



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. 56

AUTUMN 2018

Introducing Mac McLaughlin as our new President...



I joined the Friends of Blandford Hospital as a member and was appointed a Trustee shortly after my retirement in 1997 having been introduced by my close friend and previous Vice President, Frank Pike.

I joined the Finance and Projects Committee and soon became Project Manager and Chairman of that Working Group, both positions I still hold, and enjoy, today.

On the retirement of Joe Izzo as Deputy Chairman, I was asked to take up that responsibility by Peter Fale, the Chairman of the time. I continued in that role until my recent election to the position of President.

From my first introduction to the Charity I have continued to be

impressed by the professional Management Structure, the Constitution and the Community Services that we offer. I am inspired by the never ending enthusiastic volunteering support we have across the services we offer and, of course, the range of fundraising events and very successful shops. Without the support of such a team of Volunteers and Trustees we would not be able to give such valuable financial support to our wonderful hospital and health related community groups.

I am honoured to have been elected President and will continue to support and represent our members and volunteers to ensure that our charity lives up to its motto – "We Make A Difference".

Mac, July 2018

Exhibition of Incredible Talent....

We are delighted to say that the Affordable Art exhibition recently held in our Blandford Forum Charity shop raised an incredible £1427.25. All of the pictures and greetings cards were locally painted and mainly contributed by Joan Capron who is a volunteer in the Charity Shop. Joan's work was priced from 30p to £30 so to reach that grand total involved a huge amount of work in so many different styles.



The Charity would like to thank Joan, her friends and volunteer colleagues who made the exhibition such an overwhelming success. The monies raised will be used to support the valuable work done by the "Friends" to support the hospital and throughout the local community.

Thank you Joan!

Joan is pictured here amongst some of the pieces on offer ready to welcome customers on the first day of the exhibition.



There's no time like Tee Time...

The sun shone on the 22 teams that joined us for our Golf Day at Ashley Wood on 22nd June and £2400 was raised throughout a most enjoyable event. The overall winning team,

pictured here, this year represented the Blandford Garrison Golf Society and was made up of Paul, Chris, Pete and John. An event like this could not take place without the support of local individuals and businesses and for this we thank...

Ashley Wood Golf Club, It's Staff, Captains and President

Mr and Mrs Ken Keep

Corfe Mullen Building Services

Hall and Woodhouse Whicher Décor

MVS Blandford Hardy Signs

Healthy Pets DCM Tyres

Pawlkie's Pet Care Dixon Stewart Solicitors

Purely Print Blandford Furniture Bazaar

Morrisons Tesco House of Sarunds

Lee Bardsley – Clubhouse 1896

Blandford Garrison Golf Society

Courtney Developments

Mr and Mrs B Joyce Yeovil Golf Club

The Cricketers, Shroton Dorset Golf and Country Club

Paul Jones – Ashley Wood Pro Rushmore Golf Club

And of course, most importantly, we thank all of the volunteers who helped organise and run the event.



The Cheese Festival in Sturminster Newton takes place on 8th and 9th September.

It is a fantastic event and we are looking forward to being part of it

again this year. If you are in Sturminster, please do seek us out in our yellow tent and say hello!

Shop News...

Both of our shops are going strong and have seen significant increases in income on the first quarter of the financial year. The good summer weather has certainly increased the demand for our summer stock.

As this newsletter arrives with you, both of our shops will be towards the end of their Summer sales and preparing to launch their Autumn/Winter ranges. We shall be sad to see the lovely light Summer clothing leave us and the heavier fabrics of Autumn and Winter hanging ready to be displayed in the shops. Blandford will launch their Autumn Collection at 10am on the 5th September and Sturminster will open at 10am on 6th September to showcase their complete new range.

We are so lucky to always receive quality donations from all of our local supporters and we often wish we had more display space. Don't forget, if you can't see what you are looking for, do ask one of our volunteers and we will happily check our stock room or our other shop. We always have evening wear, bridal wear, prom/cocktail dresses, fancy dress and maternity clothing available. Just ask and we will always be happy to bring items from our stock room to show you.

This year we have lots of new faces that have become established in our volunteer teams. Those teams are incredibly strong, dedicated groups of ladies and gents who love what they do, enjoy the friendships they have made through volunteering with us, find it satisfying being able to give something back to the community and enjoy the great sense of achievement they get when our shops do so well. Perhaps you might like to try it for yourself?!

Don't forget to visit us soon, we look forward to seeing you!



Every Summer we invite all of our Shop Volunteers to join us for Afternoon Tea to thank them for all of the time and effort they give to make our shops such a success. Pictured here are some of the Sturminster team enjoying the lovely goodies prepared by the Hotel Services team here at the Hospital.

Our shops can be found at:

Innes Court, Sturminster. Tel: 01258 471245

Open Mon: 0900-1600 Tues-Fri: 1000-1600 Sat: 0930-1230

Barnack Walk, Blandford. Tel: 01258 458390

Open Mon-Sat: 1000-1600

Should you wish to donate items to the shop that you are unable to drop in to town, then do give me a call on 01258 451456 and we will do our best to arrange for Malcolm and Luke to pop by with our van. The chaps who work incredibly hard every Friday are pictured here just before Christmas last year.



Fundraising News...

This year we have already enjoyed our Fashion Show, Art Exhibition, Golf Day and 3 of our Prize Bingos but we are now looking forward to our busy Autumn Season ahead.

We will be at the Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival on the weekend of the 8th/9th September and our main seasonal event is the Annual Autumn Fair that will take place this year on Saturday 20th October. We have a Prize Bingo in September and would ask you to note that due to circumstances beyond our control the date of this has changed to Thursday 20th September.

Full details of our upcoming events can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

We very much hope to see you supporting us at our upcoming events, do say hello! Perhaps you would also consider helping us by donating a bottle for our Tombola, a raffle prize, a cake or jar of preserves for the Autumn Fair or anything that could help put together a hamper for our Christmas Bingo. Every penny we raise is used to support projects at the hospital or within our local community and every bit of help you give means we are able to raise more!

None of our Fundraising events would be possible without the support of a huge number of volunteers. Whether they are involved in the organization, the logistics, the clear up or promoting our activities and services, they are integral to what we are able to achieve. I thank each and every one of them for their time, effort and commitment to the charity. It's not just the amount they do to support us, it is the way they do it! Big smiles and a lot of good humour are always on show and that is often noticed and complimented on by our visitors and guests.

Come along and see for yourself at our Autumn Fair, the biggest team effort we have throughout the year. You never know, you may like to join us and help out next time!

I look forward to updating you on our plans for 2019 in our Spring Newsletter.

Emma Sisson, Fundraising Coordinator, August 2018



A message from our Chairman...

How quickly the year passes by! We held our AGM on Wednesday 4 July and it was well attended. I was pleased to see both our new President "Mac" chairing the meeting and Helen Hunt, our new Matron, who introduced herself to the audience. Helen will be working in Blandford on a part time basis until the end of September when she will finish at St Leonard's and move to Blandford Hospital full time. It was also very pleasing to see that we have 3 new Trustees who are from various backgrounds and will add more expertise to our Council. Our membership numbers have increased to over 1000, sounds good but we have counted them differently this year. Joint membership now counts as 2, but it would be nice to increase the numbers even more, as the Friends of Sherborne and Swanage have over 2000 each.

It was nice to see so many of our volunteers at the Volunteers Week celebration at the Crown Hotel, Blandford in June, where they were recognised by the NHS for the great work we do and at our own Volunteers Afternoon Teas here at the hospital.

The NHS Trust put on an engagement day at the Crown Hotel where 180 people from across Dorset attended a session on Pain Management, it was a super day and very successful.

The Trust would like to encourage local people to become members of the NHS Trust, as everyone from the age of 11 is eligible to join. Membership is free and application forms are available at Blandford Hospital or online via the Trust's website. Once a member you are able to vote at election time for the governor you think will do a good job in holding the board to account. As an added benefit there are various NHS discounts you will be eligible to claim such as reduced car parking prices at airports, weekend breaks and discounts at various stores and many more.

We were hoping to have our new website uploaded by now, but unfortunately we are still having problems with the web designer. Let's hope it won't take too much longer.

As you will see explained in our Project Manager's update, the repairs to the Hydrotherapy unit will no longer go ahead following a business case evaluation by the Trust. We are instead helping to upgrade that area to a Musculoskeletal treatment centre. This will support patients with a one stop treatment clinic and will compliment the pain service that already operates from Blandford Hospital.

Welcoming our New Trustees...

Three new Trustees were welcomed to our Council at the AGM in July. We look forward to working with them to further benefit the work of the charity. Yvonne is already active in our Shops and Fundraising Events, Jenny is a volunteer driver and companion and Colin is one of our minibus drivers.

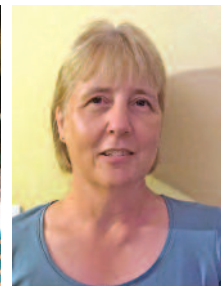
As with all of our Trustees, they can be contacted through the Friends' Office.



*Jenny Thompson
of Blandford*



*Colin Marjoram
of Charlton Marshall*



*Yvonne Thorne of
Sturminster Newton*

Thank you again to NatWest Bank...

Once again this year we were delighted to be the charity nominated by the Customer Service Managers at Nat West Blandford to receive the monies earned from their in branch book sales.

Pictured here is our President, Mac receiving the cheque from Deb Empson and Sophie Rowland.



How to contact us...

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

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

Email: dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net

Website: www.friendsblandford.org

Tabernacle Walk Open Day

On 2nd June the businesses of Tabernacle Walk, Blandford held an open day to showcase their part of town and The Friends of Blandford Hospital were one of their nominated charities from their fundraising efforts on the day.

We thank them for supporting us in this way and for the donation of £210 made to the Charity.



Project Manager's Report...

At last I have some clarity to report about the Hydrotherapy Pool's future along with the alteration and refurbishment of our Treatment Suite/Theatre.

On the 17th January I attended a meeting with Trust representatives to get, it was hoped, final agreement to repair the hydrotherapy pool. Unfortunately I was informed that continued hydrotherapy treatment at our hospital was not the way forward for the Trust with provision available in other neighbouring accessible hospitals. However, the Trust wished the area in Physiotherapy to be used to provide a one-stop MSK clinic (musculoskeletal service) which will link up with the Trust service across Dorset.

After three years of pursuing the Trust on this project it was decided to ask for a meeting with Mr Ron Shields, the Chief Executive which was arranged by our Chairman. We met on the 22nd February. The result was the same – the pool area was to become an MSK clinic and after further explanation by the Chief Executive, we discussed at our next Management Board Meeting and have now informed the Trust that the Friends will be happy to assist financially to achieve completion of this MSK clinic project.

And now movement seems to be coming. I have received an invitation to attend a meeting on the 2nd August to discuss the MSK Clinic with the Head of Physiotherapy for the Trust, so keep your fingers crossed that we will have a project to report soon.

I have been asking for a Capital Works Meeting with the Trust since the beginning of the year and at last a date of 18th May was agreed. Trust representatives explained the outcome of the Clinical Service Review regarding our hospital. Blandford Community Hospital is to become a hub for Health Care for Blandford and the surrounding area and our vision document prepared a few years ago has been answered.

Our Treatment Suite/Theatre alteration and the MSK Clinic are in the Trust Capital Works for the coming year so we will be pressing the Trust to proceed on both projects.

Finally, I can report that Estates have completed the enabling works necessary to the ceilings in the Day Room and the corridor by the Nurses Station in Tarrant Ward so that the two Tovertafel can be installed.

Tovertafel is a "Magic Table" which, by use of a ceiling supported computer, projects on the table surface below a series of interactive light games specifically designed for

patients with mild - to late -stage dementia.

It was developed over 12 years by Dutch PhD student Hester Le Riche, who wanted to create something to stimulate activity, physical, mental, and social in people with later stage dementia.

The computer/projector also includes infrared sensors and a speaker, which detects hand and arm movement, controls the games and projects light animations onto the table surface.

The audio-visual stimulation gives those living with dementia, who may previously have rarely demonstrated any capability for interaction, to follow the projected images with their hands and eyes, attempting to grasp the shapes. The table can be used by one person or as a group, so encourages interaction with other people.

The installation took place in July and has proved a great success with patients and staff. It has also been enjoyed during visiting times by patients and their families being able to interact with fun activities.

Tarrant Ward has also had visits from Occupational & Physiotherapy in the hospital who propose to use the Tovertafel with some of their patients.

*Mac McLaughlin, President and Project Manager
July 2018*



Pictured here are members of the Friends' Management Board being given a demonstration of one of the new Tovertafel Units now installed on Tarrant Ward.

Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends...

Help us make a difference

Here we are again almost at the end of what has been the most glorious summer. We have taken full advantage of the weather and had some super social trips out. We have visited the seaside at Weymouth and Swanage and had 2 pleasure boat cruises around Poole Harbour and Brownsea Island. Our days out are always popular and again we rely on our fantastic team of volunteers who give their time to enable such outings. If you think you might like to know more about being a volunteer, whether it is a minibuss driver, escort on the bus, companion or a driver to medical appointments, please do get in contact to have a chat. Many of the volunteers say they get as much pleasure from doing this as do the clients!

I thought I would give you some idea in this newsletter as to what we do with regard to community services.

We have in the region of 50 volunteers. Their duties are varied, but most are car drivers, picking up patients from their home and taking them to medical appointments. Some volunteers offer a few hours a week/month for which we are so grateful, whereas others offer many hours each week. This really is up to each individual.

We currently have in the region of 1500 clients on our books, in need of our support, again the majority are for our transport scheme. I thought I would share with you some statistics regarding transport to medical appointments between 1 Jan – 31 July 2018 inclusive. In this period we did some staggering 900+ journeys. In return for our help we ask clients to give a voluntary donation, at their discretion, to support the ongoing service. It is vital that we continue to provide this transport scheme, with so many people unable to get to their appointments at hospitals, and to alleviate some of the worry for them.

For anyone using or requesting to use our services they must ascertain a referral through their GP who have criteria to adhere to.



A local company in town, MVS, Motor Vehicle Services has come forward following a fund raiser they did for our Charity back last year, and offered sponsorship to service and maintain our minibuss for an initial 2 year period. Pictured here is Managing Director of MVS, Tony Vincent, with myself and our Chairman of Community Services, Peter Richell. Thank you MVS Blandford.

Lisa Deverell

Community Services Coordinator, August 2018

Blandford Befriending

We are looking for new volunteers.
Can you spare a few hours to help locally?
Do come and join us!

**The Friends of
Blandford Community
Hospital**

Join our team of befrienders who visit isolated older people in their homes, to talk, listen and provide some company for them now and then. Simple friendship improves happiness, reduces admission to hospital and delays dementia.



If you are interested, please contact us for more details about befriending or other volunteering. Call Lisa in the Friends office - **01258 450095** or one of the befriending volunteers - Dee **07850 500552** or Jenny **07971 434137**

The Friends is a registered charity 800482

Congratulations and Well Done Sue...

Our Volunteer driver, Sue Stroud, of Sturminster Newton has this year been awarded a National Presidential Certificate for her outstanding voluntary work in support of the Sturminster Newton and Gillingham Branch of the Royal Air Force Association (RAFA).

Sue has been fundraising for RAFA for almost 40 years and that sustained drive and outstanding achievement was recognized with the RAFA's highest award.



Membership subscriptions

Annual membership subscriptions were due in 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.



Matron's Update...

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself and provide you with some background information in relation to my career to date. I actually started my nursing career on Portman Ward at Blandford Hospital in 1989 when I was 19 years young! I commenced as a Nursing Auxiliary, as they were then, with the original plan of gaining some experience before training as a Social Worker. The Ward Sister at the time felt I would make a much better nurse and encouraged me to do my training, I followed her advice. I trained as a RGN at Salisbury, commencing at Salisbury Infirmary before it closed, what an amazing building that was. After qualifying I worked as a Staff Nurse on a Trauma & Orthopaedic ward at Salisbury then worked for a few years in the operating department. I then returned to Portman Ward in the late 90's and worked as a Staff Nurse. After a couple of years I wanted to go back to the operating theatres and worked in the private sector for 5 years, it was great to gain the experience of working in the private sector, very different to the NHS!

My next role was as a Ward Sister at Shaftesbury Hospital which I did for 8 years, I then took a post as a Senior Sister at St Leonard's hospital, Ferndown which a few years later led to me becoming their Matron, and I will have been there for 8 years. Sadly, St Leonards is closing and the ward is transferring to Royal Bournemouth Hospital. When the opportunity came up to be a Matron at Blandford Hospital this felt the right post for me. Having worked here twice previously it is like coming home, I am looking forward to working with everyone here and looking forward to new challenges and hopefully developing new services. Presently I am overseeing St Leonards and Tarrant Ward & Kate Pope is providing Matron Support on a part time basis for the rest of the hospital until I can get here full time which should be the 1st October.

On a personal note I live in Motcombe, near Shaftesbury and it is so great to live and work in North Dorset. I am married with 2 teenage boys which can be a challenge at times & my lovely Jack Russell Miley, who is never a challenge and always pleased to see me! Lovely at the end of a busy day to see her wagging tail!

As was the previous Matron, Darren, I am very passionate about patient care and safety and I will ensure that patients at Blandford Hospital continue to receive high quality care at all times. Care closer to home is so important to both the patient and their loved ones.

I am looking forward to my new role which I will really be able to embrace in October and making new work colleagues and friends.

Helen Hunt, Hospital Matron, July 2018

Goodbye Darren....



Forty well-wishers from the Hospital Staff and the Charity enjoyed an event at The Wise Man in West Stafford to say goodbye to departing Hospital Matron Darren Wickwar in March.

The Friends presented a caricature to Darren to mark the occasion and thank him for the work he has done with the charity since joining the Blandford team.

Good Luck Darren, we wish you well in your new role.

Thank you Ashley Wood Ladies...



Fundraising Chairman Mike Wood was delighted to be presented with a cheque for £1100 by the 2017 Ladies Captain of Ashley Wood Golf Club, Ann Morris.

Ann had nominated the Friends of Blandford Hospital as her charity during her period as Captain and the monies were raised at various events throughout the year. We thank Ann, and of course the management and members of the club for their fundraising and ongoing support.

Autumn Fair

Sat 20th 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 20th September
and again for our Christmas Bingo
on Thursday 29th November.

Doors Open at 6.30pm

Eyes Down 7.30pm.

Great Prizes.

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

Please help us with things we need for our Autumn Fair....

Contributions of any of the following
would be much appreciated for stalls
at our Autumn Fair:

- Unwanted gift items for our raffle and gift stall
- Bottles for our Bottle Tombola
- Cakes, Preserves, Home Grown Produce and Tasty Treats for our Cake Stall.

Any donations can be brought to either of
our Charity Shops or to the Friends' Office at
the hospital by Friday 19th October.

MAKE A FRIEND A FRIEND!

Our members are our best recruiting tool so
please continue to spread the word about
our charity amongst your family, friends,
colleagues and neighbours.

The membership drive is ongoing and we
must remember that our organisation
becomes stronger as the membership grows.

THANK YOU

Please consider buying the raffle tickets we have
enclosed with this newsletter or perhaps selling
them to your friends, neighbours or family. The
prizes, as always, are great.

All ticket stubs and raffle money must be
received in the Friends' Office at the hospital by
Thursday 18th October or brought along to the
Autumn Fair on the 20th October in the Corn
Exchange, Blandford.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our 2018 Christmas Cards (as pictured below) are now available in packs of 10 and once again we are pleased to keep 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.

LUCKY ROBIN



PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE



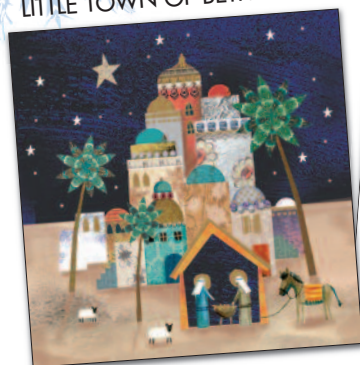
WINTER WONDERLAND



NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS



LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



THE NATIVITY



HARE BY MOONLIGHT



SNOWY PENGUIN WADDLE



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

_____ Packs of Lucky Robin

_____ Packs of Little Town of Bethlehem

_____ Packs of Partridge in a Pear Tree

_____ Packs of The Nativity

_____ Packs of Winter Wonderland

_____ Packs of Hare by Moonlight

_____ Packs of Night Before Christmas

_____ Packs of Snowy Penguin Waddle

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

NAME

ADDRESS