



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7DD

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

www.friendsblandford.org

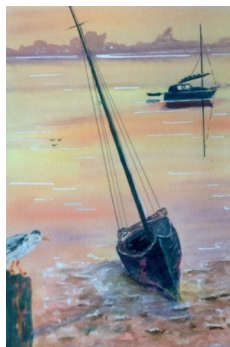
Newsletter No. 52

AUTUMN 2016

“Affordable Art”

From 12th -20th August we were delighted to host an Exhibition and Sale of local art. In addition to the range of framed originals there were also mounted prints and specially designed greetings cards. The exhibition featured pieces priced from 25p to £25, truly affordable art.

The main contributor was Joan Capron who is a regular volunteer in our Blandford Charity shop and is responsible for the shop window displays. Joan paints in watercolour, acrylic, pen and pastel. She is always excited to learn new techniques and enjoys experimenting with new products. Texture as well as colour interests her and she paints on silk, slate and wood as well as paper.



Joan has held 5 previous exhibitions for charity and this year chose The Friends of Blandford Hospital as the beneficiary. Her exhibitions are so successful because she and her friends donate their paintings and therefore they can be sold at very reasonable prices.

During the week Joan and her friends sold 79 paintings, prints and sketches and 150 cards and bookmarks resulting in a total amount raised of £856.



Thank you Joan!



“New to You”

26 volunteer models took to the catwalk in April for our second Fashion Show held in Sturminster Newton. Not only was the event a great opportunity to showcase just what the Charity Shops have on offer every day but it proved very profitable with over £2238 being raised by the show and subsequent clothing sale.

This wouldn't have been possible without the work of a team of volunteers led by Linda Prior who organised the show over the preceding months. A huge amount of work goes in to an event such as this and we owe that team a huge thank you.

Winning Golfers...



Winners of the second charity Golf Day at Ashley Wood in June were the team from Bradfords Building supplies. Full Golf day update on page 2.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to all of you that encouraged people to join the charity following the appeal in our Summer Update. We are pleased to report over 90 new members.

However, we do need to build on this momentum and continue to increase the Charity membership in order to maintain our influence with the Healthcare Authorities. Please help us if you can. Application forms are available from the Friends' Office at the hospital, at our Charity Shops and on our website, www.friendsblandford.org

The winner of the “Make a Friend a Friend” Competition, recruiting 33 new members, was Myra Dengate of Sturminster Newton. Myra is a volunteer in our Sturminster Charity shop. Well Done Myra!

Fundraising News...

Since our last newsletter in March the Fundraising Team has been busy with a Fashion Show and Clothing Sale, 2 Prize Bingos and a Charity Golf Day.

Our Bingos are now well established locally and we have many regular faces that enjoy the fun evenings and a chance to win very good prizes. As events, they are relatively easy to run and the financial rewards are good.

We were very lucky with the weather this year for our Charity Golf Day which we hope to continue as an annual event. The day was sponsored by Howdens Joinery Ltd but was further supported by many local businesses and individuals. That local support is very important to the charity and makes events such as this work.

18 teams took part and the overall winning team from Bradfords is pictured on the front cover. The first placed mixed team represented Dixon Stewart Solicitors and the winning ladies were led by Marie Haworth.

The Fundraising Team thanks all of the volunteers that organized the event, the local businesses for their sponsorship and of course Ashley Wood Golf Club who allowed us to use their course and clubhouse. The 2016 Golf Day resulted in a net profit of £3223.

Each event has been profitable for the charity and the hard work of so many volunteers has certainly paid off. Our volunteers are front line ambassadors for the charity and we are always very proud of them.

We are now looking ahead to the Autumn events. We will be running a stall at the Cheese Festival in Sturminster Newton, the weekend of 10th/11th September. There are Bingos on 22nd September and 1st December and our last remaining major fundraiser this year will be the Autumn Fair on 15th October.

We very much hope to see you during the upcoming months. However, if you are unable to join us at an event, perhaps you would consider purchasing or selling our raffle tickets, donating a prize, perhaps a bottle or gift for the tombola, or providing a cake or other home produce for the Autumn Fair. Every little helps!

Fundraising 2017

The Fundraising team will meet in the Autumn to plan next year's schedule and we look forward to sharing that with you in the Spring. We intend to have bingos throughout the year, will run the Annual Golf Day, hope to be at the Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival again and of course our Autumn Fair.

Shop News...

Both of our shops continue to thrive and provide an excellent regular income for the charity.

We are now heading in to the busiest and most profitable time of year with the Autumn/Winter clothing and then seasonal sales of gifts and party wear. The volunteer teams all do everything they can to maximize our income and enjoy the satisfaction of seeing the daily takings rise.

As shop manager, it is a pleasure to regularly receive compliments about my lovely team of volunteers and to hear both of our shops referred to as "the best charity shop in town". We have earned that reputation with our range of quality goods, friendly welcome and competitive pricing.

Of course, we could not operate the shops without the support of local people and our members donating goods they no longer need. Should you have anything you wish to donate please do drop it in to the shop or give me a call on 01258 451456 to arrange a collection.

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.

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

We are always looking for new volunteers in our shops 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.

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 451456.



Emma Sisson, Fundraising coordinator, August 2016



A message from our Chairman...

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. We have gained a new council member, Alison Brown.

Alison used to be the head of the physiotherapy department here at Blandford Hospital and following her retirement, agreed to join us. Mike Woods who was already on our council, has now joined us on the Board and agreed he will lead on the recruitment of new members.

On 6th July we held our AGM in the Garden Room in the hospital and this was reasonably well supported with about 30 people attending. Our speaker was Teresa Cole, Locality Manager for North Dorset. She was extremely appreciative of the Friends' work and reflected on some of the projects that the Friends have helped fund. She also gave us an overview of the proposed implications of the clinical services review, where Blandford could become a 'Hub' (a clinical facility with inpatient beds, outpatient clinics and a base for multi-organisational collaborative working). In my view this reflects what we have included in our vision document. This document has been reviewed by our "Action Group" which includes Blandford Hospital Matron, Theatre Sister and local GPs and our own Management Board Members. The reviewed version will soon be available on our web site, shared with the local GPs and the Health Commissioner, to help influence future health care. The review highlighted that 95% of services that were threatened to be withdrawn from the hospital were retained, and new services were added, a great achievement.

I attended a presentation with the Health Commissioners who were looking to reform the way that Community Services are delivered. Their proposal implied that Blandford Hospital would become a Hub and retains its current services with the possibility of adding more services and with a promise of working to keep care as close to home as possible. This is an example of how the members of the Friends can influence local health care and the larger our membership numbers then hopefully the more influential we become.

On a sad note, Mike Wood has informed me that he and his wife will be moving out of the area in the next few months. This will mean Mike resigning from our council and board. Mike will of course be joined by his wife Eve, resigning from her post as a ward volunteer which she has enjoyed for many years. Mike has been a key figure in our organisation for many years; firstly as a car and minibus driving volunteer and, more recently, although still a regular driver, he has actively

been involved in our charity shops and as Chairman of our Fundraising Working Group. Both Mike and Eve will be greatly missed and we wish them well with their move.

As always, I thank you for your continued support of the charity and I look forward to updating you again in the Spring newsletter.

Steve Cole, Chairman, August 2016



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@dhft.nhs.uk**

Website: **www.friendsblandford.org**



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 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.**



Matron's Update...

On Tarrant Ward we are in the process of reviewing our staffing levels and skill mix following our

last patient dependency monitoring exercise.

This highlighted that patients admitted to the hospital these days are much more complex; often with multiple conditions compared to the patients we used to care for on the ward. Many of those patients now are cared for and rehabilitated at home by the community nurses, the integrated community rehab or enablement teams.

This has resulted in us attempting to increase the number of registered nurses (RN's) working on the ward each day from 1 RN looking after 12 patients, changing to 1 RN looking after 8 patients in the future. The aim of this is to enhance safety and to further enhance the quality of care we can provide to our patients. We are in the process of recruiting 3 new RN's to enable us to make this change.

The televisions that the Friends have kindly funded (1 by each patient's bed on Tarrant ward, which are free for patients to use) are in the process of being fitted, this will be great especially for those patients who aren't able to go to the day room.

We are having plans drawn up to provide 2 palliative care suites on Tarrant ward utilising some of the space from the Betty Highwood unit. We hope that there will also be a facility to enable relatives to be more comfortable too.

Our refurbished X-ray department was officially opened in April. The refurbishment was funded by the trust and cost in excess of £220,000. The department not only looks much nicer but also has the most up to date equipment and provides more flexibility to potentially offer increased services in the future.

We have just had the flooring replaced throughout the ground floor corridor. The Physio Gym floor has been replaced and the department has also been re-decorated. The Friends have kindly funded the replacement of the dining room flooring. All of the above have helped to make many areas of the hospital to look much nicer and will support our great housekeeping team to keep the hospital clean.

In the Out Patients Department we have moved to digital dictation (a device that links to a computer system). This improves information governance and supports effective communication from the hospital to GP's.

We are still in the process of planning some joint working within the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) with the Whitecliff GP surgery for their patients.

Proposed Changes to NHS Services

You may have seen news recently regarding some proposed changes to NHS services in Dorset.

The Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has, during the last 18-months, engaged in an extensive review of Clinical Services provided in Dorset including the Community Hospitals, many clinicians and managers from the Trust have taken part in that process. On the 13th July the Dorset CCG published its proposals for the future of Integrated Community Services in Dorset. These proposals were to be considered by the Governing Body of Dorset CCG on 20 July 2016.

The Governing Body is likely to agree that the proposals in the document are approved as the basis of a full public consultation. The consultation will take place over a 3-month period starting in the autumn.

There are specific proposals about which of the existing community hospitals should, in the future, have beds / wards. In the proposal, Blandford Hospital is identified as one of the hospitals to retain our inpatient beds / ward. The proposal also identifies which of the hospitals / sites are the most likely to provide care from integrated locality hubs.

It is important to stress that at this point nothing has been decided. The proposals in the document are for consultation. I would also encourage members of the Friends and Public to consider their contributions to the consultation process and share feedback when the public consultation process is underway to support our hospitals services. Responses to the consultation will ultimately shape the community health services in Dorset for the future.

Thank you and Best Wishes

Darren Wickwar, Hospital Matron, August 2016



Project Manager's Report...

Our current projects are moving forward and we intend to keep you informed in every newsletter.

First of all, the Hydrotherapy Pool. The Trust were informed that the Friends were prepared to finance the work necessary to get our hydrotherapy pool back in use again and the Trust's response was to obtain quotations for a completely new facility at considerable cost. Our reaction was to enquire why the existing pool could not be repaired with a new up to date plant room installation. After initial resistance we obtained approval to explore this option at our Board Meeting in March from Sally O'Donnell.

Since then both the Trust and the Friends have each been involved in researching the possibilities and obtaining quotations. We will soon be in a position to agree to proceed with the appointment of a company to undertake the work.

The second project currently being worked on is the alteration and refurbishment of our Day Theatre.

Last year the Friends agreed to finance the appointment of a design team to meet with Darren Wickwar [Matron] and Kate Pope [Theatre Sister], Paul Williams [Head of Capital Planning - DHUFT] and ourselves to hear of our collective aspirations for the Day Theatre and to carry out a survey of the existing theatre.

Two new layouts were prepared and presented for comments to Darren and Kate after which a proposed layout was selected which met their requirements. The new theatre will be 64% larger in floor area and this has been achieved within the existing Day Surgery Department.

Next came the appointment of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers as this will be where most of the project costs will be. Quantity Surveyors joined the expanding design team to prepare the contract budget cost, taking into account that the contractors will not be on site till 2017. Currently the plans are being checked for Health & Safety and Infection Control after which the contract budget cost can be finalised and the project can be presented to the Trustees of the Friends and the Management Board.

With Trustee approval, discussions can commence with the Trust to move the project to the next stage – Out to tender with a start date on site of early 2017, hopefully.

Finally, we are involved with Darren and Gill Wood [Tarrant Ward Sister] in progressing the preliminary design of two new palliative care suites along with an overnight suite for next of kin/family. This is a very exciting proposal which Gill has been pushing for ever since they closed Portman Ward and the two adjoining Family Rooms.

The area to be used is adjacent and accessed from within the Tarrant Ward and will use the Day Room, internal courtyard, conservatory and adjoining rooms which were originally part of Betty Highwood Unit which closed several years ago.

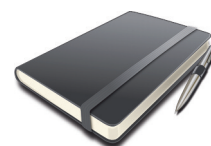
This project is being financed by the Trust, however the Friends will be providing the finance for the "icing on the cake" with the finishing touches.

We hope, by the next newsletter in March, I will be able to report that all projects will have progressed significantly towards reality.

Keep your fingers crossed because we all know that the NHS agenda continually changes!

Mac McLaughlin, Project Manager and Deputy Chairman, August 2016

Dates for your Diary



CHEESE FESTIVAL	Sturminster Newton 10th/11th September
PRIZE BINGO	Blandford Hospital 22nd September
AUTUMN FAIR	Corn Exchange 15th October
MARKET STALL	Corn Exchange 17th November
CHRISTMAS BINGO	Blandford Hospital 1st December

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.

Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends...

Help us make a difference

Well we just seem to go from strength to strength – and all down to our great team of volunteers!

I think you would agree, we run an amazing, unique service, envied by many communities. Saying that, we are always looking to recruit more volunteers – there are various opportunities so if you would like to discuss the different roles, we would love to hear from you.

Just as a comparison in the Spring Edition 2015, I quoted some transport figures: 01.01.2015–28.02.2015 = 174 journeys. For the same period this year the total was 255. Without a doubt our transport scheme to medical appointments is a much sought after and vital line for our clients, especially with the cut backs with public transport. Like I always reiterate, all referrals for our service must come through your Doctor.

We have just held our annual "Cream Tea" for our volunteers. Our way of saying "Thank you" and it gives them the opportunity of meeting other volunteers.



We have had a successful summer so far with our social outings ranging from the steam train at Swanage, fish & chips at Weymouth to pleasure boat cruises around Poole Harbour, where we enjoyed the company of a seal!!

Many of our volunteer minibus drivers/ escorts find these social trips as satisfying as the clients. Some of the escorts don't drive themselves, so it is an opportunity for them also to get out and about as well!



*Lisa Deverell, Community Services Co-ordinator
August 2016*

The Joy of a volunteer with the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital...

When I retired 8 years ago, at the age of 62, I wondered how I would fill all my spare time. This was quickly settled by my Wife who had been working as a volunteer for the Friends of Blandford Hospital. She was attending the hospital wards each Thursday morning to serve teas and coffees to the patients to relieve the staff and give them a well-earned break! She volunteered me to join the organisation as a driver on the newly introduced mini bus and also to take people to hospital appointments around the county. This has proved to be a very valuable, worthwhile and rewarding time filler. It is wonderful to be able to put something back into society and feel the thanks and pleasure of the recipients. The mini bus has been used to transport local people to such services as Stroke Club, Blind Club, Shopping trips and social events. The latter being a vital service to people who, for various reasons, are unable to get out and about as often as they would like. I cannot express the level of thanks and appreciation shown by all those that we take on these trips. This is sufficient reward in itself to us as drivers and the escorts who accompany us.

My time and involvement over the years has greatly increased as I then joined the Board of Trustees. In addition I became chairman of the Fundraising committee and also assisted in the running of the two charity shops based in Blandford and Sturminster Newton. The enthusiasm of the volunteers assisting in both of these operations has been fantastic and has ensured that the Friends have sufficient funds to assist the Hospital in maintaining its services. The Friends are a very strong voice in looking after the interests of the community and its hospital, which is a vital facility. Anyone with spare time on their hands would be welcomed by the Friends with open arms and they will be rewarded with appreciation by those that they assist.

Mike Wood, August 2016

Autumn Fair

Sat 15th 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



Join us for our next Prize Bingo
at the Hospital on
Thursday 22nd September
and again for our Christmas Bingo
on **Thursday 1st December**.

Doors Open at 6.30pm

Eyes Down 7.30pm.

Great Prizes.

**There is limited space so get there
early to avoid disappointment.**

*We know many of you miss our concerts
by the Band of the Royal Corps of
Signals so we thought you may be
interested in this local festive event
organised by one of our Volunteers who
also works with SSAFA.*

ssafa the
Armed Forces
charity

*Countdown to
Christmas!*



Family Christmas Concert - Bryanston School, Coade Hall

Saturday 10th December 2016

Doors open 6:30pm

Adults £10 / Children £5 (up to 15 yrs)

Featuring:

The Stour Valley Band & The Bovington Wives Choir

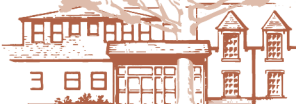
Tickets available from Blandford Tourist Information Centre

For more details, call **07770 744842**
or email **ssafaxmasconcert@gmail.com**



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Shop for us!



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to donate money to The Friends of
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you shop with them online.

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

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M&S sky BRITISH AIRWAYS BH

John Lewis hmv virgin HOLIDAYS

lastminute.com PLAY.COM

iTunes currys Sainsbury's



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our 2016 Christmas Cards (as pictured below) are now available in packs of 10 and once again we have held the price at £2.80 per pack or 4 packs for just £10.00. There are 8 different designs and the cards are available from the Main Reception at the Hospital or from either of our charity shops in Blandford or Sturminster Newton. Alternatively, they can be ordered through the Friends' Office by returning the slip below.

PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE



JOLLY SNOWMAN



CYCLING SANTA



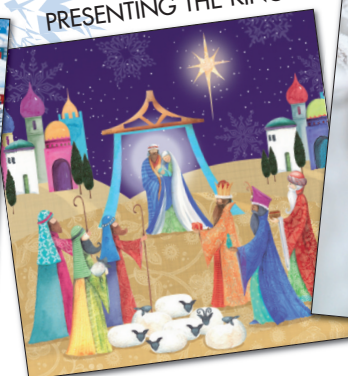
12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



VINTAGE SLEIGH RIDE



PRESENTING THE KING



DECORATING THE TREE



FROSTY ROBIN



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 enclose my cheque for £..... (Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Blandford Hospital")

_____ Packs of Frosty Robin

_____ Packs of Partridge in a Pear Tree

_____ Packs of Jolly Snowman

_____ Packs of Vintage Sleigh Ride

_____ 12 Days of Christmas

_____ Packs of Presenting the King

_____ Packs of Cycling Santa

_____ Packs of Decorating the Tree

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

NAME

ADDRESS