



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. 39

SPRING 2010

“A Christmas Spectacular”



Friday the 18th of December saw over 500 guests brave the sub zero temperatures and forecast snow to be thoroughly entertained by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals at the Coade Hall Theatre, Bryanston.

The Band of 32 members, led by their Director of Music, Captain Dave Barringer performed a programme that truly lived up to its title, “A Christmas Spectacular”. The full band entertained the audience with both modern and traditional seasonal pieces some of which are featured on their new CD. Highlights of the evening were surely the two vocal solos performed by LCpl. Tracey Shaw, whose voice was truly mesmerising. With such a variety of music, interspersed with the

Band’s very own elves!

Over £3500 was taken in ticket, programme and raffle sales and with expenses kept as low as possible both the hospital and Army Benevolent Fund will benefit significantly.

The Friends of Blandford Hospital were overwhelmed with the local support for this event and are looking forward to working with the very popular Band again next year. The Friends would like to thank all members of the Band, Bryanston School for allowing them to use the Coade Hall Theatre and all those that helped make the event a success.



Fundraising News...

The Autumn is always a very busy time for the fund-raising team and last year proved more so than ever. A huge thank you goes to all of the volunteers involved in so many ways supporting our events. Without those committed volunteers none of our events would be possible.

Fashion Show and Clothing Sale, 25/26 September 09



The new format organised by Linda Prior and her team proved very popular in the Corn Exchange, transformed with beautiful flowers and professional lighting. Tickets were a sell out and the crowd were not disappointed

with the clothes on offer. The combined net profit for the show and the clothing sale that followed on the Saturday amounted to £2380.

Concert by the Mill Singers Male Voice Choir 17th October 09



Once again we were thoroughly entertained by the charming gentlemen

from the Mill Singers Male Voice Choir led by their new Musical Director, James Smith. Durweston Village Hall was a wonderful venue and about 45 people came along to the concert. Profits were approximately £175.

Corn Exchange Market Stall

Every year we are lucky to be one of the charities benefitting from a free stall in the indoor Thursday Market at the Corn Exchange. It is always nice to take some of our goods from our Blandford Shop to a different audience and use it as an opportunity to raise awareness of our organisation. This year the stall raised £88.

Autumn and Christmas Bingos

Although the Autumn Bingo was not well attended the Christmas Bingo with its favoured seasonal prizes was very popular. Almost £400 profit was made between the 2 events. Our thanks to Derek Holdeman the caller and the girls from the dining room for all their help.

Autumn Fair

The annual Autumn Fair, now well established in the Corn Exchange, once again proved that the recession was not going to stop our bargain hunters! A lengthy queue was forming in anticipation of the opening and our huge team of volunteers raised an amazing £6357 profit through their efforts.



Concert by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals

As you will have seen from our front cover, our local military band once again did us proud with a memorable evening. We are already looking forward to working with them again this year.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards purchased through "Attend" were again very popular and almost all were sold out so their popularity proved extremely profitable for the charity.

Our Shops

Both of our charity shops continue to do very well although we have suffered from a reduction in the volume of incoming goods in recent months. The refurbishment of our premises in Sturminster Newton resulted in many new customers and welcome new additions to the volunteer team. In Blandford we are investigating ways we can update the rented premises and encourage more of our supporters and prospective customers into our "Aladdin's Cave" in Barnack Walk.

Ashley Wood Golf Club

We were very pleased to hear that Mike Lane, the 2010 Seniors Captain at Ashley Wood Golf Club has nominated the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital as his charity to support this year.

The Three Okefords Rally

The Friends were delighted to be invited to a presentation evening in Okeford Fitzpaine in December by the Three Okefords Presentation Society. As one of their nominated charities at their very popular annual 2 day rally in Shillingstone they were able to present a cheque for £650 which will be put to very good use with our upcoming projects

A message from our Chairman, Peter Fale

I am pleased to report that at long last work has started on the transformation of the Portman Ward conservatory. This is our major item of expenditure at present. The alterations will make the conservatory an integral part of the building rather than an 'add-on', and will enable it to be used by patients throughout the year. The bowls club should have more spectators as a result!

We are pleased with the success of **'Hope to Grow'** a mental health project started by Gary Cure, Team Leader, North Dorset Resource Team. This project enhances the rehabilitation of mental health patients through gardening for individuals and companies. The team are now developing a parallel activity, **'Hope to Cycle'**, which restores bikes and sells them. We are proud to have been able to sponsor both of these non-profit making projects. If you are interested in any aspect of the services on offer, please see the advertisement further down the page.

In response to recent press articles, both nationally and locally, about a change in an act of parliament which would enable the NHS to use donations to hospital charities for their own purposes, I have consulted Attend, the National Association of Friends. I can reassure members that the funds this relates to are not those of independent charities such as ourselves. We will continue to be able to control the use of our funds, and so it is hoped that people will not be deterred from supporting us in the generous way that they always have.

It is this generous support through our shops, various events, legacies, donations and membership subscriptions that enables us to continue to support your local hospital and the ongoing development of our services throughout the community.

Peter Fale, February 2010



Peter Fale and Deputy Chairman and Project Manager Mac McLaughlin, on the first day of work on the Portman Sunroom. All hands on deck to keep the costs down!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Annual membership will become due at the beginning of April. A subscription renewal form and envelope are enclosed with this newsletter for your use.

Subscription is a minimum of £1 per year or whatever you would like to give.



If you do not already do so, please consider paying by Bank Standing Order this year and in future years. This will significantly reduce our administration costs.

Please note, if you already pay by standing order there is no need to send a subscription or complete the renewal form.

Thank you for your continued support

BICYCLE REPAIR SERVICE AVAILABLE

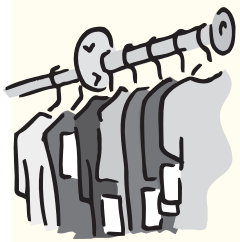
Also Bikes available for sale.



GARDENING SERVICE AVAILABLE

All enquiries please to Gary Cure on 07717 516773

Shop News.....



As we go to print our two thriving charity shops are busy preparing to change all of their stock for the Spring Season. The sales are nearly over and we will shortly fill the rails with the lighter, brighter clothing, a sure sign that summer is on it's way. Blandford will launch it's spring and summer range on 8th March, followed by Sturminster on 11th March. Now is a great time to pay us a visit. Not only will you be surprised by the different stock every day but you will often find a bargain for your wardrobe or household.

On top of this, you will always receive a friendly welcome and will know that funds raised through your custom will be used locally.

STURMINSTER SHOP

Innes Court, Station Road, Sturminster Newton
Tel: 01258 471245

Opening hours:

Monday	9am – 4pm
Tuesday – Friday	10am – 4pm
Saturday	9.30am – 12.30pm

BLANDFORD SHOP

Barnack Walk, Blandford Tel: 01258 458390

Opening Hours:

Monday – Saturday 10am – 4pm

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

Unfortunately we are unable to accept non-portable electrical items, typewriters, computers, televisions, 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.

Tens, Hundreds and Thousands

Our shops are amazing places. Let us consider some amazing figures!

In 2008/9 there were an approximate total of 100 volunteers working in both shops. Some work in the front of the shop persuading customers to part with their cash, some work behind the scenes emptying and sorting the never ending bags of donated goods.

I will bore you with a little hopeless arithmetic.

If 7 volunteers work 3 hrs each day that makes a total of 21 hrs a day, 6 days at 21hrs = 126hrs a week, 126hrs x 51 weeks of the year (we must allow for holidays!) = 6,426hrs

We have two shops, so double that number to 12,852hrs worked each year.

If this is getting tedious then I apologise!

The treasurer tells us we have earned from the shops, auction, fashion shows and autumn fair (nearly all the goods are sourced through the shops) a grand sum of £83,958.

I will digress at this point to try and persuade you to read the treasurer's accounts for 2009/10 when they are published in June, yet another unseen volunteer who does hopeful arithmetic all year!

Let's try long division!

£83,958 income divided by 12,852 hours worked equals £6.53 earned each volunteer hour worked.

Or £83,958 income divided by the approximately 100 volunteers equals near enough £830 raised by each volunteer!!!! Well done to them all, truly amazing.

If you haven't fallen asleep by now.....

Madeleine Bridle, Blandford Shop volunteer.



It was a pleasure to be able to thank many of our shop volunteers for all of their support throughout the last year at a dinner held in the hospital in January. It is not often so many volunteers get together and this was a thoroughly enjoyable evening thanks to the wonderful team in the hospital dining room.



Doc Addison, Chairman of the Shops Support Group is currently leading a campaign in Blandford to have an inexpensive painted pedestrian crossing installed at the entrance to the Marsh and Ham Car Park at the entrance from West Street. If support is obtained from the Town Council then an approach will be made to North Dorset District Council who are responsible for the car park. If you have experienced problems as a pedestrian, crossing the entrance to the car park from West Street please let us know.

Matron's Update



A New Year and a time of change for Blandford Hospital.

It is with sadness that I have to announce the formal retirement of Erika Barrow as Matron of the hospital. As you all know, Erika has been with Blandford Hospital for many years and throughout her time here has put patients and staff to the fore - she is an asset to the nursing profession and will be greatly missed by colleagues, visitors, patients and Friends alike. We all wish her the very best of luck, health and happiness in her retirement and hope to receive many postcards from trips away!

I also have to announce my return to the role of Theatre Sister here at the hospital - I shall no longer be acting matron as later in the spring of this year we shall be welcoming our new Matron - Darren Wickwar - yes "a man"!

This will obviously be a huge change for Blandford and I guess we'd best not make comments of him looking like Hattie Jacques or dressing in a matron's uniform with dress, collar and cuffs! It is probably not PC to do so!

(Worryingly, that implies that all matrons look like Hattie Jacques - if so who was my Kenneth Williams - Peter maybe or Mac???)

Darren is currently working in Leicester as a Matron in the A&E department of the teaching hospital there. He is responsible, within his role, for the "elderly care" service and so has an awareness of the needs of our population. He qualified as a nurse in 2000 and became a Matron in the spring of 2009 in Leicester.

Darren has holiday'd regularly in Dorset and now plans to relocate here and face a new lifestyle. Whether he will choose to live in Blandford remains to be seen.

I know that the staff and Friends of Blandford

Hospital will pull together to support Darren in his new venture, teach him our ways and maybe be open to some of his ideas - although he will

have to learn very quickly that the female dominance of the nursing profession is even more prevalent here and we are always right!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as Acting Matron, the highs and the lows, and cannot thank the Staff and Friends enough for their support in my personal development and with development of the hospital.

I cannot begin to name everyone individually so, as they say in the press,--- Please accept this as my personal message of thanks!

Blandford Hospital continues to provide high standards of care for the local community and to return to my very first nautical theme---will sail headlong into the wind, face storms and swells as a TEAM and be quite rightly, proud of everything they do.

Thank you all.

Kate Pope, August 2009

The Friends look forward to welcoming Darren to the hospital and hearing from him in our next newsletter.

Our sincere thanks go to Kate for all she has contributed in recent times.

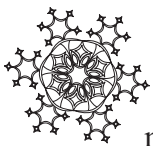
Volunteering with the Friends...

Help us make a difference



Festive Fun!

During December we organised 2 trips to Castle Point to enable our clients to do a bit of “last minute” Christmas shopping! Later on the mini-bus drove around the Bournemouth area taking in the splendour of Christmas lights. The trips were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Beating the Elements

As we are all aware we have had our fair share of the bad weather over the last few months. Hence several of our regular shopping trips had to be cancelled, leaving many of our clients low on supplies. Our volunteers went “over & above” in some cases to ensure nobody was left without basics to see them over this period. We were also very grateful to all of the volunteers who went out in treacherous conditions to make sure we did everything we possibly could to fulfil our other transport commitments.

Volunteer Dinner

It's that time of year again when we traditionally hold our annual “Volunteer Dinner”. This is our chance to show our appreciation for all the hard work and time our volunteers give to The Friends of Blandford Hospital – Thank you.



Supporting the Rotary Club Christmas Lunch

This is an event the Rotary Club organise annually for people who have no family or friends around them at this time of year. Not only are we able to suggest this to any clients we have on our books who may enjoy this, but also some of our volunteers kindly give up some of their time on Christmas Day to help transport them!



Minibus Improvement

After a full and very successful summer of the minibus running, we found the only negative was that it got very hot in there! We have now had a roof vent installed which we hope will make a vast improvement. There are plenty of knee blankets, kindly knitted by our supporters, for anyone who feels the cold!

We are now planning our summer social outings for this year. The trips were all very popular last summer so watch this space!

As the services we offer and numbers on our client list continues to expand the roles of the Community Services Co-ordinators have become very busy. We hope to have one of us available in the office Monday to Friday from 10am - 4pm. If you are unable to speak to either Jean or myself then Emma and Sarah will do their best to help you.

As always we continue looking to recruit new volunteers. If you find you have a few hours per week spare and this is something that you think maybe of interest to you, please feel free to call in anytime and have a chat with us.

Lisa Deverell, February 2010

ART ON BETTY HIGHWOOD UNIT

Weekly Art Sessions are incorporated in the Activities Programme on the Betty Highwood Unit. Catherine Broadway, a Friends of Blandford Hospital volunteer, assists Sharon Munday, the Occupational Therapist Activity Assistance on the Unit.

Sharon and Catherine base the Art Sessions around themes relating to the seasons of the year, which helps to orientate patients with dementia to the time of the year. It also encourages group discussions on the topic which include quizzes and reminiscence.



Pictured here is the Summer Display. They talked about holidays and summer, and what holidays were like for them. Making the display was a whole team event.



They also did an Autumn Display talking about the changing seasons and the leaves. Catherine baked a Harvest Loaf to enhance the scene.

The displays are ongoing throughout the seasons.

Focus on....

Hospital Services

The focal point of Blandford Hospital no doubt is Reception, where the staff meet and greet patients and visitors as they arrive on a day-to-day basis.



This is where Vicky Watkinson and Myra Richens take on their role as Receptionists and do an outstanding job. Their job consists of

answering the switchboard, faxing letters and documents, photocopying, laminating notices and sorting out the day to day post ready for the Porters to take to be posted at the end of each day.

Vicky is a long standing member of staff, who has seen the hospital grow during the twenty years she has worked there. Myra, who joined the team a year ago, has become a dedicated member and shares the reception duties with Vicky on a part-time basis.

Both girls are dedicated to their job, which in turn, adds to the smooth and efficient running of the Hospital. They are also a great support to the Friends and help in numerous ways throughout the year.

It doesn't end there, as two other members of the team work in the Hospital Services Office and play an important role in the Hospital. This office is led by Annie Drennan with Jackie Hewitt



as her deputy.

The Hospital Services Office provides a timely and accurate administrative service for the Blandford Hospital staff and patients and also provides efficient and cost effective support

services which contributes to the smooth running of all wards and departments. Jackie is responsible for ordering and distributing stock and non-stock items within the Hospital, which she does effectively and efficiently. Annie deals with Patients Affairs, administers local cash which is taken from the dining room on a day-to-day basis, manages income and expenditure within the hospital and deals with petty cash etc for each ward and department. She ensures that all her staff are appropriately trained, co-ordinates completion of all admin staff's monthly salaries and submits to payroll, together with travel claims and sickness forms.

Annie, who has worked at the hospital for over 26 years, has seen lots of changes also. Jackie, who shares the same office, is a loyal and dedicated member of the team. Her input, together with Annie, allows this office to operate to its full capacity ensuring a first class service to both patients and staff.

All four girls, who work together in this team led by Annie, are an asset to the Hospital.



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 and Lisa Deverell (Community Services Co-ordinators) and Emma Campbell (Fundraising Co-ordinator.) They will each be able to help you with your request or enquiry.

Auction

26 June 2010

A message from Gordon Adam...

Due to my health problems, it has now become necessary to postpone this year's Auction Sale until Saturday 26th June. Although I have not been able to see the incoming goods, I know that we are now most likely over 100 lots. However, as always our target has always been to have in the region of 200 lots on offer. I very much hope you would be able to help us get there, not just in terms of quantity but also in quality.

In my last report I indicated some of the highlights in the goods already received. This time I would like to give some indication of the goods that would help us reach last year's record breaking figure of £7622. Many of these bids have sold for the highest bids in previous sales: Top Hats and Bowlers, Victorian Samplers, Old Leather bound Books, Victorian and Art Deco Costume Jewellery, together of course with gold and silver items, Shelley China and Figurines, Collections of Pre 1940s postcards, Old Photograph Albums (c1900), Old Teddy Bears (pre 1950 with labels), Writing and Dressing Boxes and Old Wooden tea Boxes, Silver Table Items such as Pepper Pots and Mustard Dishes, Old Toys and Games, Signed items of Glassware (e.g. Mdina, Orrefors, Lalique etc.)

The list seems endless but there truly is so much more that could help us on our way. If you have any item that you are able to give then telephone Emma in the office on 01258 450095.

Of course, we don't only need the items to catalogue; we need bidders at the auction, so if you are a collector or bargain hunter, then please put the date in your diary.

I thank you all for your support, past, present and future.

Gordon Adam



Easter Bingo



Thursday 25th March

Dining Room, Blandford Hospital

Doors Open 6.45pm

Eyes Down 7.30pm

GREAT PRIZES - REFRESHMENTS

Only 60 players so get there early

Dates for your Diary



2010

25th March	Easter Bingo Hospital Dining Room
26th June	Auction Child Okeford Hall
7th July	Annual General Meeting, Day Hospital
1st October	Fashion Show Corn Exchange
2nd October	Clothing Sale Corn Exchange
6th November	Autumn Fair Corn Exchange
2nd December	Christmas Bingo Hospital Dining Room
17th December	Christmas Concert by The Band of the Royal Corps of Signals Coade Hall, Bryanston

ANNUAL AUCTION - CHILD OKEFORD VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 26TH JUNE 2010

SALE STARTS 9.45am



REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

VIEWING FROM 8AM