



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. 50

AUTUMN 2015

To mark the occasion of National Volunteers Week in June one of our very talented Shop Volunteers wrote this poem. It truly does sum up the spirit of our teams. Thank you Joan!

The Shop Volunteers

*Our hospital has two shops
Where Volunteers' work never stops.
Every day from 10 til four,
They're busy in their chosen store.*

*We've ladies slaving out the back
Sorting clothes and bric a brac.
While front of house you'll always get
The very warmest welcome yet!
They'll let you browse and you'll agree
Wherever you look there's lots to see.*

*There's handbags, jewels, shoes and ties,
Clothes in every shape and size.
Books and bedding arranged in order,
Scarves with fringes round the border.
Puzzles, teddies, games and toys
For all the eager girls and boys.*

*"A lady wants a wedding hat."
"A lonely person needs to chat."
The staff will try their very best
To satisfy each new request....
With caring hearts and kindly smile
They'll always go that extra mile.
That's our volunteers!*

Joan Capron, June 2015

The first Friends of Blandford Hospital Golf Day at Ashley Wood Golf Club on the 26th June proved to be a great success. The sun shone for the shotgun start at 9am and the 18 teams enjoyed good weather for most of the morning. The charity much appreciated the support of our main sponsor, Humberts, Ashley Wood Golf Club and all of the local businesses, individuals and organisations that gave their support to add to the day's success. The golf, auction of promises and a hamper raffle made for a profitable day and recorded a net surplus of £4254.



The group of volunteers, Mike, Mike, Jeff, George and Jim, who organised the event were very pleased with the outcome and already have plans to make next year's event, on 24th June 2016, bigger and even better!



Fundraising News...

Since our last newsletter in March we have held 2 Bingos at the hospital and the very first Hospital Charity Golf day. The Fundraising Team now move on to the Autumn series of events and have already started our planning for 2016.

The Easter Bingo was full to capacity and brought the overall figure for bingo throughout the financial year to £1970. In June our summer event started this year's funds with a profit of £405. A big thank you as always to Derek our bingo caller and the volunteers that regularly help at these events.

We have also been able to enjoy a couple of the local summer events by taking along our "pop up" stall. At Child Okeford Hey Day we sold Jewellery and raised £99 during a very pleasant afternoon in July. In August we very much enjoyed the Blandford St Mary Horticultural and Craft Show where we ran a "Wine or Water" stall raising £330.

Fundraising 2016

The Fundraising Team will meet in September and fix the schedule for 2016. We look forward to sharing our plans with you for next year's fundraising events in our March Newsletter.

Please Support us however you can...

The schedule throughout the year is varied to interest many people and we hope that you will be able to join us at our upcoming events. However, we also value your help in other ways. Perhaps you will consider baking a cake for the Autumn Fair, offering a raffle prize, donating a bottle for the tombola, buying or selling our raffle tickets and of course spreading the word about our events. All support, in whatever form, is always gratefully received.

Emma Sisson, Fundraising Co-ordinator

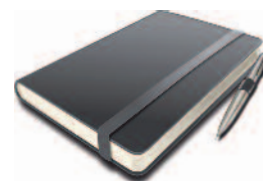
Thank you!

The Hotel Services crew at the hospital, led by Tish Taylor and Kim Senior deserve a special thank you from the Fundraising team. They support the charity in so many ways and are integral to many of our events. They give their time to make the Bingos possible, they cater for our events and the Volunteer social occasions, rooms are set up for us, cleared up, cakes are baked, and they raise money for us with their bonus ball competition...

The list is endless and it is safe to say they are always happy to go that extra mile!

A great team to work with!

Dates for your Diary



12th/13th September	Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival
24th September	Prize Bingo Hospital Dining Room
17th October	Autumn Fair Blandford Corn Exchange
20th November	Market Stall Blandford Corn Exchange
3rd December	Christmas Bingo Hospital Dining Room



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

Shop for us!



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



A message from our Chairman

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter, especially to all new members of the Friends.

Having completed a full year as Chairman, I have now seen just how much work is put in by so many and I am very grateful for the continuous work and support that our volunteers give to the Friends of Blandford Hospital. We have so many people involved with our voluntary transport system, our two charity shops, our fundraising team and those who help within the hospital and local community.

During this past year we have had some changes to our Council. Firstly, I would like to say thank you to Reverend Andrew Haviland for his work with us - who sadly due to work commitments, had to step down from our Council. Also to Brenda Pond, who after over 20 years of being on our Council and being a big part of the fundraising teams activities, has also decided it is time to take things a bit easier. We are very grateful to Brenda for everything she has done – including many years of being heavily involved in the organisation of the annual Autumn Fair. We have gained two new members of Council and I would like to officially welcome Denise Stenner and Mike Woods. Both of whom I am happy to say are already involved in supporting the fundraising committee with their events and I am sure will be a great asset to our team at the Friends.

Staff wise we have had some changes, as in March we said goodbye to Carole House, who was working with us in the office for a couple of years and I would like to again thank her for her time with us. We also welcome Leonne Hughes who has joined us as our Transport Admin Assistant and who some of you may already know, as she had previously worked within Blandford Hospital for six years. Welcome to the team.

At our AGM in July we had guest speakers Gary Hepburn and Jeanette McPhaill from Life Education Wessex. They are both involved in one of the services we have supported over the last few years. They have a mobile classroom that helps support health education in the local schools. The mobile classroom has been visiting schools for over twenty years, with the principle that prevention is better than cure. They help children to

make healthy decisions, and we hope to see the benefits of their work in years to come.

Looking to the future we are starting to plan the family accommodation for relatives of patients on Tarrant Ward, similar to what we had on Portman Ward. We are also looking at updating the Operating Theatre as it has become very outdated, and the hydrotherapy pool which has been closed for some time now. To give the Friends more influence it would help if we could increase our membership, currently we have 756 members, but some years ago it was around 1300. I would very much like to return to this figure, membership is by subscription, with a minimum of £1 so any help you can give by recruiting new members would be very much welcomed - application forms can be obtained from the office, the website and Charity Shops.

Again, my thanks for the continuous work and support that the current volunteers and staff give to the Friends of Blandford Hospital. All your work is very much appreciated.

Kind Regards

Steve Cole, Chairman

Many Happy Returns Doctor Ian!



Our President, Doctor Ian Wilson celebrated his 90th Birthday this year. To mark the occasion the members of the Charity's Council shared a cake with him at the May meeting.



Matron's Update

Firstly, I'd like to start by thanking the Friends Board, members and volunteers for all the great support given to the hospital and community over the last year, you all do a great job and really do make a difference for patients and staff.

Over the last year the Friends' support within the hospital has included (but not exclusive) singing for the brain, theatrical musical & drama groups, piano sessions, PAT dog visits, newspapers for Tarrant Ward, Theatres and Out Patients departments, ward volunteers, garden maintenance, hanging baskets, the memory box, the community rehab team's vehicle replacement and funding towards training for staff. Also Senior Sister Wood from Tarrant Wad and I attended the National Community Hospital Association Conference thanks to funding from the Friends. This was a good opportunity to share good practices with other community hospital teams from around the country, and we implemented a new initiative within a week of our return.

The Portman Unit has become established and is well utilised, the Weldmar Hospice weekly wellbeing sessions are enjoyed by patients and are a good opportunity for the hospital and hospice staff to develop relationships and share good practice. The Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) and Day Surgery Ward receive lots of positive feedback regarding the improved environment and the dental sessions have now increased to 5 days per week.

In the co-location space which was developed last year, the social services team have now moved in and the hospital and social services staff have both reported the positive effect of having both health and social care teams based within the hospital.

We are planning a meeting with the Estates Team and the Friends to discuss plans to upgrade our theatre and are working to reinstate the hydrotherapy pool which is currently closed due to maintenance issues.

As a trust we have just been inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) who are the independent regulators of health & social care. They have inspected Tarrant Ward, the Day Surgery Unit / Theatre and MIU. They interviewed patients and staff, observed care in progress, viewed records etc and initial headline feedback I have received has been positive. The Trust will receive a report for our services in the next couple of months with their findings.

I'd like to end by again saying thank you for supporting the Friends of Blandford Hospital and your hospital!

Best Wishes

Darren Wickwar, Hospital Matron

Enjoy your Retirement...

Staff at the hospital recently said goodbye to Phil and Tony from the Hospital Porters Team who both retired this summer.

Phil and Tony have been friendly faces around the hospital for many years and the Friends of Blandford Hospital would like to thank them for all they have done to help and support the charity over the years.

Fashion Show 2016



The Fashion show is back and will be held at The Exchange in Sturminster Newton on 15th April 2016.

Full details in our next newsletter.

Save the Date!

Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends...

Help us make a difference

Nothing much has changed – we continue to be as busy as ever, the service continues to grow and the volunteers continue to come up “trumps”!!

To give you some idea for the period 1 March – 12 August 2015 we have in medical transport alone, done in excess of 600 individual journeys. In addition we have our weekly shopping trips and social trips as and when we can. We have been fortunate enough to go on 2 Pleasure Boat Cruises around Poole Harbour which are extremely popular. We have also visited a lovely place in the New Forest where they do Daytime Shows along with a cream tea! I think this may well become a firm favourite.

By way of our appreciation we will soon be organising our “cream tea” as a huge thank you to our volunteers. Let’s not forget the ones on the ward here who go around with the tea/coffee trolley, hence freeing up some time for the nurses. Also the patients enjoy seeing a different face and having a chat. Likewise those who offer companionship – we all like to see someone and have a chat and our service tries to deliver this to those who unfortunately no longer have the capacity to go out and about or simply do not have family or friends around. It is not only the client that gets pleasure from this but also many of our volunteers get fulfilment. So if this is something you may like to consider, please do get in touch for an informal chat over a cuppa without any obligation!!!

Just as a reminder:

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 strict criteria for such referrals.

Lisa Deverell

Community Services Co-ordinator

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 now.



It is possible to pay by cash or cheque made payable to the Friends of Blandford Hospital. However, we would ask you to please consider paying by Bank Standing Order this year and in future years. This is not only easier for you but it significantly helps reduce our administration costs. Membership forms which include the bank standing order form are available at the hospital or either of our charity shops or can be downloaded from the website: www.friendsblandford.org.

Please note if you already pay by standing order, there is no need to send a subscription or complete a new form.

Thank you for your continued support.

How to contact us...

The Friends' Office at the Hospital is usually open from 10am until 4pm from Monday to Friday.

Tel: 01258 450095 (General Enquiries)
01258 451456 (Shops and Fundraising Enquiries)

Fax: 01258 394055

Email: Friends.blandford@dhuft.nhs.uk

Website: www.friendsblandford.org

Shop News...

Our two shops continue to provide the Charity with a strong regular source of income. The teams in Blandford and Sturminster Newton should be very proud of the funds they raise on a weekly basis which directly helps assist many projects both at the hospital and throughout the local community.

We have over 100 volunteers working in the shops. Some volunteers only do a few hours every now and then but others regularly work several shifts a week. Each and every volunteer has something to contribute to the team and make a difference to the shops' success. Without those wonderful folk who always welcome our customers with a smile, the shops would simply not be the same. They are a great team to work with and a pleasure to lead.

As I write this, we are still enjoying the summer sunshine but by the time the newsletter is in your hands we will be ending our summer sales and looking forward to the most profitable time of the year in our shops.

Following our famous "£1 per bag" sale, both shops will be completely restocked ready for the Autumn and Winter season during the week beginning the 7th September. Gone will be the shorts, t-shirts and sun dresses and in will come the warmer clothing ready for the months ahead. As you can imagine, it is a mammoth task to restock a shop from scratch in just a couple of hours but as always my team rise to the challenge!

With only a few months now until Christmas, we are also planning our Christmas displays, when to sell all of our Christmas gifts and decorations and of course the party wear. Join us in November for all your Christmas "bits and bobs".

Don't forget to pop in to the shops each time you are in either Blandford or Sturminster Newton. You never know what you might find but bargains and a friendly welcome are guaranteed! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Emma Sisson, Fundraising Co-ordinator



Blandford Team

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 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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A Cream Tea to say thank you!

Twice a year we have volunteer team gatherings and the most recent have been the summer cream teas. Pictured here are some of our Sturminster team enjoying the sunshine in Mary's garden and the Blandford Volunteers enjoying the fantastic offerings in the hospital dining room.



Sturminster Newton Team

Autumn Fair

Sat 17th 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

“Friends’ Fabulous Feasts”

The fundraising team are intending to compile a book of favourite recipes from our members, volunteers and supporters which will go on sale in 2016. We would love you to share your family recipes with us to include in the book and make this a real community project of which we can all be proud. The book will include all types of home cooking such as...



- Starters/snacks and light bites
- Main courses
- Desserts
- Home baking
- Preserving
- Festive food for special occasions
- One pot meals
- Drinks and cocktails
- Kitchen tips and household hints



Please send any recipes that you would be happy for us to consider for the book to the Friends’ Office at the Hospital, drop them in to one of our shops or perhaps email them to us. We would love to include your name with the recipe in the book, perhaps any special tips you have for success or the story behind the recipe that makes it special to you. If you have a picture of the finished product then that would be a bonus. Please let us have your name and contact details with the recipe so we can let you know when the book is to be launched and where to get your copy. We can’t wait to receive and try your recipes soon!



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our new Christmas Cards (as pictured below) are now available in packs of 10, priced at £2.80 per packet or 4 packs for just £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.

Snowy Robin



Partridge in a Pear Tree



O' Christmas Tree



Holy Family



Knitted Snowman

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 Holy Family
- _____ Packs of Knitted Snowman
- _____ Packs of 12 Days of Christmas
- _____ Packs of Snowy Robin
- _____ Packs of Partridge in a Pear Tree
- _____ Packs of O' Christmas Tree



12 Days of 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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