



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7DD – Tel/Fax 01258 450095

www.friendsblandford.org

Newsletter No. 37

SUMMER 2009

How have we made a difference recently?

With your help we have been able to support a number of purchases and projects throughout the hospital and local community.



Our minibus not only offers regular shopping trips for local residents, but it now has a regular programme of social outings which are thoroughly enjoyed by those that are often housebound. The bus is also used in partnership with other local groups such as the RNIB, Stroke Association and Age Concern. Hospital departments have also been able to use it to take patients on outings. These services are in addition to our ongoing transport programme and the volunteer support we are able to give within the hospital and community.

to safely observe, guide and follow the passage of equipment into areas of the body not easily reached without X-Ray. It is particularly useful in Chronic Pain Clinics and Orthopaedic surgery. This will extend the services Blandford are able to offer to patients referred through the Dorset Orthopaedic Treatment Service and subsequently found to require epidural injections.

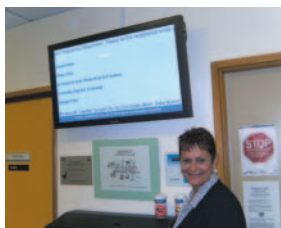
The reception for the very busy X-Ray department has been updated with new screening to the office and a stable style door.



We have agreed to refurbish the showers in the Physiotherapy/Hydrotherapy department and also have been able to upgrade the family units within Portman Ward, which you can read about later in this newsletter.



We have purchased and fitted a new lockable cupboard for Hospital Main Reception and digital signage for the Outpatients Department.



The Minor Injuries Unit is benefiting from a special plastering chair which is not only very useful for plastering but is also particularly helpful for patients with limited mobility who are perhaps unable to get onto a normal couch.



Within our local community we have been able to purchase an exercise bike for the Blandford Heart Forum and continue with our grant to the Blandford Opportunities Group.

We are also able to purchase minor items for the hospital that make a real difference. Some examples of these are: Medical Equipment for the Out of Hours Team such as stethoscopes and diagnostic pen lights, a steam press for the Linen Room, a new fridge and urn for the Kitchen and a digital camera for Outpatients Department.

The hospital is awaiting delivery of a C-Arm or Image Intensifier, costing the Friends in excess of £80,000. This is a mobile piece of equipment used in theatre

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Easter Bingo, 26th March 2009

Perhaps the promise of lots of chocolate was just not enough to tempt our supporters to the Easter Bingo! With player numbers down, so were the profits but increased odds led to a lot of happy people going home with great prizes. Net profit was **£179**.

Auction, 16th May 2009

The 2009 Auction proved as popular as ever and the recession didn't seem to put off our bidders with the 231 lots raising an all time record high net profit in excess of approximately £7,500. This year professional Auctioneer Richard Kay, who volunteered his services, assisted Gordon Adam and our sincere thanks go to him. Gordon, and his assistant Tristan, had been working on the catalogue since the gavel fell for the final time in 2008 and they were both justifiably pleased with the selection and quality of lots on offer.

A huge workforce of volunteers worked on both the Friday and Saturday to make the event run so smoothly and our thanks go to each and every one of them.

SUPPORT FROM LOCAL EVENTS, GROUPS AND BUSINESSES

We are always very grateful for any support given to our charity from the local community and as we go to press there are 2 events upcoming that have nominated us as one of their benefiting charities.

The staff at Hospital Metalcraft Ltd donned their football kit on Saturday 9th May when they have challenged Bournemouth Nuffield Hospital to a charity match at Dean Court. Their sponsorship and proceeds from the collection on the night will support the Friends of Blandford Hospital and Julia's House Children's Hospice.

We are also lucky to be one of the charities nominated for support by the Three Okefords' Preservation Society at their Annual two-day rally at Shillingstone on 16th/17th May.

We look forward to letting you know more about these two events in our next newsletter.

Hugging Soldiers support the hospital...

Young Royal Corps of Signals Officers currently on Troop Commanders Course 73 at Blandford Camp raised a massive £585.34 to support the work of the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital on Friday 27th March.

The group of young men, dressed in uniforms ranging from service dress to desert camouflage, offered visitors to Bournemouth Sea Front hugs. In return for their cuddle, people were encouraged to make a donation to the charity. Locals and tourists alike must have made the most of this opportunity to hug a handsome young man in uniform and donated generously to raise such a great amount.

The group said that they had lots of fun during their day and a great atmosphere was created. The public were understandably perturbed to begin with but soon got into the swing of things and literally threw themselves into the hugs.



Pictured here is Second Lieutenant Matt Bucknall presenting the cheque to Friends Deputy Chairman, Mac McLaughlin.

Dates for your Diary



8th July	Annual General Meeting Day Hospital
12th/13th Sept	Cheese Festival Sturminster Newton
25th Sept	Fashion Show Corn Exchange, Blandford
1st October	Autumn Bingo Hospital Dining Room
17th Oct	The Mill Singers Durweston Village Hall
7th Nov	Autumn Fair Corn Exchange, Blandford
3rd Dec	Christmas Bingo Hospital Dining Room
18th Dec	Christmas Concert by The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals, Coade Hall, Bryanston

Matron's Update



When I threw together the last “quarterly” report, I honestly believed that it didn’t really matter what I said as I wouldn’t have to do another one—which only goes to show how wrong one can be!

Unfortunately Erika remains off sick and I continue to “sail the ship” across the unpredictable seas. I came out of the Day Surgery Unit part of a very small crew, and was given the helm of this ship to sail headlong into whatever seas were to face me. Sometimes these seas have been calm but often quite rough with swells much higher and stronger than I had ever imagined possible!

What has been amazing however is that I have never had to ride these seas alone! The “crew” at Blandford Hospital are an amazing bunch—endlessly dedicated to delivering the highest standards of care, pulling together on the rigging to raise the sails and face the winds as one. It matters not what type of crewmember they are, whether paid or volunteer; there is a unity in the cause, the cause of course being the good of the Patient.

The ship set sail in one direction and had to learn to alter course at a moments notice. The management structure was modified, national targets were tightened and the needs of both patients and staff changed on what felt like an hourly basis; but there remains a good feel to the ship.

The winter has seen times of extreme difficulty with pressure to open more beds; reach targets set; turn around beds in cases of extreme need meanwhile keeping the galley and decks swept, cleaned and ship shape!

The crew have never faltered and have supported one another through it all. Now spring has sprung, the sun is shining and the seas feel calmer—let’s hope the ship will now set direction and stay on course for the remainder of the journey.

One thing’s for sure though, after 8 months of acting up, I am certain that all the shipmates will face diversity and deal with altered need with the same passion and vigour that they have demonstrated to date and my pride as their “acting” captain will continue far across the seas until our regular captain returns to take the helm.

At the risk of appearing to have gone “overboard” and making you, the reader, ever so slightly “sea sick” I would like to point out that the staff here have made the local people justifiably proud of their figure ship—May God Bless her and all who sail in her!

Kate Pope, April 2009

SWINE FLU

The NHS set up a pandemic management team many years ago and each year the plan is updated in order to cope with any potential pandemics.

There are personnel working specifically with the public health team and senior managers in the Trust who then disseminate information on a regular basis to the coal face within the hospitals and we keep staff abreast of any developments.

Blandford hospital staff will no doubt respond to the threat of a crisis in the same calm manner with which they respond to any situation presented to them.

How to Contact us...

The Friends’ Office at the hospital is open from 10.00am until 4.00pm from Monday to Friday. The Tel/fax number is 01258 450095 and we can also be contacted by E-mail on

FriendsBlandford@dorset-pct.nhs.uk

Our website is

www.friendsblandford.org

In the office you will find Sarah Connors (Office Manager), Jean Durrant (Community Services Co-ordinator) and Emma Campbell (Fundraising Co-ordinator) and they will each be able to help you with your request

Have you visited our Sturminster Newton Charity Shop recently?

On 19th February the “Stur” shop closed its doors to enable a much-needed update. Four weeks later it



reopened to reveal a new look. Health and safety issues and the need to improve the working areas in the shop were the driving force behind initial plans for work, together with long overdue redecoration.

Meetings were held for our volunteer team, who know the shop best, to air any issues they had and put forward their suggestions for the future of the shop.



Very constructive discussion resulted in plans being drawn up to move the changing cubicle and open up the sorting area to result in a user-friendly area with hanging rails, shelving a work surface and cupboards.



The rear store, previously a garage, has been transformed into a usable working area and efficient store for both incoming and sorted goods. The garage

door was replaced with a fire door, the floor raised and throughout the shop the lighting and heating has been improved. The staff facilities and bookstore, if both small, have also been improved.

In the shop display area the look has been enhanced with the improved lighting and redecoration together with some new wall fittings.



The day the shop opened a queue was forming long before opening time and as the door opened the



customers flooded in. Our volunteers were so busy with a packed shop, more than an average day's takings were taken in the first half hour!

Reaction to the updates was all very positive with quotes such as “Wow! Doesn't it look better?” “It's great”, “What a difference “ and our favourite: “it's so good to have you back, we've all missed you!”

We are still receiving compliments on our changes and the volunteers now have a shop of which they can be very proud.

Our most sincere thanks go to each and every one of our volunteers for all of their involvement in the planning, preparation for the changes and for all the work



involved in restocking the shop. The team continues to support the charity with their time in the shop on a daily basis. Some may just work a few hours a fortnight, and others, several three hour shifts a week.

Whenever you are in Sturminster it is worth popping into the shop. You will always receive a friendly welcome and with stock changing every day it is highly likely you will find a bargain.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER IN OUR STURMINSTER SHOP, PLEASE CALL INTO THE SHOP FOR AN APPLICATION FORM OR CALL EMMA IN THE FRIENDS' OFFICE.

**Friends of Blandford Hospital
Charity Shop, Innes Court,
Station Road, Sturminster Newton
Tel: 01258 471245**

Opening hours:

Monday 9am - 4pm

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm

Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

We welcome donations of clothing, linen, shoes, handbags, toys, CDs/DVDs, Electrical Items, bric-a-brac, books and much more.

Unfortunately we are unable to accept non-portable electrical items, typewriters, records and items of furniture unless antique.

If you have goods to donate and are unable to take them to the shop then please call the Friends' Office and we will endeavour to arrange a convenient time to collect.

Volunteering with the Friends....

Help us make a difference

Although many of our volunteer roles involve driving, whether that be the minibus or a private car, we still welcome volunteers who cannot drive or don't have access to a car.

Hospital staff appreciate the support of volunteers who help on the wards serving refreshments, setting meal tables and generally talking to patients. It's nice to have a chat with the lady or gentleman that gave you a cup of tea. If you have the time, you can also go back and have a game of scrabble or help with a puzzle. Just being a friend to someone in hospital is a vital role. As long as you are within walking distance of the hospital, it's a volunteer position that can be filled by a non-driver.

Alternatively, you can befriend someone in your local community. Often housebound people welcome a familiar face to occasionally call and have a cup of coffee, or run a few simple errands. Again, you do not need to drive a car to support someone who lives near to your home.

If you like to get out and about more, you could train to be an Escort on the minibus. This role does not involve the volunteer in any driving. The minibus has a driver and the Escort is responsible for directing the driver to clients homes and making sure that the people get on and off the minibus safely and that they are secure in their seats throughout the journey.

The only qualification you need for any of these roles is that you like people and are quite happy to chat with strangers, who soon may become 'friends'.

If you think you would enjoy any of the above tasks, please call me on 01258 450095.

In addition to the above, we always have vacancies for drivers who like to take people to hospital, doctor, optician and dental appointments. We reimburse volunteers with expenses to cover the cost of fuel and parking at a rate of 40p a mile. This is the statutory maximum rate allowed by the Inland Revenue.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jean Durrant, *Community Services Co-ordinator*

Volunteers required at our charity shops

Volunteering in either of our shops is a very social activity, meeting and working alongside new people, laughing, sharing ideas, experiences and developing a sense of satisfaction that you are giving some of your time to a very worthy local cause. Every shift is different but all worthwhile.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers working at either charity shop then please call Emma in the Friends' Office on **01258 450095**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 8th July 2009
at 6.30 pm**

**To be held in the Day Hospital
Blandford Community Hospital**

ALL ARE WELCOME
Refreshments will be available

Focus on....

PORTMAN WARD



Portman Ward, on the ground floor of Blandford Community Hospital, is a sixteen-bedded unit covering a catchment area of Blandford Forum and the surrounding villages.

The team is led by Sister Gill Wood and her dedicated team of Staff Nurses and Health Care Assistants together with added input from Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists.

Within the ward are two family suites, which are used for palliative care patients. The ward works closely with Joseph Weld Hospice. If the suites are not in use for this purpose they can also be used for rehabilitation of patients prior to them returning to their homes.

Recently, as a result of a generous legacy left to the Friends of the Hospital for use by Portman Ward these two units have been refurbished. They provide extremely attractive and comfortable accommodation for family use when required. Our sincere thanks go to the family of the late Mr Mason as the legacy from his estate has funded most of the changes.

The work started at the end of 2008 and as you can see a lot has already been done but it continues with plans developing all the time.



The Friends were able to facilitate the new wet room in Family Unit One and this has made a real difference to patients.



To date the ward has been able to purchase:

- Flat Screen Televisions
- Reclining Chairs
- Fridges
- Microwaves
- Kettles
- Toasters
- Curtains, Duvet Covers and Net Curtains.

Shortly, the ward intend to also purchase:

- New Lighting
- Bed Settles
- Accessories.

As a separate project The Friends have already committed funding to replacing the current conservatory on Portman Ward with a new sunroom so patients will be able to benefit from the outlook and access to the garden throughout the year. Plans are already with the District Council for planning approval and we look forward to updating you on progress with this project in the near future.

Legacies and Bequests

Legacies make a real difference to the projects the Friends are able to support. If you are considering leaving a gift or legacy to the Friends of Blandford Hospital in your will, please consult your solicitor or will writer who will be able to advise you.

Fashion Show 2009

QUALITY, BARGAIN CLOTHING FOR ALL SEASONS

To all fashion bargain hunters,

The hospital fashion show will be staged this year at the Corn Exchange in Blandford on Friday 25th September.

After 8 years of organising the show, Sue and Gordon Adam have decided to step down. They have raised a huge amount for the hospital and brought awareness of the continual support that the hospital needs. They are an extremely difficult act to follow, but myself and a committee of ladies will endeavour to produce another show in the Autumn.

As there is only one show this year the clothing featured will cover all seasons. Every item will be of high quality at the bargain prices you have come to expect from us. The format of the show will be very similar to before and we hope to create an entertaining and relaxing evening.

I look forward to your continued support and seeing you there on 25th September.

Linda Prior



FASHION SHOW

25th September 2009

The Corn Exchange
Blandford

Doors open 7.00pm for opportunities to browse and purchase clothes and accessories

The show starts at 8.00pm

Tickets only £5 each to include a glass of wine and nibbles

All Garments modelled in the show, and much more, will be on sale to the audience so please join us for an entertaining night out and great chance to stock up your wardrobe.

FURTHER INFO FROM THE FRIENDS OFFICE ON

01258 450095

To purchase tickets in advance of general release, please complete and return this slip and send with your payment to The Friends Office, Blandford Hospital, Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, DT11 7DD

Please send me ___ Tickets for the Fashion Show on 25th September.

I enclose a cheque payable to the Friends of Blandford Hospital for £_____

Name

Address

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