



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

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AUTUMN 2021



Matron's Update

We have had a very busy year at the hospital and I cannot believe I am still speaking about Covid!

I am pleased to say it does appear to be an improving picture in the NHS in relation to Covid and I and staff are beginning to get our Covid boosters, the vaccination

programme has really been a game changer. We all continue to wear PPE in all departments and we will continue to provide surgical face masks at our entrances for you to use if visiting the hospital. But other viruses are still out there and again I and the staff will be having our flu vaccines and the dreaded "winter vomiting" bug (Norovirus) is still around, so please take care and I will take this opportunity to remind people of the importance of hand washing, so important in preventing the spread of viruses.

The Minor Injury Unit (MIU) has now reopened at the hospital which is great news. However, how the service is accessed has changed, it is no longer a walk in service, the new process requires you to phone 111 where a person will take a description of your ailments/injury and will then decide where is the best place for you to attend. This may be a booked appointment at Blandford MIU or it may be another option such as another MIU or over the phone advice only. Please do not just turn up at the hospital without an appointment. Thank you for your support with this.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends of Blandford Hospital for their support and particularly for supporting the hospital in purchasing a new C-Arm. This is a portable x-ray machine that we use in our invention suite on the Portman Unit. The Friends also recently purchased every member of staff a lovely lapel badge acknowledging their hard work during the height of the Covid pandemic. The staff wear them with pride, thank you.

I wish everyone all the best, stay safe and thank you to the whole community for supporting your local hospital.

Helen Hunt, Hospital Matron, Autumn 2021.

Friends of Blandford Hospital Grand Raffle 2021

Enclosed are two books of raffle tickets which we would be grateful if you would buy yourself or sell to friends and family.

Make sure to return the stubs and payment by Friday 3rd December, in the addressed envelope included to be in with a chance to win some fantastic prizes including....

Assorted gift vouchers totalling £100, Luxury Food hamper, Drinks Hamper, Pamper Hamper, £50 Hall and Woodhouse Voucher, Blandford Health and Beauty Centre voucher, Voucher for the White Horse Inn, Stourpaine and more!

Community Services

Hello and welcome back! I hope you have all managed to keep well. Our amazing volunteers are chomping at the bit to get back to what they do best - providing our fantastic services!

I am pleased to announce that at the beginning of October our weekly shopping trips have resumed for those who have been referred to the service by their GP. We do have a few spaces left on our shopping trips so if you, or know of someone who you think might benefit from this service, please make contact with me.

I am now tentatively looking at booking some Christmas social trips which I know are enjoyed by so many and it is definitely what we all need as the dark nights approach - something to look forward to! - so watch this space! I will be in touch with those who again have been referred and registered with us for social outings.

Our volunteer drivers are back on the road taking patients to medical appointments. This service gives it's users huge relief and peace of mind knowing they can get to their appointments on time and safely.

As with all of our services, the Charity is so grateful for the commitment and dedication of our wonderful volunteers.

Lisa Deverell
Community Services Coordinator
Autumn 2021

Membership Subscriptions

Did you know you can make your much appreciated membership subscription payment go even further? This means we can do more valuable work in both the hospital and the local community.

Paying your subscription by Bank Standing Order helps to reduce our administration costs and also if you are a UK Tax Payer, we can claim Gift Aid on your subscription which means we receive an extra 25% on top of your contribution at no extra cost to you!

If you are able to support us with either or both of these methods, please complete the appropriate section on the leaflet enclosed, return it to us and we will do the rest!

The Office Team

Sarah Connors – Office Manager

Sarah has worked for the Friends of Blandford Hospital for some 20+ years. Sarah oversees the day to day running of the office and the finance, liaising with the management board and council.

Lisa Deverell – Community Services Coordinator

Lisa has worked here for 13 years. Lisa runs the transport scheme, which involves volunteer drivers taking patients to medical appointments, organising social trips on the minibus along with the weekly shopping trips.

Leonne Hughes – Transport and Administration Coordinator

Leonne has worked for the Friends for 6½ years. Leonne handles transport requests, deals with finance, gift aid and all the incoming monies into the office and looks after the membership database.

HOW TO CONTACT US.....

The Friends' office is based at the hospital and is open from 10am until 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Tel: 01258 450095 – all enquiries - there is also an answerphone service

Email: dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net

Website: www.friendsofblandford.org.uk

Volunteers Required!

Do you have any spare time on your hands and would you like to join our community services team? Even an hour a month makes a difference.

Please call either Lisa or Leonne on 01258 450095, or drop us an email on dhc.friends.blandford.nhs.net and we can have a chat with you and explain the roles available!



A message from our Chairman...

I hope you are all well, I feel very thankful that I have had the two jabs and look forward to the booster next month. Coronavirus has had an impact on all of our lives, whether the illness itself, lock downs and purely the isolation for many people. The Friends are adjusting and after operating a limited service our transport system is back up and running, as are our weekly shopping buses. As my grandson would say 'the wheels on the bus go round and round' again! We thank all the volunteer drivers who have come back to resume these services.

Our two charity shops are also now fully open, which leads me to say how sorry we were to lose our Shop Manager Emma in the summer. We wish her well in her new venture. Our volunteers have done a marvellous job maintaining the smooth running of the shops, and stocking them ready for Christmas. This reminds me Christmas cards are now on sale in the shops or you can order them on the back page of the newsletter. Do drop into the shops when you can and give your support. Thank you.

By the time this goes out, we would have had our Tea and Talk afternoons for volunteers. A friendly afternoon with tea and homemade cake where the Board can explain their roles and volunteers can give feedback on volunteering, so we can continue to improve our services. Of course, the Board itself is a team of volunteers too!

Our staff are now back in the office and we are very grateful to them for all their hard work during this very trying time. Our Facebook page is now under new management so do look out for and 'like' new posts! To give you some idea of how many people see our pages, the Recognition Badge Presentation to Hospital Staff reached over 600 people, and our beautifully dressed shop window photos reached over 1500 people!

On the 1st September, in the presence of Helen Hunt, the Matron, it gave us great pleasure to present the staff at Blandford Community Hospital, with a North Dorset NHS label badge shown here in recognition of the long hours and dedication given to the Hospital during the Covid pandemic.



The following morning Matron reported that the staff really appreciated the recognition, thought the badges were lovely and Staff were now proudly wearing their badges on their uniforms.

Before we know it Christmas will be here so I will take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Steve Cole

Chairman, Friends of Blandford Community Hospital



Autumn 2021 Joan's record breaking Affordable Art...

From the 30th July to 7th August the Friends of Blandford Hospital were delighted to host an Affordable Art exhibition by local artist, Joan Capron, in their Blandford shop.

Throughout the week Joan continually changed the displays and, despite it originally being billed as a "mini exhibition", was very proud to sell 64 original paintings, 53 prints and more than 250 handmade cards raising £2322 for the charity. This was her fourth and final exhibition for the "Friends" and over the years she has raised a total of £6907. However, in total she has done 10 charity exhibitions during her time in Blandford. Each of those exhibition has been on the basis of 100% donation to the respective charities.

The Friends of Blandford Hospital can't thank Joan enough for her efforts with this fundraising. She is an incredibly talented and equally generous lady and the charity is lucky to have her as part of their shop volunteer team in Blandford.

Joan herself would like to thank Forum Framers and Gallery, Miles of Value, Cheap Printing Dorset for their support in various ways. She would also like to thank her fellow shop volunteers for their support throughout the exhibition and the Sturminster Shop volunteers who donated some of their own work. Finally, she would like to thank fellow artist Alison Board and decorator Lyn Tyler who rescued her by bringing emergency art supplies when she ran out in lockdown!

The Affordable Art exhibitions have brought pleasure to so many over the years. One customer came along this time to show a photo of the picture she had bought which she'd hung on her wall ...she was so excited because the colours matched her wallpaper exactly! A six year old persuaded Mum to buy the piece "Ducks on the Weir" because she usually fed them at weekends. A lady bought Durdle Door cards because her Mum used to take them there as kids. In fact so many of the local scenes elicited lots of nostalgic comments.

Perhaps the favourite comment was the customer who came along this year because she said she had bought a "Caproni" four years ago and it still gave her as much pleasure today as when she bought it, and so she bought another!

The charity are so pleased that "Capronis" now adorn the walls of many a household locally and further afield and express heartfelt thanks to Joan for her incredible generosity.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our new Christmas Cards (as pictured below) are now available in packs of 10, priced at £3 per packet. We have eight festive designs this year which are from either of our charity shops in Barnack Walk, Blandford or Innes Court, Sturminster Newton. Alternatively they can be ordered through the Friends office by returning the slip below.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE



FOUR CANDLES



MANGER SCENE



PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE



CHRISTMAS PENGUINS



FESTIVE ROBIN



SKATING SANTA



CHRISTMAS VEGGIES



I enclose my cheque for £_____ plus £2.50 per order towards postage and packing (Cheques made payable to "Friends of Blandford Hospital")

_____ Packs of Christmas Village

_____ Packs of Four Candles

_____ Packs of Manger Scene

_____ Packs of Partridge in a Pear Tree

_____ Packs of Christmas Penguins

_____ Packs of Festive Robin

_____ Packs of Skating Santa

_____ Packs of Christmas Veggies

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

NAME

ADDRESS