

# Editorial

Dear Reader

What a tumultuous; ephemeral time we have all been through! The MBMJ Team and I send our best wishes to you and your families. A miniscule, invisible quark has led to extensive changes in our personal and professional lives. The Covid-19 total lockdown was a totally alien concept to our free world. It did improve gardening skills, family relationships and promote regular exercise (the last for some) on the one hand, but on the other enhanced dependence on the Internet and a virtual lifestyle. All this had to be absorbed into a new way of life, travel, recreation and work. The irony of inexpensive fuel and nowhere to go was not unnoticed. The social distancing measures have led to plastic panels and signs being put up in shops, banks, supermarkets; this could not please Greta Thunberg. The wait for the CV19 swab result was agonising. The inability to say farewell to those we lost was tragic.

The entire world has responded in some way to stem the spread and eradicate the virus. Healthcare workers and allied teams globally have been in the front line for defensive management of the unprecedented viral pandemic. The NHS has been our saviour. The NHS delivered emergency care and assistance undeterred by the possible consequences of exposure to the virus. The Government with the Department of Health laid down clear rules and guidance. On the broad principles of social distancing, shielding, working from home, use of hand sanitisers, masks and regular hand washing our Trust, like others, has delivered the best care to employees and patients. All this has occurred in the 72nd anniversary year of the NHS. The world is following the race for the availability of CV19 vaccine with bated breath.

There has been immeasurable benefaction by our local community to healthcare workers. The generosity ranges from free bicycles, free meals, free plants, discounted dry cleaning, discounted shopping – the list just continues. The daily Trust briefings in tandem with information from Downing Street certainly helped reduce anxiety. The most stoic and pragmatic amongst us experienced the twinge of fear and disquiet. Mental health awareness has been a prominent theme in the Trust.

In this editorial I include photographs of the prompt action undertaken to combat the virus and save lives. Immense alterations to existing practise, new builds and reorganisation of wards/theatres and working environments have taken place across all the Trust sites. The photographs are courtesy of Mr Henry Iddon,<sup>1</sup> a member of the National Union of Journalists. Out of interest in Covid-19 and his interest in photography, Mr Iddon travelled to 3 sites of the Trust to secure these images. His contributions have been voluntary and most appreciated.

No matter how hard I try it is not possible to include the contributions of every single department. Junior doctors, medical students, community workers, restaurant staff everyone is united against the virus. The Scrub Hub staffed by the audiologist team is a perfect example of service redesign imposed by CV19. I too was deployed to ITU for training if the pandemic caused staff shortages.



Scrub Hub. Ward 36.  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



Fruit in the Canteen.  
Westmorland General Hospital.  
Kendal. Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



Queen Victoria Hospital.  
Morecambe. Lancashire.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



Surgical Mask Bin.  
Canteen,  
Westmorland General Hospital.  
Kendal, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



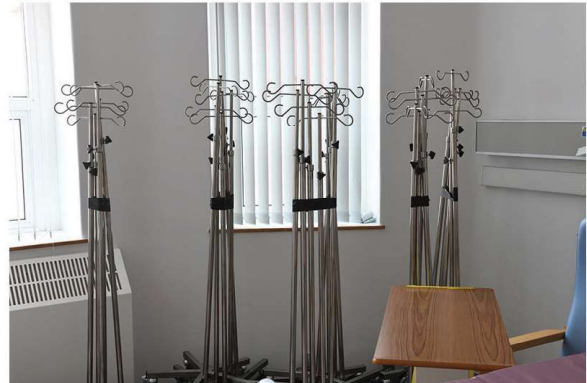
Notice on Canteen Table.  
Westmorland General Hospital.  
Kendal, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



Corridor Direction Sign.  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
Lancashire.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



Drip Stands, Ward 4.  
(Former Covid Ward)  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



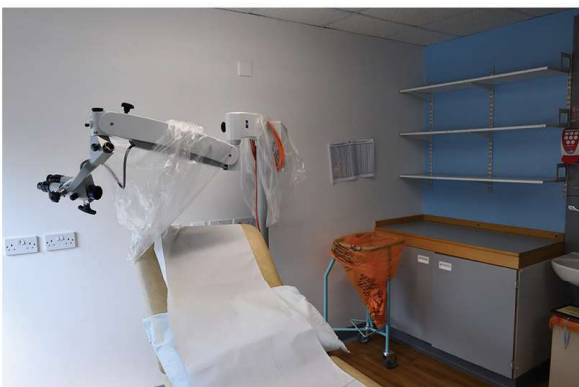
Coronavirus Testing Station.  
Westmorland General Hospital.  
Kendal, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



Testing Station Sign.  
Westmorland General Hospital.  
Kendal, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



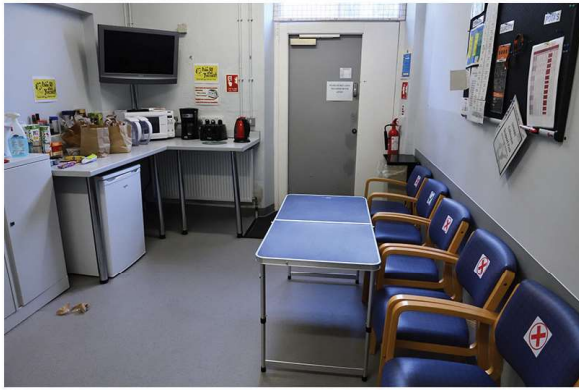
Consulting Room #2.  
ENT Department.  
Furness General Hospital.  
Barrow in Furness, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



Sign on Door.  
ENT Department.  
Furness General Hospital.  
Barrow in Furness, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

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Staff Room.  
Medical Engineering Dept.  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary,  
Lancashire. 17th June 2020

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Temporary Staff Room Sign.  
Medical Engineering Dept.  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary,  
Lancashire. 17th June 2020

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Ward 4.  
(Former Covid Ward)  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
17th June 2020

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Ward 5.  
(Unaged newly created Covid Ward)  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
17th June 2020

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Car Park Payment Machines.  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
17th June 2020

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Pay Station  
(Charges Suspended)  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
17th June 2020

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Scrub Hub. Ward 36.  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
17th June 2020

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Emergency Telephone and Signs.  
Westmorland General Hospital.  
Kendal. Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

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Reception Area with Protective Screen  
Endoscopy Department.  
Westmorland General Hospital.  
Kendal, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

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Senior House Officer in PPE.  
ENT Department.  
Furness General Hospital.  
Barrow in Furness, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

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Canteen Kitchen Staff.  
Westmorland General Hospital.  
Kendal, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

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New ceiling and ventilation Units. Ward 5.  
(Unused newly created Covid Ward)  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
17th June 2020

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Public Information Sign.  
Morecambe Promenade.  
Morecambe, Lancashire.  
17th June 2020

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Hospital Beds.  
Medical Engineering Dept.  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
Lancashire, 17th June 2020

Henry Iddon



Leaflet Racks (Emptied).  
ENT Department.  
Furness General Hospital.  
Barrow in Furness, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020

Henry Iddon

The Estate Department was forced almost overnight to create Covid-19 wards on all sites. One of the estate managers rightly pointed out that whereas the Nightingale Hospitals were designed from a blank canvas, in MBHT they had the added task of reconfiguring existing ports of suction and oxygen to new beds. To enable this work, pastoral care and flexible working was introduced in the Estate and Medical Engineering Department. They surveyed gas, bedhead power, ventilation systems, re-housed office facilities, installed Covid-19 signage, created security cabins at hospital entrances, converted theatres to ICU areas, created Covid-19 command rooms, relocated IT, created a Covid-19 test centre, suspended parking regulations and sadly installed temporary mortuaries. All this and more was delivered with the speed of light.

The IT department too deserves special mention. They are based in the RLI Library and the Library itself has moved to the Trusts' stratosphere. The IT brigade has facilitated working from home for hundreds of colleagues. They have altered Lorenzo software for Covid-19 data entry. Headphones, video calls, telephone clinics were developed. Teams meetings with screen share have certainly compensated for lack of face to face meetings. Webinars have flourished and become the platforms for scientific updates.

Social distancing has been the overarching principal of most transformations. All office furniture had to be moved. The joys of mask fitting; PPE and deployment will certainly fill many a winter night. The slightest sneeze and cough; bordering on throat clearing of staff was treated with alarm and isolation. Office desks were turned, the number of people permitted in a room was reduced, alcohol sanitisers and disinfectant wipes, masks, gloves and 2 metre distancing – even on a pavement socially expected! All in all the normal was no longer there. I overheard two eight year boys discussing in the park that they were in two different “bubbles” so should not really be walking together!

The bigger question now is what will normal be for us in future? According to Tom Bodett,<sup>2</sup> “a person needs just three things to be truly happy in this world: someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for.” The fear of a second spike produces deep horror and boredom in all. School closures, lack of entertainment, dissociation from family and loved ones again would be intolerable. On a lighter note currently “M & S” implies Masks & Sanitisers, Eau De Parfum is Eau De Distance and Covid-19 has replaced Chanel No 5. So let us comply; wear masks, stay 1-2 metres apart, wait for the vaccine – all in the hope – we can have our free old world back in future.

The Editorial Board welcomes three new members; Emma with her degree in Sociology, Gui who represents medical students from Lancaster University and Mr Ondrej Ryska General surgeon.



Member of the Domestic Staff.  
Lancaster Royal Infirmary.  
17th June 2020  
Henry Iddon



Canteen Staff.  
Westmorland General Hospital.  
Kendal, Cumbria.  
17th June 2020  
Henry Iddon



## REFERENCES

1. Iddon, H. Information available at: <http://www.henryiddon.com> ; <http://twitter.com/henryiddon> ; <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Henry-Iddon-Photography/167043563341394> (accessed 08.07.2020)
2. Bodett, T. Website available at: <http://www.bodett.com/> (accessed 08.07.2020).

THANKS for reading,

Shadaba Ahmed, Editor