

# The Women's View



## New CT scanner installed

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## Welcome

**Hello everyone and welcome to the first edition of 2023.**

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year, we had a wonderfully busy festive period, with the 20th December seeing 32 births in one day!

Our latest exciting news is that our new Community Diagnostics Centre is one step closer to completion. A permanent CT Scanner has recently been installed and is now fully operational. This new permanent CT Scanner will give patients in the community access to diagnostics much earlier than they would have had before and will also reduce transfers for LWH patients who would ordinarily have to go over to the Royal Liverpool Hospital for such tests.

This will not only benefit Liverpool Women's patients but many others across the region who are waiting for diagnostic care including patients from Liverpool University Hospitals (LUHFT), Liverpool Heart and Chest (LHCH) and Clatterbridge Cancer Centre (CCC). The permanent CT scanner is located within Imaging, accessible via the main Outpatients Department. Along with our new CT Scanner, over the next few weeks a permanent MRI scanner will also be installed within the Community Diagnostic Centre. Find out more online.

[View here](#)

The completed Community Diagnostic Centre will be officially opened later in the year, so watch this space for more details.

Many thanks,

**Kathryn Thomson - Chief Executive**



# Spotlight on *Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit Nurse* Amanda Wharton

Amanda has been with us since 2015 and has worked in the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) since 2019. We caught up with Louise Robertson, Consultant Obstetrician and Lead for EPAU to shine the spotlight on Amanda.

I first met Amanda when I was working as a senior registrar and she was a theatre nurse in 2016. We immediately bonded over her no nonsense, hardworking and compassionate approach to the care of women and their babies in theatre. She was unflappable and always a step ahead of me anticipating what I would need from her as my scrub nurse.

Amanda trained at Edge Hill and qualified in 2014. She took up her first nursing post at Broadgreen Hospital on a Care of the Elderly Nurse led unit where she worked for over a year before she transferred to Liverpool Women's Hospital in 2015.





## Spotlight on Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit Nurse Amanda Wharton

After several years working predominantly nights in theatre Amanda looked for a new challenge and came to work in the Gynaecology Emergency Department (GED). She undertook the new role with enthusiasm and when the opportunity arose, she applied to become part of the Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) team she put herself forward.

The EPAU care for women with complications in early pregnancy between 6 and 12 weeks. It is a self-contained unit that works closely with the GED and is led by myself as lead for EPAU. To become an EPAU nurse sonographer Amanda had to undertake a postgraduate qualification in ultrasound scanning. This demonstrates learning to the level of a masters. Amanda passed the course with flying colours and became a fully fledged member of the team.

Alongside the ultrasound training Amanda worked within the department and developed her understanding on the complex needs of our women in EPAU. She spent time visiting Honeysuckle to understand the bereavement pathways and developed her communication and breaking bad news skills.

Amanda qualified as a nurse ultrasonographer in Spring 2020 which coincided with the start of the pandemic.

The team in EPAU was severely affected by this with two of the three senior members being required to shield. This meant that Amanda had to take on a lot of responsibility early on in her scanning career. Although there were difficult times Amanda managed these with dignity and continued hard work. She worked with the ultrasonographers and consultants within gynaecology and developed her skills further.

Scanning in early pregnancy requires real-time interpretation and discussion with the woman and her loved ones regarding the outcome of the scan. This can be a highly emotional situation that requires great empathy and compassion. These are skills that Amanda has developed through her time working within EPAU. She is gentle and kind hearted as demonstrated through feedback she has received from couples even when they have received the worst news they could imagine.

Amanda is committed to the development of the service. Scanning is only half of the role we undertake in EPAU. Recognition of the heartbreak people who access our service undergo is vital. Amanda developed a system to call women back after their diagnosis of miscarriage to enable them to discuss management options when they felt ready rather than rely on the woman calling back or relying completely on the busy team from the GED calling the following day.

Amanda and the team are undertaking consent training to improve the experience of women who suffer miscarriage that require medical or surgical management. This will enable the nursing staff to initiate or complete the consent process within the EPAU sparing the woman a further wait to see a medic to obtain consent. This will improve not only the care of our women but also women in the GED who are in need of the GED team.

Happily, Amanda had her own pregnancy in 2021 and has a beautiful daughter Nelly who I had the honour of bringing into the world. Since returning to work she balances being a fulltime mother and a dedicated EPAU nurse. She continues to drive to service forward and is invested in being part of the new vision for early pregnancy care at LWH that will make us leaders in women's health.

# ♀ NEWS

## The Hewitt Fertility Centre

*Dedicated to you*

### Hewitt Fertility Research Projects

Five members of our Hewitt Reproductive Science and Nursing team recently presented their research to fertility professionals from around the UK, showcasing their amazing work which is already having a positive impact on successful treatment outcomes for Hewitt patients.

Clinical Andrologist Tamanda Timvere presented 'Can the introduction of automation in therapeutic sperm preparation improve embryologists semen analysis performance?' A fantastic presentation that was awarded the Jean Purdy prize at the conference in Belfast. What a team!

#### Other presentations included:

- Clinical Embryologist Bethany Muller presented 'Does number of sperm added at in vitro fertilisation insemination impact the rate of normal and abnormal fertilisation events?'
- Lead Clinical Embryologist Hannah Newby presented 'In the absence of personalised progesterone testing, implementation rates in medical frozen embryo transfers are improved with a combination of sub-cutaneous and pessary luteal progesterone support'.
- Fertility Nurse Specialist Lois Whelan presented 'What is the psychological impact of imposing the one at a time embryo transfer policy for women?'
- Clinical Andrologist Olivia Sandys presented on 'Optimising the alkalinisation protocol for patients with retrograde ejaculation'.

Liverpool Women's  
Hospital Charity



**Wanting to tick something off your bucket list this year? Take a look at our charity's calendar of events.**

**Liverpool Half Marathon**  
Sunday 26 March 2023

**Charity Skydive with Black Knights Parachute Centre**  
Saturday 20 May 2023

**Wirral Coastal Walk**  
Sunday 11th June

**Liverpool Cathedral Abseil**  
Saturday 8 July 2023

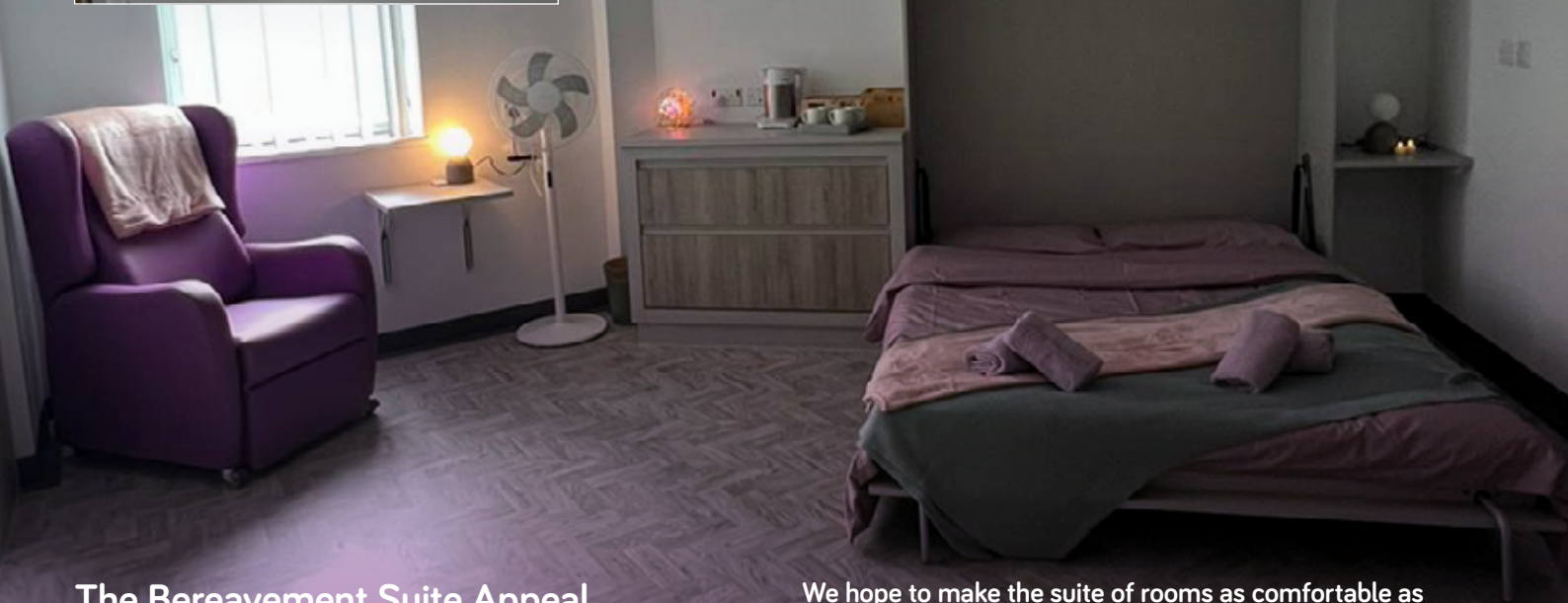
**Three Peaks Challenge**  
Saturday 26 August 2023

**Mount Toubkal Overseas Trek**  
Friday 13 – Tuesday 17 October 2023

Please contact [fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk](mailto:fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk) or pop into the Fundraising office opposite the main reception to register your interest or to find out more. The charity has purchased a limited number of places for each event.

**Don't miss out on these exciting opportunities!**





## The Bereavement Suite Appeal

The charity's Bereavement Suite Appeal aims to raise £100,000 to transform clinical rooms on both our Gynaecology and Maternity wards into comfortable, home-like spaces to be used by families who have sadly experienced a pregnancy loss or still birth.

*The rooms will allow families to stay together in peaceful surroundings to make special memories, away from the bustle of the rest of the hospital whilst being supported by the hospital's nurses, doctors and Honeysuckle Team.*

We hope to make the suite of rooms as comfortable as possible for our families by introducing:

- Soundproofing to protect families from ward sounds.
- LED cloud lighting to create a calm atmosphere for during clinical procedures.
- A pull-down double bed to allow partners to stay so families can remain together.
- Comfortable furniture and basic amenities such as a kettle and microwave to create a self contained space.
- Artwork to create a peaceful and relaxing environment.
- Soft furnishings to create a home-from-home.

If you wish to make a donation to support this important project and help make a difficult time a little easier for our Honeysuckle families, please visit the charity's *Just Giving* page.

[View here](#)

£25

Buffet meal  
included

Liverpool Women's  
Hospital Charity

Exciting raffle prizes  
including: Hope Street  
Hotel, spa days, Venture  
photography experiences  
and much more.  
Valued at £500+

# Neonatal Unit Fashion Show Fundraiser

WITH SPARKLES STUDIO BOUTIQUE

Sunday 16 April at The Bentley

A spectacular evening of fashion entertainment and dancing!

Paula Johnson of Sparkles Boutique – will be hosting a fashion show to raise funds for the Neonatal Unit. She will be joined by the fantastic Steve Charles with live music from AMBA and all night dancing with our DJ.

View here

[eventbrite.com/e/lwh-fashion-show-for-neonatal-tickets-524365038947](https://eventbrite.com/e/lwh-fashion-show-for-neonatal-tickets-524365038947)



It's back, bigger and better

Saturday 2 December 2023

Register your interest now and be take part of this much anticipated dance extravaganza.

Email: [fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk](mailto:fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk)



# Pink & Purple Pram Push



## The pram push is back!

We are challenging people to complete a 5k push around Princes Park to raise funds for the Neonatal Unit. This fun event encourages all the family to come together to walk/run/stroll around a 5k clearly marked route in Princes Park, Liverpool.

Please email [fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk](mailto:fundraising@lwh.nhs.uk) for further info and keep an eye on our socials.

Liverpool Women's  
Hospital Charity

# THANK YOU

to all of our wonderful supporters

We would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all staff, patients, families and members of the local community who continue to support the hospital through charitable donations, in-kind gifts and fundraising for the charity.

Your support helps us fund important projects to improve the experience of the patients at Liverpool Women's Hospital.

## Gynaecology care bags and maternity Bags of Love

We were overwhelmed by the support received from local community and youth groups who have worked tirelessly to put together care bags for our patients.

The packs provided included essential toiletries, pyjamas and treats for women who may visit the hospital in an emergency or have little during their inpatient stay with us.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this appeal. We are still looking for pyjamas black leggings and toiletries to support our vulnerable families. If you can, please donate to the fundraising office. Thank you.

