



# THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

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

Newsletter No. 32

AUTUMN 2007



## “From COTTAGE To COMMUNITY”

Dr D.I.T. Wilson MBE

Main Reception, the Friends Office and the 2 charity shops in Blandford and Sturminster Newton. All proceeds from the book will go to the Friends to support the work of the hospital and projects in the local community.

Dr Wilson started his association with the hospital as a GP in the town in 1954 and in 1958 he designed the Whitecliff Mill Street practice that became one of the first group practices in the country. His Father and Great Uncle were also both Doctors. This very interesting book about our history goes back as far as the first Blandford Hospital in 1889 in Salisbury Street. The Cottage Hospital was built on the present site in 1891 and the book details the development of our Community Hospital until recent times.

Dr Wilson retired in 1990 but is still closely involved with the hospital as President of the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital.

About 18 months ago whilst clearing his Fathers desk Dr Ian Wilson MBE came across hundreds of papers about Blandford Hospital. The papers were so varied and interesting that he thought it would be a shame to lose so much of what is the history of Blandford Hospital. He started to write a book on the subject and has found so many interesting details on the way as you are now able to read for yourselves in his book “From Cottage to Community”. This is now on sale, priced £10, at The Hospital

# FUNDRAISING NEWS

## AUCTION 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2007

This year's Auction raised around £5300 for the Friends funds. Much interest had been raised for the Auction amongst dealers, collectors and local residents and the hall in Child Okeford was packed when we opened the doors for viewing. The event was supported by our regular visitors but it was



good to see lots of new faces and this helped push the total up far above that of previous years. Pictured is our auctioneer, Gordon Adam, with one of our headline lots, a signed limited edition Lowry Print which reached £350. As with

all our events, a huge team of volunteers are involved and our thanks go to each and every one of them.

## CHILD OKEFORD GARDEN FETE

### 10th June 2007

As if he hadn't already put in enough hours this week Gordon Adam and his brother-in-law Simon set up a stall at The Manor fete in Child Okeford the day after the Auction. A glorious day and some quality stock added an additional £270 to our funds.

## AUTUMN FASHION SHOW

### 5th September 2007

A new venue for our Fashion Show this time, in the Sealy Suite at the Crown Hotel, and it was great to see some new faces both in the audience and our team of models. It was with some sadness that we moved away from our traditional hospital venue but we are extremely pleased to announce that

we raised approximately £1750, a massive 50% up on the last Autumn Show. A huge thank you must go to Susan Adam and the team of volunteers and models that helped make the event such a success.



## STURMINSTER CHEESE FESTIVAL

### 8th-9th September 2007

Once again the sun shone in Sturminster Newton for the Cheese Festival and the Friends took advantage of a stall at this very popular event. The volunteers from the Sturminster Shop worked hard all weekend and over £600 was raised on the stall.

## AUTUMN FAIR

### 10th November 2007

This year we are holding the Autumn Fair in the Corn Exchange in Blandford starting at 9.30 am. This will allow our customers much more time to enjoy the fair and also Blandford on Market day. We hope to see you there. Full details later in this newsletter.

## ROYAL SIGNALS BAND CONCERT

### 2008

We were very disappointed to hear that the Royal Signals Band have been called overseas when they were booked to perform a Christmas Concert for us in 2008. They very kindly offered us the Prince of Wales Band from Tidworth but we know how popular the Royal Signals band are in Blandford so are doing our best to arrange an alternative date.

# A message from our Chairman, Peter Fale

*I am pleased to report that the Friends continue with their traditional financial support of healthcare within the hospital and community. We have recently agreed to finance the conversion of the Portman ward conservatory. Making this area into a day room, which will be enable it to be used all year round, instead of its use being dictated by the seasons. Also, within the hospital there are hopes of several new surgical clinics to be introduced and these will need substantial funding from the Friends. We find our role is widening in its scope in the present context of NHS reorganisation.*

*With the increasing remoteness of those in authority we think it is essential that the health needs of our locality are communicated to those who determine what health services are provided and how they are delivered. We feel that the Friends are in a good position to hopefully play a small part in voicing the needs and services of people in this locality. This is helped greatly by our close relationship both to health practitioners but especially through the volunteers working with patients at the hospital and in the community. Both of these provide a good line of communication. We will endeavour to be effective in that role. Moreover, a network of Dorset groups of Hospital Friends has recently been established. This not only keeps us aware of what is happening across the county, but also gives us a more powerful voice.*

*I would, therefore, appeal to all members to share with us their experiences, needs, and concerns. We may well produce a questionnaire over specific issues in subsequent newsletters, so watch this space! We are determined to maintain the high standards of our local health service, which we can all be proud of.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to express how grateful I am to be supported in my role as Chairman by a dedicated and active team. Recent changes to our Council have reassured me that our good work will continue. I am pleased to report that we now have Rita Davies as our Secretary following Angela Schofield's resignation from this position. However, we have not lost Angela, as she continues in her role as chair to the Finance & Projects Working Group. Joe Izzo has also stepped down from his post as Deputy Chairman but will remain as Chairman of the Community Service Group. Mac McLaughlin has kindly agreed to be his successor. And we also welcome Trevor Bridle who takes over from Roland Ellis - who has retired this year from his position as Treasurer, following 14 years of dedicated service to the Friends. As always, I am indebted to the hard work and loyalty from my colleagues, both past and present, and I am extremely grateful for all the hard work they put in. As is the case with all our volunteers, we would not be able to continue without them. Thank you to you all.*

*Peter Fale, Chairman September 2007*



***Don't forget that both of our charity shops in Innes Court, Sturminster Newton and Barnack Walk, Blandford now have a wonderful stock of Autumn and Winter clothing and accessories and will have a wide range of Party wear for all of those upcoming seasonal parties. Stock is changing every day so it's worth paying us a visit whenever you are in town. There are always bargains to be found.***

# Focus on.... Outpatients

The friendly Outpatients department is made up of a small, close-knit, adaptable and well established team of nursing and clerical staff. It is fair to say that within this department the nursing staff cover a huge variety of speciality clinics which either come to Blandford on a regular weekly or monthly basis.

Found on the ground floor of the hospital there are 6 consulting rooms with adjacent examination rooms and a treatment room. 28 consultants visit from Dorchester, Salisbury and Poole



Hospitals supported by Nurse Specialists and various health care professionals.

The 37 Speciality clinics range from Audiology and Dermatology, Gynaecology and Obstetrics to Orthopaedic and Paediatrics to Urology to name just a few.

Outpatients department is able to carry out many minor procedures and investigative actions, which saves locals travelling further to the bigger hospitals.



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Sister Keridwen Bowering leads the Outpatients team consisting of 3 staff nurses, 4 health care assistants and a clerical assistant.



They are supported by the Medical Records Team, led by a full time Medical Records Co-ordinator, and

10 part time administrative and secretarial staff.

The team are committed to updating their skills and maintaining best practice. The great variety means no 2 days are the same. All the staff need a broad knowledge of all the speciality clinics and every day brings new challenges.

In the late nineties the Friends financially supported the reconfiguration of the Outpatients Department for the benefit of patients, staff and visiting consultants.

## 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](mailto: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.



# Matron's Update

## 'CARRY ON MATRON', THE PAST AND PRESENT

Three decades ago, authoritarian women in imposing navy blue uniforms walked the Wards; the tiniest speck of dust would meet with her cool disapproval. Indeed I can remember being summoned by Matron at 12 midnight as she undertook her hospital round, having just come back from annual leave, 'Right Nurse Williams, (as I was then), ward round please'. I cringed with trepidation; I had to know all my thirty patients, of a busy medical ward, patient name, age, diagnosis, and treatment, including their medication. There was no getting out of it, if you had forgotten anything, she knew, and would tell you. There are also those of us, still nursing, I am pleased to say, that also remember Matron coming to the Ward during the day again for her formal ward round, she would notice if the wheels of the beds were facing in a different way, the wheels of each individual bed and that of all the beds had to be facing the same way. She'd beadily notice if a pillow was the wrong way round, the opening of these had to be all facing away from the door. Then there were the counterpanes, woe betide the nurse attending her if one side was longer than the other. Do we miss her? Whilst I will probably be ticked off from my peers, I actually do miss her. Though we used to curl up when we saw her coming towards us, and she may have only been five feet tall, I think the majority had a great deal of respect for this lady. Whilst she appeared to be a deep dark sinister person, there was an element of kindness in her heart as well; I remember my Matrons kindly smile with affection.

### So, why did the traditional matron role disappear?

Because the role of the Matron disappeared when general management was introduced into the health service. It was felt that the management aspect of the matron role was superfluous. However, the stability, security and, more importantly the care focus that the role offered to both staff and patients was actually overlooked.

### When was the thoroughly modern Millie, whoops, thoroughly modern matron reintroduced and why?

The introduction of the 'Modern Matron' came about as a consequence of the NHS Plan, which was published back in 2000. Before this the role had

disappeared for approximately thirty years. The aim of the plan was to modernise health services by focusing on the patient experience of health care. The role of the matron was therefore reintroduced to provide support to ward managers and to refocus attention on patient care.

### How does the modern matron differ from that of her traditional counterpart back in the 1970's?

The old matron was a formidable character, who held a great deal of authority with both patients and staff alike. They had both authority and respect, for their knowledge and expertise.

The modern matron must be both visible and accessible in order to secure and assure basic patient care is delivered. They must have credibility and present themselves as a figure of authority without imposing fear on others.

The matron's role is intermediary; patients are able to ask to speak to the matron if they have a complaint about their care or the standards of the ward. The matron is in a prime position to resolve complaints at local level by feeding back to ward staff immediately.

She currently has 10 key responsibilities that she must strive to achieve:

☛	<b>Leading by example</b>
☛	<b>Making sure the patient gets quality care</b>
☛	<b>Ensuring staffing is appropriate to patients needs</b>
☛	<b>Empowering nurses to take on a wider range of clinical tasks</b>
☛	<b>Improving hospital cleanliness</b>
☛	<b>Ensuring patients nutritional needs are met</b>
☛	<b>Improving wards for patients</b>
☛	<b>Making sure patients are treated with respect</b>
☛	<b>Preventing hospital acquired infection</b>
☛	<b>Resolving problems for patients and their relatives by building closer relationships</b>

### So will the modern matron role make a difference to Blandford Hospital?

Well this Matron will 'CARRY ON' but one thing is guaranteed: It would be prudent for all of us to remember, though initiatives and new titles come and go and as is the case in the reintroduction of 'Matron', some titles may return on the other hand, what remain are the needs of patients and the need for nurses.

Erika Barrow Matron (Acting) August 2007

# With Your Help, We make a Difference

The Friends continue to expand the services that they offer throughout the community and of course in the hospital itself with our team of 61 volunteers.

In the hospital 27 volunteers currently help out on the wards. They serve teas to patients, set lunch tables, change the water in the flowers and enjoy chatting to patients as they go about their duties. We have 2 volunteers who are dedicated to supporting patients who do not have many visitors. This project is called "Lets have some Fun" and we hope that this volunteer service makes all the patients have a far more enjoyable stay.

Another group of volunteers run an art group as part of the hospital rehabilitation programme. Their work is displayed throughout the hospital corridors to cheer others as they pass through.

Throughout the community we continue to work in partnership with The Stroke Association and Leg Club. We also continue to pay subscriptions for the RNIB talking books within our area.

Our client list is growing and we regularly support many people throughout the local community. These are people in need of some support and

The Blandford Shop in Barnack Walk is urgently looking for new volunteers to help both serving customers and sorting incoming goods. If you would like to join the team please call Emma in the Friends Office on **01258 450095**.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **2007**

10th November – Autumn Fair

### **2008**

10th April – Fashion Show

7th June – Auction

20th July – Garden Party

11th September – Fashion Show

27th September – Mill Singers Concert

assistance who have been referred to us by their GPs. We provide an extensive transport service, help with shopping, library books, gardening, dog walking.... We are also able to sit with loved ones to help a carer get out and our volunteers are able to befriend those that are housebound.

With a growing client list our team of volunteers is being put under ever increasing pressure and we are now looking particularly for additional volunteer drivers and volunteers who wish to support the housebound through our befriending service.

If you would like to join this wonderful team of volunteers then please contact Jean in the Friends Office on 01258 450095.

Thank you



In June the Friends council members took the opportunity to say thank you to the wonderful team of dedicated volunteers that work in the hospital, community and the 2 charity shops.

Tish Taylor and the Hospital catering team provided wonderful cream teas and we all enjoyed the afternoons. Our volunteers all work in wide ranging roles and have many stories to tell and experiences to share. This rare opportunity to get together is always popular. We will next meet in January for our annual, belated, Christmas dinners.

The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital

Registered Charity 800 482



# Autumn Fair

**Saturday 10th November 2007**


The Corn Exchange, Blandford

9.30am – 2pm



*There will be a wonderful selection of goods on sale to tempt you:*

Tasty cakes and home produce, quality toys, beautiful jewellery, wonderful scarves and bags, tempting toiletries, glorious gifts, vast quantities of videos, tapes, books and pictures, fabulous kitchen items, stunning stationery and Christmas cards, the ever popular Christmas stall, refreshments, children's, prize and bottle tombolas and of course our Grand Raffle with wonderful prizes.



**Admission is *FREE* so why not take this opportunity to do some Christmas shopping whilst supporting your local hospital.**

# Christmas Cards



Our new Christmas Cards (as pictured below) are now available in packs of 10, priced at £3.00 per packet. The cards are available from the Main Reception at Blandford Hospital or from either of 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.



*We would like to thank Blandford Camera Club, for allowing us to use this photograph.*



Please send me ..... packs of Christmas Cards @ £3.00 per pack plus £1.00 per order towards postage. I am pleased to enclose my cheque for £.....

*(Cheques should be made payable to: The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital)*

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

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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