



# 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](http://www.friendsblandford.org)

**Newsletter No. 49**

**SPRING 2015**

## The Hospital's new £1.5m Portman Unit is opened thanks to the hard work of the Friends.



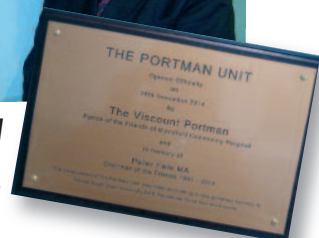
As work on the redevelopment at the hospital was completed last year and the Portman Unit is now fully operational, we thought our members would like to see some pictures of the development and the Grand Opening. The article is continued on the back page.



*Lord Portman officially opening the Unit*



*Chairman, Steve Cole and Deputy Chairman-Project Manager Mac McLaughlin at the official opening*



Tribute was paid at the official opening of the Portman Unit to Peter Fale, the man who chaired the charity when the Portman Ward closed in 2011 and led the campaign for its reopening.

The unit was officially opened on 26th November by the Viscount Portman, Patron of the Friends.



*Covered walkway*



The Friends donated £750,000 towards the £1.5m redevelopment and during his speech, Chairman, Steve Cole, said that the unit was dedicated to the memory of Peter who died in

January 2014. Peter had spearheaded the charity's vision for how the vacant ward could be used to benefit the future of the hospital for local people. Further tribute was paid to Peter's wife Grace, also for her support to the charity, who sadly died just a few days before the ceremony. The family was represented by Andy Fale, their youngest son.



*Dental Suite 1*



*Minor Injuries unit*



*4 Bay Theatre Ward*



*Garden Room looking to courtyard*



## Fundraising News...

It seems hard to believe that it is already February and plans for this year's schedule are coming together well. Before we tell you more about the exciting year ahead let's look back at our Autumn and Winter events:



**Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival** was an absolute credit to the community groups that organised the weekend. The weather was kind and the atmosphere across the site, with record breaking footfall, was buzzing throughout. Once again our lovely team from the Sturminster Shop ran a stall for us and this year broke all previous records with takings over £642.

The **Autumn and Christmas Bingos**, were very well attended and have brought our net proceeds from Bingo in the current financial year to £1550, with still the Easter Bingo to come! Our most sincere thanks to Derek Holdeman, our caller, and the girls in the kitchen team that help us at every bingo.

The **Autumn Fair** was once again a great triumph for the team of 60 volunteers that were on duty over 2 days to run the event. The people of Blandford again queued up in anticipation of the bargains to be had and a net profit of £5145 was achieved.

This event, more than any other, highlights how vital our volunteers are to such efforts and seeing so many of them working so hard together makes the Management team very proud. As a team, they are truly the charity's greatest asset.



## 2015 Fundraising

Plans for this year are now well under way and the diary dates and further details are found later in the newsletter.

Our first event is a Furniture and Picture sale to be held in our storage unit on March 14<sup>th</sup>. We have a number of items that are not possible to sell in the shops so this is a one off opportunity to clear this stock.

We then move on to our Easter Bingo with the promise of lots of great prizes and no doubt plenty of chocolate eggs.

This year, our major new event will be a Golf Day at Ashley Wood Golf Club on 26<sup>th</sup> June. The organizing group has some fantastic plans and we look forward to a most enjoyable day. As part of this event, we will be holding an Auction of Promises. If you are able to offer a promise then we would love to hear from you.

We will give you more details on all of the 2015 events in our summer update and our Autumn Newsletter.

Supporting our events is another great way to help the Friends. If you are unable to come along, perhaps you would consider donating a raffle prize, giving a bottle for our tombola, baking a cake for the Autumn Fair or just spreading the word on our behalf. All support, in whatever form, is always gratefully received. The Fundraising Team look forward to seeing you during the year!

**Emma Sisson,**  
**Fundraising Co-ordinator**

## THANK YOU

Many local people and groups have made donations or organised events to raise money for the Friends during the last year and our thanks goes to each and every one of them.

Special mention should be made in this newsletter to the National Westminster Bank in Blandford who donated £350 raised throughout the year, the Child

Okeford Carol Singers who raised £93.17 and Blandford Carnival Club who gave a donation of £50.

Our particular thanks go to Winston Leese and the Spetisbury Yuletide Brass who were able to donate a staggering £500 after performing at Tesco, the Red Lion in Sturminster Marshall, the Woodpecker in Spetisbury and the Anchor at Shapwick. This money was raised with public collections and very generous donations from each of the establishments.



## A message from our Chairman

Reflecting back over the last few months, I realise how much the volunteers do for Blandford Hospital. In October I took great pleasure in supporting the annual Autumn Fair and was impressed by the transformation of the Corn Exchange and the huge Volunteer effort that resulted in such a profitable day. The event was a wonderful success and our volunteers should be congratulated. It was a pleasure to greet the people supporting the Fair and hear such positive feedback about our Charity and the hospital we support.

It is great to see that both of our charity shops are breaking all records with remarkable performances. I must say a very big thank you to all the volunteers who work in the shops and give so much of their time to make them such a success.

In November, we had the official opening of the Portman Unit, and it was a pleasure to meet Lord Portman, our Charity Patron, who was so interested in the work of the Friends. He had booked his visit especially to officiate the occasion, along with his wife Katherine and the whole evening had a wonderful ambience. A great time was had by all who attended to celebrate such an achievement here at the hospital. I am sure Peter Fale would have been delighted with the occasion, it was such a shame that he and his wife Grace were not here to see his idea come to fruition. Grace had sadly passed away shortly before the official opening but Andrew, one of the couple's sons was able to attend and see the unveiling of the plaque dedicating the unit to his Father's memory.

In January I had the pleasure of meeting a large number of our Volunteers at Blandford Hospital when attending their annual belated Christmas dinners. These occasions were an ideal opportunity for me to get to know so many of our helpers and listen to their ideas. It is also our opportunity, as the Charity's management, to express our thanks to them for the support they give on a day to day basis.

Looking to the future, the Council of the charity need to update our action plan which was developed two years ago, to reflect future needs of our community. This will be done with the cooperation of the Trust and local GPs. Currently, the hydrotherapy pool is closed and as this was funded by the Friends, we are keen to take the necessary action to re-open it for patient use.

I look forward to updating you further in our next newsletter.

**Steve Cole, Chairman**

### 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)**

**Fax: 01258 394055**

**Email: [friends.blandford@dhuft.nhs.uk](mailto:friends.blandford@dhuft.nhs.uk)**

**Website: [www.friendsblandford.org](http://www.friendsblandford.org)**

### A new Project...

The Fundraising team aim to produce a recipe book to bring out in Autumn 2016.



We would love you to share your family recipes that we can include in our book. Please send us any entries to the Friends' Office at the hospital, or email to **[friends.blandford@dhuft.nhs.uk](mailto:friends.blandford@dhuft.nhs.uk)**

Pictures to accompany the recipe would be great but not essential. We would love to include your name, any special tips for success or the story behind the recipe that makes it special.



## Shop News...

Both of our charity shops have continued to go from strength to strength throughout this year. After many years of a significant difference between the shops income, with Sturminster significantly ahead, both are now comparable. The friendly competition is hotting up as both shops are neck and neck approaching the end of the calendar year!

As we go to print, the end of season sales will be under way and the shop teams will be preparing the new season clothing ready to launch in our shops during the second week of March. This is the perfect time to restock your wardrobe for the upcoming warmer weather, the holiday season or perhaps a special occasion during the summer.

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. 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 451456.

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.



Blandford shop team



Sturminster Newton shop team

In January we held our annual team dinners to take the opportunity to bring everybody together and thank them properly. These were most enjoyable evenings amongst great company with scrumptious food provided by the wonderful kitchen team here at the hospital.

**Emma Sisson,**  
**Fundraising**  
**Co-ordinator**

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 451456**.

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 returned back to Blandford Hospital at the end of December after covering the Matrons post at Swanage & Wareham Hospitals. I would like to thank Kate Pope and Helen Lawes for their support as they did a sterling job covering me here at Blandford, as did Gill Wood (Tarrant ward Sister) and Sue Grant (Day Surgery Unit Senior Staff Nurse). They both assisted to cover some of Kate and Helen's usual roles. I am very happy to be back.

The official opening of the Portman Unit took place on the 26th November and there was a great turn out to mark the event. Lord Portman kindly opened the unit and dignitaries from the town were present. All attendees were given a tour of the new unit and appeared very impressed with our new and improved care facilities which the Friends so generously supported. We have received much positive feedback from patients who have attended the unit and we have been working closely with the Weldmar team who are planning to commence a day service there once a week from March 2015.

The Weldmar Hospicecare Trust will operate a Wellbeing Centre here and plan a range of services for patients and their families including advice and information, complementary therapies, pamper sessions, gentle exercise, creative expression and talking therapy.

We have had some new staff join the team recently. We welcome a new Physiotherapist, a new Staff Nurse and HCA in the Day Surgery / Outpatients Departments and a new Staff Nurse and 2 new HCAs on Tarrant Ward. Other changes in the team include Helen Lawes, previously the Senior Clinical Lead on Tarrant Ward has been appointed to the post of Matron at Westminster Memorial Hospital in Shaftsbury. Helen will be greatly missed by the Blandford team having worked here for over 20 years. We are very proud of her as she is the first Matron in our Trust who is an Occupational Therapist. I am also pleased to tell you that Gill Wood who was the ward Sister on Tarrant ward has now been appointed to the Senior Sister's post

to replace Helen. We have a new Elderly Care Consultant Dr Richards who attends Tarrant ward each week for ward round and also does Elderly Care Clinic in our Outpatients department.

The management structure within Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust (the trust that the hospital is part of) has recently changed and Blandford Hospital is in the North Dorset locality which is managed by a locality manager. Our locality manager is Teresa Cole; Teresa has been based at the hospital for approximately 18 months and used to manage the Community Nursing and Rehabilitation teams in Blandford, Shaftsbury and Sherborne. The services she is responsible for now include the Hospitals and Services in Blandford & Shaftsbury, the Community Nursing and Rehab teams, Health Visitors, the Children and Adolescent Mental health team (CAMS) and some specialist nurses.

We are still considering for the future updating the operating theatre and improving end of life care facilities on Tarrant ward which would enable us to provide care in improved environments.

As always, I'd like to thank the Friends and their members for their continued support

**Darren Wickwar**  
**Hospital Matron**



Do you have a special occasion to dress for this summer? Perhaps a garden party? A wedding? A special party? A school Leaving Prom or Summer ball?

If so then why not pop in to one of our charity shops and talk to the volunteers on duty. Even if you can't find what you're looking for on display, our stock rooms are full of clothing and accessories that could result in a truly fabulous outfit and an even better price.

*We also have a supply of wedding and prom dresses, just pop in and ask any of the shop team!*

# Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends...

*Help us make a difference*

## We really need you more than ever!!

Over the last 12 months or so we have seen our service expand to such an extent that we really need more volunteers to continue to deliver. These figures, I think, will shock a lot of you as to just how much transport to medical appointments is requested. As an example, for the period 1st January 2015 to 28th February 2015 a total of 174 journeys have already been organised. These figures were put together on 26th January 2015 so many more will be added before the newsletter is printed. This is roughly 25+ a week. As you know we rely heavily on the goodwill of our current volunteers, some of which have been with us since 2008. We currently have some 1000+ clients on our books.

Unfortunately we don't manage to recruit volunteers at the same pace as we receive referrals from GP's. Please, please if you have any spare time, even just an hour or two and would like to have a chat with me about any of our volunteering opportunities, do give me a call and we can arrange to have a proper chat and a cuppa without obligation!!



As a "Thank you" to all our volunteers we have just had our annual post-Christmas dinner. This is our way of saying thank you to the volunteers and of course their opportunity to meet each other. Also our new Chairman, Steve Cole introduced himself. A good evening, with good food, was had by all!!

We have been fortunate with the weather so far this winter and therefore managed to successfully get out on our minibus as planned. We organised, like we do every December, 6 Christmas outings to include a Christmas dinner, 2 trips to the pantomime in Wimborne (oh yes we did) and a few trips to the Dolphin Centre and Castlepoint to do some of that essential Christmas shopping! Needless to say all the trips were full and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

## Just as a reminder:

There is often confusion around being a "Member of the Friends". A member subscribes on an annual basis 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**  
**01258 450095**



## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Annual membership will be due at the beginning of April.**

**A subscription renewal form and envelope are enclosed for your use. If you do not already do so, please consider paying by Bank Standing Order this year and in future years.**

**Payment by this method will help 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.**



# **The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital**

## **Charity Golf Day Friday 26th June 2015**

at

## **The Ashley Wood Golf Club**

Wimborne Road  
Blandford  
Dorset. DT11 9HN  
Tel: 01258 452253

**The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital are pleased to announce we will be holding a Charity Golf day at The Ashley Wood Golf Club**  
**It is a great opportunity to have a fun day on the Golf Course with food, drinks, prizes and a Charity Auction supporting a local good cause**  
**Entry is £160 for a team of 4 playing a Shotgun start Texas Scramble**

### **THE DAY WILL INCLUDE:**

- Meet and Greet with a Bacon Roll and Coffee/Tea
- 0900 Shotgun start
- 18 Hole team Texas Scramble Competition
- Double up competition challenge on the par 3, 18th Hole
- Longest/straightest drive for both male and female competitors
- Nearest to the pin for both male and female competitors
- Raffle and Auction of Promises
- 2 Course Lunch



**Further details and an entry form can be obtained from the Friends' Office on**  
**01258 451456**

## **FURNITURE SALE**

**Saturday 14th March**  
**10am - 1pm**

**A selection of furniture, pictures and large number of collector's plates.**

**Unit 1A, Hambledon Farm,  
Shroton, DT11 8QR**

**Everything must go, so lots of bargains!**

**Further details and directions from**  
**01258 451456**

# **BINGO**

**Dining Room, Blandford Hospital**

**Easter Bingo 19th March**

**Prize Bingo 18th June**

**Great fun - Great prizes**

**Refreshments and raffle**

**Doors open 6.45pm**

**Eyes Down 7.30pm**

**Limited space so get there early to avoid disappointment.**

The redevelopment of the Portman Unit was part of a 2 stage development by Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust to develop a health and social care hub facilitating as much care as possible locally. Sally O'Donnell, Dorset Locality Director of the Trust, said the opening of the unit was a very big occasion following the years when the Portman ward had been empty. She recalled the public meeting at the Crown Hotel when 400 people had gathered, worried that services would be moved back to the acute hospital. "We now have a fabulous new unit. The Modern Development provides 2 new dental suites, a new facility for patients to have treatments without having to be admitted overnight, and a health and social care hub, bringing together key services to improve the care we provide within the locality. It is thanks to the hard work, fundraising and very generous contribution from the charity that made such a difference to what we have been able to achieve to make our hospital fit for the future. We are very grateful to the community for their amazing support"

It was the first time Lord Portman, who now lives in Switzerland and became the Patron of the charity in 1999 following the death of his Uncle, had visited the hospital in such a role, and he told the assembled hospital staff and supporters: "Community is a very innocuous word for such an important thing. Whoever is served by this hospital is very lucky indeed."

Upon handing over the cheque to the Trust in November, Mac McLaughlin, Deputy Chairman and Project Manager, confirmed that the donation was the largest that the Friends have made in their long history and pledged to secure the future of the community hospital for the community. The Friends had developed a vision for the way that the area could be used to benefit the long term future of the hospital for local people, and the drive and commitment of the Management Board had been behind the project throughout the development.



*President, Dr Ian Wilson and Life Vice President Gordon Adam accompanied at the official opening by Mrs Sue McLaughlin and Mrs Susan Adam*



*Dental Suite 2*



*Portman Unit Waiting area*



*Minor injuries unit 2*



*MIU Nurses Station*

***Our most sincere thanks go to Nicci Brown and the Forum Focus magazine for assistance with this piece and for allowing us to use their photographs in addition to our own.***

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**14th March**

**Furniture Sale**

**Hambledon Farm, Shroton**

**19th March**

**Easter Bingo**

**Hospital Dining Room**

**18th June**

**Prize Bingo**

**Hospital Dining Room**

**26th June**

**Golf Day**

**Ashley Wood Golf Club**

**8th July**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Blandford Hospital**

**24th September**

**Prize Bingo**

**Hospital Dining Room**

**17th October**

**Autumn Fair**

**Corn Exchange Blandford**

**3rd December**

**Christmas Bingo**

**Hospital Dining Room**