



# 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.friendsofblandford.org.uk](http://www.friendsofblandford.org.uk)

## SUMMER UPDATE 2022

### Friends Together Again!

For the Friends Trustees and Office staff, highlights of our year are the biannual events we get to hold for our wonderful volunteers to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the charity. The shops and services we run would not operate without them and we love to get them together to express our gratitude and reinforce what an important part they play in both the charity and wider community by the time they generously donate.

As we had been unable to hold our usual events for the past two years (no prizes for guessing why!) we decided this year to hold an early-summer lunch to celebrate and thank both the shop and community volunteers. So, on a sunny day in June, we headed to the beautiful location of Durweston Village Hall along with over 100 volunteers, board members and office staff.

A scrumptious buffet and beverages were provided, and everyone involved agreed it was wonderful to be able to celebrate together once more. As a lot of the volunteers do not meet many of their colleagues it was also a fantastic opportunity to see each other and share experiences.

We look forward to planning more of these 'thank you's over the coming year!



If you have a free hour or two and think you might like to join our amazing volunteer team, please give Leonne or Lisa in the office a call on 01258 450095. We will be happy to have an informal chat with you as to how you can help us make a difference!

### FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD HOSPITAL GRAND RAFFLE 2022!

Enclosed are two books of raffle tickets which we would be grateful if you could buy or sell!  
Please be sure to return the completed ticket stubs and payment by Friday 28 October in the prepaid envelope included.

Fantastic prizes this year include...

Assorted gift vouchers, luxury food hamper, drinks hamper, pamper hamper, outings and many more!



## Matron's Update

The hospital remains busy, and we are slowly seeing a return to normal. Here are some updates that are correct at time of printing:

- When visiting the hospital, you need to wear a face covering and these are provided at our entrances. Please check Dorset HealthCare's website for update information as guidance will change in time.
- Currently our Minor Injury Unit remains closed but there are discussions taking place with a hope it may open a few days a week, again please check press releases and the trust's website.
- Tarrant Ward is open for visitors and our visiting times have recently changed, the times are now 2pm – 4pm and 6pm – 8pm and patients can have 2 visitors. Please do not attend the hospital if you have covid symptoms, thank you.

I am sadly leaving my Matrons post after 4 wonderful years at Blandford Hospital. The teams in all departments are amazing and I will miss working with everyone. I am remaining in the trust and will be the Head of Occupational Health Services which is an exciting opportunity for me. I am pleased to announce that Annette Sanchez will be the new Matron. Annette is currently the Matron at Wimborne & Swanage Hospital and brings a wealth of varied experiences, I am sure everyone will make her most welcome.

Amazing, work so hard and so dedicated they make such a difference to the hospital, a BIG thank you from me.

Community are so lucky to have it, please continue to support us and the friends however you are able. I wish everyone all the best in the future and stay safe.

Helen Hunt, Hospital Matron, Autumn 2022.

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership subscriptions were due in April. (Minimum subscription £5 per annum)

If you have already paid your subscription, thank you, if not and you pay by cash or cheque kindly complete the Membership Subscription Renewal form enclosed.

Maybe you would like to consider paying your subscription by annual bank standing order? If so, please contact our office on 01258 450095 and we will be able to help get this set up.

Thank you for your continued support.



# Jubilee Celebrations!

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the volunteers in our two charity shops pulled out all the stops to make our shop windows on theme and eye-catching!

The Blandford shop windows were dressed by our longstanding volunteer Joan Capron whose artistic flair and creativity have been much admired over the years. (Joan is a local artist and you may have seen her work on display in our shops and around Blandford previously!)

The Mayor's Charity were offering an award for 'Best Dressed Window' in Blandford and to top off the celebrations we were absolutely delighted to be picked as the winner! The Friends received a certificate and a cash prize of £50 which will go towards our charitable activities.

Daphne, our volunteer at Sturminster also did a wonderful job with a celebratory red, white and blue display which received many compliments too!



L to R: Radiologists Claire Cox; Judy Baker; Debbie Jones and Vicky Cadec, Senior Sister DSU/OPD

The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital have continued to live up to their maxim "We make a difference" with their £59,000 donation to Dorset HealthCare to enable the purchase of a new C-Arm X-Ray for the hospital.

Vicky Cadec Senior Sister said, Dorset HealthCare and all the team in the Procedure Room at Blandford Community Hospital are delighted to have the continued support of The Friends. We are extremely grateful for this donation which has

made it possible to acquire the new C-Arm X-Ray equipment. Our radiographers are now using this and are genuinely so pleased with the enhanced quality of the images which allows our clinicians to give the best possible care to our patients.

# THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



## From the President

Well, Well! Here we are with the next publication of our Newsletter and our Chairman has gone on a well-earned holiday, so I am afraid you are left with me. So here goes..... Since our last Newsletter where we reported that we have been severely disrupted as a charity due to Covid and the national lockdown, I am pleased to report that we have now been able to move forward again, although with continued restrictions still within our hospital. Our shops and warehouse have re-opened, and we are pleased that our loyal customers have returned also, trade is slowly getting back to normal. Our Community Services have also restarted with our hospital medical appointment car service, again in big demand along with our mini-bus shopping trips becoming again a popular service. Our Zoom Council and Management Board Meetings have now been replaced with "face to face" meetings but sadly not our usual hospital committee room due to Trust restrictions on public access to our hospital. As a result, we have had to find an alternative venue and we are now using The Parish Rooms in The Tabernacle, opposite the Post Office in Blandford. Sadly, we have to say goodbye and a big thank you to Helen Hunt, our Matron, who is leaving us as the end of August to take up a new post within the Trust. Throughout the Covid period we have continued our health-related community support, and these still continue. This year we have provided continued financial support for the student Councillor at The Blandford School and towards the "day to day" running costs of The Blandford Opportunities Group. Both community groups have been supported by us for many years as we consider their health activities in the community are commendable. Finally, sadly our membership numbers continue to fall, currently standing at 723 as recorded in our Report and Accounts for 2022. Could I close by making a request to every member to try and encourage a friend or acquaintance to become a member. As you all know, we are a wonderful local charity with the one objective to support our hospital, patients, and health related community groups.

## Plans for the future

We are continuing to arrange fund raising events for the coming year and are looking at our old fund raising which had been very successful, however it is still proving quite difficult under the current conditions. Hopefully, as the year progresses, we will be able to announce the events as they are finalised.

We continue our role, representing patient needs, within the hospital and the community, and we are grateful to Dorset HealthCare Trust for continuing to accept us as a responsible participant in the future of our hospital and community care.

**Mac McLaughlin, President**

<b>President</b>	Mr W McLaughlin F.R.I.C.S.
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### Trustees and Officers

Chairman	Mr S Cole
Deputy Chairman	Mr P Richell
Secretary	Mrs D Sale
Treasurer	Mrs K Pluck

### Working Group Chairman

Community Services	Mr P Richell
Fundraising	Mr M Wood
Shop Support	Mrs L Prior

### Trustees

Mrs A Brown	Mrs Y Thorne
Mr T Bridle A.I.B	Mr S Hayward
Mr C Marjoram	Mrs Y Thorne

## Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Friends shall be to provide support and assistance to patients of the hospital and preserve and protect the health of the community by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities, support services and equipment not normally provided by the NHS or statutory authorities and a gardener to look after the Millennium Garden and the Portman Unit Courtyard. In pursuance of these objects the Council continued to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from individuals and organisations by way of subscriptions, donations or otherwise. Efforts are made to enlist the support of a broadly based substantial membership in order to keep in touch with the actual needs of the population, and existing members are encouraged to assist in this respect. The Friends continued to supplement the service provided by the hospital management for the health, welfare and comfort of patients and also provided amenities and support in the hospital and the community for patients, staff and others, including the Blandford Opportunities Group, who provide a day facility for disabled children. In considering applications for financial support the following priorities are adopted:

- Major projects that add to the well-being and/or treatment of patients and/or the working conditions of the staff.
- Additional equipment that would extend or enhance work carried out by consultants in the hospital.
- Additional equipment to facilitate treatment given in the wards and outpatient clinics.
- Grants for further training of hospital staff, especially nursing staff.
- Improvements to the hospital environment.
- Equipment for improved care in the community and health related community projects. It is expected that Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust will fund the provision and replacement of standard hospital equipment, fixtures and fittings.

The trustees present their report along with the financial statement of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and reporting by Charities 2011. The Friends are a registered charity (No. 800482) and whose business is conducted and managed by its Officers and Trustees (as listed above). This charity is governed by the rules of The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital Constitution, Objects and Rules, dated March 1994 (amended 2008 & 2019). The trustees all give freely of their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind.

# ITY HOSPITAL - ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

## Financial Review

In the year ended 31 March 2022 income decreased by £1,105,778 over the previous year, resulting mainly from a decrease in legacy income of £1,147,978. This was offset by increased income from trading activities which rose by £46K to £144K, bringing it back in line with the 2020 figure of £145K. Membership figures have been revised to show the actual income received from membership, i.e., membership fee of £5 multiplied by the number of members, any surplus receipts being included under Donation. The decrease of £7k for the year is the result of this change in reporting and does not reflect a decline in the number of members.

	2022	2021
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Donations & Gift Aid	24753	22761
Subscriptions	3615	10574
Legacies	43698	1191676
Other Trading Activities	143747	98019
Investments (rent on flats)	12943	11504
	<u>228756</u>	<u>1334534</u>
Net gains/ losses on investments	<u>141193</u>	<u>193238</u>
Total	369949	1527772
<b>Resources Expended</b>		
Raising Funds	59321	51651
Charitable Activities	192599	60639
Other	46661	47340
	<u>298581</u>	<u>159630</u>
<b>Net income</b>	<u>71368</u>	<u>1368142</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward	2770912	1402770
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	<u>2842280</u>	<u>2770912</u>
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022		
Tangible Assets	280213	287634
Investments	<u>2607460</u>	1666267
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<u>2887673</u>	1953901
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	156767	927937
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>241200</u>	<u>206488</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	397967	1134425
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<u>443360</u>	<u>317414</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<u>2842280</u>	<u>2770912</u>



## New Volunteers Welcomed and Wanted!

Following on from the various lockdowns we have seen shoppers coming back with renewed enthusiasm to buy good quality donated items. To help to facilitate this increase in demand we have been working hard to recruit new volunteers to help keep the shops at Blandford and Sturminster Newton fully open once again.

Welcome to the team Pauline, Jeannie, Sue and Betty at the Sturminster shop and Tony, Tina and Ann at the Blandford shop!

As always, we would like to express a huge thanks to all our new and existing volunteer staff who really do help us to make a real difference and to our loyal customers for supporting us so generously, both with donations and grabbing a bargain!

Sadly, several of our volunteers have been unable to return to their roles post-Covid, and we still have several vacancies for volunteers to join our teams. If this is something you may be interested in, please call Suzanne, our Charity Shop Manager on 01258 451456 for an informal chat.



### Community Transport Volunteers!

Don't forget we are always looking for minibus drivers to enable us to provide our weekly shopping trips and social trips. We also require minibus escorts to accompany each trip.

Volunteer car drivers are also needed to continue to provide our essential and in high demand medical transport service.

Please do get in contact with either Lisa or Leonne to discuss what this involves on 01258 450095 or via email on [dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net](mailto:dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net)



Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with  
the Friends of Blandford Hospital,  
our news, shop special offers and events.

## More News....

In the light of rising household bills and shrinking household budgets, at the Blandford shop we recently decided to include a selection of babies, toddlers and children's clothes. You can now find great quality donated goods including some school uniform and fancy dress for a younger age group towards the back of the shop—all at bargain prices!

So take a look and make some further savings to your budget while supporting a worthwhile cause!



### Our charity shops can be found at:

#### **Blandford Forum**

Barnack Walk

Tel: 01258 458390

#### **Opening Hours**

Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm

Sat 10am – 1pm

#### **Sturminster Newton**

Innes Court, Station Road

Tel: 01258 471245

#### **Opening Hours**

Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm

Sat 9.30am – 12.30pm



# Autumn Fair 2022

## Sat 29 October

The Corn Exchange, Blandford

Join us to support your local community hospital whilst searching through the tempting bargains on offer.

A VARIETY OF STALLS WITH QUALITY GOODS

GRAND RAFFLE

TOMBOLAS

REFRESHMENTS



The Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival takes place on Sat 10 and Sun 11 September 2022.

It is a fantastic, well supported event and we look forward to being part of it again this year!

If you are at the event, please seek out our yellow tent and come and say hi!