



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. 55

SPRING 2018

Dr Ian Wilson, MBE FRCGP



President of The Friends of Blandford Hospital, Dr Ian Wilson passed away aged 92 on 20th September last year. He spent his final days in the Palliative Care Unit at Blandford Hospital, at the opening of which he had been a guest just 3 weeks previously.

Dr Wilson, the son of Dr Kenneth Wilson and Nephew to Dr Alan Reid Wilson, who were both GPs in Blandford, followed in their footsteps into the medical profession.

After qualifying as a Doctor at Edinburgh he worked first as a Casualty Officer at Salisbury Infirmary, and then served for 4 years as a Doctor with the Royal Navy, prior to joining his Father in practice in Blandford.

Dr Wilson's service to the medical profession included periods as Chairman of the General Medical Services Committee, Chairman of the Dorset Local Medical Committee, Chairman of the Wessex Educational Committee, Chairman of the Community Hospital's Association and of course his work with the Friends of Blandford Hospital. In 1980 he was awarded the MBE for services to his profession.

In 2007, the centenary year of Blandford Cottage Hospital, he published "From Cottage to Community – The First 100 years or so of Blandford Hospital" having pieced together a huge amount of "bits and pieces" found in his Fathers desk after he died. He was able to continue the story with the opening of the new Hospital on the site of the old Dorset Regiment and Yeomanry Drill Hall and could no doubt have added further chapters on the many changes and developments at the hospital since publication.

Dr Wilson was married for 61 years to Maureen until her death in 2011 and together they had 4 children.

In addition to his services to the medical profession, Dr Wilson was a keen sportsman and he was respected throughout the community having been past President of the town's Cricket and Rugby Clubs, Rotary, and the Drama Society. The strength of feeling for him throughout the area, and further afield, was recognized in the numbers that came to the packed Blandford Parish Church for the Service of Thanksgiving for his life.



The Friends of Blandford Hospital will sincerely miss Dr Ian and will remember him not just for the work he has done for the charity, but as a true friend. The staff, members, volunteers and trustees extend their condolences to Dr Wilson's family at this time.

The Management Board, Trustees and Staff of the Charity are very proud of the feedback we receive about the services we are able to offer locally, our volunteers, shops and the events we hold throughout the year. We thank each and every one of our Volunteers who give their support in so many ways.

Fundraising News...

So where did 2017 go? It was certainly a busy year for the Fundraising team but we now move on with our schedule for 2018 and look forward to your support at our upcoming events. Before we move on, a few words about our Autumn and Winter Fundraising...



The Sturminster shop team were again lucky to secure a stall at the Cheese Festival and despite the need for waterproofs and wellington boots they managed to take over £700 in our "Pop Up Shop". The

photo is taken in the sunshine as we opened up on Saturday morning. It wasn't quite such a pretty site in the wind, rain and mud of a very challenging Sunday! Our volunteers were still smiling and serving visitors, in the very best of humour. Skin is waterproof and mud washes out after all so the show must go on!

The Autumn Fair generated income of £9068 resulting in a net profit of £7710, smashing through all previous records.



More importantly, the Autumn Fair takes our charity to its home town. Council Members and volunteers received countless compliments on the Fair itself but also, and most importantly, on the work of the charity both in

supporting our wonderful community hospital but also the services we are able to provide locally.

To quote one visitor, "Your fair is the best event in the Corn Exchange all year and we look forward to it every year!"

This event is a prime example of teamwork and how important it is amongst the Friends of Blandford Hospital Volunteers. More than 60 volunteers are involved over 2 days to stage the event and many of those put in countless hours throughout the preceding months gathering and pricing goods. Without that wonderful team the event simply wouldn't happen.

We held bingos in September and December and our regulars were joined by new faces to ensure a "Full House" on each occasion raising valuable funds for the charity whilst enjoying their night out.

So now we move on... Our schedule has been set for 2018 and the important dates for your diary are below. Plans are well under way and we very much hope we will see you during the year at our events. Your support is very much appreciated and if you would like to help in any other way please do give me a call on 01258 451456.

My job as Fundraising Co-ordinator would not be possible without the support of such a great team of volunteers that are involved in our events and the day to day running of our Charity Shops. It is not possible to thank them enough for all that they do every week of every year. Each volunteer is an asset to the charity. They each bring their own individual skills, talents and humour and together they are not just a strong team but a family. I am very proud to work alongside so many great people.

Emma Sisson, Fundraising Co-ordinator

16th March	Fashion show	Sturminster Newton
17th March	Clothing sale	Sturminster Newton
22nd March	Easter Bingo	Blandford Hospital
18th-26th May	Art Exhibition	Blandford Charity Shop
7th June	Bingo	Blandford Hospital
22nd June	Golf Day	Ashley Wood Golf Club
13th September	Bingo	Blandford Hospital
20th October	Autumn Fair	Corn Exchange
29th Nov	Bingo	Blandford Hospital

The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital

WIMBORNE ROAD, BLANDFORD, DORSET. DT11 9HN
Tel: 01258 452253 www.ashleywoodgolfclub.com



Charity Golf Day

Supporting Projects and Facilities at the Local Hospital

Friday 22nd June 2018

18 Hole Team Texas Scramble

Full Handicap

9.00am Shotgun Start
(Holes allocated prior to start time).

Entry Fee £160.00 Team of 4

Entry Fee Includes;

Coffee & Bacon Roll on Arrival

2 Course Lunch after Round followed by Prize Ceremony

On course challenges both Male & Female

Take on the 18th Hole Challenge (Not included in Entry fee)

Further details from The Friends' Office Telephone 01258 451456

The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital is a Registered Charity Number 800482



A message from our Chairman...

Starting on a sad note, you will have read on the front page the Obituary to "Dr Ian", Ian was the President of Blandford Friends for many years and was a much respected member of our community. Having been a general practitioner in Blandford he showed tremendous commitment and passion for the Friends of Blandford Hospital. He was such a driving force for best patient care and for ensuring the right facilities were in place for Blandford Hospital, and was responsible for planning the upgrade of Blandford Hospital in the 1980s. He also enjoyed researching and writing a book on 100 years of Blandford Hospital, where the proceeds were given to the Friends. His book is still available from our Charity Shops and Office. He will always be remembered for the great care he gave his patients in Blandford and the surrounding locality. It was an honour to work alongside such a committed gentleman. We will now elect a new President and will announce this at the AGM in July 2018.

One of the objectives last year was to increase the membership of the Blandford Friends in order to have a stronger voice for our community. I am pleased to say that we have 86 more members this year, making 890. My thanks to everyone who helped this by making people aware of what we do and the importance of our membership. With your help we hope to continue this trend in 2018.

We have been fortunate at Blandford Hospital to have had Darren Wickwar as our Matron for a number of years now, but we now congratulate him on his recent appointment where he will be leading the Minor Injuries units throughout the Dorset Area. He has had an enormous impact on our hospital and I have heard nothing but praise for the care he has given his patients and staff. He will be a hard act to follow. On behalf of the Friends, I would like to thank Darren, not only for his work in the hospital but also for the support he has given the Charity.

Our website is in the process of redevelopment and we look forward to launching the new site soon now. The new website should be easy to navigate and will include all the useful information that you may be looking for about the charity, our history, events, shops and services. If any of you would be interested in sharing your experiences either through working as a volunteer or having received the services of the Friends, please do contact us through the Office as it is always interesting to read about other peoples' experiences. We will be looking to update our website regularly and would

welcome anybody with relevant experience who may like to assist with this to come forward.

As a member of the Friends you can automatically apply to become a Trustee. Currently we have 10 Trustees who oversee the Friends finances and ensure they are spent according to our constitution. They meet twice a year and are normally present at the AGM. From the Council of Trustees the Management Board is formed.

I am keen to see more people on the Trustees' Council and I would like to hear from anyone who is interested. Please contact me at any time through the office or email me at ssandmcole@btinternet.com

On a final note, we had our post-Christmas dinners in January with the volunteers from both shops and our community services. We had a fantastic meal on each occasion and it gave me an opportunity to talk to volunteers and to thank them for all the work they had done over the year.

I wish you all a very happy and fulfilling year.

Best Wishes

Steve Cole, Chairman, January 2018

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



Project Manager's Update

Sadly, since my last update in the Autumn Newsletter there has been no progress on neither the "Alteration and refurbishment of the Theatre" nor the "Repair to the Hydrotherapy Pool".

We will start soon to push the Trust for progress on the Theatre now that the results of last year's Clinical Services Review are known and also the Hydrotherapy Pool.

Courtyard access for the patients in Tarrant Ward and the Palliative Care Suites:

The work has now been completed which included moving a pair of doors further along the corridor to give disabled pedestrian access into the first-floor courtyard. The new opening in the external wall has been formed, the new door and frame installed, and now – we await the spring and summer for the courtyard to be put to patient use.

Tarrant Ward:

The long-awaited installation of the computer-generated table top activity known as a Torvertafel is now progressing.

We were very impressed with the demonstration given to us last year and in agreement with Gill Wood, Ward Sister, we decided to purchase two. One to be installed in the Day Room and the other to be in the corridor adjacent to the nurse's station so that it could be used during the night for patients who are having trouble sleeping.

The first Torvertafel has been ordered for the Day Room but the position in the corridor by the nurse station is proving a little more complicated due to the construction of the ceiling. We continue to work with the Estates Department to find a solution.

Mac McLaughlin, Project Manager and Deputy Chairman, January 2018

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)

Email: dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net
Website: www.friendsblandford.org

Thank you to Blandford U3A and many other local groups...

We extend a huge thank you to members of Blandford U3A who, as part of their 15th Anniversary celebrations, nominated The Friends of Blandford Hospital as their Charity of the year in 2017.

Not only did the Group raise £402.64 throughout the year, they also knitted 23 Bravery Bears, 2 blankets and 26 Twiddlemitts which were presented to Matron for use in the hospital.



Pictured here is Deputy Chairman Mac McLaughlin being presented with the cheque by Blandford and District U3A Chairman, Christine Smith.

The Charity is lucky to be supported by many local businesses, groups and organisations throughout the year. Our most sincere thanks goes to all of them. There are too many to name individually but we do try and highlight a few in each newsletter and on this occasion we thank ...

- Blandford Methodist Church
- Salisbury Diocesan Board
- The Edgar Lee Foundation
- Ibberton Parish Council
- King Stag Methodist Chapel
- The Honour and Friendship Lodge

EASTER



Thursday 22nd March

**Doors Open 6.45pm,
Eyes Down 7.30pm**

Dining Room, Blandford Hospital

Great Prizes – Raffle- Refreshments

Shop News...

As I write this we are approaching the end of the winter season in our Charity Shops. We are looking forward to our end of season sales and we are preparing our Spring and Summer stock ready to launch in Blandford on the 7th of March and in Sturminster Newton on the 8th of March.

Do look out for extra good bargains in our sales at the end of February and pay us a visit after our Spring/Summer launches to find those garments and accessories ready for what we all hope will be a lovely summer ahead.

Our shop teams will always give you a friendly welcome and love nothing more than helping you find just what you are looking for.

We have just over 100 volunteers across our 2 shops. Our shops are unique in that they do not have full time paid staff. Our volunteers are the reason for each shop's success.



Each year we all get together for a belated Christmas dinner at the hospital when the Trustees of the charity get a chance to show their appreciation and express their thanks to every volunteer. Pictured here are the 2 shop teams prior to their meal, raising a glass to what each team fondly refer to as "the best shop in town".



The 2 charity shops would not be possible without such generous local support. Every day we thank donors who drop off quality goods for us to resell and this enables us to keep our shops well stocked with goods that are always changing.

Of course, every shop needs custom and we have a very loyal and regular customer base. Footfall is always growing and it is very rare that a new customer doesn't turn in to a regular customer! In fact, many friendships have been formed between our volunteers and customers.

For this generosity, as donors, customers and our friends, we thank you most sincerely and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Emma Sisson, Fundraising Co-ordinator

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

Volunteers Needed



We are always looking for new volunteers in our shops who are able to give just a little of their time. If you are interested, please pop in to the shop or give me a call on 01258 451456 for a chat about the opportunities available and an application form.

Affordable Art in Blandford

From Friday 18th May to Saturday 26th May our Blandford Charity Shop will be the venue for it's second exhibition and sale of locally painted pictures and cards.

Billed as "Affordable Art" prices will range from just 30p to £30, with 100% of income from sales going to the charity. The 2016 exhibition raised just over £900 for Blandford Hospital and this year the organiser, volunteer Joan Capron, is hoping to increase that amount.



Joan has been busy working to produce a large body of work in many different styles and mediums and hopes that there will be something to appeal to everyone. Several other volunteers and friends have offered to donate pieces to add to the variety. So it promises to be an exciting and interesting event.

During the 2016 exhibition Joan was delighted to hear a customer say "Do you know I've always wanted to own a REAL painting, and now I can".



Do note the dates in your diary now and pop in and meet Joan in our shop during the exhibition.

Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends.....

Help us make a difference!

Our transport service just continues to grow which is not surprising considering the lack of the accessible public transport in and around our surrounding villages. Our patient database is now up in excess of 1400. This is made up with people requesting companionship, using our minibus for social trips and shopping trips but predominately referrals for medical transport. This leads me onto saying we really need more volunteers to continue to deliver this service and to the current standard.

Please, if you could offer a couple of hours a week or more and would like to know about various volunteering roles, without any obligation, please do give me a call so we can have a chat over a cuppa!



All of our arrangements for the pre-Christmas excursions were fulfilled without a hitch or hindrance from the weather, and were thoroughly enjoyed by all participating. These ranged from Christmas

shopping trips to get those vital presents, Christmas lunches, and not forgetting the pantomime. All of our social trips are popular and give so much pleasure to those attending, some of whom are unable to get out and about without our minibus facility which has electronic tailgate access for those who require it.

As a "thank you" to our wonderful team of volunteers we have had our annual dinner. This is our opportunity to say a huge "thank you" to them for everything throughout the year. The service simply couldn't and wouldn't operate so smoothly without their dedication and support. The evening gives the volunteers the chance to catch up and, of course, gives new volunteers the opportunity to meet one another.



Lisa Deverell, Community Services Coordinator

A Lightbulb Moment...

Our Chairman of Fundraising Mike Wood was delighted to visit MVS Blandford in December and be presented with a cheque for £496.

MVS Blandford and Motor Parts Direct donated all profits from bulbs sold in December to the charity.

Pictured here, left to right are Emily Morgan (Motor Parts Direct), Mike Wood and Tony Vincent of MVS Blandford. Thank you for your support.



Well Done Florence...

The Friends of Blandford Hospital award a prize each year as part of the Blandford School Presentation Evening.

The prize is given to the student who has demonstrated, throughout the year, the most to promote healthy living at the school. Our Deputy Chairman, Mac McLaughlin had the pleasure of promoting the prize to Florence Bailey. Florence also received a Sports Leaders Award and The Spirit of Leadership Award.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership will be due in 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.



Matron's Update...

We have recruited a new registered nurse (RN) in the DSU / OPD team following a member of staff leaving to undertake further study. Sue Grant our Band 6 Sister retired at the end of December after almost 30 years of dedicated service. Vicki Cadec who previously worked in the MIU and the OPD / DSU team has been appointed to take over the Sisters post. We are advertising for a new RN to replace Vicki's previous role. Kate Pope our Band 7 Senior Sister is unfortunately for us retiring at the end of May after 21 years' service. Kate is an excellent nurse who has in the past done a great job as acting Matron and will be greatly missed by both the DSU / OPD and the wider Hospital team. We are currently advertising the Senior Sisters post.

MIU has continued to see an increase of attendances this year. We are working with our local GP practices to support improved access to GP services, and we are in the process of recruiting a Band 7 Advanced Practitioner (this could be a RN or registered allied health professional) to compliment the team. This will enable us to provide an appointment service for some patients who would have traditionally been seen in their GP surgery. We are also recruiting another MIU RN as one of our nurses is joining the community nurses in April.

We have been receiving lots of positive feedback regarding the 2 new palliative care suites on Tarrant ward. The Friends kindly funded the finishing touches for the relative's room. Tarrant ward flooring has been replaced and the Friends have funded a door to the patio to be moved to enable better access for Ward patients to enjoy fresh air in the warmer months.

We currently have 3 RN vacancies on Tarrant Ward. Recruitment of RN's is a challenge nationally as I'm sure you will have seen in the press. Fortunately we still have some of the lowest vacancy rates out of all the community hospitals in Dorset. We have had a new RN join the team in January and another new RN starts in April.

The flooring on the stairs, first floor corridor and Physio Department has now all been replaced and the ground floor toilets have also been refurbished. This all looks very smart and will assist our great domestic team to keep the hospital clean.

The Blandford MDT Virtual Ward continues to take place weekly and appears to be working well. During the virtual ward round the multidisciplinary team discuss vulnerable patients in the Community to promote their

health and safety and attempt to prevent admission to hospital.

The outcome of the Dorset Clinical Services Review (CSR) has been published and Blandford Hospital will thankfully be what is known as a Hub with beds, so we retain the beds on Tarrant ward.

Car parking remains a big challenge at the hospital. We have commenced a pilot where we have requested that staff (unless working late / night shifts), do not park in the car park. It is hoped that this will leave more parking spaces on site for our patients and visitors.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) performed an inspection on our Trust in November. Three inspectors attended our Hospital, their feedback to me was positive on the day of inspection; however we await their written report. The report won't be specific to our Hospital but for all Community Hospitals within the Trust.

Finally, I have been the Blandford Hospital Matron for 8 years (which has flown by) however now it's time for a change and a new challenge for me. I will be leaving the Matrons post at the end of March. I have enjoyed my time here and I am extremely proud of the great care and services the team here provide. I have been lucky to have had the support of great Heads of Departments too.

I am very grateful to the Friends and the community for the tremendous support given to me and to the Hospital in the past, especially when many services were under threat of being withdrawn a number of years ago. This has been overwhelming at times and I cannot thank you all enough.

Prior to starting here in Blandford I had no experience of Friends of Hospitals and I have to say I'm still amazed at the great work done by your charity and the many volunteers. This includes funding of (but not exhaustive) equipment, providing TV's for every bed on Tarrant ward, much building improvement work, supporting staff development, patient activities, providing publications for patients and staff, maintaining the garden, trips in the community and transport to medical appointments. You are amazing please keep up the good work!

My post is currently being advertised and there has been lots of interest. I am involved in the selection process and will do my best to leave your Hospital in good hands.

Very Best Wishes,

Darren Wickwar, Hospital Matron, January 2018



The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital

Registered Charity: 800482

Fashion Show

The Exchange, Sturminster Newton

Friday 16th March

Doors open 6.30pm

Show starts 7.30pm

***“New to You” clothing and accessories
for the Spring and Summer Season.***

Tickets £5 in advance from the Hospital Charity Shops or direct from
The Exchange. Tickets on the door £7.50.

***All clothing will be on sale after the show and the sale
will continue the next morning at a***

Clothing Sale

Saturday 17th March

In The Bow Room at The Exchange

10am-12noon

01258 451456