



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

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

Newsletter No. 30

SPRING 2007

Autumn Fair 2006 – What a Queue !



The 2006 Autumn Fair proved to be as popular as ever despite the horrendous weather in the build up. As the team prepared, the weather forecasters were giving a severe weather warning and advising people to stay indoors! We could have got despondent but carried on with our preparations and in plenty of time the sun came out. The queue that began to form just after 1pm, reached the car park entrance in Jubilee Way by the time we opened the doors at 2pm.

Our visitors were not disappointed and were able to choose from a wonderful range of items on offer to buy such as gifts, toiletries, home produce, Christmas goodies, books, pictures, jewellery and again could take the opportunity to try one of the 3 different tombolas or the better than ever Grand Raffle. Nearly £5300 was taken on the day, a

massive £1070 up on the previous year and with minimal expenses, £4742 will boost the funds to support the hospital and local community.

As always the event couldn't have taken place without such a great team of Council Members and Volunteers. We would like to thank each and every one of them for all they did and also local businesses (see inside for details) for their generous support providing raffle prizes. Naturally, all of our members and the crowds that joined us ensured the event's success. Thank you all.

Autumn Fair 2007 will be on Saturday 10th November 2007 when we will hold it in the Corn Exchange. Standby for further details!

FUNDRAISING NEWS



Our Volunteers and customers at Sturminster Cheese Festival, September 2006.

CHEESE FESTIVAL

Last year we were lucky enough to take advantage of a free charity stall at the Cheese Festival, which proved to be very successful. A beautifully sunny weekend and no shortage of volunteers, predominantly from the Sturminster Charity shop, helped boost our funds by over £500. Our thanks to all those that gave up their time to help out.

Dates for your Diary

10th May	Spring Fashion Show Blandford Hospital
19th May	Mill Singers Concert Corn Exchange, Blandford
9th June	Annual Auction Child Okeford
11th July	Annual General Meeting Blandford Hospital
5th September	Autumn Fashion Show The Crown Hotel, Blandford
8th/9th September	Cheese Festival Sturminster Newton
10th November	Autumn Fair Corn Exchange, Blandford

Thank you

We would like to thank the following local businesses for their support in connection with the 2006 Grand Raffle:

Bath Travel The Plough at Manston
 Tesco Royal Signals Museum
 Oasis Health and Beauty Centre
 Blandford Health and Beauty Centre
 Purely Print Horrocks and Webb
 Blandford Furniture Bazaar
 RMTV
 House of Sarund
 Jeans Newsagents
 Fairtrade
 Simon Harvell Butchers
 John Bilstand Butchers
 The Sapling The Prezzie Pot Nixons
 Puddings and Pies Stocks Greengrocers
 Moss Pharmacy Alliance Pharmacy
 Natures Kitchen H&G Land
 The Dorset Blue Cheese Company
 Autocare Enford Farm Meats
 Winterbourne Stickland Post Office

AUTUMN FASHION SHOW

The town was spoilt for choice when both Help the Aged and the Friends held their Fashion Shows on October 26th last year. Our show was sold out and made a net profit of approximately £1150. As always the show was organised by a great team led by Susan and Gordon Adam with a superb buffet provided by the hospital kitchen staff. A lovely atmosphere led to an enjoyable evening for all and a very profitable night for the funds. Please see the enclosed flier for details of our next show and the opportunity to buy tickets.

COMING SOON

This year we have added a new event to our programme. The highly popular Sturminster based male voice choir "The Mill Singers" have offered to stage a concert for us on Saturday 19th May. We hope you will join us for the evening in the Corn Exchange to support a new partnership that could provide opportunities for the future.



A message from our Chairman, Peter Fale

The health service across the country, and, in particular, Dorset is in the process of significant change. This is driven by two factors, namely: the need to be more efficient financially, and the desire to make healthcare provision determined by local needs as perceived by G.Ps and other health professionals. The latter has given rise to what is termed 'Practice Based Commissioning', which means that groups of local G.Ps (there is a North Dorset Group covering Blandford, Shaftesbury and Sherborne) can determine what services are most appropriate for their patients and are then able to commission those services.

We, as Friends of Blandford Hospital, have a key role in this process. Through contact with our members (and this is where feedback from you is vital) and our volunteers working with patients we can inform the discussions of the G.P group about the deep felt needs of our health community. We have two representatives on the Blandford Locality Group that meets monthly under the chairmanship of a local G.P and consists of health practitioners and managers. It attempts to determine what the requirements of

this area are and how to fulfil them. This affords us a two-way communication.

Furthermore, 'The Friends' can contribute to the success of this process directly through the work of our volunteers, responding as it does to whatever problems and needs that patients face; and, of course by our supporting initiatives of healthcare professionals financially.

The Friends of Blandford Hospital do not act in isolation. I am chairing an inaugural meeting of all the Friends groups in Dorset in March, the focus of the meeting being to establish how we see the future role of Community Hospitals and how we, collectively, can further that role and also safeguard the continued existence of community hospitals.

Finally, I would like to say that I am convinced that all community hospitals, and Blandford in particular, will play a vital part in the process of delivering healthcare as locally and effectively as possible. In the best interests of everyone their future should be secure.

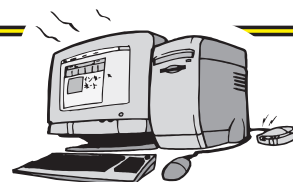
Peter Fale, Chairman, January 2007

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@DORSETC-TR.SWEST.NHS.UK**

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 or enquiry.

There are no letters for this issue but please send your comments in for our next newsletter that will go to print during May.



Please look out for our new Website, which is due to go live shortly. All the up to date information you may require about the Friends should then be available on the website

Matron's Update

After nearly 4 years I am leaving the Hospital to take up a new position as Manager of the Chalbury Unit (Elderly Mental health) Weymouth Community Hospital. I have been keen for some time to be able to focus my efforts on the development of patient focused older peoples services and this role will enable me to be very much more involved at unit level.

The Hospital is only 5 minutes from my house so it will make life easier in terms of being closer for my 2 children and 2 Jack Russells.

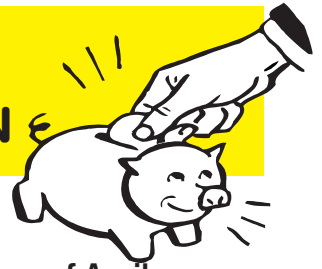
In this time of organisational change it is easy to forget all the excellent developments that have happened in the Hospital over the past few years, most of which could not have happened without the Friends ongoing support and funding. Amongst the projects were the refurbishment of the Medical Records Department, the Milldown Unit and the Day Hospital enabling the Sexual Health service to start here at Blandford. Also, quality initiatives such as the Bee Careful Campaign and Practice Development.

From a personal perspective I have very much valued the support that I have received from the Friends as it has made my life so much easier in terms of managing the Hospital.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone and to wish the Friends every success in their future ventures and fund raising.

Mandy Humphries, Matron, Feb 2007

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION €



Annual membership will become due at the beginning of April.

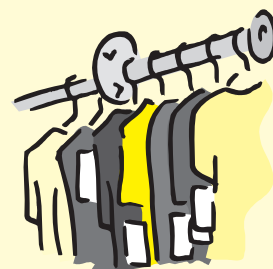
A subscription renewal form and envelope are enclosed with this newsletter for your use. Subscription is a minimum of £1 per year or whatever you would like to give.

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

Thank you for your continued support

If you have any friends, neighbours or family members that you think may be interested in becoming a member, please contact the Friends Office and we will be pleased to send them an information pack.

Why not consider making a friend a Friend?



Have you visited our charity shops recently? The new stock for Spring and Summer is ready now so next time you're in town, pop in for a look around and you may find yourself a bargain.

Focus on.... Physiotherapy



The Physiotherapy department in Blandford Community Hospital serves a large catchment area across North Dorset and provides great benefit to our local community. Superintendent, Alison Brown who has worked here for almost 23 years, leads the team of 10 multi-skilled staff made up of 6 part time Physios and 3 assistants.

As you walk into the department the team spirit is evident and they are all welcoming. A true team that work well together and have survived the many changes over the years.

The department has up to date and spacious facilities made up of 6 individual treatment cubicles, a private treatment room, an exercise room and the hydrotherapy pool funded by the Friends in 1988.

Referrals for physiotherapy come from a wide source. In the last 6 months there have been 983 referrals from local GPs and hospital consultants and 155 referrals from the hospital wards here in Blandford. These referrals cover Orthopaedics, Rheumatology, Dermatology, Gynaecology, Geriatric Medicine, Neurology, Paediatrics, Elderly Care Rehabilitation Inpatients and Pain Clinic. There is ongoing liason with the Community Rehabilitation Team and Health Review Clinic. The team are certainly kept busy!



They also run classes for Pre-Op joint replacement patients. These classes help prepare patients by teaching them how to use the equipment, and to practice the exercises they will need after their surgery. Attending these classes reduces the time spent in the Acute Hospital and reduces postoperative recovery time.

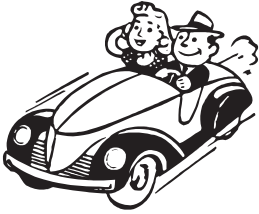
For 5 months the department has benefited from a junior physiotherapist who has worked for 2 days per week as a volunteer to keep up his skills, as he has been unable to find a job due to the national shortage of vacancies. Richard has now joined the team on a permanent part time contract.

The Friends continue to support the department and have recently funded 3 places on a weekend workshop on the cervical spine.



Above you can see Senior Physiotherapist, Debbie Fuller in the hydrotherapy pool with patient Kathleen from Fontmell Magna. The water supports the bodyweight and allows freedom of movement, improves body confidence and mobilises and strengthens joints. Linda Adlem, Clinical Support Worker is assisting. Her Father Ernie Whalley helped with the original fundraising for the pool.

Volunteering with the Friends.....



We Need You!

If you have a few hours to spare either regularly or on a more casual basis and you would like to join the team please call the Friends Office on 01258 450095.



The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital are very lucky to have such a strong team of dedicated volunteers that help to support the hospital and members of the local community in so many ways. Volunteering for a local charity is not only very rewarding but can also be fun.

Shop Volunteers

We have 2 very successful shops in Barnack Walk, Blandford and Innes Court, Sturminster Newton that play a major part in the fundraising that supports the services we offer. The shops run so well because of the dedication of the volunteers that work both serving in the shop and behind the scenes collecting and sorting the incoming goods. Our volunteers either work a set morning or afternoon each week or help out on a more casual basis. We always welcome new members to our very friendly team.

Community Volunteers

Our community services are always growing and volunteers in this area are always in demand. They are able to help with driving patients to appointments, befriending, supporting carers, helping with shopping, dog walking and so many other things that really make a difference to members of our local community.

Hospital Volunteers

Our hospital volunteers provide hospital staff on the wards with much needed help for a few hours either in the morning or afternoon. They help by serving teas, setting tables, helping patients with menus, looking after flowers, chatting to patients who don't have many visitors amongst other things.

If you have some time to spare, please phone the Friends Office on 01258 450095 for a chat about how you could help.



Auction

9 June 2007

A-Z

One of the most important events in the Friends Fundraising calendar is our annual auction that draws interest from far and wide. This year's event will take place on 9th June in Child Okeford Village Hall. We already have over 100 interesting lots but lack some of the lustre that we have enjoyed in previous years, many of which have come to us through bequests. We think many of our members may have items they would like to contribute and have prepared you an ABC guide to help you decide.

A	ANTIQUES, ART NOUVEAU, ART DECO, ACCORDIANS, AMETHYST....	N	NEEDLEWORK, NAILSEA, NETSUKE, NUTCRACKERS (ANIMALSHAPE))
B	BAROMETERS, BELLEEK, BESWICK, BROOCHES, BANJOS...	O	OCCASIONAL TABLES, ORMOLU, OSTRICH FEATHERS, OYSTER FORKS...
C	CAMEOS, CARLTON WARE, CLARICE CLIFF, CRICKET EPHEMERA...	P	POOLE POTTERY, PAPERWEIGHTS, PARASOLS, PEARLS, PIANO STOOLS, POCKET WATCHES, PERSIAN RUGS...
D	DIAMONDS, DECANTERS, OLD DOLLS, DELFT...	Q	QUIMPER POTTERY, QUAICHES...
E	EBONY, ENAMEL, EPHEMERA...	R	ROCKING HORSES, RUMMERS, ROYAL COPENHAGEN PORCELAIN....
F	FABERGE, FAIRINGS, FIGURINES, FIRE SCREENS, FURNITURE...	S	SILVER, SAMPLERS, SATSUMA WARE, SCENT BOTTLES, SCALECTRIX, SNUFF BOXES...
G	GOLD, GLASS, GLOBES, GUITARS, GOUT STOOLS...	T	TANTALUSES, TAPESTRIES, TUNBRIDGE WARE, TEDDY BEARS (PRE-1970), TORTOISESHELL, TELESCOPES
H	HORNBY TRAINS, HELMETS, HUNTER WATCHES...	U	UMBRELLAS STANDS, URBINO ISTORIATO
I	IVORY, INK WELLS, IMARI ITEMS, ICONS...	V	VASELINE GLASS, VINAIGRETTES, VIOLINS, VIOLAS, VISITING CARD TRAYS...
J	JADE, JEWELLERY, JAPANESE CERAMICS...	W	WADE, WALKING STICKS, WALL CLOCKS...
K	KNIFE BOXES, KIRMAN RUGS, KETTLES (BRASS/COPPER)...	X	XIANFENG PERIOD, XUANDE PERIOD...
L	LACE, LACQUER, LIBERTY, LIMOGES, LALIQUE...	Y	YEW ITEMS, YONGZHENG PERIOD...
M	MALING WARE, MANTEL CLOCKS, MOORCROFT, MECCANO...	Z	ZEBRAS (PORCELAIN)...

Obviously this list is far from complete so if you think you may have an item of interest to donate please contact Emma at the Friends Office who will be happy to arrange collection. Any items taken into the shops should be marked "AUCTION"