



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7DD

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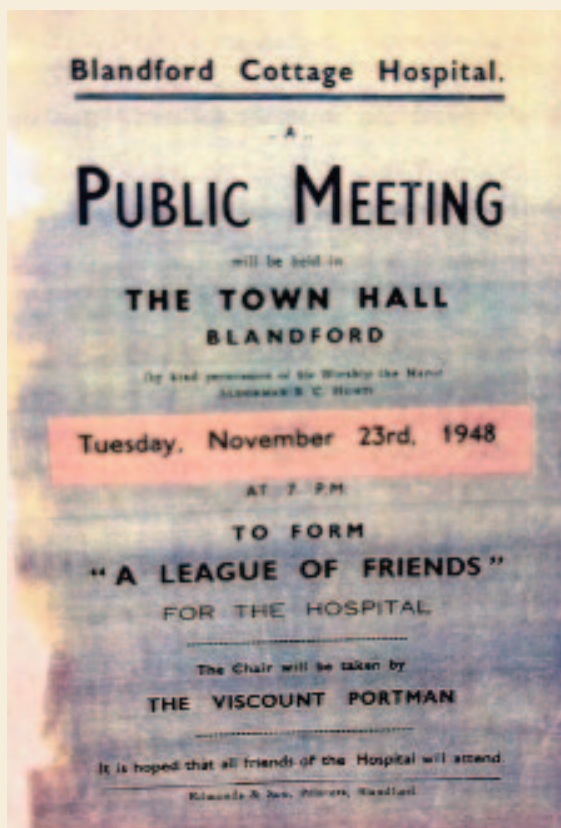
www.friendsofblandford.org.uk

SUMMER UPDATE 2023

The Friends of Blandford Hospital is 75 this year!

This year, The Friends of Blandford Hospital celebrate its 75th anniversary – we are all so excited to be achieving this milestone birthday - and in the same year as the NHS celebrates its 75th too!

In the centre pages of the newsletter, you will find more information on the formation and history of the Friends and our achievements, and we hope you will find the history and photographs of interest.



Each year, but especially on these milestones, all of us at the Friends are incredibly proud when we reflect on the brilliant support that is offered by our charity; not only the contributions we make to the hospital itself, but also the support we are able to offer the local community, whether it is supporting local groups or the fantastic services we are able to offer, it all brings us immeasurable satisfaction to know we are helping to make a difference and ease the lives somewhat of the community we live in.

Of course none of our services, or even our charity would run without the hard work and dedication of our volunteer team who genuinely amaze us each day with their willingness to support us. Whether it is being on the charity's Council, working in one of our charity shops, taking patients to hospital appointments, and driving or escorting on our shopping and social trips, we really do have a team we can rely on, so I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to them all.

We are delighted that in our 75th year we can take the opportunity to say a big thank you to our volunteers in person too, as we are holding a 75th celebration event for all our volunteers in the summer in Durweston Village Hall. It is always a pleasure to get together and for the volunteer team to meet.

To widen the celebrations we would like to invite you, our members to join us at our 75th anniversary ticket only event at the Sealy Suite in the Crown Hotel, Blandford Forum. This will take place on Saturday 11 November and promises to be a wonderful event which will include fantastic entertainment, a delicious three course meal and a drink or two! Tickets for this event will be open to our wonderful members and to the staff of Blandford Hospital. While the event is still being finalised, if you are interested in joining us for what should be a great night, then please contact us on 01258 450095 and we will be delighted to register your interest as we envisage the tickets selling very quickly!

MATRON'S REPORT



Hello Friends! I cannot believe we are already in July! In quick succession, the large cherry tree at the front of the hospital blossomed, the doves in the hospital courtyard had their babies, and now none of us are in any doubt that summer is finally here.

We really enjoyed celebrating the 75th birthday of the NHS. I'm sure I speak for many on site when I say it's great working in the NHS. It's a tough job that brings its own rewards in serving you all, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

I've settled into my post as Matron and have to say it's been one of the best decisions. Blandford is such a lovely site and I'm so happy to now be a part of the team here. Thank you for welcoming me.

The ward has seen a lot of changes this year with new staff employed and new processes put in place to help us support our acute colleagues and get patients out of the bigger hospitals and into our care where appropriate. We have a new Senior Ward Sister who is learning the ropes fast and having a hugely positive impact on the team and service as a whole. The ward team have been focusing on looking at how we do things, what we do well, what we can improve on and how we can collectively achieve all we need to for our patients. Complaints are low, patient satisfaction is high and our other quality markers tell us we are doing a good job, so we are really pleased with how it's all going. We recently submitted our data to be reaccruited for the Gold Standard Framework accreditation for end of life care, and eagerly await the news at the end of the summer to find out how we did. We are also in the process of recruiting a GP to work with us on the ward alongside our wonderful Geriatrician Dr Richards and our 2 Advanced Clinical Practitioners.



'L-R Vicky Cadec – Senior Sister DSU/ OPD, Koli Pluck, Steve Cole, Linda Prior, Mac McLaughlin – Friends Board members, Sue O'Donnell – Nursing Assistant'

Blandford and the surrounding areas. This enhanced scanner will improve the quality of care and ease of patient access to this essential investigation for conditions such as glaucoma, retinal degeneration and diabetic retinopathy from very early stages, helping to diagnose, monitor and prevent further deterioration. Blandford staff have already attended The Royal Eye Infirmary at Dorset County Hospital for training forging further links which greatly benefits the Outpatients Department and this will hopefully lead to further clinics and treatments being available. Thank you once again to The Friends for your support which is much appreciated by patients and staff

The treatment room and OPD department have been busy too, providing the excellent service they are well known for. I had the pleasure last week of carrying out an audit in the department whilst a procedure was taking place, to make sure we are dotting every 'i' and crossing every 't' and, was not surprised at all to note that all is as it should be.

The MIU department remains busy despite being open on Mondays and Wednesdays only. In fact, on occasion, patients are showing up on days when we are closed and we are having to redirect them to other services. So just a gentle reminder, please do call 111 if you are unwell and they will advise you the best place to go, and can book you an appointment at Blandford (if we are open) or at another site. A wasted journey when you are unwell can add unnecessary delay and distress for you.

We are blessed to have so many experienced and long serving staff within our walls, who use their collective knowledge and experience to deliver the very best care for all, and in such a kind and compassionate way. This month we said goodbye to one of our longest serving colleagues, who worked for us at Blandford for 39 years! It was wonderful to see the whole hospital come together to form a guard of honour, to thank her and wish her well for her next steps.

Daily, I witness examples of staff going above and beyond for anyone they encounter, but I can't mention going 'above and beyond' without mentioning Eileen, our one and only volunteer, who recently won the King and Queens Coronation award for volunteers, for all her dedicated service. The ward team are so proud of her and thankful to have her input on the ward. If anyone is interested in volunteering, we do have a dedicated team to support and train volunteers so please do get in touch.

On a final note, please do take care in the hot weather, stay hydrated, remember your hand hygiene and try to stay out of the sun too much.

And thank you for your ongoing support. It is always appreciated.

Annette

Dorset Healthcare Trust with Blandford Community Hospital Outpatients Department would like to thank The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital for their very generous donation of our new OCT scanner (Optical Coherence Tomographer) This equipment will help provide a comprehensive ophthalmic service to patients from



Chairman's message

I hope you all had a good start to 2023 and like me are enjoying the Summer sunshine. This year is a special year for the NHS. It celebrates its 75th Anniversary in July having formed in 1948. The Friends of Blandford Hospital formed the same year in the Winter so as part of the celebrations the Friends are planning a couple of events in the Summer and Winter this year. More news to come on this later.

As you read this I'm hoping that you have some friends or relatives that like you, might want to become members of our charity. The more voices, the better we are heard and more mountains moved! Our numbers at present are less than 700 and compared to nearby Hospital Friends who have over 2000 members we have some recruiting to do. Membership remains at £5 a year. If we all get one new member, what an achievement that would be. So over to you....

Best wishes
Steve Cole
Chairman

Project Manager's Report

Since our last Newsletter the OCT scanner (Optical Coherence Tomography) has now arrived and has been installed in the newly refurbished eye room in Outpatients.

This scanner will enhance the retinal clinics and enable patients to have much better monitoring and diagnostic support here in Blandford rather than going to DCH.

The Consultant, Mr Srinivas Goverdhan and the Royal Eye Infirmary team at Dorchester have supported this scanner being at Blandford and are thrilled that it has delivered and being supported by Zeiss, the manufacturer and our IT specialists.

Currently three of our Outpatients staff are going to Royal Eye Infirmary again in the next few weeks on honorary contracts for training and competencies and will then in turn train our remaining staff and this will build links between Blandford and Royal Eye Infirmary at Dorchester.

Our donation towards the purchase of this very important Zeiss OCT scanner is in the region of £65,000.

Finally, the refurbishment of the Treatment and Procedure Suite is at last moving forward at the end of this year with the appointment of the design team and Kerri Instance (Trust Project Manager) and Paul Williams (Head of Capital Planning). Hopefully in our next Newsletter I will have more news to report.

Mac McLaughlin

Project Manager

FUNDRAISING HELP WANTED!

We are looking for a fundraising volunteer to help with ideas for, and organising our well supported Charity events.

For more information, please call the office on 01258 450095.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

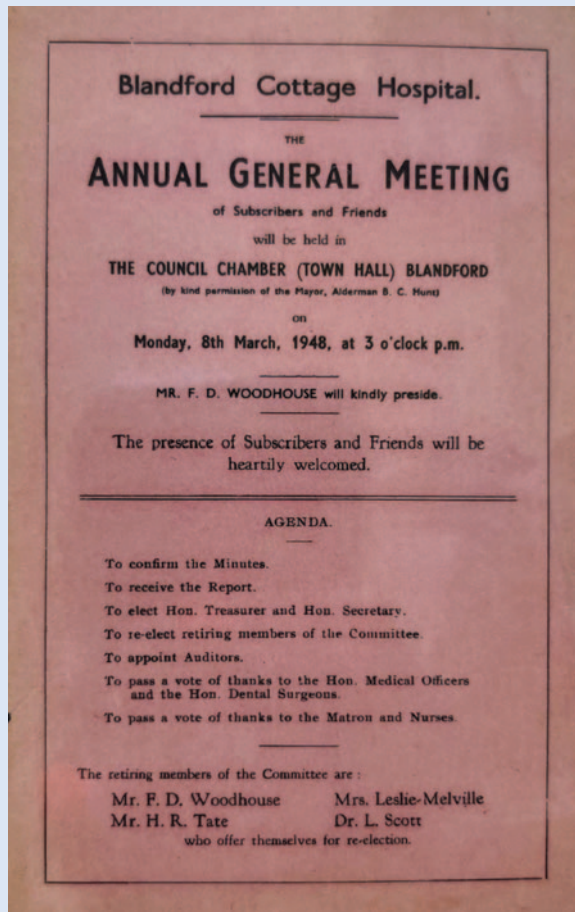
Annual membership subscriptions were due in April.

(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.



The Friends of Blandford Hospital is 75 this year!

This year, The Friends of Blandford Hospital celebrate its 75th birthday!

Prior to the formation of the NHS, in Blandford the Cottage Hospital relied on purely voluntary contributions, however with rising costs it soon became necessary to demand a small fee from patients and in the 1930's the Blandford and District Hospital League was founded and paid the medical costs of its members.

This league was a follow up to local Slate Clubs which had been formed in various villages to which you paid an annual subscription and if you were sick or had to be off work, the Slate Club would come to your aid. Charlton Marshall and Tarrant Gunville had very well-run Slate Clubs and at the end of the year, if the club was in profit a village supper was held which was always a great occasion!

The Blandford and District Hospital League continued up until 1948 and was supported by another organisation the Linen Guild which was run on voluntary contributions and received help from the Catholic Needlework Guild and the Milton Abbas Working Party which assisted with providing and mending the hospital linen to keep the patients comfortable.

In July 1948 the National Health Service was formed and all donations and subscriptions to the hospital ceased and the Blandford and District Hospital League was closed. On Tuesday 23 November 1948 at 7pm a meeting was held at the Town Hall in Blandford to form a 'League of Friends' for the hospital and it was hoped that supporters of the old Hospital League would join the newly formed League of Friends. The meeting was chaired by the Viscount Portman and Colonel Carrington Sykes of Norden was elected Honorary Secretary with the annual subscription for members set at 1 shilling.

The first object for the League of Friends was to provide extras for the patients and hospital over that Christmas period with a target set of £30. This was achieved and since then the contributions from the League, or as we are now known, The Friends of Blandford Hospital, is considerable.

Some of the main projects are the building of the original sun lounge, the physiotherapy rooms, the millennium garden, operating theatre, x-ray department including supplying the ultrasound equipment, the Milldown Unit, Day Hospital and more recently the MSK Unit, and the Palliative care suites to name a few.

The money raised to do all this work has come from the local people of Blandford Forum who continually show their generosity by supporting our charity shops, events and by being members of the charity. The Friends, the hospital, and the community we support are incredibly grateful for your generosity. Here's to the next 75 years!

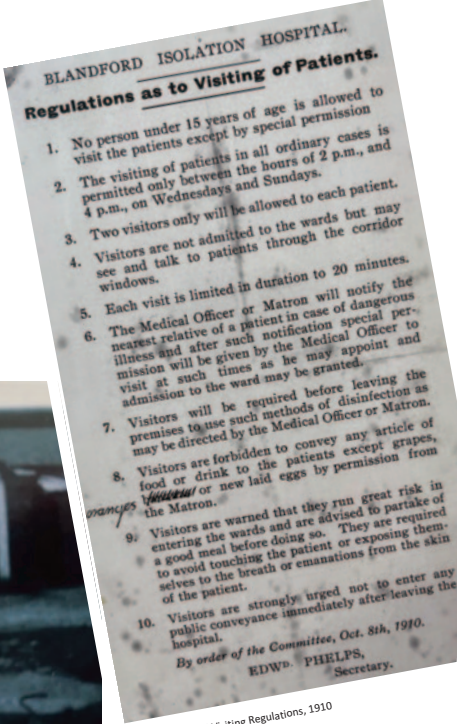
(Extracts taken from the book 'From Cottage to Community' by Dr Ian Wilson)



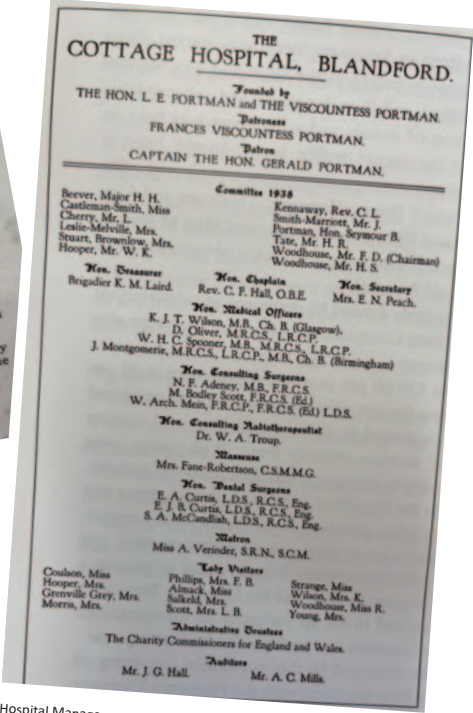
Cottage Hospital, Blandford C1891



Isolation Hospital, Shaftesbury Lane, C1910



Isolation Hospital Visiting Regulations, 1910



Hospital Management committee 1938



Blandford Community Hospital, 1986



HRH Princess Anne on the 20th anniversary of the opening of Blandford Community Hospital, 2006



HRH Princess Anne at the official opening of Blandford Community Hospital, 1986



Opening to the extension of the Women's Ward by the Countess of Ilchester and a blessing by the Bishop of Salisbury, 1938

Community Services

Summer is here, and we are looking forward to organising some of the social trips so many of you enjoy. We are hoping we can get back to normal and have a reasonable schedule this year, without interruptions!!!

So, on that note, most probably by the time you receive this newsletter, people who are on our database for outings, will have received a letter from me just ascertaining what would be of interest to our clients. On reading this, if there is someone you know who might enjoy these, please do get in contact and let's have a chat. There is a criteria but if you are someone who doesn't have the opportunity to get out and about much, doesn't drive etc we most probably will welcome you to join us!

If you are worried about your mobility - please don't be. Our minibus has a small side step to enter or alternatively there is an electronic tail lift at the back of the vehicle. The hardest obstacle is probably making the initial phone call – again no need, we are here to help.

MINIBUS SHOPPING

We currently have spaces on our minibus for shopping. If you have no other way of getting to a supermarket and can independently go around the shop, we may be able to offer you a space on our bus on a Thursday morning/Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. We pick up from various locations – it goes without saying both our driver and escort are there to help put your shopping on the bus and into your house, if you so wish?

These trips rely heavily on the goodwill of our volunteer minibus drivers and escorts to accompany. Again, are you thinking I might have some spare time and could do this, why not give me a call to have an informal chat?

For the first time since 2019 we were able to hold our post-Christmas dinner back in the dining room of the hospital this January. All volunteers are invited along, and this is our way of saying “thank you” for all their dedication to the charity. I, for one, am immensely proud of the services we deliver under the umbrella of community services.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Community Services

Could you offer a few hours a week?

We run an extensive transport scheme, taking clients to and from medical appointments – fuel expenses reimbursed

To keep up with the demand we need more drivers to keep this vital service running

We also run a minibus which we use for shopping trips and social trips. Again, we are looking for minibus drivers and escorts

**WE NEED YOU NOW AND
REMEMBER YOU MAY NEED US
ONE DAY**

Lisa Deverell

Community Services Manager

01258 450095 / dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net



AFFORDABLE ART FROM AWARD WINNING JOAN!

We are delighted to again be hosting an Affordable Art exhibition by local artist and Blandford shop volunteer, Joan Capron. The exhibition will take place week commencing 4 August and will include framed and mounted paintings with a top price of £30 along with a variety of prints and cards. Joan's art features amongst other things, much loved local scenes, and landscapes and wildlife.

It is not just the Friends who think Joan is marvellous and we are so proud to report that Joan has this year won the Certificate of Appreciation from Blandford Town Council in recognition of her years of charitable volunteering and raising money through the sale of her artwork.



We would like to pass on our congratulations to Joan for a very well-deserved award and express our gratitude for her continued support of the charity.

The Blandford School Annual Award



Each year the Friends of Blandford Hospital present an award to the pupil who has worked hard to promote a healthy living philosophy within the school. This award was presented to Freya Rodd who is a now ex-year 13 student and has moved on to study Speech Therapy at the University of Essex. Well done Freya!

SHOP LOCAL!

Support our charity shops in Blandford and Sturminster Newton – good quality bargains are always guaranteed! Find us at:

Barnack Walk, Blandford Forum

Open Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm
Sat 10am – 1pm

Station Road, Sturminster Newton

Open Mon – Fri 10am – 4pm
Sat 9.30am – 12.30pm

MEET THE VOLUNTEER...



Name: Mary Clacy

Occupation: Retired Primary School Teacher

How long have you been a volunteer: Around 25 years

What does your role involve: Sorting and pricing bric a brac

Hobbies and interests: Reading, gardening, researching donated items

What is your favourite part of being a Volunteer: Interacting with fellow volunteers and never knowing what is going to turn up next!

Which famous person would be your ideal customer: Maureen Lipman. As a volunteer in a fictional Charity Shop for her to experience the real thing

Who would be your ideal dinner party guest? Adam Henson (farmer and television presenter) Having a background in agriculture I feel that he would be a most interesting dinner guest!





SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR:
FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD HOSPITAL
AUTUMN FAIR
SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 2023
THE EXCHANGE,
STURMINSTER NEWTON



The Friends of Blandford Hospital are delighted to be back at the wonderful

Cheese Festival
Sturminster Newton
9 & 10 September 2023
gates open from 10am until 5pm

Come along and support us and see lots of local producers, crafters and join in with the activities! A wonderful day out for all the family!

Tickets on sale at cheesefestival.co.uk

Save the Date!
Saturday 11th
November 2023

Join the Friends for an evening of celebration at the Sealy Suite, Crown Hotel, Blandford Forum

Tickets will be on sale soon
to register your interest please call

01258 450095

or email

dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net