INSIDE:
‘Mad Handers’ tea party
Work starts on new building
2013 Nursing Awards
Patient safety achievement

Our staff have been congratulated for their best ever achievements in patient safety.

We have had zero cases of MRSA bacteraemia for a whole year to the end of March 2013.

They have raised the profile of infection control and embedded it in the Trust, through a co-ordinated campaign of education and information.

We have also seen a 57 per cent decrease in the number of patient falls with harm, which is far above the target reduction of five per cent.

This follows a successful campaign which has included training; electronic risk assessments and care planning; new equipment; audits; and increased staffing.

Lisa Grant, Director of Nursing, said: “I am so proud of all the staff for this achievement. It really reflects their commitment to infection prevention and control.

“We have doubled the size of our Infection Prevention and Control team and they have played a huge part in this success.”

Lisa Grant added: “Despite our very high standards, it should be noted that it is becoming more challenging to prevent infections among our most seriously ill patients.

“We are treating more patients with complex, acute illnesses and injuries and the antibiotics they require makes them more susceptible to infections.

“I would like to thank all our staff for their dedicated, excellent care of our patients.”

To improve our communications with members and to reduce costs, it would be very helpful if we could send out information by email rather than by post.

If you would like to be added to our email database, please drop us a line with your name and postal address, to: communications@thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk
Work has now begun on a new three-storey building to expand The Walton Centre.

Demolition of the former Elm and Magnolia Wards on the Aintree site is under way and building on the cleared site will start this summer. The new building will be completed by the end of next year.

The new building is part of a major expansion and will house an expanded rehabilitation unit, the Trust’s pioneering Pain Management Programme, together with relatives’ accommodation supported by the Trust’s Home from Home fundraising appeal.

The new centre is a key part of a five year plan to provide more services to more patients with brain and spine conditions. It will enable the Trust to meet key targets and provide a shorter waiting time for its increasing number of patients.

Chief Executive Liz Mear said: “I am delighted that the work has started on the new building. It will enable us to provide first class services to more patients, with extra beds and new facilities.”

Within the existing hospital, a programme of work finishes in September with the completion of extra beds and facilities in Jefferson Ward.

In the meantime the internal changes are causing extra pressure on the Outpatients Department with more patients waiting for clinics, with some clinics temporarily relocated from Jefferson.

A programme of improvements is planned in the Outpatients Department, including a new ‘take a ticket’ queue management system; TV screens to keep patients informed of any delays; and a new, optional self check-in system.

An additional outpatients department is being created in the new building which will improve conditions for patients.

Two Governors have been elected to the Trust’s Council of Governors.

Tony Cahill from Huyton, Merseyside, has been elected to represent the Trust’s Merseyside public constituency and consultant neurologist Professor Tony Marson has been re-elected as a staff governor.

The Council of Governors has an essential role and works in partnership with the Trust Board to develop the Trust’s strategy by expressing their views about services and planned developments.

The Trust has 17 elected Governors, 4 staff Governors and 12 appointed Partnership Governors, representing over 8,000 members.
We are looking for daredevils to leap off the top of a Liverpool landmark and fly across the Pier Head – in aid of our charity.

The Zip for Walton event takes place on Saturday 14th September, courtesy of Downing who are kindly allowing us to use their beautiful Grade II listed Port of Liverpool Building.

The event will offer spectacular views of the Mersey Bay and North Wales as participants zip down at speeds of up to 25 mph before landing near to the waterfront.

The event is in aid of The Walton Centre’s Home from Home Appeal to build relatives’ accommodation and provide extra rehabilitation facilities.

It costs just £20 to register and we ask for a minimum sponsorship of £100.

Organiser Kevin Byrne said: “Our zip slide event is taking place against the backdrop of one of the world's most famous waterfronts; the views will be spectacular and it will be a big thrill to fly across one of the city's World Heritage sites.”

For more information and to register, contact Kevin Byrne on 0151 529 5612; email kevin.byrne@thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk; or download a registration form at: www.thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk/fundraising

Love note to choir

Hospital staff choir Fazamatazz took part in Liverpool's festival to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

Opera star Katherine Jenkins gave the choir a massive morale booster in their preparations after sending them a personally signed photo wishing them good luck: “To Fazamatazz, Keep hitting the high notes, Love, Katherine”.

Steve Little, Head of Choir, said: “We're great fans of Katherine, so when she flew into Aintree by helicopter to sing at the Grand National this year, we prepared a good luck banner for her which we put on the roof of the hospital.

“We were then gobsmacked to get this note through the post – it’s really kind of her to take the time to thank us when you think how busy she is.”

The waterfront performance was the choir's fourth public outing since they formed.
The Walton Centre’s Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear is leading a new organisation to promote innovation in healthcare.

The North West Coast Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) is one of 15 new AHSNs across England.

It involves organisations ranging from NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups to universities, as well as expert organisations such as AQuA (Advancing Quality Alliance) and TRUSTECH (NW Innovation Hub).

Dr Mear said: “I believe the new network will work to improve health by delivering a step change in the way the NHS identifies, develops, adopts and spreads new innovations. Putting innovation at the heart of the NHS will improve patient outcomes as well contribute to economic growth.”

The North West Coast AHSN covers Merseyside, South Cumbria and most of Cheshire and Lancashire.

Patients told us what they think about the Trust, during a dedicated Listening Week.

A team of Listeners, led by Director of Nursing Lisa Grant, carried out surveys and chatted to patients and their relatives in Reception, Outpatients and on wards.

Nurses were joined by Chief Executive Liz Mear, Chairman Ken Hoskisson and Trust mascot Boris the Brain in a series of listening events.

The highlight of the week was Afternoon Tea for patients hosted by Lisa Grant and other senior nurses.

Lisa Grant said: “It was a fantastic opportunity for us to get feedback from our patients. The response was overwhelmingly positive, especially about the care they receive from staff.

“We know there is always room for improvement, but we are delighted that patients have given our staff a well deserved pat on the back.”

Some patients chose to use social media to share their views with a number of responses received throughout the week using #listeningweek. Responses included: “@WaltonCentre just the one word from me: brilliant.” And “I am so grateful for the care provided by the nurses @WaltonCentre for Mum. They truly are the angels that meet you before you reach heaven.”

All the information gathered will be used to update the Trust’s patient experience strategy.

Prof Gus helps the Law Commission

Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist Professor Gus Baker is to help produce guidelines for criminal court hearings.

The guidelines, to help courts decide whether an individual is fit to stand trial, will be produced for the Law Commission by a team of experts including Professor Baker.

Professor Baker said: “This is recognition of the role that clinical neuropsychology has to play in extremely important questions relating to justice and the Law. Our department at The Walton Centre is recognised as having extensive expertise in clinical neuropsychology and I am delighted to undertake such an important role on behalf of our profession.”
New research to improve CT scanning techniques

Research is under way to show how brain and spine patients are benefitting from new ways of using a state of the art CT scanner.

Funding has been provided to explore ways of speeding up the scanning process, reduce radiation doses and make the diagnostic process easier for patients.

It is based on a 640-slice Toshiba Aquilion One CT scanner, the only one of its type in the North West, which gives radiologists a highly detailed and accurate picture of the body.

The manufacturers, Toshiba, are funding a research fellowship for two years, to identify how patients can benefit from the technology.

Consultant Neuroradiologist Kumar Das said: “This is a fantastic facility, which has enabled us to make real improvements in how we scan our patients.

“The research funding will allow us to measure the improved ways of working which are already under way; and will also enable us to carry out several research projects, all aimed at improving patient care.”

The scanner provides a detailed picture of the brain and its blood flow. In just one rotation, which takes less than a second, it scans the whole head and, by repeated rotations, radiologists can see how blood moves through blood vessels of the brain.

Patients suffering from cancer, vascular conditions such as aneurysms, epilepsy, complex trauma injuries, degenerative spinal conditions and dementia will all benefit.

The improved techniques provided by the scanner mean that many patients can avoid the need for an invasive catheter angiography exam. Instead, a contrast dye is injected into the bloodstream, through a vein in the arm, in order to show up the brain’s arteries and veins during scanning. As the scanner is so quick and so powerful, patients are subjected to lower doses of radiation.

“For patients, it makes the difference between coming in as a day case patient and coming in for a short outpatient appointment – and no invasive procedure,” said Dr Das.
A fond farewell to Tom

Dr Tom Nixon, Director of Neuroradiology, is saying goodbye to The Walton Centre after a long and rewarding career that has seen him witness the transformation of the department.

Dr Nixon first worked at the Trust as a Medical Registrar in 1982, but returned permanently as a consultant neuroradiologist in 1988. Since then, he says, Neuroradiology has grown ‘beyond all expectations’.

He says: “It’s hard to imagine, looking back, how we used to work – with very limited equipment, all crowded together, bringing in patients for a week just for tests. Every purchase was a challenge, and there were only a handful of us. When the new hospital was built and we were shown where we would be based, we were amazed – ‘how will we fill it?’ we thought! Obviously we did, and the department has grown so much.

“We’ve gone from being a tiny team to having four MR scanners – the fourth should be arriving this year - two angio rooms, and around 50 staff. A lot has changed in a relatively short amount of time.”

Dr Nixon also cites the development of MR (magnetic resonance) as a major landmark in Neuroradiology.

He says: “Back in the late 80s, I had access to an MR, but had to go and use the University’s machine. The technology has revolutionised the way we work – it seems unbelievable now to consider doing neurosurgery without access to detailed MR imaging, but not that long ago we had to work with much more basic tools.”

The development of the department, says Dr Nixon, has come largely as a result of a supportive Trust structure that has never refused any reasonable request for equipment and staff. He says: “It’s not just us that wanted it, but our colleagues across the hospital. We have been pushing at an open door, and now have one of the best equipped units in the UK. It’s been a great time to have worked here, and I know the team will be in safe hands.”

A brief history of neuroradiology

The Walton Centre offers the most comprehensive neuroradiology service in the UK – but back in the early days, it was an under-funded and under-equipped department struggling to keep up with demand.

It was initially based in a cramped room at the old Rice Lane site, with just one CT scanner, one angiogram room, no MR (magnetic resonance) scanner and a small staff team. When an MR finally was acquired, it was kept in a portacabin in the car park! The purchase of major equipment was decided by the Regional Health Board, and The Walton Centre team were competing for funding with other hospitals from across the region.

Becoming a Trust and moving to the purpose-built Fazakerley site were both major landmarks in neuroradiology, allowing the team to secure funding, and also to access the physical space they needed to provide a first-class service to patients. The development of MR has revolutionised the way the department works – and The Walton Centre is soon to become the only neuro centre in the UK to have four scanners, enabling highly skilled staff to carry out advanced procedures on around 16,000 patients a year.

A fifth MRI intra-operative scanner is also being planned, thanks to fundraising by the Marina Dalglish Foundation. This is of particular benefit to cancer patients as it will perform MR scans of tumours during surgery.

New role for Sacha

Replacing Tom as Clinical Director of Neuroradiology is Dr Sacha Niven, who has been a consultant neuroradiologist at The Walton Centre since April 2003. His specialist interests are in the full range of diagnostic CT and MRI of the brain and spine; vascular imaging with CT and MRI; myelography; back marking prior to surgery; and spinal biopsy.
Awards for nurses after year of achievements

An amazing year for nurses at The Walton Centre saw a big increase in staff numbers – at the same time as fantastic achievements in patient safety and care.

Successes in campaigns to reduce infections and patient falls were all the more remarkable at a time of recruiting 70 extra nurses and opening the new Chavasse Ward.

Director of Nursing and Modernisation Lisa Grant said: “I am extremely proud of all our nurses. Our staff constantly go beyond the call of duty to make sure our patients are safe and well cared for and this is seen in consistently positive feedback from patients.

“Our annual awards are a way of recognising the very best of the best – and it has been very hard to choose the winners. I would like to congratulate them all for the excellent care they give to our patients.”

The event marked International Nursing Day and the awards were presented by the Deputy Chief Nurse for the North of England, Angela Brown.

In the year to the end of March 2013 there were no cases of MRSA, while the number of patient falls with harm was reduced by 57 per cent, following an intensive campaign of risk assessments and prevention methods undertaken with patients identified as being at risk of falling.

The winners
Director of Nursing Award
Health Care Assistant Joan Sawtell, who has worked at The Walton Centre for 26 years, won the Director of Nursing Award, given in recognition of outstanding care.

Director of Nursing Lisa Grant said: “Joan embodies the best qualities in nursing; she is very warm and caring; always patient with patients and making sure that all their needs are met. The feedback from her patients is always full of praise.”

Joan was also a runner up for the Health Care Assistant of the Year Award and she will be part of a team designing a new, bespoke package of training for health care assistants in The Walton Centre. The role will be renamed Nursing Assistant as part of the changes.

New Starter of the Year
Winner: Jade Burgum
Runners up: Selina Monahan and Martin Tyrer

Health Care Assistant of the Year
Winner: Pat McDonald
Runners up: Joan Sawtell and Sue Connolly

Patient Experience Award
Winner: Critical Care sister Helen Jones
Runners up: Jim McIntosh and Jefferson Ward

Patient Safety Award
Winner: Infection Control Team
Runners up: Neuro Rehab Unit and Lipton Ward

Advanced/Specialist Nurse of the Year
Winner: Sara Kewin
Runners up Kerry Mutch and Carol Stanton

Inspirational Nurse Leader of the Year
Winner: Julie Swift
Runners up: Nadine Daniels and Clare Moore

Team of the Year
Winner: Dott Ward
Runners up: Cairns Ward and Theatres senior nurse team
Helping hand from Red Nose

A grant from the Red Nose Community Fund to the Brain Haemorrhage Support Group was used to fund a ‘Road to Recovery’ course.

Recently discharged patients and their families were invited to a series of four meetings with talks from Walton Centre specialist clinicians including neurovascular nurse specialists Cathy Stoneley and Debbie Brown; consultants Mr Mani Puthuran and Dr Peter Murphy; clinical research Sister Lorna Murray; and occupational therapist Anne Jammes.

The course also covered practical issues including welfare and on-going recovery.

The next support group meetings take place at the Neurosupport Centre, Norton Street, Liverpool L3 8LR from 7pm on Tuesday 8th October and Tuesday 10th December. For more information go to: http://www.bhsupport.org.uk

Anyone who would like to attend the next Road to Recovery course should call 07895 243667.

Farmers asked to donate lambs for fundraising auction

Fundraisers from North Wales will be flocking to a lamb auction this summer to raise money for the Home from Home Appeal.

Farmers from across the region are being asked to donate lambs to the auction, which will take place at Ruthin Auction House on 20th August, with all proceeds going towards a campaign to build relatives’ accommodation at the specialist neuroscience trust.

Patients from across North Wales regularly travel many miles for specialist treatments at The Walton Centre, very often for critical care – a stressful time for relatives and friends.

Flintshire resident and patient of 25 years Dr Cheryl Jones, who is also a North Wales Public Governor for The Walton Centre, said: “The M53 and A44 are roads that appear to get longer each time you have to make the journey as you come to terms with the challenges facing someone important to you.

“Providing accommodation that patients’ loved ones can access will strike a chord with North Walians who have a reputation of always looking after their own.

“The people of North Wales have always cherished the world class specialist care provided at The Walton Centre. The Trust is always there to serve them during some of the most difficult times of their lives.

“From my own experience, the Trust looks after patients’ loved ones with the same level of care and compassion as it does for every patient.”

The Home from Home Appeal will provide a comfortable and friendly place for relatives who want to stay near to loved ones undergoing lifesaving treatment.

The new facility will include eight ensuite bedrooms with a sitting area, laundry and kitchen, giving visitors the comforts of home to support them through traumatic times. This will be part of a new, three-storey building which will enable a major expansion of The Walton Centre, scheduled for completion at the end of 2014.

The Home from Home Appeal will also fund extra equipment and therapy gardens in an expanded and improved, specialised rehabilitation unit, with 30 beds.

To donate a lamb to the auction or for more information about how to support the Home from Home Appeal, please call Fundraising Officer Kevin Byrne on 0151 529 5612.
The first national study to find factors which affect the quality of life for sufferers of two neurological diseases is being led by specialists at The Walton Centre.

The pioneering project will see every person diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) or Motor Neurone Disease (MND) offered the chance to be part of this major study on quality of life.

Bringing together Britain’s eminent researchers from 35 specialist neurological centres in the UK, the expansive study – called Trajectories of Outcome in Neurological Conditions (TONiC) – will investigate more than 30 factors, including fatigue, pain, depression and weakness, to create models which will be used as tools to provide personalised care, increase efficiency and improve patient forecasting.

About 600 patients have taken part in pilot studies, and TONiC will now be rolled out into specialist neurological centres throughout the UK later this year.

Project coordinator Professor Carolyn Young said: “There’s a lot of research looking for new treatments and a cure but it’s also really important that we think about the health and wellbeing of those who are already suffering. It’s about putting the patient first.”

It is the first time anyone has investigated quality of life on such a comprehensive scale, crowdsourcing information, and also including feedback from frontline clinicians.

Dr Brian Dickie, Director of Research Development at the Motor Neurone Disease Association, one of the funders of the project, commented on recent publication of some of the pilot work: “Just as the physical symptoms and rate of disease progression can vary between one person and another, so each individual’s means of coping with the disease is unique and complex.

“This carefully conducted study has started to shed light on the relationship between some of the key factors that impact on quality of life and provides a basis for improving the psychological support for people with this devastating condition.”

Professor Young added: “It’s a game changer. An important thing we have already established is that with these diseases the whole way of life is affected - we need to consider how the illness affects the patient socially, psychologically and physically.”

Patient stories

Jill Birrell, 60, of Southport, a former occupational therapist, was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis about eight years ago and found the hardest things to overcome were accepting the disease and asking for help.

She said: “It set me back. I felt embarrassed; I didn’t want to explain it to people and most of all I didn’t want to accept it.

“I needed someone objective to tell me straight and make me think about it. You have to come to terms with what you’re told and how you manage it.”

Everton fan Jill, who regularly attends matches with her husband, added: “I knew I had to change how I felt. You need to take stock and come to terms with it and perhaps somebody giving you a hand to begin with would have helped.”

Nick Brown, 43, of Warrington, a former assistant manager for DIY store B&Q, is wheelchair bound and suffers from tremors because of his Multiple Sclerosis. He said: “There’s very little information for people suffering now about what to expect or what could happen in the future. I’ve had to learn from my experiences and adapt as the disease has progressed.

“I really miss work,” added Nick, who worked for 11 years after he was diagnosed. “The job and the people, it’s a combination of both. I’m very proud to be part of the study. I think it’s going to make a massive difference to a lot of people.”
The ‘eyes’ have it

An eye-controlled communication system will give patients in intensive care at The Walton Centre who cannot speak a voice for the first time.

The state-of-the-art device – which is calibrated to an individual patient’s eyes – uses their gaze in the same way as a mouse on a conventional computer.

It will allow patients who have severe limb weakness and an inability to speak due to having an artificial airway, a way to communicate and gain access to all the regular functions on a computer.

Within minutes of using the ground-breaking system patients will be able to communicate with friends, family and clinicians, as well as browse social media like Twitter, Facebook, and send emails.

Helen Jones, Senior Sister and Service Improvement Leader in Intensive Care at The Walton Centre, said: “People will be able to speak by looking at words and letters and a voice will be generated. Before this system was in place patients relied upon letter boards which was frustrating and it took a very long time just to communicate a short sentence.

“We have many patients who may have severe deficits and a tracheostomy which means they cannot speak. Recently, a former patient recounted her experience of being unable to communicate her needs within an internet blog; this inspired me to look into communication technology to solve the problem.”

The system has been successfully used within the community but has never been tried in Intensive Care before anywhere in the UK.

“Staff are currently being trained on the system,” added Helen.

“You sit in front of it and calibrate with your eyes. It takes five minutes to train someone on it and after 30 minutes you would be really fast at using it.”

Award for Dr Silver

Consultant Neurologist Dr Nick Silver has been presented with the Les Charlton Award by OUCH UK.

This prize is awarded for services to patients with Cluster Headache. Dr Silver has also been elected as the Association for British Neurology representative to the Royal College of Physicians Clinical Effectiveness Forum.

A one day event for patients organised with Migraine Action will launch Migraine Awareness Week, on Sunday 1st September. The event will take place at Neurosupport in Liverpool city centre.

Sutcliffe Kerr Lecture – new date

The date for this year’s Annual Sutcliffe Kerr Lecture has been changed to Wednesday 16th October.

The showcase neuroscience event offers the chance to hear from Professor Raymond Tallis, a highly entertaining clinician, neuroscientist and philosopher, known for numerous appearances on TV and radio, as well as many books, including Why the Mind is Not a Computer: A Pocket Dictionary on Neuromythology; and The Kingdom of Infinite Space: A Fantastical Journey Around Your Head.

The event takes place at 6.30pm in the Clinical Sciences Centre next to The Walton Centre and places are free but must be booked in advance by calling 0151 529 8799.
A ball organised in tribute to the late wife of ‘super sub’ David Fairclough raised around £55,000 for the Home from Home Appeal.

The Jan Fairclough Ball at the Hilton Liverpool was attended by 260 guests and was backed by gold sponsors Downing, Fletchers solicitors, Kier and Matalan; and by Sue Matthews and Co; Barclays Liverpool Contact Centre; and David M Robinson jewellers.

David Fairclough, who attended with his children Tom and Sophie, said: “I was very moved when I was asked if the ball could be named after Jan.

“Although Jan could not be saved after a brain aneurysm two years ago, she was given fantastic care at The Walton Centre and all our family were struck by the skills and compassion of the staff.”

David helped to organise the ball, sourcing prizes and inviting guests. He added: “I would like to say a big thank you to all our sponsors and to everyone who bought tables and donated prizes. It was an amazing achievement to raise so much money – and a great goal for The Walton Centre’s appeal.”

The Trust’s Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear said: “We are all very moved by David’s support for our charity and I am grateful to him for leading the work on organising such a hugely successful ball. It was a fantastic night and it has given us a big step forward in reaching our target of £1 million by the end of 2014.”

New machine to improve treatment

A handheld ultrasound machine that assesses circulation in patients’ lower legs and feet has been donated by fundraisers the League of Friends.

The Doppler works by picking up sound waves emitted by arterial and venous blood flow. The blood pressure can then be measured, giving clinicians an indication of any problems with circulation, before planning treatment.

Sue Noon, Tissue Viability Nurse, said: “It’s going to be a great help for any patient with wounds on the lower legs and feet. We need to know if the circulation is affected so we can provide the best treatment for them.”

The League of Friends have also funded garden plants for Chavasse ward.

Tina Fairclough, Chairman of the League of Friends, said: “We’re always providing things and doing what we can to help and we’re delighted to be able to provide this fantastic system.”

Picture shows Tissue Viability Nurse Sue Noon with Tina Fairclough, Chairman of the League of Friends.
Michelle and Peter spread their wings for charity

Two dare devils are getting ready for the flight of their lives. ITU Matron Michelle Rackham and clinical audit clerk Peter Jones have signed up for a sponsored sky dive in aid of the Home from Home Appeal.

The pair, along with friend Keren Cartwright, will leap out of a plane at 10,000 feet and free fall for 5,000 feet before parachuting to land, on 17th August.

Michelle said: “As a matron in our Critical Care Unit I see how families suffer when their loved ones are desperately ill. Relatives’ accommodation is urgently needed to give families the comforts of home during difficult times.”

They can be sponsored at: www.virginmoneygiving.com/waltonsskydivers.

Ian aims for new rowing record

Consultant anaesthetist Ian Tweedie is challenging himself with a 22k river row. “It will be the furthest I have ever rowed in a one-man boat. It’s the equivalent of a half marathon run but unlike a run it is unrelenting, using my back, legs and arms with every stroke,” said Ian.

Ian will be competing in the Masters E over-55s single scull category, in the Great Ouse River Marathon in Cambridgeshire on 1st September. “If it goes well I will attempt a 50k marathon river row a fortnight later!” he promised.

“It will be hard but I am doing it because it is so important for us to build relatives’ accommodation; I know how much our families need it.”

Toughing it out together

Around 15 ITU staff have signed up to take part in a Tough Mudder event – a hard core 12-mile obstacle course designed by the Special Forces.

The test of stamina, strength and mental grit takes place on 6th October in Cheshire and the team includes consultants, nurses, admin and therapy staff.

Golf day raises more than £15k

Southport’s Vincent Hotel raised more than £15,000 through a charity golf day for our Trust.

The event at the Royal Birkdale Golf Club was attended by former LFC player David Fairclough, a champion of the Home from Home Appeal, along with corporate clients of the award-winning Lord Street hotel.

Vincent Hotel owner Paul Adams said: “It was a fantastic day for our customers and clients which enabled us to raise funds for a very deserving cause.”

The golf event was followed by an evening drinks reception and dinner, plus raffle and auction at the Warehouse Restaurant.

Paul and his staff have pledged to support our appeal with a series of events over the next 18 months.

Pictured teeing off, from left: Liam McLaughlin, David Fairclough, Paul Adams, Paul Beesley and Jake Ferns
Heather’s head shave

Medical HR Manager Heather Bennett had a close shave in aid of the Home from Home Appeal.

Michelle’s hair was razored off in the hospital’s reception area, in front of colleagues, patients and visitors, raising more than £2,000 for the charity.

Heather, 42, said: “I’ve always wanted to do it, but never built up the courage to do it until now. The fact it was for such a great cause made it a lot easier. Also, the thought of my family not being around at a time when you could be vulnerable and poorly would be the worst thing, so relatives’ accommodation is a fantastic idea.”

Sunny walk on Hope Mountain

A ten mile hike in North Wales raised hundreds of pounds for the Home from Home Appeal.

The Hope Mountain Hike in Cymau, near Wrexham, was organised jointly for our appeal and for the Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital Appeal. Around 150 walkers enjoyed a walk in beautiful woods and hillsides, raising funds through sponsorship.

Around 30 staff and supporters from The Walton Centre took part, including Gary and Shelagh Aspinall, pictured.

Walk for NRU raises £450

Former rehabilitation patient Nigel Arrowsmith said a big thank you to the Neuro Rehabilitation Unit when he presented a cheque for £450, following a sponsored eight mile walk organised by his local Rotary Club. Nigel is pictured with his wife Joanne, niece Amy and Physiotherapist Sioned Davies.

Golfers pitch in for appeal

Golfers at Vale Royal Golf Club in Northwich are supporting The Walton Centre throughout the coming year.

Our Home from Home Appeal has been adopted by the club’s Captain Terry Hargrove and Lady Captain Judy Hewitt who aim to raise funds with a series of activities.
A former patient of The Walton Centre has raised thousands of pounds for the hospital’s charity after receiving lifesaving treatment.

A year ago Paul Arthur suffered bacterial meningitis which led to hydrocephalus, also known as water on the brain.

After initially suffering a suspected perforated eardrum followed by severe headaches Paul was taken to the Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust, where a scan showed hydrocephalus, he was then transferred to The Walton Centre for treatment.

Paul, of Chester, made a full recovery and nominated the Walton Neuro Fund as his employer’s local charity of the year.

During the last year Paul’s colleagues at Chester-based Ellis Whittam organised a range of fundraising activities, including raffles, charity auctions, cake bakes, sponsored bike rides and runs.

They managed to raise £2,073.43 for the specialist neuroscience hospital trust.

Paul, solicitor, said: “I wouldn’t be here without The Walton Centre.

“I’m so grateful for everything they have done for me, I can’t thank them enough.”

Consultant Neurosurgeon Martin Wilby, who operated on Paul, explained: “Paul could have died if he hadn’t had the drain, so I’m delighted to see that he has made a great recovery.

“We’re thrilled to receive this very generous donation and we really appreciate the effort of Paul and his colleagues.”

Lisa parry (cheque donation pic being taken October)

More than £1,000 was raised for the Walton Neuro Fund by a fun night in Holyhead, organised by Walton Centre patient Lisa Parry.

Lisa has previously held fundraisers for the charity SHINE, but this time opted to support The Walton Centre’s own charity, with a night of entertainment, disco and food, attended by more than 100 people.

Lisa said: “We had an unbelievable turnout of people and it was a fantastic night, I was delighted we raised so much money – a total of £1,014.”