



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

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www.friendsblandford.org

Newsletter No. 45

SPRING 2013

Our support continues both at the hospital and throughout the community...

During the last year the Management Board has been pleased to authorise support for a diverse range of projects in the hospital, with community related health projects and within our own Community Services Scheme.

Grants have been made to the Blandford Opportunity Group, Blandford Youth Trust and Life Education Wessex. Sturminster Newton Leisure Centre have received funding for 2 new treadmills to use within their GP exercise referral scheme and funding was also approved for defibrillator training for staff and volunteers at the centre.

Within the hospital itself the following projects have received our support:

- Numerous applications have been authorised under the “Geoffrey Swain” award scheme to provide additional staff training, over and above that provided by the NHS, to enhance the services provided to patients.
- A new cover and steps were provided for the Hydrotherapy pool.
- Therapeutic singing and drumming is funded within the Betty Highwood Unit.
- A wall clock was purchased for Tarrant Ward.
- Funding for books, posters, pictures and music was authorised for the Betty Highwood Unit.
- Funding has been approved for 16 new bedside patient’s lockers for Tarrant Ward and also for over-bed tables for the ward.

Of course, a huge amount of our funding is used to fund our ever expanding volunteer transport service and to run our minibus which is widely used to support those that are socially isolated or have limited mobility. The transport scheme and minibus have so far, during the financial year since April 2012, been funded to the cost of over £33,000. However, it should be stressed that donations have been received in excess of £8,000 from users of these services.

Later in the newsletter you will be able to read just how funding applications are considered and approved.

Do you have storage space to spare?

We are looking for additional storage space in the Blandford and Sturminster Newton area to support our charity shops and series of events throughout the year.

Maximising monies raised is always a priority as with any charity and therefore we like to keep our costs as low as possible.

Storage is sought for clothing, items for the Autumn Fair and also a store/working space for the Annual Auction. This could be in one location or perhaps as smaller units.

Do you possibly have a dry, secure unit that you would be able to offer for this purpose? Perhaps you have a garage you do not use? Are you a property owner with outbuildings currently not needed? Perhaps you are a local business with empty premises that could be put to good use? If so, please think about the possibility of helping out our local charity. Your help will make a real difference to our fundraising that supports the community hospital and local health related projects. Give Emma a call in the Friends’ Office at the hospital on 01258 450095.

Fundraising News...

Since our last newsletter went out in September the fundraising team have been busy with their schedule to finish the 2012 calendar and now have an exciting year of events ahead.

Bingo

Bingo has proved to be very popular as a fundraising activity with a solid core of support. Our prizes are always great and we have been complimented on the lovely atmosphere and welcome our guests receive. We have already run 4 bingos during this financial year and have one more to come, the Easter Bingo on 21st March. So far, we have made a surplus of £1182 throughout the year so hope to beat last year's figure of £1652.

Race Night

As a new venture for us, the Race Night at Bryanston Estate Club in October, organised by Mike Wood, proved to be a great financial success and a most entertaining evening. Our thanks must go to all of our sponsors who supported the evening and, of course, to Bryanston Club for allowing us to use their fantastic premises. A net surplus of £871 was recorded for this event.

Autumn Fair

The Autumn Fair is always a great event. To gather such a fantastic range of quality goods, to transform the Corn Exchange and to receive so much support from a huge team of volunteers and supporters is always heart warming. We are always pleased to hear that a queue is forming outside waiting for the start of the fair and those bargain hunters always go away happy. With over 60 volunteers on duty over 2 days it is a logistical triumph and every one of those volunteers deserve a huge thanks. Net profit this year for the Autumn Fair (including the raffle) was £5872.

Fundraising 2013

The schedule for this year is listed over the page. Please pop the dates in your diary and come along to our events. The money we raise really does make a difference to the projects the charity can support.

Charity Ball, Athelhampton House, 9th Nov

We were delighted to hear that Jane Robbins and Claire Harrison are organising a Charity Ball at Athelhampton House again this year and they have chosen The Friends of Blandford Hospital as their nominated charity. We very much hope that our members will join us in this beautiful location to enjoy what promises to be a most entertaining evening. More details in our next newsletter with an opportunity to buy tickets but in the meantime, thank you to Jane and Claire. We look forward to seeing you there.



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

DIARY DATES 2013

Easter Bingo	Blandford Hospital	21 March
Summer Bingo	Blandford Hospital	13 June
Annual Auction	Child Okeford	22 June
Cheese Festival	Sturminster Newton	14/15 Sept
Prize Bingo	Blandford Hospital	3 October
Autumn Fair	Corn Exchange	19 October
Market Stall	Corn Exchange	7 November
Charity Ball	Athelhampton House	9 November
Race Night	Bryanston	22 November
Christmas Bingo	Blandford Hospital	5 December

Future Plans

As we prepare this newsletter, we are trying to reintroduce a concert by the Band of The Royal Corps of Signals to our schedule for this year or 2014. We are also looking forward to our Fashion Show in Spring 2014, Linda and her team will be starting work on that soon, so we will fill you in with details in our Autumn newsletter. Finally, the Fundraising Team have started to put plans together for a Charity Golf day together with an Auction of Promises during the early summer months of 2014.

Chairman's Message

As a result of suggestions by the Action Group of the Friends, a meeting was set up in December of last year between all the relevant parties needed to make decisions about new services at Blandford Hospital to be provided by Poole and Bournemouth General Hospital. The meeting was very positive and it explored the most viable and needed services that could be provided. It was thought that, initially, they would limit it to three areas, namely, ophthalmology and ambulatory care such as chemotherapy and blood transfusion. The last given could initially be given in the new Sun Room in the Portman Ward. The Hydro therapy pool would be a great asset in providing pain relief. It is hoped that these services will be set up without delay.

Another new service that is soon to be established is maxo-facial surgery – dealing with facial lumps and bumps.

There are, therefore, good reasons to be optimistic about the future of our hospital. The Friends will, of course, be involved in representing the views and needs of the public, but also in financing a range of new equipment such as up to date ultra sound and the setting up of a high tech treatment room. This will run in parallel with the present theatre, though it might eventually replace it, as it is likely that procedures, in the future, will be limited to those only needing local anaesthetic.

With the prospect of being involved in considerable expenditure it is very encouraging that the two shops recorded almost a 3% increase in their takings in the 2012 calendar year to over £117,000 – a great achievement. I thank all those involved in our shops and fundraising events generally, they certainly do a great job.

It is pleasing that our community volunteers continue to expand. There is an ever increasing demand for transport. Our minibus is used daily and we hope to have a bigger vehicle in July. Our volunteers working in the hospital are also much appreciated for the help given and the difference they make on the wards. I have witnessed their smiling presence at first hand. We are also developing our befriending service which is very pleasing.

I am proud to chair such a vibrant and valuable organisation and I thank all those who contribute in so many ways to its success.

Peter Fale, February 2013

Membership Subscriptions

Annual membership will become due at the beginning of April. A subscription renewal form and envelope are enclosed with this newsletter for your use.

Subscription is a minimum of £1 per year or whatever you would like to give.

If you do not already do so, please consider paying by Bank Standing Order this year and in future years. This will significantly reduce our administration costs. Please note, if you already pay by Standing Order, there is no need to send a subscription or complete the renewal form.

Thank you for your continued support.

Matron's Update – February 2013



There has been a reorganisation within our directorate and community hospitals and community services (community nursing and therapy

teams) have now been placed in locality groups. Blandford Community Hospital is in the North Dorset and Purbeck locality which is led by Sally O'Donnell (Deputy Director Community Services). The locality manager (manager of community nursing and therapy teams) is Teresa Cole and she is based within the hospital.

I am pleased to say that we are encouraging direct admissions to Tarrant ward from local GP's, community nurses and therapy teams to prevent admissions to the acute hospitals for those people that can't be cared for safely at home. We are in the process of recruiting 2 new staff nurses on Tarrant ward and also eagerly await the arrival of a new health care assistant to join the team. We have recruited 2 more dementia champions on the ward to offer support and advice to patients, relatives and members of staff.

Some new services that are to be commenced within the day surgery unit include minor orthopaedic surgery (start date TBC) and maxillary facial surgery which will commence in February. Discussions are still ongoing regarding the development of community dental sessions.

In December there was a meeting with Dorset HealthCare (our trust), the Friends Action group and the senior team at Poole and Bournemouth

hospitals regarding some services that they may be able to support within the hospital. Work is ongoing to encourage such developments, some of which may be provided within the Portman ward area, which would be wonderful.

We have recruited a new nurse to the Minor Injury unit team following the retirement of one of our nurses after 33 years loyal service. The new nurse has vast experience, working within urgent care settings as a nurse and emergency care practitioner, and I'm sure will be an asset to our team.

We will be commencing a new orthopaedic outpatient clinic in the near future within the outpatients department and there is a Dorset-wide review of Leg ulcer care which may lead to some changes with the leg ulcer clinic which is provided within the outpatients department, this clinic is currently working to full capacity.

The Betty Highwood unit are in the process of recruiting 2 new health care assistants to compliment the team and are working to improve the environment by redecorating some areas and purchasing some new furniture and curtains. The Friends have kindly agreed to fund the purchase of some new artwork.

We have recently received much positive feedback from patients that have been cared for within the hospital which is very motivating to the team.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2013.

Darren Wickwar, Hospital Matron.

Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends....

Help us make a difference

Happy New Year 2013!

What a busy winter we have had so far. Firstly, we enjoyed many Christmas festivities, such as our "Famous" Christmas lunches! The weather was kind to us so we managed to organise 4 separate trips from Bulbarrow to Portland!

In January we organised a pantomime trip to the Tivoli in Wimborne to watch "Cinderella". Once again this proved to be an extremely popular trip— oh yes it did!

The photo attached is from one of our trips on the Steam train at Swanage.



Our volunteer transport scheme is now very busy. More than 120 transport runs were done in the month of December alone. I would like to take this opportunity of informing, and perhaps reminding, our supporters and users of the system, that the transport is run purely by volunteers, giving up their time and energy to enable this scheme to run so efficiently.

Unfortunately there are times when we are unable to fulfil a request for transport and, whilst the majority of people understand, unfortunately others do not. I am hoping that as you read this you will completely appreciate just how tremendous our volunteers are – and they are exactly that – so when during holidays and Christmas periods, they are occasionally unavailable as, like us, they like to spend time with their families, you will understand!!!

To cope with the constant increase in demand for our transport services, we are always looking for new members to join our volunteer team. So if perhaps you are interested or you know someone who might be able to spare a few hours a week/month please do

not hesitate to call for a chat. In addition to the transport there are various other voluntary opportunities available.

We have just held our annual "Post Christmas" meal by way of showing our appreciation to our team of volunteers - a good night was had by all!

As I am sure many of you are aware, we are very proud of our Minibus which we use to offer regular, weekly shopping trips and social trips. Our current lease expires this Summer so we are currently looking into options with regard to purchasing or leasing a new vehicle which will possibly be slightly larger than the present one. With more requests coming in for this part of our service, it certainly looks like an option which needs careful consideration.

Again, we are always looking for minibus drivers and escorts. We offer a 2 hour driving assessment with a qualified driving instructor, paid for by The Friends of Blandford Hospital, so if this appeals to you, please do make contact with me.

Lisa Deverell
Community Services Co-ordinator
01258 450095

THANK YOU ALL!



After the hectic Christmas period it is always a great pleasure to invite all of the volunteers who work in the community, hospital and in our charity shops to a belated Christmas dinner in January as a thank you for their services throughout the year. We hold 3 dinners, (1 for the hospital/community volunteers and 2 for the shop teams) in the dining room at the hospital and it is one of the few opportunities we enjoy where we have so many volunteers together. Pictured here are members of the Sturminster Team enjoying their very delicious meal prepared and served by the girls in the hospital kitchen.

Shop News

Once again, our charity shop teams pulled out all the stops to achieve a fantastic turnover during the last calendar year. Overall, takings reached £117,000 an impressive 2.7% increase in these economic times. We are very proud of our shops' progress over recent years and are always looking at ways to improve on our success. We should thank the volunteer teams in both shops for their commitment and the huge number of hours they put in. We must also thank our supporters who donate goods for us to sell and, of course, the growing number of customers in both shops. A new customer soon becomes a regular customer and that is what we strive to achieve.

The winter is thankfully behind us now and we are all looking forward to the longer, brighter and hopefully much warmer days of the summer ahead.

The charity shop sales are well under way and our shops will both launch their summer ranges mid March. Come and visit us soon to brighten up your wardrobe for every occasion from work wear to wedding, cruise ship to beach holiday and of course a huge amount of choice for your every day wardrobe.

While you are there, don't forget to check out our wide range of goods. We have a huge selection of books, bric-a-brac, electrical items, shoes, handbags, household linens, pictures, jewellery, toys...The list is endless. Stock really does change every day so it is worth popping in each time you are in town. A sure fire way of feeling good, is finding a fantastic bargain.

Of course, the shops would not be able to operate if we didn't receive donations of goods to sell from our local supporters. Please consider us when sorting any items you no longer require. If you are unable to get donations to either of our shops, we will be happy to arrange collection.

Why not join the team?

We currently need more volunteers in both of our shops. Volunteering with us is a really social activity, a great way to make new friends and can be as little as a few hours every couple of weeks. If you are interested, drop in to either shop for an application form or call Emma in the Friends office on 01258 450095

Paradise!

Who did not enjoy "The Paradise" on television recently? The Paradise was such a delightful fantasy department store staffed by colourful, period costumed characters. Or perhaps more recently, the fantastic BBC series, "Mr Selfridge"?

Our own very real shopping paradises in Barnack Walk, Blandford and Innes Court, Sturminster Newton, have enticing merchandise, quite in keeping with both Mr Moray's and Mr Selfridge's philosophy - to please customers. Our turnover may be rather different, but our 'girls and boys' manage to serve the customers in the manner expected in the best of stores.

Lords and Ladies nowadays are completely undetectable, they wear jeans and jumpers just the same as everyone else, not top hats as worn by the fictional Lord Glendenning or the extravagant gowns of his haughty daughter Katherine Glendenning of "the Paradise" There are, however, garments of impeccable pedigree, suitable for any person for any venue from a cruise ship to an allotment garden. Fantastic fashion at fantastic prices, eat your heart out Mr Selfridge!

Our staff all have stories to tell, much more interesting than anything dreamed up for a television series, but we will keep those stories to tell amongst ourselves as we serve our customers, fortunately unencumbered by tight laced corsets. Paradise!

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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How does the Friends of Blandford Hospital Work?

Part Four: The Finance and Projects Committee

In the previous three editions of our newsletters we have talked about our history, the structure of the charity and how we generate our income. Now comes the final instalment, how we decide to spend that income. The consideration of funding requests is undertaken by our Finance and Projects Committee (F&P).

The F&P Committee membership consists of the President, Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Project Manager, Secretary, Chair for the Community Services Group, and other Council members of the charity. I chair the committee. We also have in attendance, when possible, the Hospital Matron and a Community Matron - with an open invitation to the GPs. We meet quarterly at the hospital and report to the Friends Management Board.

The role of the F&P Committee is to consider health related requests for financial help. These requests are reviewed, discussed and debated by the group. All requests are researched thoroughly prior to the meeting to confirm the request is health related, conforms with our constitution and is not something that should be funded directly by the NHS. If funding is considered appropriate, in line with our criteria, the request is then forwarded to the board with a recommendation to approve. The group also monitors and receives reports on projects and will make recommendation if necessary.

As you will have read on the front page of the newsletter, the funding we authorise is wide ranging and all requests are considered on their own merit.

Steve Cole, Chairman, Finance and Projects Committee, February 2013

Thank you to the following local businesses that have helped us in so many ways during the last year...

- Whicher Decor Ltd
- J Mato & Son Ltd
- Heart of Oak Stables
- Red Kite Vehicle Consultants
- Pearce Seeds Ltd
- Sturminster Rotary Club
- Hall and Woodhouse Ltd
- Blandford Health and Beauty Centre
- Essence Beauty
- The Cricketers, Shroton
- Monkey World
- Dorset Self Storage Ltd
- Swanage Railway
- The Tank Museum
- Lulworth Estate
- Crazy Monsters
- Adventure Wonderland
- Wimborne Model Town
- Abbotsbury Swannery
- The Fleet Air Arm Museum
- Weymouth Sea Life Centre
- ASDA
- Harts of Sturminster
- Purely Print Ltd

Your support really has made a difference.

Enjoy your retirement Richard, We miss you!



Richard joined the team here at Blandford Hospital as a Porter in June 2001 and, over the course of time, became the hospital joker, always playing little tricks. He developed a good relationship with all the staff and some of them never really knew when to take him seriously. Overall, he was a breath of fresh air for our hospital and it was a bombshell when he sadly announced he was to retire.

Easter Bingo



Thursday 21st March

Doors 6.45pm,

Eyes Down 7.30pm

Dining Room, Blandford Hospital



****10 Prize Games, a Special and
a Cash Flyer ****

Refreshments and Raffle

Further info from the
Friends' Office on
01258 450095

This year will be our 17th Annual Auction and as always we strive to make it better than any that have ever gone before. Every year it becomes more of a challenge to exceed the previous year's figures and once again we are looking for the support of our membership to help us with that challenge for our 2013 Auction. In previous editions of our newsletter you will have seen our A-Z of items that we would love to catalogue. If you are able to donate an interesting or collectable item, which is stashed in your loft or perhaps gathering dust on the sideboard, we will be very grateful and you will have another great way of supporting our small, local charity. If you have a donation to make, please let us know as soon as possible. Items can be left at either of our charity shops (clearly marked "auction") or if you would like us to arrange collection, at a mutually convenient time, give Emma a call in the Friends' Office on 01258 450095.

Legacies and Bequests

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



Give as you Live™

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

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

Expedia B&Q TESCO

M&S sky BRITISH AIRWAYS

John Lewis hmv

lastminute.com

currys Sainsbury's

Annual Auction

22nd June 2013

Child Okeford Village Hall.

Viewing from 7.45am

Sale starts 9.45am

Over 200 varied and interesting lots

No reserves

Catalogues will be on sale in our charity shops early in June at a cost of 50p each.

Alternatively, visit our website and download your copy from there

www.friendsblandford.org

How to contact us...

Tel/fax: 01258 450095

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www.friendsblandford.org