough with us, and Jenny's diplomacy and problem solving with partnership working, deserve a very special mention! I'm tickled pink and it will give the team a valuable lift!"

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK #NAW2026



National Apprenticeship Week took place from 9-15 February. This year we celebrated the theme #SkillsforLife. The week focused on how apprenticeships support people of all ages to develop valuable skills and how employers build a future ready workforce.

Throughout #NAW2026, our Apprenticeship and Widening Participation team raised awareness of the positive impact apprenticeships have within our Trust.

They shared information and highlighted opportunities for colleagues to upskill, progress their careers, and gain recognised qualifications through the GHC Apprenticeship Programme.

Apprenticeship Awards

As a finale to the week, we held our annual GHC Apprenticeship Awards – a virtual ceremony celebrating colleagues who were undertaking or have recently completed an apprenticeship. The event recognised their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment.

We also acknowledged our inspirational motivational mentors, whose support

and guidance has made an exceptional difference to our apprentices.

Winners were announced in a virtual awards ceremony on **Friday 13 February**. And the winners were:

Clinical Apprentice of the Year

- **Winner:** Naomi Lerner, Level 6 Occupational Therapy.
- **Special recognition:** Tessa Harris, Level 5 Student Nursing Associate.

Non Clinical Apprentice of the Year

- **Winner:** Holly Greenway, Level 4 Associate Project Management.
- **Special recognition:** Chris Brown, Level 5 Operational Departmental Manager.

Motivational Mentor

- **Winner:** Anne Dodson, Community Podiatrist.
- **Special recognition:** Caroline Winfield, Manager, Outpatients, Tewkesbury & North Cotswolds Hospitals.

T-Level Student of the Year

- **Winner:** Sofia Lysenko, Second year Health Student, Cirencester College.
- **Special recognition:** Sophie Massey – Second year Health Student, Stroud College.

Congratulations to all our nominees and winners.

Stroud Theatre reopens after refit



The Stroud Theatre, Endoscopy and Princess Anne Ward team were joined by the Deputy Service Director for Community Hospitals, Juliette Richardson, and the Stroud League of Friends in March to formally reopen the refurbished unit.

These areas have undergone significant upgrades including a full update to the air handling unit, new theatre lighting, new consultant panel in theatres, work in endoscopy to prevent interrupted electrical supply during power cuts, a reviewed layout in endoscopy, as well as new washer and dryers and a refreshed, modernised environment thanks to extensive painting and refurbishment.

Juliette, and Theatre Endoscopy and Day Surgery Manager Sev Vincent, cut the ribbon ahead of a speech recognising the team effort behind the changes.

Juliette said: **“Today, we celebrate not just new equipment and refreshed spaces, but the collective effort that made it possible. A heartfelt thank you to our Estates Team – your expertise, coordination, and relentless hard work have ensured that every detail meets the highest standards. Projects of this scale are never easy and your professionalism has been outstanding.**

“To all the staff across our hospital who adapted, flexed, and supported other areas while the works were underway – thank you. Your teamwork ensured we continued to provide excellent care to patients without interruption. The way everyone pulled together is a testament to the resilience and dedication that defines our services.

“To the League of Friends – your continued support, generosity and commitment to improving our hospital environment makes an incredible difference.”

GHC Annual Awards 2026



Our Annual awards were held at Hatherley Manor Hotel, near Gloucester, celebrating colleagues and teams from across the trust.

Our Chair, Graham Russell, hosted alongside Chief Executive Douglas Blair, and both congratulated everyone who was nominated this year - 247 individuals and groups of colleagues in total.

Across the nine categories, the results were as follows:

Making a Difference

Winner: Children in Care Team.

Highly Commended: Mark Kirby, HCA at Montpellier Unit.

Highly Commended: Homeless Healthcare Team.

Highly Commended: Cotswold View Ward

Special Recognition: Special Educational Needs leads.

Special Recognition: Sarah Bolton, Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner in Talking Therapies.

Always Improving

Winner: School Aged Immunisation Team.

Highly Commended: Adult MSK Physiotherapy and Podiatry.

Highly Commended: Resuscitation and Training Team.

Special Recognition: Medical Equipment Team.

Respectful and Kind

Winner: Kate Bowden, Head of Patient and Carer Experience Team.

Highly Commended: Specialist Community Forensic Mental Health Team.

Highly Commended: Westley May, Catering team, Cirencester Hospital.

Special Recognition: Willow Ward HCAs, Charlton Lane Hospital.

Valuing our Communities

Winner: Increasing access to perinatal mental health (South Asian Women living in Gloucester project group).

Highly Commended: Falls Assessment and Education Team.

Highly Commended: Big Health Day.

Working Together

Winner: Community Neurology Team

Highly Commended: Countywide Home First and Reablement.

Highly Commended: CAAS Under 11 Medication Review Team.



Rising Star

Winner: Moss Thornton (Expert by Experience).

Highly Commended: Silpa Sunny, Charge Nurse, Wotton Lawn Hospital

Highly Commended: Lucy Payne, Matron, Vale Hospital.

Outstanding Achievement

Winner: Dr Louise Knowles, Consultant Clinical Psychologist.

Highly Commended: Sarah Birmingham, Chief Allied Health Professional.

Highly Commended: Caroline Winfield, Senior Nurse.

Co-Production Award (Presented in Memory of Dan Beale-Cocks by his son, Albie, and sister, Rebecca)

Winner: Melissa Reed for her AHP Tackling Health Inequalities work.

Highly Commended: The OATS and Complex Emotional Needs Service.

Highly Commended: James Green, Service Manager, Urgent Mental Health Care.

Special Recognition: Jess Lewis, Expert by Experience.

Team of the Year

Winner: Cheltenham Health Visiting Team.

Highly Commended: North Talking Therapies Team.

Highly Commended: Montpellier Unit Occupational Therapy and Health, Exercise and Activity Team.

Special Recognition: Children and Young People Speech and Language Therapy team.

COLLEAGUES SADDLE UP FOR E-BIKES TRIAL IN CHELTENHAM



Colleagues in Cheltenham are leading the charge towards sustainable travel with a two-year trial of Trust e-bikes. Five new e-bikes were delivered to Leckhampton Lodge at the end of November which will be trialled by six colleagues in Children and Young People's Services (CYPS).

National plans commit the NHS to reducing carbon emissions, tackling air quality and minimising travel emissions, and the Trust is working towards a larger electric vehicles fleet, more charging points and fewer business miles.

The trial will test whether e-bikes offer a viable alternative for home visits and explore the potential benefits related to cost, sustainability and health and wellbeing.

Louise Cleveland, operational lead for Cheltenham CYPS, said: **"As an environmentally friendly alternative to a car, e-bikes will contribute to our sustainability goals while easing parking and congestion. Cycling can improve colleagues'**

mental and physical health, while the increased visibility of our community mental health team may help reduce stigma and encourage more engagement."

Colleagues using the e-bikes have undertaken cycling proficiency training and new recharging and storage has been installed. Clothing and panniers have also been provided.

Funding has been provided by Active Travel Gloucestershire, a county plan aimed at increasing the volume of cyclists and development of a spine of cycle routes from Bishop's Cleeve to Stroud.

The Trust will look at the number of trips undertaken, associated reduction in carbon emissions, change in mileage costs, service impact, colleague satisfaction and quality assessments. Head of Sustainability James Powell said: **"This is an exciting and innovative trial which offers opportunities for wide-ranging benefits for the Trust and potentially for patients."**



GHC CHARITY UPDATE



GHC Charity would like to say a huge thank you to an amazing colleague, Hamed, who ran the Gloucester half- marathon on Sunday 22 March.

Not only did he raise a fantastic amount for our Charity but beat his personal best by three minutes. On the Sunday 20 September we have four colleagues running the Cheltenham half Marathon. This looks set to be a fantastic event running, starting and finishing at the iconic Cheltenham Racecourse. We still have one space remaining – email: charity@ghc.nhs.uk if you're interested.

Colleagues Awarded Queen's Nurse Title



Six of our Trust nurses have been awarded the prestigious title of Queen's Nurse by the Queen's Institute of Community Nursing (QICN).



The Queen's
Institute of
Community
Nursing

The title is awarded following a rigorous online application process, in recognition of a high level of commitment to patient care, learning, leadership and excellence in nursing practice.

Nurses must demonstrate five or more years' experience of working in the community to be eligible for the title. Our Director of Nursing, Therapies and Quality Nicola Hazle, and Deputy Director of Nursing, Therapies and Quality, Hannah Williams, recently hosted a celebration event at our Headquarters (Edward Jenner Court) to congratulate the newest GHC Queen's Nurses on their awards. Pictured from left to right are:

- **Hannah Williams** (Deputy Director of Nursing, Therapies and Quality).
- **Amy Barnes** is part of the infection prevention and control team who manage infections within the community settings.

- **Jonathan Thomas** has been a nurse for 37 years and currently supports people with Learning Disabilities to access health screening.
- **Sarah Scammell** has been a nurse since 1989 and has a background in cardiology. She leads the Community Diabetes Service.
- **Charlotte Wood** has been a nurse for 12 years and leads the nurses in the North Cotswolds Integrated Community Team.
- **Rachael Holloway** qualified in 2008 and leads the nurses in the South Cotswolds Integrated Community Team.
- **Debbie Williams** has been a nurse for 29 years and is Quality lead for End of Life Care.
- **Nicola Hazle** (Director of Nursing, Therapies and Quality).

Congratulations to everyone!

The QICN is the oldest professional nursing organisation in the UK. The charity was originally founded to organise the training of district nurses.

Find out more about the QICN by visiting www.qicn.org.uk

Lower Limb Project shortlisted for two HSJ awards

The One Gloucestershire Lower Limb Project Team has been shortlisted for two categories in the 2026 HSJ Partnership Awards: Most Effective Contribution to Clinical Redesign and Best Educational Programme for the NHS.

The shortlist recognises the project team's outstanding work to redesign leg ulcer care across the county. The programme, Building Workforce Capability Through Strategic Partnership, is a system-wide initiative led by NHS Gloucestershire ICB, in partnership with our Trust, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHSFT,

primary care teams, specialist services, and hygiene and health products company Essity UK.

The project aims to ensure patients receive high-quality, timely care closer to home by transforming how leg ulcer care is delivered. Following a rigorous assessment process, the collaborative project was selected from more than 240 entries.



NHS Talking Therapies presents at Parkinson's UK Conference

NHS Talking Therapies was invited to lead a specialist workshop at the Parkinson's UK Conference, held in March at Kingsholm Stadium, Gloucester.

The event brought together 120 attendees, including people living with Parkinson's Disease and their carers, for a day themed around wellbeing.

Zoë Hepburn, Clinical Lead for Long-Term Conditions, and Larissa Burns, Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner, delivered an interactive session titled 'Learning Some Coping Strategies for Adjusting to Life with Parkinson's.'

To find out more about Talking Therapies, visit our website - www.ghc.nhs.uk - or search for Talking Therapies Gloucestershire.

HIV TESTING

Our HIV Service from Hope House was on the road in February to encourage testing as part of a national drive to achieve zero HIV transmissions, and zero HIV stigma, by 2030.

They visited Gloucestershire University, Cirencester Livestock Market and Stroud College campus, as well as setting up an advice stand in the Atrium at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, to give out information and free testing kits.

Dr Ayo-ola Okunwobi-Smith, Consultant Genitourinary Medicine and HIV, said: **"We can help achieve the goal of zero HIV transmission by 2030 by all of us playing our part - testing, testing, testing and being aware of our HIV status."**

Home testing kits are available from the service - more information is available on the Hope House website. visit: www.hopehouse.nhs.uk

COMPETITION

WIN a family ticket to visit the home of William Morris



Kelmscott Manor was the Cotswold retreat of William Morris and his family, friends and colleagues.

The seventeenth-century, Grade I listed manor house on the River Thames contains an outstanding collection of the possessions and works of Morris, his family and associates, including furniture, textiles, pictures and paintings, carpets, ceramics and metalwork. The estate also boasts a beautiful garden.

We have two tickets for the first name drawn after the closing date. Send your details to ghc.comms@ghc.nhs.uk with the subject 'Kelmscott Competition' or write to Communications Team, Edward Jenner Court, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4AW, including your contact details. The closing date is Friday June 5.

HEALTHY EATING RECIPE

Mediterranean potato tray bake



PREP
10
MINUTES
COOK
25
MINUTES
SERVES
4
PEOPLE

Ingredients

- 800g salad potatoes, thickly sliced
- 50g pine nuts, chopped
- 1 teaspoon olive oil

Swappable or optional

- 1 courgette, sliced
- 1 aubergine, sliced
- 1 red pepper, deseeded and sliced
- 1 yellow pepper, deseeded and sliced
- 1 tablespoon red pesto (optional).

Swap tip

Swap in veg like chopped broccoli, a few mushrooms or whatever you have! Remember, you can always swap fresh vegetables for tinned or frozen.

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C (180C fan, gas mark 6).
2. Put the potatoes, chopped vegetables and pine nuts in a large roasting tin. Drizzle with the oil and toss to coat. Bake for 20 minutes, or until tender.

Information:

You can swap the fresh veg for 400g of frozen Mediterranean vegetables to speed up the prep.

3. Add the pesto, if using, and bake for another 5 minutes. Serve immediately.

For more healthy recipes visit:

www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes

Final word

Tyler White writes about his ten years of care from the Stroud Recovery Team, which began when he was 18 years old.



Wow, it's been a hell of a roller coaster ride, a ten year long one. I'm still on the roller coaster and may be for all my life but I'm glad it's slowed down. I've had an infinite number of twists, turns, loops, ups and downs. But luckily, I've had help with me throughout, with art therapy being the most helpful.

Now it's slowed down, I can deal with whatever I'm thrown, with tools that everyone helped me gather. If the ride gets uncontrollable again, I know I can get help again.

From the start, it was very scary, with multiple inpatient stays, even one in Australia. Multiple 136 sections and countless times with the crisis team I gained new tools, with help from different people.

Tools I'm using today as it keeps me on track. Seeing it as a roller coaster helps me - I'm autistic and can describe when I'm going up on a high or feeling I'm crashing right down.

I'm a local town Councillor and also set up a Pride in my town. It's been quite challenging, but I've learnt a lot. I'm also an expert by experience - I can help other people receive the best care possible.

I also have a part time job working with children and young people with SEND, (Special Educational Needs).

Ten years ago, things looked very scary - I didn't think I was going to survive it. Six years later, I started to do things in life and I improved. Now I'm great.

My roller coaster has thrown a hell of a lot at me over the years, with physical health issues, big life events, to things I thought would never happen, but with help it got easier.

You gain tools to manage your roller coaster. So, if you're struggling, know there's people there to help you: it will become less of a spinning, looping ride soon.

