

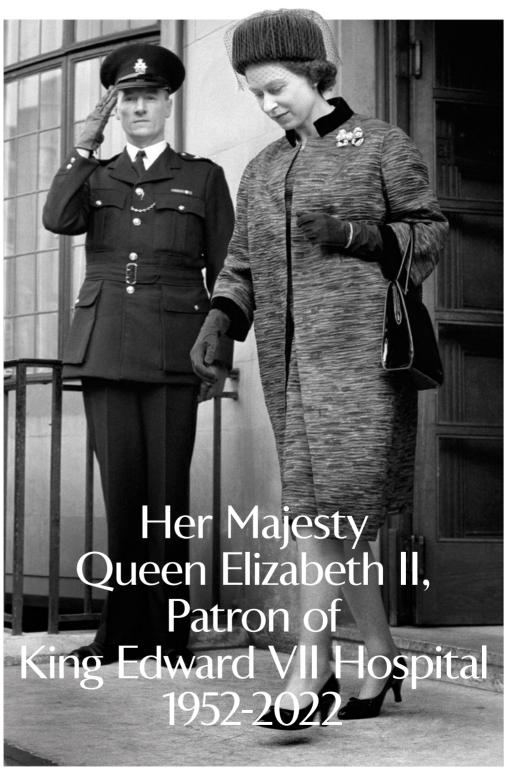
## Friends Newsletter

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## **Dear Friends**

S the interim Chief Executive, it is my privilege to introduce the Autumn Edition of the Friends Newsletter. When I was asked to write this piece, I looked back at the Spring Edition for inspiration. Lindsey Condron began by congratulating our Patron Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on her Platinum Jubilee, which was a truly momentous occasion. It is profoundly sad that since that happy time we have marked her passing, and there is a tribute to her later in this newsletter. Her Patronage has been a source of great pride and encouragement to the Hospital over the many decades. She will be dearly missed in so many ways.

I have a tough challenge as the Interim Chief Executive. Lindsey's are big boots to fill. In her 4 years as Chief Executive she oversaw the development and opening of our spectacular Outpatients facility - The King Edward VII's Hospital Medical Centre. I am sure many of you will have visited this facility and appreciate it is a building fit for the next chapter in our history. Lindsey also oversaw the transformation of the Hospital's COC rating, and in our recent CQC inspection we achieved Outstanding for Well Led in Surgery.

This is a source of immense pride: it demonstrates good Ward to Board leadership across the breadth of our surgical services, from admission to discharge. This is the bread and butter of our work, and we are grateful to all our staff for contributing to this achievement.

This good news coincides with us being shortlisted as 'Hospital of the year' by LaingBuisson judges as a finalist in at this year's prestigious LaingBuisson Awards. With over 400 entries, we are thrilled to have been shortlisted. The award recognizes excellence in the provision of acute health services with a focus on innovation and differentiation as a result of an individual hospital initiative or investment.

On following pages, you will hear about the upcoming launch of our major capital appeal. Thanks to a very generous donation we are about to start the enabling works for the redevelopment of our main hospital building, Beaumont House, with the aspiration of creating an in-patient environment to the same high standards as the new out-patient facility.

I hope that I will get to meet many of you over the next year or two at various Friends events, starting with our carol concert on the 13th December, with more information on how to purchase tickets on page 11.

Professor Justin Vale Interim CEO



# A Tribute to our Patron HM The Queen

t is with profound sadness that we learned of the death of Her Majesty The Queen.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with His Majesty The King, our President His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent and all of the Royal Family, to whom we extend our deepest sympathies.

The Queen had been closely involved with the Hospital for the last 70 years since October 1952 when Sir Harold Wernher announced that The Queen had graciously accepted the Patronage of the Hospital:

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It is my duty to express to you, Sir [i.e. the President, the Duke of Gloucester] on behaf of the Council of the Hospital our deep sympathy on the death of our Patron, His Late Majesty King George VI. I need only say that his loss was felt keenly by all connected with the Hospital, as it was by the nation as a whole.

It is with pleasure that I am able to announce that Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to accept the Patronage of the Hospital. Her Majesty is the fifth Sovereign of the Royal Family to honour this Hospital thus, and the Council, with humble duty, desire to record their deep gratitude for the honour which her Majesty has conferred upon them.

1973 The Queen appointed the Duke of Kent, her cousin, to be the President of the Hospital who has served in that role ever since.

The Queen visited the hospital on many occasions throughout her patronage as an official and private visitor.

On the 18th October 1963 Prime Minster, Harold "Supermac" Macmillan, resigned whilst receiving treatment at the Hospital. He was under immense pressure as his government had been rocked by the scandal known as the "Profumo Affair".

The Queen visited the PM at the Hospital after his letter of resignation had been delivered to her at Buckingham Palace. She had a 30-minute talk at Harold Macmillan's bedside, when she asked him his advice on who should be Britain's new Prime Minister.

Subsequently Lord Alec Douglas-Home was called to the Palace to be the next Prime Minister.



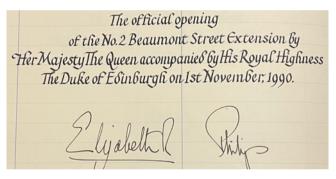
The Queen led the centenary service of Thanksgiving for the Hospital in Westminster Abbey Wednesday 5th of May 1999



The hospital room in which MacMillan stayed and where he had the audience with The Queen is now the Library waiting room of the main hospital and where there is a beautiful portrait of her Majesty.



■ In 1990 The Queen & Prince Philip opened the No 2 Beaumont Street extension





The Hospital has been honoured by The Queen's patrongage, and the active and longstanding support she provided.

The memory of Her Majesty The Queen will always be deeply cherished at King Edward VII's Hospital.





our Spring Friends Newsletter I wrote of the need to transform our main Hospital building, and of the launch of an upcoming major capital appeal. I am pleased to inform you that our plans have now been finalised, and we are soon to be launching our appeal which will aim to raise £100M in total.

£67M is required to deliver the full renovation of our main Hospital building, and we are also seeking to raise £33M for an endowment fund, which would help to safeguard the future of the Hospital and the upkeep and improvement of our campus over the long-term. £100M is obviously a very significant sum, but if it can be raised, it will be transformational for the Hospital, both now and long into the future.

It has been truly inspiring to research the history of our Hospital as we have brought this appeal together. Since 1899 our Hospital has grown and evolved with thanks to some incredible philanthropic contributions from patients, friends and philanthropists, and this wonderful tradition continues to the present day, with the Hospital benefiting from the very generous support of many individuals and families.

Indeed, we are launching this appeal from a fantastic position, thanks to an incredibly generous £12M donation from The Thompson Family Charitable Trust. This is a simply tremendous gift, for which all of us at the Hospital are immensely grateful and gives us huge confidence for the future.

Whilst I will be writing to you separately with a brochure outlining the capital appeal in more detail, I am pleased to provide a preview of this above.

I will look forward to being in touch with more detail regarding our capital appeal in due course and would of course be delighted to hear from you should you like any more information on how you can support our appeal at any point.

#### Veterans' Health

The Centre for Veterans' Health is unique in being able to tap into all our Hospital offers for the benefit of the veteran community. Over the last few months, we have continued to deliver our award winning Pain Management Programme, refocused our means tested grants programme, and have continued to promote our 20% discount for all veterans of the Armed Forces. Whilst these services will continue to form the bedrock of our offer to veterans, we are keen to expand what we do, and to introduce new veteran specific services that can fill clear gaps in the care available to veterans.

As such, over the last two months we have been piloting a new hearing loss and tinnitus advisory service to support veterans. Early indications show that this service could deliver significant impact for the veteran population. Whilst we are still in the pilot phase, we hope it is something we will be able to scale up. Further details of this service will be shared with you in our next newsletter and our hope is that this will be the first of many new veteran specific healthcare services that we will be able to introduce. Watch this space!

Making sure that veterans know we are here for them is absolutely vital, and a lot of time has been spent reaching out to charities that support veterans over the last few months with a view to building partnerships and awareness of the healthcare we can provide to veterans. We have also placed articles in relevant publications to promote our services – with more to follow over the coming weeks and months.

This promotional activity has already delivered an uplift in referrals. We are confident of being able to meet our targets to support many more veterans over the coming months and years, honouring our heritage and the brave service men and women who have given so much to our country.

If you are a veteran, or know a veteran who needs support, please do refer them to the Veterans' Health section of our website to see if we can help, or contact our Veterans' Health Coordinator:



**Caroline Dunne** Veterans' Health Coordinator cdunne@kingedwardvii.co.uk



# Breast Unit Manager Amelia Cook

## tells us how she & her team put personalised care into practice

As you know, our Hospital prides itself on being able to deliver outstanding, highly personalised care. We asked Amelia Cook, our Breast Unit Manager, to outline how she and her team go about putting this into practice.

I have been working at King Edward VII Hospital since June 2021 and have been privileged to work alongside such passionate colleagues who strive to deliver outstanding and innovative care to our patients. My background and experience as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Breast Cancer spans 20 years in the field of advanced Oncology and Surgical care of patients who have a diagnosis of Breast Cancer.

Everyone at King Edward VII's Hospital is committed and passionate about delivering highly personalised care to each individual we treat and taking a holistic approach to complement the life changing treatments we offer is core to that. In the Breast Unit we have spent a great deal of time thinking this through, putting this ethos into practice, all along the patient journey, from pre-habilitation, diagnosis, treatment through to the recovery processes. Extensive research has revealed that by optimizing a patient's

well-being during and following care greatly improves the process of recovery and quality of life after cancer. For this reason, our conversations with our patients are focused on ensuring that our patient's physical, spiritual, psychosexual, and emotional needs are well supported during medical or surgical treatments.

With our multidisciplinary colleagues, we lead on the quality of our treatment which includes advanced techniques such as LYMPHA, a highly advanced microsurgical innovation, minimizing the risks of developing a condition called Lymphoedema. In addition, we will soon be offering the newest digital technology to measure early detection of Lymphoedema, helping to monitor the impact of therapies. Our in-house Genetics team, Holistic Pain Management Specialist Consultant and Micropigmentation also help to optimize body image following surgery.

Our Breast team consists of Oncoplastic Surgeons, Plastic Surgeons, expert Clinical Nurse Specialists, Consultant Radiologists, all with advanced knowledge gained through experience and leading on pioneering research trials that are constantly enhancing practice. Our specialist Radiographers and our Breast Department Secretaries also guide patients along the way. To complement our team we also have a network of Clinical and Medical Oncologists who have a wealth of research based experience and knowledge in their field to support our patients on a continued pathway.

Ultimately, our team is here for our patients and their family at every step, to support their well-being and to ensure that we provide the answers to their questions, promote choice at every moment, support their decisions and build confidence. We make sure we guide our patients through the most advanced treatment options, with their safety in mind all the way to achieve the best outcomes. Optimizing well-being supports recovery, enriches quality of experience and life, and provides the support that they need to live better and enjoy returning to balanced health.

We will continue to bring in new innovative approaches and technologies in our endeavor to continually improve what we are able to offer our patients. Undergoing healthcare can be a daunting prospect and at King Edward VII we want to make is as positive an experience as possible.



An interview with

Ward Sister

#### How long have I been working at King **Edward VII Hospital?**

I have been working here since 2000 - 22 years, time flies! I began as a Staff Nurse and worked my way up to being a Senior Staff Nurse. I am now a Ward Sister and all three roles have been thoroughly enjoyable. As our Hospital has just 56 beds, we have a tight knit community of staff that have over the years become more like family. We really get to know our patients and work closely together to personalise their care as much as we can.

#### What do you like most about working at The Hospital?

At King Edward VII Hospital, the nursing care is personalised to each and every patient we treat. I am proud to work for a Hospital that is committed to delivering such high standards in nursing care. It is what we pride ourselves on. This is important because I truly believe that caring for our patient's emotional needs must go hand in hand with providing the best and latest clinical technology. Being admitted to a hospital can be scary at times, as a team we prioritise making our patients feel comfortable and safe, before, during and after their treatment. It is special to be a part of a team that values this as much as I do. It really is the King Edward VII ethos that sets us apart.

#### What has been your highlight of working at the Hospital?

It is hard to pick just one. As a team, we are constantly striving to improve. Although this can be challenging at times, it is very gratifying getting to see the positive impact. Every individual is committed to improving our high level of nursing. Over the years I have learnt that consistent communication is the key to providing safe and quality care. That is what will continue to set us apart from the rest.

#### What are you most looking forward to in the future?

We have recently introduced new digital systems. This is particularly exciting for me as we need to embrace and utilise new technologies that emerge. Used correctly, they help my colleagues and I do our jobs more effectively, which leads to better patient experience. There are plans to further utilise new technologies as part of our overall digital transformation strategy, that will be a core part of our capital appeal – so lots to look forward to.



# Our long-serving members of staff

Each year we come together to recognise and celebrate the contributions of our long-serving colleagues, who have reached 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 year milestones.

This year colleagues reaching these milestones included:



**Mariana Vallestero** Housekeeping Assistant



**Natalie Valmores Food Service** Steward



**Kestutis Maciunas Hotel Services** Team Leader



**Ashleigh Jordan** Physiotherapy Clinical lead



**Ciprian Sofrone** Front of House Operative





**Irene Lovino** Theatre Scrub Practitioner



**Jean Salmorin** Orthopaedic Team Leader





At St. Marylebone Parish Church with King Edward VII Hospital

Tuesday 13 December 6.30pm

To book tickets scan the QR code below or go to https://tinyurl.com/pn6y7j9t



Alternatively you can search King Edward VII Hospital on the Eventbrite website.

Or send a cheque with the names of attendees to: Fundraising, King Edward VII Hospital, 5-10 Beaumont Street. London, W1G 6AA



#### INTO THE ARCHIVE

# Sir Ernest Cassel, patriot and founding donor of the Hospital



Mr Paul Montgomery is a consultant ENT surgeon with expertise in treating vertigo, dizziness and balance disorders. Paul has been a consultant at King Edward VII's Hospital since 2019, and has recently begun exploring the history of the Hospital. Today, he brings us an article on Sir Ernest Cassell.

Ashkenazi Jewish heritage, Ernest Cassel came to England from Cologne as a young penniless 16 year old to eventually become a close friend of King Edward VII and guarantor of the King's finances.

So close did Cassel become that when the King asked a friend 'have you seen the play The Importance of Being Ernest?' the friend replied, 'no Sir, but I have seen the importance of being Ernest Cassel!'.

In the popular press he was known as "Windsor Cassel"!

In addition to supporting the Hospital Sir Ernest Cassel and Lord Iveagh (Edward Guinness) made major contributions to the foundation of Britain's first radium institute which opened important place in 1911.

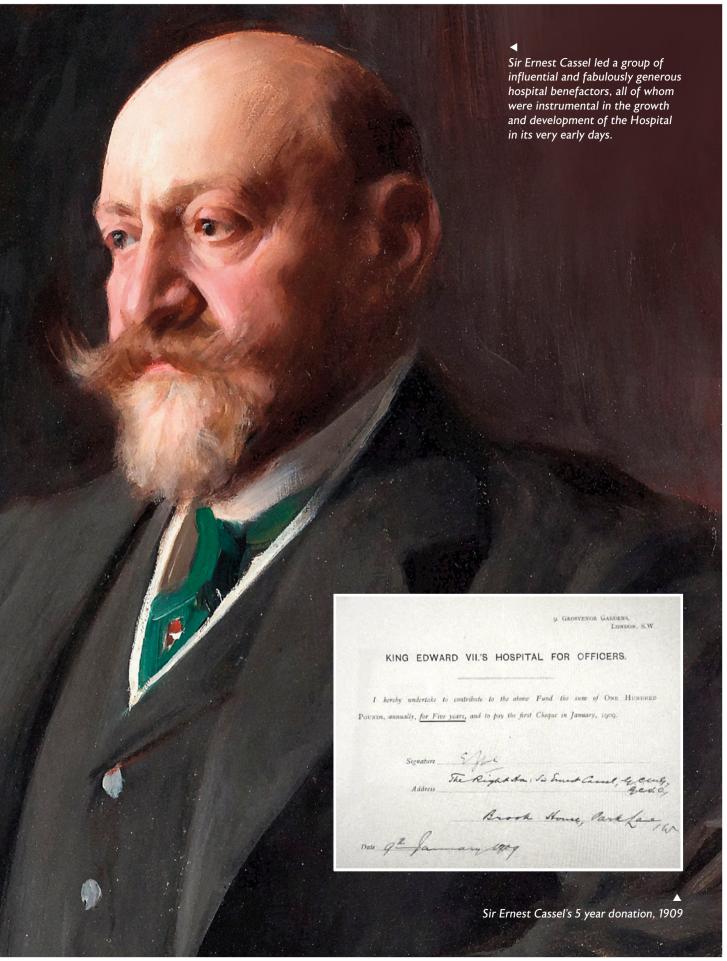
He became friends with Lord Randolph Churchill and supported his son Winston Churchill.

Just before the outbreak of World War I Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty and Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, authorised Cassel to visit the Kaiser in secret to signal the British government's desire to slow the naval arms race with Germany. Unfortunately, the Kaiser rejected the proposal and a chance of peace was destroyed.

His granddaughter, who was also The King's goddaughter, Edwina inherited his wealth equivalent to £250 million in today's money.

Subsequently Edwina married Lord Mountbatten, the uncle to Queen Elizabetth II, and became the last Indian Vicereine.

The Prime Minister's wife Margot Asquith described Cassel as 'a man of natural authority, dignified, autocratic and wise with the power of loving those he cared for'.





### Get in touch

For more information on anything included in this newsletter, or to discuss how to best support the Hospital, please contact:

Angela Higham Fundraising and Partnerships Manager ahigham@kingedwardvii.co.uk

or

Alex Le Vey
Director of Philanthropy and Veterans' Health
alevey@kingedwardvii.co.uk



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