



Headlines

Members' Headlines Summer 2024



Our
pioneering
Paterson



Membership
at The Christie

pg 3-4



Patient
stories

pg 5-8



News from
The Trust

pg 10-11

Contents

2	Welcome
2	How to contact your governor
3	Governor elections
3	Keeping in touch
4	How can I get more involved as a member?
4	Volunteering at The Christie
10-11	News from The Trust
12	Invitation to the AMM

We are interested in your comments and feedback on the content of Headlines – if there is something you would like to see in the next issue, please email the membership office: the-christie.members@nhs.net

How to contact us and your governor

You are a key part of The Christie and, through the Council of Governors, influence how The Christie is run. Your governors are here to represent you at the highest level. If you have any suggestions, views or concerns and would like to contact your governor please get in touch with the membership office:

The Christie Membership Office,
550 Wilmslow Road, Manchester M20 4BX
Email: the-christie.members@nhs.net

You can follow The Christie on:

 (formerly Twitter) [@TheChristieNHS](https://twitter.com/TheChristieNHS), or our charity [@TheChristie](https://twitter.com/TheChristie)

 [@TheChristieNHS](https://www.facebook.com/TheChristieNHS) or our charity [@TheChristiecharity](https://www.facebook.com/TheChristiecharity)

 [@thechristienhs](https://www.linkedin.com/company/thechristienhs) or our charity [@thechristiecharity](https://www.linkedin.com/company/thechristiecharity)

Welcome to the latest edition of Headlines

Thank you for being a member of The Christie and to everyone who has shared their comments or attended a membership event such as a focus group, a PLACE assessment etc. We hope you enjoy reading about The Trust's highlights and achievements over the last twelve months.

Apart from Headlines magazine, all of our communications to our members are sent by email. If you haven't heard from us in a while, it's likely we don't have an email address for you. To update your record, please send your name, postcode and email address to: the-christie.members@nhs.net

If you have friends or family who would like to become members, please ask them to visit our website and complete the membership form at www.christie.nhs.uk/members

If you would like to update your membership details or let us know what information you would like to receive, you can do this on our website: www.christie.nhs.uk/join

We would particularly welcome an update about your age and ethnicity so that we can better understand which groups our members represent.

Invitation to the Annual Members' Meeting

We would like to invite you to attend this year's Annual Members' Meeting on **Wednesday 17 July 2024 at 1pm.**

The meeting will last about an hour and will include Trust achievements in 2023/24, highlights of the year followed by a Q & A session with chief executive, Roger Spencer and chair, Edward Astle.

Please take a look at the back page for more details on how to join the virtual meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Governor elections

Governors have the opportunity to influence our work and help develop and improve The Christie for the benefit of patients, their families and local communities. All governors receive training and support, and it is an excellent way to learn more about The Christie and gain a real sense of achievement by helping us to improve.

We have governor elections running in the following areas:

Bolton, Bury, Cheshire, North West (ex rest of England and Wales), Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport and Wigan.

The notice of elections was issued on **Wednesday 24 April 2024** with the deadline for nominations closing on **Thursday 23 May 2024.**

Voting packs will be issued on Monday 17 June 2024 to all members to vote for a governor to represent them. **Please cast your vote by the deadline of Wednesday 10 July 2024.**

Any queries can be directed to the Returning Officer below:

Abi Walcott-Daniel
Civica Election Services Limited
The Election Centre
33 Clarendon Road
London
N8 0NW

Tel: 0208 889 9203

ftnominationenquiries@cesvotes.com

Keeping in touch

Our membership database has around 9,000 public members who have joined over a number of years. As with most organisations today, we use email as the main way of letting our members know about news, information and events from around The Trust.

We currently have email addresses for less than half of our members and we want to increase this number to make sure we can send you the information you have requested and communicate with as many of our dedicated members as possible.

There are 3 levels of communications to choose from:

- General information (sent to all our members) – this includes Headlines magazine, your invitation to the Annual Members' Meeting and other Trust wide events such as open days. We will also contact you to vote for your governor when elections take place.
- Events and meetings – we will let you know about any departmental events or meetings that you might be interested in.

- Focus groups and online surveys – this is a great way to have your say on how we shape and improve our services at The Christie. We will email you with information about these as they are arranged.

To make sure we have your correct details and that we are sending you the information you would like, you can complete the form on our website: www.christie.nhs.uk/join and we will update your details.

If you no longer wish to be a member and would like us to remove you from our records, please let us know by emailing us at the-christie.members@nhs.net.

Keeping up with news from The Trust

Another great way of keeping up to date with news from around The Trust is to visit our news webpages. Here you can read about the latest Trust developments, patient stories and news from around The Christie. Take a look here: www.christie.nhs.uk/news

How can I get involved more as a member?



Aside from sharing any feedback with us about The Christie, The Trust runs several membership events every year that are only available to our members.

Information about these events are sent by email which is why it is so important that we have an email address for you and one that is up to date. Please get in touch if you think we don't have your email address or if you have changed email addresses in the last 5 years.

Email the-christie.members@nhs.net to find out more or to check we have the correct email address for you.

These membership events include:

Invitation to the Annual Members' Meeting

An online streamed event which gives members an annual update on The Trust's achievements and highlights. See the back page for details.

Focus groups

These are usually held on the last Thursday of each month via Zoom, and you can access Zoom via a computer, tablet or smartphone. Each one is on a different topic, and members give their opinion and feedback on a range of topics helping us to improve our services. They are informal with an introduction from a Christie staff member followed by questions and comments from our members. We usually have about 10 members on a focus group, so they are booked on a first come first served basis.

Patient-led assessments of the care environment (PLACE) assessments

Our PLACE assessments take place every year to

help us to make positive changes by gathering feedback on how we can improve the environment where we deliver our services to patients. They are a national requirement for Trusts.

Each year we assess a couple of our sites. Members who are participating must be able to attend a training event as well as the assessment. We usually have 15 members on each assessment, so they are booked on a first come first served basis.

Local governor elections

Every year in June/July members can vote for their local governor to represent them. For more details see pg 3.

Surveys

Throughout the year, we may send surveys to members to complete and give their feedback to help improve our service to our patients, carers and families. Your feedback is really important to us so that we make changes that you want to see.

Volunteering at The Christie

Could you be a volunteer?

Our volunteers work in non-clinical roles across a range of departments and make a huge difference to our patients' experience by giving their time. We want our teams to reflect the diversity of the patients and communities we serve and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and identities.

To find out what volunteering roles we have available and to apply for specific roles, please visit www.christie.nhs.uk/volunteers



All about out patients

Natalie's story

57 year old Natalie Yates-Bolton was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma at 22. It was the start of a 35-year journey that would see her being diagnosed four more times.

Natalie has had lymphoma twice and breast cancer three times. In total, she's had 11 operations, 30 sessions of chemotherapy, and 55 of radiotherapy.



Natalie Yates-Bolton



"I have an amazing time in all aspects of my life, and I now want to make a difference to the lives of others. Through the university, I've had the incredible opportunity to work on World Health Organisation projects in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) in Africa and Moldova which is a country next to Ukraine. The amount I now do even takes me by surprise and I don't think I would have done half as much if it wasn't for the cancer."

She's currently being treated with a targeted breast cancer drug called palbociclib which allows her to have a good quality of life and she currently has no signs of cancer.

Feeling fit and well, Natalie enjoys running and has to date taken part in 6 marathons, 3 ultra-marathons and 3 triathlons. She has also gained a PhD, become an executive coach, and learnt to become a hat maker.

Natalie Yates-Bolton

Sara Anne's story

Six years on from her first treatment on a clinical trial, Sara Anne Morley's tumours are stable, and she recently completed her 100th cycle of experimental immunotherapy.

Sara Anne has stage 4 bowel cancer, the most advanced kind. After exhausting all the standard treatment options available to her, she started on an early phase immunotherapy clinical trial at The Christie in early 2018. Immunotherapy works by training the body's immune system to fight cancer.

She was matched to the trial because genetic testing revealed that she had high microsatellite instability, or MSI-H colon cancer, which is seen in around 5% of patients. The drug she is on is particularly effective against tumours of this type.



"All the scans since then have shown that my tumours are steadily shrinking. One has even completely gone, it's unbelievable. If I hadn't been put on the trial, I wouldn't be here today. The Christie has given me my life back. They've given me the chance to get to know my grandchildren, I really can't thank them enough."

Sara Anne

David's story

David Jones-Stanley, a 49 year old operations director and dad, was diagnosed with stage three food pipe (oesophageal) cancer in October 2021.



David Jones-Stanley

"I feel so lucky to have The Christie so near to me. The experience I've had, although difficult, has been extremely positive. Everyone at The Christie was great – they made me feel safe at a time when I was most vulnerable. The support I've received before, during and after treatment has been fantastic."

He didn't have a lot of the traditional symptoms like heartburn or acid reflux but knew something was wrong when he went to get some ham from the fridge and couldn't swallow it.

David, who lives in Atherton with his husband and three sons, went to his local hospital for an endoscopy and CT scan and was told that he had cancer of the oesophagus. He had chemotherapy and then an 11-hour operation to remove his food pipe and reshape his stomach so the top of it could be stretched to form a new food pipe. As a result, his stomach is now a lot smaller than before, and he eats six or seven small meals a day.

David is now cancer-free and taking part in a clinical trial to see whether regular aspirin use after treatment can prevent the cancer from coming back.

Jay's story



Jay Swinnerton

"Hellbent on expressing myself in the face of adversity, I wore makeup and falsies to appointments. At a time when my physical body was betraying me, it was liberating to be able to be myself."

Jay Swinnerton was diagnosed with stage 4 Hodgkin lymphoma in 2017 when they were just 19. Their friends, knowing they would lose their hair during chemo, bought them a purple wig as a way of making them smile. Shanika Sunrise, Jay's drag alter ego was born. If it wasn't for cancer, Shanika wouldn't exist.

Jay got through treatment but, less than a year later, they relapsed and tried four different treatments before going into remission thanks to a new immunotherapy drug.

They said: "Ever since that day in March 2017, the incredible team at The Christie nursed my body and nurtured my spirit. Cancer pushes you beyond unimaginable limits, but the care and encouragement of my team was integral to my perseverance. Even when I wanted to hide away from it all, I never had to hide who I was."

Since cancer, Jay has done countless gigs as Shanika, toured internationally with RuPaul's Drag Race alumni, and is being booked as a solo artist for their own shows.

Terry's story

Terry Berry was diagnosed with inoperable cancer in his digestive system and given 12 months to live – but almost four years later, he has lived to see his eldest daughter get married, he's met his fourth grandchild, and celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary with wife Elaine, all thanks to taking part in a research trial at The Christie.

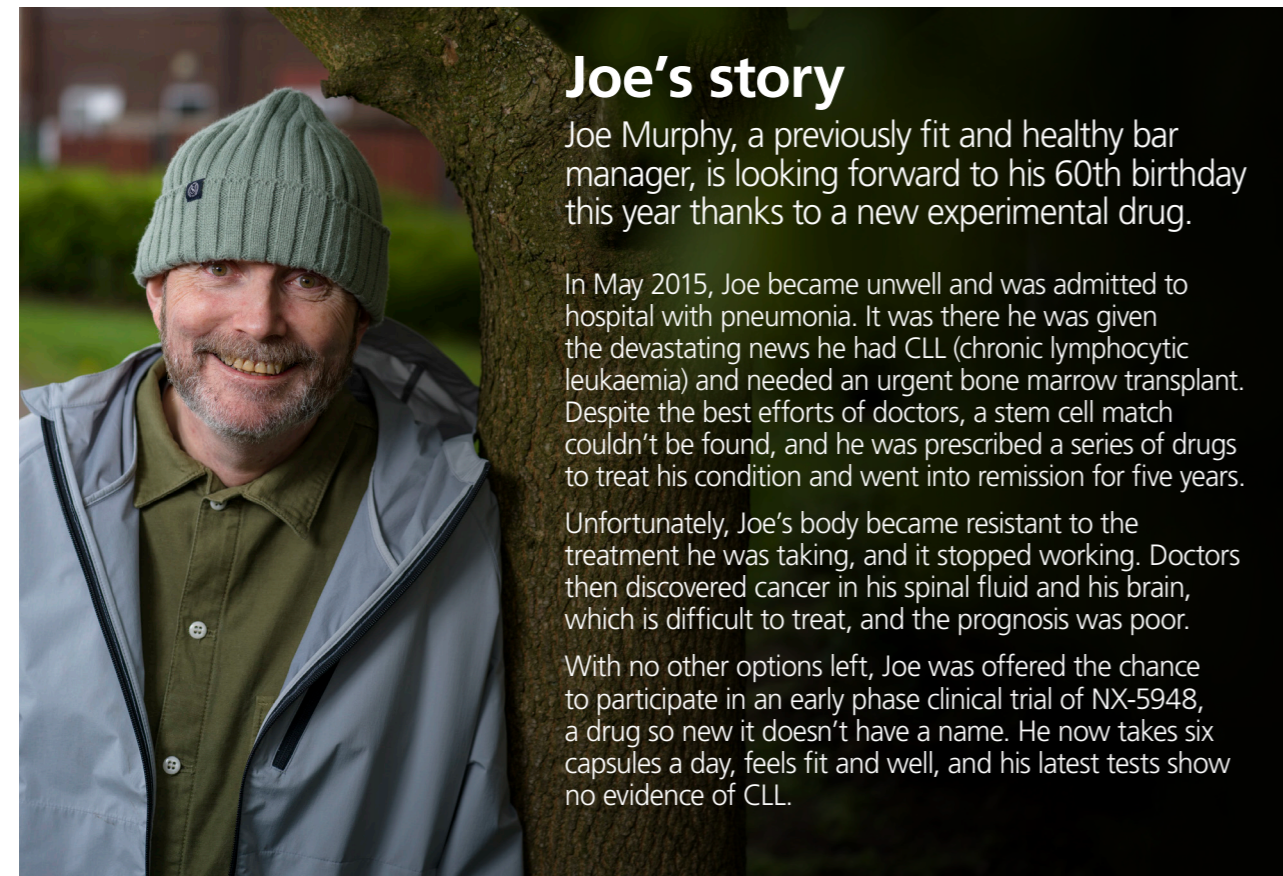


Terry Berry

Doctors discovered a 10cm tumour and diagnosed cholangiocarcinoma - a type of cancer that forms in the bile duct of the digestive system.

With few treatment options available, Terry was referred to The Christie where he underwent chemotherapy as part of a clinical trial until March 2022, by which time his tumour had shrunk by almost a quarter and he came off treatment for almost a year and a half and his condition remained stable.

When the cancer started to progress and spread to his lungs, Terry was then offered the chance to participate in a second clinical trial for the oral drug ivosidenib, a first-in-class targeted therapy used to treat patients with bile duct cancer that has spread to other parts of the body or been previously treated. Terry now takes two tablets a day and his recent scan shows the drug is keeping his cancer stable.



Joe's story

Joe Murphy, a previously fit and healthy bar manager, is looking forward to his 60th birthday this year thanks to a new experimental drug.

In May 2015, Joe became unwell and was admitted to hospital with pneumonia. It was there he was given the devastating news he had CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukaemia) and needed an urgent bone marrow transplant. Despite the best efforts of doctors, a stem cell match couldn't be found, and he was prescribed a series of drugs to treat his condition and went into remission for five years.

Unfortunately, Joe's body became resistant to the treatment he was taking, and it stopped working. Doctors then discovered cancer in his spinal fluid and his brain, which is difficult to treat, and the prognosis was poor.

With no other options left, Joe was offered the chance to participate in an early phase clinical trial of NX-5948, a drug so new it doesn't have a name. He now takes six capsules a day, feels fit and well, and his latest tests show no evidence of CLL.

Special service for our older patients

With an ageing population in the UK, this year The Christie has launched a new specialised service to support older cancer patients with complex needs and frailty.



Jean Riding

The Senior Adult Oncology Unit is an outpatient-based service providing a range of assessments and support to help doctors and patients choose the most appropriate treatment options and enhance the support provided during such treatments, to improve care and achieve better clinical outcomes.

Only a few cancer centres worldwide have dedicated services to support older patients with frailty.

The service started by supporting lung cancer patients at The Christie, a large group of patients typically diagnosed late in life. However, this service is rapidly expanding to other patient groups, such as patients with multiple myeloma and head and neck cancer.

The service is predominantly for patients over 70 with complex frailty who are being considered or already undergoing anti-cancer treatments, such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy. However, frailty may be found in some younger patients with cancer, and they may also be offered support.

The Senior Adult Oncology Unit is a multidisciplinary team including doctors, nurses, dieticians, therapists and pharmacists. They carry out specialist frailty assessments with patients, above and beyond a standard oncology assessment. The assessment looks at issues such as the

patient's resilience (physical and psychological), mobility, and risk of falls. It also considers the medications a patient takes, whether they can be safely reduced or optimised, and the implications of other health issues (co-morbidities) such as diabetes, heart disease or dementia.

One of the patients at The Christie who has benefited from the new service is Jean Riding, age 75 from Dukinfield.

"The team has been great, I was worried about the side effects of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. They have given me a lot of reassurance and emotional support. I was also worried about having radiotherapy to my brain as I had an aneurism a couple of years ago. But they have done an MRI scan and that is showing there is no risk. The support they provided has given me the confidence to go through the treatment and they have put my mind at rest."

Jean Riding

Did you know?

This year we are celebrating the 5th birthday of the UK's first high-energy proton beam therapy centre. Around 1,270 people have been treated here since it opened its doors in late December 2018.



News from The Trust

This year at The Christie

Welcome to our lookback at another year at The Christie, where we continue with our desire to ensure the very best cancer care for all our patients.

We are very proud of our performance as we continue to recover from the global pandemic which has had such a big influence over the last few years. The ongoing issues of industrial action and financial challenges continue to affect us, but despite this, we remain steadfast in our quest to deliver the highest standards of research, care and treatment for our patients. Our strong operational and financial performance is enabling us to continue to make patient care our highest priority.

We always ask great things of our staff. Exceptional performance is not just expected, it is the norm here, and we are quite rightly proud of everything our excellent teams achieve.

Despite our achievements, we are keen to acknowledge there is always room for improvement, and this year we have been focussing on a plan to address issues raised by the Care Quality Commission following their inspection of The Trust where they rated our services as 'good'. Central to this has been a wide-ranging independent cultural audit of the organisation, which is ensuring we are listening and putting the views of our staff central to everything we do.

Our expert, dedicated and compassionate staff remain the driving force behind what makes The Christie special. And this newsletter contains many examples of our drive to always put our patients first, and our pursuit of innovation and progression towards being a truly world-class cancer centre.

This year, our teams were delighted to move into our new Paterson building, providing us with a purpose-built biomedical cancer research facility allowing us to develop our research capability like

never before. Hand in hand with our partners, The University of Manchester and Cancer Research UK, this new centre will help us achieve our ambition of leading the world in clinical trial recruitment, supporting the development of new and kinder cancer therapies. Our programme of patient-facing clinical research has continued to thrive, giving patients access to new treatments and new hope.

Alongside our research activities, our expertise also remains in demand. We have been able to continue progression in both The Christie School of Oncology and The Christie International. Our world-renowned clinicians continue to be in demand across the globe for their knowledge and experience in cancer care and education.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those involved for your commitment and dedication in our goal to provide the very best care for our patients. Our many achievements would not be possible without you.



“Her friendly and empathetic nature played an essential role in my journey, and I genuinely don’t know how I would have gotten through it without her.”

These are the words of Maxine Roscoe who nominated Decima - the deserving winner of our 'Act with Kindness' award when we reinstated our Christie Colleague Awards this year.

Decima Pigram is a haematology clinical nurse specialist.

Maxine got to know Decima when she began treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia during lockdown in 2020. Maxine singled Decima out as a 'constant presence who supported her every step of the way' when she spent much of her time at The Christie in isolation away from family and friends.

Maxine said: “As soon as I met Decima, she recognised how scared I was and took the time to get to know me. She visited me every day, going above and beyond to build a connection with me. She even chatted away with my family and friends while I was on FaceTime with them in my hospital room. She became a friendly face and a welcome



visitor, ultimately becoming a friend. She helped me understand the medical terminology, the procedures I would undergo, and simplified the language so I could comprehend what was happening to me. Decima remained a constant presence for me and supported me every step of the way. Undoubtedly, she is a deserving winner of this award.”

We're proud of all our staff, but there's nothing nicer than seeing a genuine heartfelt thank you from one of our patients. Thank you Maxine and everyone who nominated a member of our team. And well done Decima – and all our other award recipients. You embody everything that is special about The Christie.

Our pioneering Paterson

This year, the first experiments have been taking place in the new Paterson cancer research centre at The Christie.

The building has been designed with collaboration and teamwork in mind. It's directly connected to the hospital, meaning patient samples can get to the lab within minutes.

Trials will cover everything from prevention and new treatments to living with and beyond cancer. Research areas include personalised medicine, global genomics, radiotherapy, and surgery.



Invitation to The Christie NHS Foundation Trust Annual Members' Meeting 2024

Please join us for our virtual Annual Members' Meeting on **Wednesday 17 July 2024 at 1pm**. The meeting will last about an hour and will include Trust achievements in 2023/24, highlights of the year followed by a Q & A session with chief executive, Roger Spencer and chair, Edward Astle.

The meeting will be live streamed and we will be using ON24 for this session. In order to access the meeting, you just need to do the following:

1. Visit the Annual Members' Meeting webpage on The Christie Website: www.christie.nhs.uk/amm
2. Click on the link: Register for the Annual Members Meeting 2024 on ON24 and complete the registration details
3. You will then be emailed a link from our webinar provider to access the live session, you will be able to join from 15 minutes before the start date of the meeting.
4. You can watch the session in either Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge. Internet Explorer will not work.
5. If you are unable to join live, the catch-up link will be released on the website page below after the session has finished.

For more information about the Annual Members' Meeting, please visit the website here: www.christie.nhs.uk/amm

There are many ways in which you, as a member, can support The Christie such as voting for your local governor or taking part in surveys. Some of you are active supporters of The Christie Charity as well as members and we really appreciate the time and the hard work you give.

I hope you will join us on Wednesday 17 July. If you intend to come to the Annual Members' Meeting it would help us if you could let us know emailing us at the-christie.members@nhs.net

Warm regards



Edward Astle
Chair

Notice is given that the Annual Members' Meeting of The Christie NHS Foundation Trust will be held at 1pm on Wednesday 17 July 2024 virtually via ON24.

The business will be as follows:

1. To receive the annual report and accounts 2023/24
2. To receive the report of the auditor
3. To receive a report on membership issues
4. To receive the results of the election and appointment of governors

By order of the Council of Governors, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust