



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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I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the new Matron at Blandford Hospital.

I began my nursing career 21 years ago in Poole, where I worked as a medical nurse on an older peoples care ward. Over the last 20 years I've enjoyed several different roles in nursing, both here in the UK, and in Australia where I worked in a veteran's hospital. When I returned to the UK, I took up a Specialist Stroke Nurse post and worked for Hampshire Hospitals,

where I was given the role of Matron in 2012, and have been 'Matroning' ever since...

6 years ago, I chose to return home to Dorset, and took a post as Matron at Wimborne Hospital and more recently Swanage Hospital as well, and I have to say, I've never looked back. I am passionate not only about the care we deliver to our patients in our community hospitals, but about the teams that work within them. I value working alongside them and supporting them to use their extensive experience to provide the highest levels of care.

I've only been at Blandford a few short weeks, but I've felt really welcomed by everyone I've met and am really looking forward to getting to know the services and teams better. I'm keen to understand from them, where they feel our focus needs to be, enabling, supporting, and encouraging, as well as driving forwards with our Trust priorities. I also look forward to working with the Friends of Blandford Hospital and forming the same strong relationship with them that I've had with the Friends in my previous role.

For electronic copies of previous newsletters, copies of our Annual Report and Accounts and a copy of our charity's Constitution you can visit our website at:

www.friendsofblandford.org.uk

Here you will also find a wealth of information about our charity, upcoming events, our charity shops, the services we provide and how our funds are used.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

What are Community Services?

At the Friends of Blandford Hospital, my role is to look after Community Services. There are several areas within this.

As you may be aware we offer an extensive medical transport system to enable people with no access to other means of transport to get to and from their medical appointments. To operate this, our volunteer drivers use their own vehicles and generously give their time for free, and we reimburse them their fuel expenses. There is no charge for using this service however we do rely on the service's users making a donation to enable us to continue running this vital service.

Another service we offer is shopping trips on our Friends of Blandford Hospital minibus. We currently have a few spaces on our weekly trips. Users of this service need to be able to get around the supermarket independently but we do have both the driver and escort on hand to assist people on and off the bus. They will also lift your shopping and carry it into your home if you so wish. Again, we ask for users of this service to make a voluntary donation to help us continue running this.

Social trips are another popular service we provide and while these were interrupted by covid, we are pleased to have already organised successful trips in 2022 with more planned in the run up to Christmas. I always try and arrange a wide variety of interesting trips out and try to ensure as many of our users as possible can enjoy these.

With all the services we provide there is eligibility criteria that needs to be met, but if you are interested in finding out more about any of the services I have mentioned, please pick up the phone and give me a call on 01258 450095. Likewise, I am happy to pop out and visit people if this is preferred.

Lisa

COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Could you offer a few hours a week?

To run the services mentioned we continuously rely on our wonderful volunteers to help us deliver these services.

Some of the volunteer roles we are keen to recruit for are:

- Car drivers to take people to medical appointments - with fuel expenses reimbursed!
- Minibus drivers to take people on shopping and social trips
- Escorts on our minibus to assist users on and off the bus and offer general support

If you would like to find out more, please contact me at the Friends Office, Blandford Hospital on 01258 450095 or email me on dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net.





Community Service Volunteers

Minibus Driver – Colin Fletcher

I really missed driving the minibus during Covid – but now it's back in action. Picking up people for shopping and social trips or taking them to and from various outings is fun and personally rewarding.

As I've got some spare time on my hands, it's nice to give a little something back to society - not to mention having outings for the occasional cream tea, trips to the seaside ... and, of course, the panto in Wimborne at Christmastime!

Minibus Escort – Clara Tavernor

If you enjoy meeting people and supporting them, becoming an escort on the Friends' minibus might be a great volunteer role for you.

It involves greeting people when collecting them from their homes, making them comfortable whilst travelling and interacting generally.

It's both rewarding and fun – and you choose when and what you do.

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

in aid of Friends of Blandford Hospital



For more information please contact Alison Brown on 01258 860663 (email alisonbrown16@hotmail.com) or Sue Grant on 01258 861216 (email susan.grant99@googlemail.com)

A massive THANK YOU to Tesco!



Earlier this year, Tesco Champion Jo Mullett contacted us as The Friends of Blandford Hospital had been nominated to receive donations from second-hand books sold at their Blandford Forum store. Blandford Community Hospital Ward Volunteer, Eileen Walters, had kindly suggested our charity to them.

On Thursday 21 July, Jo and Tesco Store Manager, Christian Limburn arrived at the hospital to meet Eileen and Community Service Coordinator Lisa Deverell and make a presentation of a cheque for an amazing £1000! Such a fantastic amount raised in a 12-week period!

Our charity is incredibly grateful for all donations we receive as they assist us to fulfil our many commitments to both the hospital and the local community.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our new Christmas Cards (as pictured below) are now available in packs of 5, priced at £1.50 per pack. We have six festive designs this year which can be purchased from 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.

FOUR CANDLES



PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE



FESTIVE ROBINS



SANTA'S SLEIGH



SNOWY SHEEP



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE



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

_____ Packs of Four Candles

_____ Packs of Santa's Sleigh

_____ Packs of Partridge in a Pear Tree

_____ Packs of Snowy Sheep

_____ Packs of Festive Robins

_____ Packs of Christmas Village

NAME

ADDRESS

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