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# schools and learning

## Curtain up to celebrate the Bard's classics

IT WILL all be 'Much Ado About Nothing' for students at Walton High next month.  
A cast of 18 pupils will be taking part in The Shakespeare Schools Festival at Stantonbury Campus Theatre on Wednesday November 3.  
Other Milton Keynes schools celebrating The Bard's work are Akeley Wood School, Bradwell Special School, Denbigh School, Milton Keynes Academy, Stantonbury Campus, The Hazeley School and The Royal Latin School.  
The Shakespeare Schools Festival is the UK's largest youth drama festival.

## Students' visit to factory is the business

ASSEMBLY might normally mean a morning gathering but it took on a different sense when one school took a trip out.  
Walton High students saw assembly on a grand scale when they visited Crownhill-based SMC Pneumatics.  
The 70 youngsters had a guided tour which took in seeing some of the company's products - which include valves and vacuum systems - in action.  
The visit was arranged through Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce and its own 'Young Chamber' scheme which aims to make 'meaningful and practical links between schools and business.'



ICE AND EASY: Pupils enjoyed snowboarding demonstrations

## New heights for snow tour

THE British Snow Tour slid into Milton Keynes last week offering 100 city school children free taster lessons.  
Pupils at Radcliffe and Stantonbury Campus secondary schools were offered the ultimate inspiration to get active when the National Snowboard and Freeski Championship event came to town.  
Ski and snowboard champions took a detour from the slopes to focus on the Schools Team tour which offered the free taster session to school pupils, courtesy of the Giro Learner Academy.  
Champions then turned their attention to competing in the Giro British Indoor Big Air Championships and Big Air Jam at the Milton Keynes SNO!zone.  
Over 200 of the UK's top skiers and snowboarders were competing across five age categories: Kids, Youth, Junior, Senior and Masters.  
Thrilling spectators with fancy tricks, flips and jumps, the snowboarders gave it their all.  
One competitor from the Master's category, Neil Prior, even donned a Super Mario outfit hoping it would give him a power-up.  
Local snowboarders Neil Campbell and Mason Ferebee both narrowly missed out on a podium position, finishing in an impressive 4th place in their categories.  
Winner of the Women's Giro Big Air Championships, Katie Summerhayes, said: "The atmosphere was great and everyone rode so well."

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# schoolsandlearning

## The Bard is in town

SHAKESPEAREAN yarns can fill school children with dread but two teachers from Milton Keynes are hoping to overcome negative perceptions of the world's most famous playwright.

Fortune's Fool Theatre Company are a trio who aim to demonstrate that behind The Bard's sometimes complex texts are exciting and entertaining plays that are still relevant today.

The company is staging its own production of 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)'.

This show was made famous by the Reduced Shakespeare Company, and sees performers stretched as they tackle all 37 of Shakespeare's plays in just an hour and a half.

Youngsters will have the chance to attend workshops, and even appear in performances this half-term.

They will attend 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' workshop on Wednesday, October 27 and 'The Tempest' the following day, at Stantonbury Campus Theatre.

Mark Row, a drama teacher at Oakgrove School, founded Fortune's Fool Theatre Company.

He said: "This production, along with the workshops, allows us to demonstrate that when taken from the page to the stage, it's really not that hard to make sense of Shakespeare."

>For workshop information visit [www.fotunesfooltheatre.com](http://www.fotunesfooltheatre.com).

>For tickets for the production contact Stantonbury Box Office 01908 324422 or [www.stantonbury.org.uk](http://www.stantonbury.org.uk)



AAR!: Mini pirates having a swashbuckling time

## Ahoy me hearty pirates

LILY-LIVERED landlubbers would have exclaimed shiver me timbers when Busy Bees Nursery in Oldbrook celebrated national Talk Like a Pirate day.

Children and staff went to town to get involved and make the most of the pirate theme.

They all dressed up as pirates for the swashbucklin' day, donning eye patches, skull and crossbone emblazoned hats and stripey tops.

The youngsters put their creative energy to good use, making their own eye patches and treasure maps.

All pirates are keen to get their hands on the bounty and the pieces of eight and these youngsters were no exception.

Once they knew that X-marks

the spot, the toddlers had their very own treasure hunt around the nursery.

They were on a mission searching for gold coins.

Joined by their stuffed parrot sidekicks and made up with Jolly-Rodger face paint designs, the youngsters posed for a picture as mini pirates.

They were reminded: 'A hearty 'arr me hearty' in a deep voice will help anyone speak like a pirate and if you double up on all your adjectives and drop all the endings of words you too will be on your way to speaking like a storybook pirate.

'Remember to speak in the present tense, pirates never refer to themselves by saying 'I am', it is always 'I be'.

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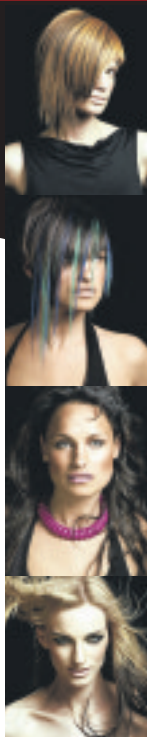
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## PATHOLOGY CLINICAL SUPPORT TEAM WINS WORKING TOGETHER AWARD



# OUTSTANDING!

VITAL BUT UNSEEN WORK: Working Together Winners, The Pathology Clinical Support Team

## Impressive teamwork earns top accolade

by Georgina Butler

01908 651241 editorial@mkcitizen.co.uk

AN OUTSTANDING team that plays a vital behind-the-scenes role at Milton Keynes Hospital has been recognised at an annual awards ceremony.

The Pathology Clinical Support team is the newly crowned winner of the Working Together Award for the Milton Keynes Hospital star awards which celebrate volunteers and staff members.

The team is made up of 16 dedicated people who work together efficiently and effectively in response to the incredible 1,500 requests they receive each day.

Samples must be processed quickly and accurately and the team plays a crucial part in ensuring patients get the right treatment.

Few people see the work that this team does but nominators recognised their

exceptional efforts.

The nomination for the team said: "Each person looks out for the rest of the team and gives help and support when required. Even when we had the bad weather, everyone made it in."

"Each person knows how much harder it will be for the rest of the team if they are not there."

"They are great individuals, but as a team I believe they are outstanding."

Patients and colleagues nominated more than 60 people for various awards at the ceremony.

Mayor of Milton Keynes, Councillor Debbie Brock, presented the awards at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone on September 22 as part of the hospital's Annual Members' Meeting.

Categories recognised staff and volunteers for their enthusiasm, innovation, openness, team working and efforts to

ensure patient safety.

Doctors, nurses, a ward housekeeper, midwives, a scientist, a personal assistant and numerous volunteers across the hospital were among the winners and highly commended individuals.

Winner of the Self Awareness Award was the Clinical Decision Unit.

With more than 30 patients arriving daily from the Emergency Department, GPs and consultant clinics, the Clinical Decisions Unit is a hectic but friendly and welcoming environment.

Joint winners for the Setting an Example Award were committed midwife Tracy Rea and physiotherapy assistant and avid fundraiser Gary Williams.

Describing Tracy, colleagues said: "She is utterly committed and passionate about her role and the delivery of excellent care for all."

"She does it all with a smile on her face and nothing is too much."



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**PRIDE:** Barbara Murray (pictured), a volunteer who has been refurbishing the garden areas around the hospital over the last three years, won the Show Pride and Enthusiasm Award along with Ann Gillard, a personal assistant who has worked for the Trust for 22 years.



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**AT MILTON KEYNES HOSPITAL STAR AWARDS WHICH CELEBRATE EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT BY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**



**OPENNESS AWARD WINNER: Team leader Louise Kelly**

**TOP VOLUNTEERS: The League of Friends shop (right) won the Volunteer Team of the Year Award**

Gary's manager said: "Every department needs a Gary." Ann Gillard, a personal assistant who has worked for the Trust for 22 years, and Barbara Murray, a volunteer who has been refurbishing the garden areas around the hospital over the last three years, won the Show Pride and Enthusiasm Award.

Two other volunteers, Matthew Stemp and Andrew White, were also praised by the nominator.

Louise Kelly, Team Leader of Outpatient Physiotherapy, won the Openness Award for her approachable nature.

A biomedical scientist in blood transfusion and haematology won the Patient Safety Improvement of the Year Award for creating a training package to help staff carry out blood transfusions out-of-hours.

Alison Beal gave a presentation and encouraged group discussion to help staff respond to a real-time

emergency to provide blood quickly and safely.

Innovation of the Year Award went to Alison Taylor and the Breast Unit for creating a new system so that patients with benign results are told over the telephone as soon as results are available.

The League of Friends shop won the Volunteer Team of the Year Award and volunteer Jenny Cole and ward housekeeper Ann Pugsley were joint winners of the Special Judges Award.

Interim Chief Executive Mark Millar said: "Our achievements as an organisation would not be possible without the incredible work of our staff and volunteers."

"It was a tough task for our judges to choose the winners as we had so many high quality entrants."

"But my congratulations go to all our winners and everyone who was nominated, who are all doing their bit to improve the patient experience."



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– winning nomination for Pathology Clinical Support team

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