



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

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www.friendsblandford.org

Newsletter No. 46

AUTUMN 2013

“A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR HOSPITAL”

At the AGM in July, Sally O’Donnell, Deputy Director of Community Health Services, Dorset Health Care University NHS Foundation Trust was very pleased to say that the future for Blandford Community Hospital is looking bright. Dorset Health Care and the new GP Commissioners, share a joint aim to provide local services, which wherever possible should be in a person’s own home, or as close to their home as possible.

Ms O’Donnell then set out a number of new services for Blandford which included:

- **Ophthalmology** – visiting surgeons from Bournemouth, providing out-patient and treatment services
- **Orthopaedics** – visiting surgeons from Southampton, also providing out-patient and treatment services
- **Persistent pain service** – Dorset Health Care provides this service to the whole of Dorset
- **Dental services** – Blandford Community Hospital will have two dental suites for Dorset Health Care to provide a service to the wider locality
- **Ambulatory care** – for patients to receive intravenous infusions without having to travel to the acute hospitals every day
- **Stroke** – more and more people are receiving their rehab at home, rather than staying in an acute hospital for weeks – this means that the local therapy teams can adapt the rehab to each individual’s home circumstances and preferences.

The Trust has also endorsed its commitment to Blandford Hospital by approving two key schemes and setting aside approximately £½ million for the following projects

1. Two Dental Suites
2. Providing a unit to collocate Community health and social care teams.

There are also outline plans which include relocation of sexual health clinics, pulmonary rehabilitation classes, health review clinics adjacent to conservatory, where ambulatory care, such as intravenous infusions, will happen.

The Trust Board has approved an additional £½ million per annum to increase nurse staffing across all the Dorset Health Care Community Hospitals, recognising that our patients are more frail than they were when our staffing levels were agreed approximately 4 years ago. The Trust is also talking to Commissioners about the need for further investment. Trust Board and Adult Mental Health Services are working on plans to improve staffing levels in Older Peoples Mental Health Services, which would allow a ward at Blandford Community Hospital to reopen within the next year.

After a degree of uncertainty in recent times the Friends have welcomed such positive news and look forward to supporting these projects to secure the future of the hospital as an integral part of our local community.

Celebrate Christmas with us and the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals..

The Band were missed by many of our supporters in 2012 and we are now delighted to invite you to join us at the Coade Hall, Bryanston School on Friday 20th December. Full details on page 7.



Fundraising News...

Bingo!

Our Bingos have gathered lots of regular support and players are always waiting for the doors to open, to ensure they get a place, giving them a chance to win one of our fabulous prizes. The June Bingo gave us a great start to our profits for this financial year with a net surplus of £430. As always, a huge thank you is due to Derek, our caller, and Tish and Kim who do the refreshments for us.

Auction, 22nd June

The 17th Annual Auction was a most overwhelming success and set a new record for the fundraising team with a net profit of £8274. Once again Richard



Kay from Lawrence's of Crewkerne (pictured here with Gordon) presided over the event with his usual humour and expertise. The very interesting catalogue of over 200 lots was welcomed by a packed hall in Child Okeford. A huge thank you

must go to Richard for giving his time and of course to Gordon Adam who is the mastermind behind this event. Gordon and his helpers put in so much time throughout the year. Gordon is already gathering items for the Auction in 2014 so if you have items you wish to donate please give me a call in the Friends' Office on 01258 450095.

Christmas is coming...

If you haven't already done so please consider signing up to "Give as you Live" before you start all that online Christmas Shopping. Visit our website at www.friendsblandford.org and follow the link. It is a very simple procedure, doesn't cost you a penny and can make a real difference to our fundraising.

A busy few months ahead...

As you will see from the Dates for your Diary section below, we are now moving in to a very busy time for the Fundraising Team and as always they will rise to the challenge. We very much hope to see lots of you during the coming months giving your usual support.

Fundraising 2014...

Plans are already being set down for our regular schedule in 2014 and we look forward to sharing these plans with you in our Spring Newsletter. However, already set is the date for the Fashion Show, which will next year take place at The Exchange in Sturminster Newton on Friday 14th March followed by a Clothing Sale on Saturday 15th March.

We are also looking forward to introducing a Golf Day with an Auction of Promises on Friday 13th June.

We value all types of support...

Our events provide something to suit most of our supporters and we hope you will join us. However, if you would like to help in other ways, perhaps you could consider donating a raffle prize, buying or selling our raffle tickets, giving a bottle for our tombola, baking a cake or donating a jar of your homemade preserve. All support, in whatever form, is always most gratefully received.

Emma Sisson, Fundraising Co-ordinator, August

A graphic for the "Give as you Live" campaign. It features a shopping cart icon with a heart inside, the text "Give as you Live™", and a "Shop for us!" sign. Below this is an illustration of a building. The text says: "Thousands of stores will donate money to The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital when you shop online, including...". It lists various retailers: Expedia, B&Q, Sainsbury's, TESCO, M&S, sky, BRITISH AIRWAYS, John Lewis, hmv, HOLIDAYS, lastminute.com, PLAY.COM, iTunes, currys, and Sainsbury's. At the bottom, it says "Sign up today at: www.friendsblandford.org/giveasyoulive".

Thousands of stores have signed up to donate money to The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital when you shop with them online.

A graphic for the "Dates for your Diary" section. It features an illustration of a spiral notebook and a pen. The text "Dates for your Diary" is written in a cursive font.

Cheese Festival	Sturminster Newton 14/15 September
Prize Bingo	Blandford Hospital 3rd October
Autumn Fair	Corn Exchange 19th October
Market Stall	Corn Exchange 7th November
Dinner and Dance	Athelhampton House 9th November
Race Night	Bryanston Estate Club 22nd November
Christmas Bingo	Blandford Hospital 5th December
Festive Concert	Coade Hall, Bryanston 20th December



A message from our Chairman

As you will have already read in our front page news it is very encouraging to report that, after the frustrations of the last two years, things are now moving forward with the hospital.

The talk that Sally O'Donnell (Deputy Director of Community Health Services, Dorset Health Care University Foundation Trust - DHUFT) gave at our AGM was very positive and outlined proposals for important and much needed developments in the currently unused Portman Ward. Part of the ward will become a day treatment centre to include dentistry and orthopaedics; another area will house the community health and social care teams and their colleagues in social services to avoid needless duplication of services and better integration. It is anticipated the sunroom will be adapted for ambulatory care, such as blood transfusions and chemotherapy, alongside various clinics. DHUFT have already pledged half a million pounds to this development and the Friends look forward to giving their support to the projects.

The DHUFT design team have already done an initial survey and the Friends' Action Group intend to maintain pressure to avoid any needless delays in such an exciting development for our hospital.

With the prospect of major expenditure at the hospital in the near future it is encouraging that our fundraising activities continue to be as successful as ever with committed support from our membership and throughout the local community. This year's Auction was a record breaker and Gordon and his team should be very proud of that success. We are now looking forward to a very busy Autumn of events for our fundraising team to include our stalls at the Cheese Fair and Blandford Indoor Market, Bingos, Autumn Fair and Race Night. The Grand Finale of our fundraising year will be the return of The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals who will be performing a festive concert as a joint fundraiser



for us and their chosen charity at Bryanston on 20th December.

Our shops continue to be a hive of activity and whenever I visit it is so encouraging to see so many customers parting with their cash in return for some excellent bargains. The shop volunteers are such a welcoming team who put in extensive hours to raise such a significant regular income for the charity. They do a great job and, as with all our volunteers, we are very proud of them.

Our work in the hospital and wider community is continuing to expand. We now have two minibuses, one slightly larger than the original and one smaller, which are used to enhance the quality of lives for many in our community that have been referred to us by their GP. I was delighted to go out with a group of our clients during July and realised what a valued part of our service this is for those we support.

Transport to medical appointments for local people has stretched demand on our volunteer drivers' services to unbelievable limits over recent months and as this side of our service continues to grow we must extend our thanks to our current volunteers who give whatever time they can but we also look to welcome new volunteers into that team.

It is a pleasure to be able to give such an optimistic report to our membership. As we move forward in a very positive way I must thank the marvellous teams of volunteers, council members and of course, you, our membership who contribute and support the charity to make the Friends such an effective, vibrant organisation.

Peter Fale, Chairman, August 2013

How to contact us...

The Friends' Office at the Hospital is usually open from 10am until 4pm from Monday to Friday. The telephone number is **01258 450095** and we can also be contacted by email on **friends.blandford@dhuft.nhs.uk**.

The website address is **www.friendsblandford.org**

In the office you will find Sarah Connors (Office Manager), Lisa Deverell (Community Services Co-ordinator) and Emma Sisson (Fundraising Co-ordinator) and they will each be happy to help with your enquiry.

Shop News...

We have been heartened to see our shop takings going from strength to strength during the summer season. The July heat wave certainly encouraged shoppers to purchase from our fabulous selection of bargain quality clothing.

As the newsletter goes to print we will be starting our end of season sales and both shops will launch their Autumn/Winter collections by the middle of September. Whether you are intending snapping up an even bigger bargain in the sale or stocking up your wardrobe for Winter, pop in and see us each time you are in town. We really do put new stock on sale every day and there is nothing more satisfying when it comes to bargain hunting as being in the right place at the right time!

Following changes to our storage arrangements we are now able to accept furniture for us to sell. Items need to be of good quality and small enough to be transported in our Citroen Dispatch van. Any upholstered items must carry a Fire Safety Label as required by law. If you have any items to offer then please give me a call on 01258 450095 or drop any small items directly in to either shop.

Our shops are always in need of quality goods to offer for sale. We have noticed a downturn in the better goods that are coming in to us during these tougher economic times. Please remember us when you are sorting out your wardrobes and cupboards. All of the goods that you donate to our Charity fund projects at the hospital and throughout the local community, so the money will always stay in our area, which is not the case with national charities.

On another note, please read the small print on any charity collection bags that are popped through your letter box. Textile recycling is a very profitable business. In many cases the charity named on the bag receives a tiny donation compared to the value of the goods whilst the company doing the collection see significant profits.

Finally, a huge thank you to the two teams of volunteers that keep our shops running so efficiently and profitably. Some just do a couple of hours each week, for some it is like a second home! We can never thank them enough for the time they give.

*Emma Sisson, Fundraising Co-ordinator
August 2013*

Volunteers
Needed



We need your help!

Volunteering as part of the team in the shops is a very social activity and a great way to meet new people and make new friends. We are always looking for new volunteers who are either prepared to make a regular commitment of a few hours per week or fortnight or perhaps would prefer to work on an *“as and when”* basis. Volunteers come from all walks of life, many are retired, perhaps self employed, some are actively seeking employment, and some are *“full time parents”* giving their time while the children are at school. If you are interested, please pop in to the shop for an application form or give me a call in the Friends' Office on **01258 450095**.

Don't forget, stock in our charity shops changes every day and there are always bargains to be found. Why not pay us a visit each time you are in town? You can be assured of a friendly welcome and will be supporting our very local charity.

OUR SHOPS CAN BE FOUND AT:

Innes Court, Sturminster Newton,

Tel: **01258 471245**

Open	Mon	9am – 4pm
	Tues – Fri	10am – 4pm
	Sat	9.30am – 12.30pm

Barnack Walk, Blandford

Tel: **01258 458390**

Open	Mon – Sat	10am – 4pm
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Blandford shop Volunteer Richard Tett is a qualified plumber. He can undertake all general plumbing and sort out drains 24/7.



**Discounts for Friends of Blandford
Hospital members
Contact Richard on 07936 803511**



Matron's Update

Exciting times are ahead for Blandford Community Hospital as new treatments including persistent pain management, minor orthopaedic surgery and community dental services are to be delivered within the hospital.

Plans are being drawn up to transform the Portman Ward area of the hospital into a day services treatment facility. The new Portman day services area will include consulting and examination rooms, a new day ward to compliment the theatre, a new rehabilitation / ambulatory care area and a community dental suite which will provide services which are not available within dental surgeries.

We have started a new Orthopaedic Clinic in the Outpatients Department and minor surgery is booked to start in August. Plans continue to be developed to create space for social services colleagues within the hospital to encourage closer working relationships with health and social care teams.

The Betty Highwood unit remains at the Charlbury unit in Weymouth Community Hospital temporarily.

We have been working hard to meet the Care Quality Commission's (CQC) standards within the hospital and have developed new procedures, new care plans and a formal escalation process to support safe staffing levels within the community hospitals. We have recently appointed a new staff nurse and two health care assistants on Tarrant ward and are currently advertising for two further staff nurses and another health care assistant.

There have been many challenges over recent months, however, we have risen to the challenges. I am confident that we are now providing an even higher quality of care to our patients as we continue to receive positive feedback from patients and their relatives.

Darren Wickwar, Hospital Matron. August 2013

A few of the projects and purchases the Friends have been able to support so far this year...

- Grants to Blandford Opportunity Group, Blandford Youth Trust and Life Education Wessex
- Funding towards a wheelchair adapted vehicle
- Singing therapy and funding for the Elderly Mental Health Drumming Group
- Subscriptions to RNIB talking books
- Defibrillator Training
- Leasing of the Occupational Health Vehicle
- State of the Art Tea Trolley for Tarrant Ward
- Sewing machine for the Linen Room
- Books for Physiotherapy and the Memory Clinic
- Fans for various departments during the recent heat wave
- Comb bind machine for Hospital Reception

Legacies and Bequests

Legacies make a real difference to the projects that the Friends of Blandford Hospital are able to support. If you are considering leaving a gift or a legacy to our charity in your will then please consult your solicitor or will writer who will be able to advise you.

Deliverers required...

If you have received this newsletter by post then it is likely we are searching for help with deliveries in your area. We have three publications a year and delivery timing can be flexible to suit the individual and, of course, the weather conditions!

We are particularly looking for help in Shillingstone, Lower Blandford St Mary and Iwerne Minster. Also in Blandford for Philip Road, Elizabeth Road, Andrew Close, Barnes Close, Churchill Road and the lower part of Salisbury Road.

Give Sarah a call on 01258 450095 if you would like to help.

Community Services News...



Well here we are again almost at the end of another, and for a change, glorious summer!



We first have some exciting news in that we are now the proud owners of 2 new vehicles. Firstly we have upgraded our original

minibus to a brand new model. This has a larger seating capacity so we can take more of our clients on social trips etc. Our 2nd vehicle, which again has an electronic tailgate, will be used to transport clients to medical appointments, including anyone that is wheelchair bound. It will also be used for smaller shopping trips and alongside the bigger bus on social outings.



It is our intention to have these vehicles in action on a daily basis to enhance the services we provide to our clients in the local community. This service, without a doubt, benefits a large number of local people all of whom have been referred to us by their GP. Many of these people would be unable to get out at all without the support we give. Not only are they now getting out and about but they are making new friends.

In order to keep this service running effectively we need to recruit some new minibus drivers and escorts – so if you have any spare time and would like a chat, you know where to find me! Many volunteers say that they get as much out of offering their time as do the clients who benefit from that time, but don't just take my word for it, have a chat with any of our current team of drivers or come along and try it for yourself!!

The lovely weather was a great bonus with our programme of social trips throughout the summer. We have been able to get out and about and enjoy the beautiful area in which we live with trips to Swanage, Weymouth and Portland amongst others. We have also managed to enjoy 3 Harbour Cruises around Poole Harbour and Brownsea Island this summer without the "good old British summer" putting a spanner in the works.

As one of our usual "thank you" gestures to our fabulous team of volunteers we have just held our annual cream tea here at the hospital. Not only is this a way of offering a small gesture of thanks but it is, of course, also an opportunity for all the volunteers to meet one another and share their ideas and experiences. What better way than over a nice cup of tea and a clotted cream scone.

The services we provide to transport clients to medical appointments continues to grow at a tremendous rate. As a comparison, in August 2011 we were averaging 200 individual, medical transport runs for a 3 month period. During the same 3 month period this year we have completed in excess of 550 transport journeys. This is not taking into account our 3 regular weekly shopping trips and the social trips. Unfortunately, our rate of volunteer recruitment doesn't match the rate at which requests and referrals come in and demand placed on our current driver team is using even more of their goodwill than usual! So, if anyone would like to volunteer as a car driver, you would be most welcome! The application process is relatively simple and you can offer as little or as much time as you would like to give

I really hope all of my current volunteers know just how valuable and appreciated they are. It goes without saying this service certainly couldn't operate as effectively as it does without them.

Lisa Deverell
Community Services Co-ordinator, August 2013



We need your help...
If you have any time to spare on a weekly, fortnightly or less regular basis then please give us a call on **01258 450095**.

We have lots of volunteering opportunities available and would love to hear from you.

Autumn Fair

Sat 19th October

The Corn Exchange, Blandford

9.30am- 2pm

Join us to support your local community hospital whilst searching through our tempting bargains on offer.

A variety of stalls with quality goods

RAFFLE • TOMBOLAS
REFRESHMENTS



RACE NIGHT

BAR
TOTE
RAFFLE



Friday 22nd November

at 7.30pm

Bryanston Estate Club

THE BAND OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS



Friday 20th December at 7.30pm

Coade Hall, Bryanston School

Tickets priced £8 in advance, £10 on the door



Proceeds will be shared between the Friends of Blandford Hospital and, the charity of the Band's choice, The Army Music Trust.



Thurs 3rd October
Thurs 5th December



Doors Open 6.45pm
Eyes Down 7.30pm

Dining Room, Blandford Hospital

(Refreshments available)

Numbers are strictly limited so get there early!

10 prize games, a special and a cash flyer
Great Odds - Fantastic Prizes



Charity Ball

in aid of

*Friends of Blandford
Community Hospital*

Two-course dinner, raffle and music by
MOONLIGHT SWING BAND

Saturday 9th November 2013

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Athelhampton House

£30.00 per person

For tickets and more information, please contact
Jane Robbins 01258 880048 or Claire Harrison 01258 459721

To find out more information on any of these events please visit the Friends' website at www.friendsblandford.org or call the Friends' Office on 01258 450095

Enclosed with this newsletter is a flier to enable you to purchase tickets for the Concert and Race Night. Please return your ticket request in the envelope provided together with any raffle ticket purchases and Christmas card orders. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our new Christmas Cards (as pictured) are now available in packs of 10, priced at £2.50 per packet. We have again purchased the Christmas Cards offered by Attend supporting all Friends' organisations nationwide. We have 5 different designs and the cards are available from the Main Reception at Blandford Hospital or from either of our charity shops in Barnack Walk, Blandford or Innes Court, Sturminster Newton. Alternatively they can be ordered through the Friends' Office by returning the slip below.

Winter Robin



Season's Greetings



Jolly Snowman



Woolly Sheep



Kings from Afar

Please send me Christmas Cards as detailed below @ £2.50 per pack plus £1.00 per order towards packaging and delivery. I am pleased to enclose my cheque for £_____.
(Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Blandford Hospital")

- _____ **Packs of Winter Robin**
- _____ **Packs of Jolly Snowman**
- _____ **Packs of Seasons Greetings**
- _____ **Packs of Woolly Sheep**
- _____ **Packs of Kings from Afar**

Please return this order slip to the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital, Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset. DT11 7DD

NAME

ADDRESS

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