



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7DD

Tel: 01258 450095 Fax: 01258 394055

www.friendsblandford.org

Newsletter No. 48

AUTUMN 2014

Introducing our new Chairman, Steve Cole...

At the AGM in July Steve Cole was elected as the new Chairman of the Friends of Blandford Hospital.



Recently retired Steve joined the Council of the Friends in 2011. He started his working life as an apprentice chef at Odstock Hospital and his career very quickly progressed at mainly local hospitals, to Head Chef, Catering Manager, Support Services Manager, and Hospital Manager until he retired in 2011 from the position of General Manager for Community Hospitals and Community Services in East Dorset. This career has given him knowledge of all aspects of the workings of community hospitals at all levels and he has an already established network of contacts within the wider health community and NHS Trust.

Having been involved with Blandford Hospital since 1985, working closely with the Friends of the Hospital during that time, he is now in an ideal position to lead the charity forward. He strongly believes in the Community Hospital being the heart of the local community and together with the other Council Members of the charity, intends to ensure our local hospital continues to thrive.

Steve is married to Maria, has three sons and a grandson and lives in Charminster where he is an active member of village life. He is a Rotarian, a keen walker, cricketer, golfer and gardener.

The end of an era...

As the hammer came down on the final lot at this year's June auction it marked the end of an era. This was the 18th and final auction put together by Gordon Adam OBE who has had to step away from this part of our fundraising for health reasons.

Once again, the auction, presided over by Auctioneer Richard Kay, was a great success and raised over £7000 from the 250 lots. This brought the total raised by Gordon in auctions alone to over £100,000.

Following the huge success of a "Jumblerama" it was Gordon who started our first charity shop in Blandford in 1993, with the Sturminster shop opening soon after. Since their opening the shops have raised an incredible £1.5million. Gordon has also been a lead figure in all of the Friends' fundraising activities since joining the charity and in that period funds of £2million have been reached. A figure that would have been difficult to achieve without the inspiration, drive, determination and sheer effort put in by Gordon and the team of volunteers working with him.

Despite ongoing health challenges, Gordon continues to support our shops and fundraising activities in many ways. At his final auction, Steve Cole, presented Gordon with an Auctioneer's Gavel to mark the end of an era and thank him for the huge contribution he had made to our fundraising with his eighteen Auctions.

There will be no Auction in 2015 during which time many of the more special items will be sold in our charity shops. Please continue to donate any items for future sale by Auction or in our shops. The Fundraising team looks forward to sharing plans for future sales with you during the next year.



Pictured (left to right) are Chairman Steve Cole, Gordon Adam OBE and Auctioneer Richard Kay

Fundraising News...

Fashion Show moves to Sturminster...



March this year saw our Fashion Show being staged at the Exchange in Sturminster Newton for the first time and what a great show it turned out to be. If you have never visited the venue then it really is worth a trip to Sturminster for a coffee and to see the fantastic programme of

events that they stage. Our charity was made most welcome by the people of Sturminster and it was fantastic to see so many different faces in the audience for the most professionally staged show to date. Linda and her team should be congratulated on such a fabulous show and thanked most sincerely for the huge number of hours that they put in to showcase the best that our shops have to offer on a daily basis. As with all of our events, it could not go ahead without a great team of volunteers who help in so many ways and our thanks goes out to each and every one of them. The Friday show was followed with a clothing sale on the Saturday morning and the total profit for the event was over £1,600. A fantastic result!

Bingo!

Our Bingos continue to gather 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. So far this financial year we have accrued a surplus of £591.71.

As always, a huge thank you is due to Derek, our caller, and Tish, Kim and the hotel services crew who help in so many ways.

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...

We are, of course, now entering our busy fundraising period and as always our fundraising team of volunteers will no doubt rise to the challenge. We very much hope to see lots of our members during the coming months giving your usual support.

Fundraising 2015...

Plans are already being discussed for our schedule in 2015 and we look forward to sharing these plans with you in our Spring Newsletter.

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 2014

**Give as you Live™**

**Shop for us!**



Thousands of stores will donate money to The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital when you shop online, including...











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

Sign up today at: www.friendsblandford.org/giveasyoulive

Dates for your Diary



CHEESE FESTIVAL

Sturminster Newton
13/14 September

PRIZE BINGO

Blandford Hospital
2nd October

AUTUMN FAIR

Corn Exchange
18th October

MARKET STALL

Corn Exchange
20th November

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Blandford Hospital
4th December



A message from our Chairman

When Peter asked me to take on the Chairman's role last year, I felt honoured to be asked and looked forward to the challenges it would bring. The Friends of Blandford Hospital have a very high reputation within Dorset and I plan to maintain that status. I must thank Mac McLaughlin who has done a sterling job in the interim, not only with the organisation of the Friends but with his Project Management hat on during the refurbishment of Portman Ward.

Looking ahead, the official opening of the Portman Suite will be in the autumn of 2014 by Lord Portman. We also have our autumn fayre to look forward to, which is one of our major fund-raisers. I must mention at this point the fact that Gordon Adam, a long-term Trustee of the Friends, is hanging up his gavel at the auctions and after 18 years, we have calculated that he has been primarily helped to raise over £2 million through the auctions and our two shops at Blandford and Sturminster Newton. Our thanks and gratitude go out to him and lucky for us he will continue to be a member and will help out where he can.

We continue to support Life Education Wessex which is a charitable organisation that visits our schools in order to teach the young children how to look after their health.

Looking to the future one of our priorities needs to be recruitment of new members, in order to keep our strong voice when it comes to health care in the locality. It only takes each one of us, to find one person to join, in order to double our strength.

Finally, may I thank you all for the contributions you have made this year. This has been tremendous and envied by many other organisations. I look forward to meeting you in the future.

I end on a sad note, in having to report news of the recent death of Mrs Betty Greenleaves. Many of you will have known Betty, who had many years of involvement with Blandford Friends – including being secretary for over twenty years from the early 1970s. On her retirement from Council in the 1990s she took on the role of Life Vice President. I would just like to express my sincere condolences to the family of the late Mrs Betty Greenleaves from everyone here at Blandford Friends.

Steve Cole
Chairman

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@dhft.nhs.uk

The website address is

www.friendsblandford.org

In the office you will find Sarah, Lisa, Emma and Carole and they will each be happy to help with your enquiry.

**Volunteers
Needed**



**Help us to
make a
difference**

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.

Shop News...

Both of our charity shops have continued to go from strength to strength throughout this year and the figures are looking good despite challenges faced in both shops.

As we go to print, the end of season sales will be under way and the shop teams will be preparing the new season Autumn and Winter Clothing ready to launch in our shops in mid September. This is the perfect time to start shopping for your Autumn and Winter wardrobe when each shop is completely restocked from scratch following our very popular "£ a bag" sales.

As with most charity shops we have noticed a drop in the volume of good quality, donated goods over the last couple of years. The culture of selling items online and through local selling sites has made a real difference. In difficult financial times it is understandable that individuals try to raise funds in this way but it does of course affect our charitable income.

Please consider our charity when sorting unwanted items. We guarantee we will do our utmost to raise as much money as possible from every item you donate and all of those funds will stay in our local area, unlike many of the larger national charities. Please be wary of many of the charity bags dropped through your letterbox. In many cases these "charity" bags only make a small donation to the named charity and the recycling business managing the collection stands to make substantial profits.

If you are unable to drop goods off at our shops, we are happy to arrange a collection at a mutually convenient time. Just give us a call on **01258 450095**.

We are very proud of our charity shops and the teams of volunteers that work so hard to make them such a success. The volunteers love what they do and make the shops such friendly places to work and shop.

In July, courtesy of volunteer, Mary Clacy, we were able to enjoy an afternoon cream tea with our Sturminster team of volunteers to thank them for their efforts. This is a rare occasion to get so many of the volunteers together which was thoroughly enjoyed. We look forward to a similar get together with our Blandford team very soon.

Don't forget to pop in to our shops for some bargain hunting each time you are in town. You never know what you might find!

Emma Sisson, Fundraising Co-ordinator, August 2014



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 Emma 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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STOCK APPEAL

Quality donations of clothing, gifts, bric-a-brac, toys, DVDs, jewellery, hats, portable electrical items, shoes, handbags, household linens and much more are always required in our shops. All monies raised for these items will be used to benefit projects in our local area.



Matron's Update

I'd like to thank the Friends for their support over recent months especially regarding the development of the Portman unit, refurbishment of the day ward, MIU and the creation of the co-location area, both in terms of their financial support and for Mac's great work during his time as acting chair. We look forward to working with Steve Cole as the new chair of the Friends in the future.

The Portman development including the day ward and MIU is complete and looks wonderful and is a fabulous environment for patients and staff, the new area which includes the garden room, consulting rooms, clinic rooms, therapy room and kitchen are now in use. We are still awaiting the delivery of some specialist equipment for the dental suites and they will be opening soon. The new co-location area is almost complete and the integrated community rehab team and the older persons mental health team have moved in, the date for the social services teams to move in is as yet to be confirmed but again the area is a wonderful space for the teams to work in and opens up opportunities

of developing closer working relationships to benefit patient care in the future. An official opening of the Portman unit is being planned.

Other areas that we are considering for future development includes the operating theatre and end of life care facilities on Tarrant ward which would enable us to provide care in improved environments.

We have a new Physiotherapist joining the team and 2 new Staff Nurses and 2 new Health Care Assistants (HCA's) joining the team on Tarrant ward within the coming weeks.

Unfortunately I am moving temporarily to cover the Matrons post at the Purbeck community hospitals as the current Matron is leaving until a new Matron is in post. So from the 18th August, Kate Pope our day surgery unit (DSU) / outpatients department Senior Sister and Helen Lawes the Senior Clinical Lead on Tarrant ward will be job sharing the Matrons role at Blandford hospital and Senior Staff Nurse Sue Grant from the DSU and Sister Gill Wood from Tarrant ward will be covering some of Kate and Helen's current roles. So the hospital is in good hands and I hope to return back to the Matron's post at Blandford in 4 – 6 months' time.

Best Wishes

Darren Wickwar
Hospital Matron

There is often confusion around being a "Member of the Friends". This is to support The Friends and the work we do within the Hospital and community. To be a member an annual subscription is payable for which we are always grateful. All members will receive newsletters and information about our projects and fund raising events, together with annual accounts. However, this does not automatically entitle you to use our voluntary transport system or attend social/shopping trips on our minibus. Again a referral needs to come from your GP who will also refer to a copy of the criteria for such referrals.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership subscriptions were due at the beginning of April. If you have not already done so, please pay your subscription as soon as possible.

Please consider paying by Bank Standing Order this year and in future years which will help significantly reduce our administration costs.

Please note, if you already pay by Standing Order, there is no need to send a subscription. Thank you for your continued support.

Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends...

Help us make a difference

Well what a glorious summer so far! We have made the most of the sunshine with our social trips. These are invaluable to many of our clients, many of whom without the service rarely get the opportunity to get out and about, see some wonderful scenery and hopefully make some new friends!!



We have been fortunate enough to have had several "Pleasure Boat Cruises" around Poole Harbour – always an extremely popular choice but also to our favourites, such as the New Forest, Weymouth and Swanage.



I am now making preparations for the winter season of outings and dare I say "Christmas" trips out and the Pantomime. With so many requesting this service, potentially about 100 at present they have to be shared around fairly.

Our medical transport scheme continues to grow at quite an alarming rate. It is fair to say without the goodwill of my volunteers, this simply wouldn't run so smoothly. On that note I would like to take this opportunity, and I am sure many of you who have used this service would also like to join me in saying a huge "Thank you". I don't think people always realise that they are volunteers. On that note if either yourself or you know of anyone who might be able to give any time, even it is only an hour or so we would love to hear from you. We have various volunteering opportunities available so if you would like a chat please give me a call. Remember you never know when you might need us!

As a small gesture of our appreciation we have just had our annual "Cream Tea" meeting. Emphasis on the "Cream Tea" if you please! An opportunity for all the volunteers to meet one another but more importantly a chance for me to say "Thank you".



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Lisa Deverell
Community Services Co-ordinator

Autumn Fair

Sat 18th October 

The Corn Exchange, Blandford

9.30am- 2pm

*A variety of stalls with top quality goods at bargain prices.
A great chance to do some early Christmas shopping
whilst supporting your local Community Hospital.*

**RAFFLE, TOMBOLAS, REFRESHMENTS, GIFTS, JEWELLERY, SCARVES
AND HANDBAGS, TOYS, JIGSAWS AND GAMES, BOOKS,
STATIONERY, TOILETRIES, CAKES AND HOME PRODUCE, PICTURES,
CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GOODS AND MUCH MORE TO TEMPT YOU!**



PRIZE BINGO

Thurs 2nd October



CHRISTMAS BINGO

Thurs 4th December



Doors Open 6.45pm - Eyes Down 7.30pm
Dining Room, Blandford Hospital

(Refreshments available)

Numbers are strictly limited so get there early!

Other ways you can help our fundraising activities...

- Bake for our stall at the Autumn Fair, cakes, scones, bread, biscuits and puddings are all very popular
- Give us a jar of your homemade preserves
- Donate a gift item, bottle or non-perishable food that can be used to make up hampers, tombola, bingo and raffle prizes
- Spread the word amongst your friends, neighbours and family
- Share your fundraising ideas and let us know what you would like to see in our future schedule

Don't forget to return your raffle ticket stubs for entry in to the Autumn Fair Grand Raffle by Thursday 16th October or bring them along on the day of the fair. The prizes are bigger and better than ever this year.

To find out more information about our events and activities please visit the Friends' website at www.friendsblandford.org or call the Friends' Office on 01258 450095



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our new Christmas Cards (as pictured below) are now available in packs of 10, priced at £2.80 per packet, or 4 packets for £10.00. We have again purchased the Christmas Cards offered by Attend supporting all Friends' organisations nationwide. We have 6 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.

Robin in the Snow



Merry Christmas



Christmas Nativity



Santa Snow Angel



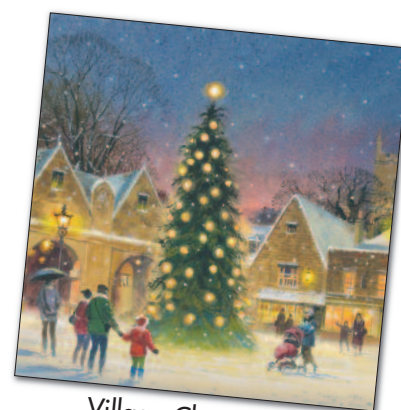
Ding Dong Merrily on High!



Merrily on High!

Please send me Christmas Cards as detailed below @ £2.80 per pack (or 4 packs for £10.00) 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 Robin in the Snow
- _____ Packs of Merry Christmas
- _____ Packs of Santa Snow Angel
- _____ Packs of Christmas Nativity
- _____ Packs of Merrily on High!
- _____ Packs of Village Christmas



Village Christmas

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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