



# THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

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[www.friendsblandford.org](http://www.friendsblandford.org)

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SPRING 2008



## Now we are 60...

This year is a very special one for the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital. We will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the organisation which was founded in 1948, the same year as the formation of the National Health Service. In those 60 years we have become a registered charity committed to supporting our local community hospital in delivering excellent standards of treatment and care. We also have a strong, active voice and influence in the provision of health care services locally, through our membership, and we are able to support many projects throughout the local community.

Our projects started in 1948 with a view to raising funds to provide a few extras for the staff and patients at Christmas. Since then, we have supported numerous developments within the hospital building, grounds and facilities with our projects resulting in a very well equipped, small community hospital of which we should all be very proud.

All of our purchases for the hospital, and funding for the day-to-day services that we provide to local people, are funded through our membership subscriptions, donations, legacies, investments and income from our charity shops and events. None of this would be possible without such a strong team of Volunteers, Trustees and of course most importantly our Membership.

In our newsletters this year, we hope to bring you a picture gallery of many of our achievements during the last 60 years.

## 60th Anniversary Garden Party

Saturday 19th July 2008

**We will be holding an Anniversary Garden Party at Durweston Village Hall. We very much hope that lots of our members and volunteers will join us to celebrate the achievements of the Friends organisation in supporting our local hospital and projects throughout the community.**

**Please put the date in your diary now, we will send the invitations with your next newsletter.**

# FUNDRAISING NEWS

## *A record-breaking year!*

Last year proved to be a record-breaking year for the fundraising events organised by the Friends of Blandford Hospital. The efforts of our volunteers and generosity of our members and local people meant that each of our events substantially increased in profits on 2006 making almost 40% more profit available to the hospital and local community projects. Net profits of almost £15,000 were raised at our events in 2007 and we must remember that our shops are the largest regular source of our fundraising income and they continue to thrive.

## AUTUMN FAIR

**10 November 2007**

It was with some hesitation that we decided to take our very popular Autumn Fair into the town and hold it for the first time in the Corn Exchange. We knew that both our volunteers and customers liked to come to the hospital but with the event becoming so popular over the years the logistics were more than challenging.

Our dedicated team of volunteers had been gathering goods sourced through our charity shop donations throughout the year and were there, with



enthusiasm, to set up their stalls and prepare on Friday afternoon. Bright and early on Saturday, we were ready to open our doors to the public. We were all relieved to hear that the traditional queue was forming and as we opened the doors there were plenty of bargains for all. The Fair made a net profit of £5148, almost 10% up on 2006 and a massive 34% up on the 2005 fair.

## MILL SINGER CONCERT

**9th February 2008**

All who attended the first ever Mill Singers Concert in the Exchange, Sturminster Newton, had a very enjoyable evening. The Friends were particularly pleased to bring one of our events to this wonderful new venue in Sturminster Newton, the fundraising for which we were able to support with a financial grant. The Stour Hall is a very large space to fill but with over 70 guests and the chaps in wonderful voice the atmosphere was great. It was also nice to see so many different faces in addition to our regular supporters. The event raised approximately £330, which will all be put to good use supporting the hospital and many services we are able to provide throughout the community.



## FASHION SHOW

**10 April 2008**

Demand is always high for these tickets that are now available to our membership in advance of general release. Please see the enclosed flier for full details. If you return the reply slip to the office with your payment we will send you your tickets by return of post.

## THE BAND OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

You may recall in our last newsletter that we were trying to rearrange an alternative date for this concert after the Band had been posted for an overseas tour in December. We are pleased to say that the band will now perform a concert for us on **Friday 17th October** in the Corn Exchange, Blandford. We look forward to this as one of the highlights of our 60th Anniversary year.

***ALL THE IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY CAN BE FOUND ON THE BACK PAGE***

# A message from our Chairman, Peter Fale

We have a great deal to look forward to in this, our 60th anniversary year, and I am grateful to all those imaginative and hard working members who have devised and arranged a full and interesting programme of events. Although they are celebrations as well as being fundraising events the latter is still as important as ever.

Over the last couple of years we have been in a state of limbo with regard to our being able to spend our funds in any significant way, because of the reorganisation of the NHS management structure and the subsequent uncertainty. However, I am pleased to say that things are beginning to clarify and there are plans for a greater number of orthopaedic procedures to soon be carried out in the theatre. It is also hoped that endoscopy services will soon be able to be reinstated here at Blandford. Both of these clinics will help to ensure the viability of the Blandford Operating Theatre. The Friends are as keen as ever to see the theatre utilised as much as possible.

As you may know, the role of the Friends is in ensuring that the highest quality of healthcare is available locally and this is as vital as ever. We continue to enable this in financially

supporting the purchase of equipment, helping with staff training costs and through our volunteer scheme. We are also able to make representations to hospital management about needs and perceived short-comings that we feel need to be addressed by the NHS service.

Our volunteer scheme continues to expand in response to requests for help in both the hospital and community. I was more than impressed by the fact that we are now providing on average 1000 hours of volunteering each month – mostly be providing transport. Transport is an acute problem in all other parts of the country

and so we are keen to build on our success.

Within the hospital we continue with the smaller scale of contributions, that we hope provide the extras that make a stay in hospital that little bit easier – a range of newspapers are provided on the wards, Sky TV is available for a more varied range of programmes and many individual rooms now have their own television. These are just some of the ways in which we help and that is why fundraising is as important as ever. I speak on behalf of all our Council, who are extremely grateful to all our volunteers who make this possible.

Peter Fale, February 2008

## PROJECTS RECENTLY SUPPORTED BY THE FRIENDS

- Equipment for the Physiotherapy Gym
- Refurbishment of the Committee and Seminar Rooms
- Leasing of the Occupational Therapy Van
- Televisions for the Tarrant Ward side rooms
- Air Mattresses
- Sky Television for the Wards
- RNIB Talking Books Subscriptions
- TV/DVD for Children attending the Minor Injuries Unit
- Donation towards Negative Pressure Pump enabling patients to be treated for leg ulcers at home

**Totalling Approximately £40,000**

# Matron's Update

## A MATRONS CHARTER: AN ACTION PLAN FOR CLEANER HOSPITALS



Last quarter I informed you all about the role of the Modern Matron and her key responsibilities. Within my ten key responsibilities are two that I would like to inform you about in more depth and which affect Blandford Hospital significantly. They are, improving hospital cleanliness and preventing hospital-acquired infections. I would like to point out, however, that all ten key responsibilities have equal importance in reality.

As well as the Matrons ten key responsibilities we now have the Matrons Charter. This charter is aimed at all staff in the NHS, whatever their role. It sets out ten broad commitments:

- 1 Keeping the NHS clean is everybody's responsibility,
- 2 The patient environment will be well maintained, clean and safe,
- 3 Matrons will establish a cleanliness culture across their units,
- 4 Cleaning staff will be recognised for the important work they do. Matrons will make sure they feel part of the ward team,
- 5 Specific roles and responsibilities for cleaning will be clear,
- 6 Cleaning routines will be clear, agreed and well publicised,
- 7 Patients will have a part to play in monitoring and reporting on standards of cleanliness,
- 8 All staff working in healthcare will receive education in infection control,
- 9 Nurses and infection control teams will be involved in drawing up cleaning contracts, and Matrons have authority and power to withhold payment,
- 10 Sufficient resources will be dedicated to keeping hospitals clean.

In essence these responsibilities are mine, I must therefore ensure that Blandford Hospital is clean and safe for our patients. The founder of modern nursing Florence Nightingale once said:

“Let whoever is in charge keep this simple question in her head (not how can I always do this right thing myself, but) how can I always provide for this right thing to be always done?”

So what are we doing at Blandford? We now undertake in house monthly monitoring of cleanliness; I undertake this with the Hotel Services Manager and the Housekeeper. A report of our compliance is then reported to the Clinical Governance Team within the Trust and this in turn is reported to the Strategic Health Authority. The

compliance rate for clinical areas is 95% and non-clinical areas 90%. These are high targets, and have increased since December 2007. We also continue to have the annual PEAT Assessment (Patient Environment Action Team), which also looks at the environment and cleanliness of the Hospital, along with the quality of the food.

We are, at this time undertaking a deep clean of all our inpatient areas; this includes Tarrant Ward, Portman Ward and the Betty Highwood Unit. The Government has stipulated that this occurs in every Hospital throughout the country by the end of March 2008. A deep clean being undertaken every six months will follow this.

As Matron I also have to undertake quarterly reports reporting on the following:

- Cases of confirmed Clostridium Difficile within the Hospital,
- Cases of MRSA Bacteraemia within the Hospital,
- Results of the Infection Control Audits (these are undertaken monthly),
- Essential Steps Competencies (a benchmarking exercise to prevent the spread of infection), and any Outbreaks of Infection on the Wards.

A great deal of work for all of us, but there is one Team within the Hospital that all of this impacts on greatly and that is the Hotel Services Department.

I have always believed that the Hotel Services Department within any Hospital is the backbone, or spine if you like, of the Hospital. At Blandford this department consists of the Hotel Services Manager, the Housekeeper, Housekeeping Assistants, Porters, Linen Assistants, a Porter Handyman, Head Chef, Cook and Catering Assistants. This team work extremely hard already, I cannot sing their praises enough, and they are very much appreciated by us all. Without this department we would not be able to function, because if Blandford Hospital were not clean then we would be closed. The Matrons Charter for Cleanliness impacts on the Hotel Services greatly, although, as I have explained previously cleanliness is everyone's business.

We all have a lot to do to ensure that our Hospital remains clean and safe. To date we have not had any major issues concerned with infection but this is due solely to the excellent staff that we have within the Hospital, who strive 100% to provide a Hospital that is clean and safe for our patients.

**Erika Barrow, Matron, February 2008**

# Focus on....

## Elderly Community Mental Health Team

### **The Blandford Community Mental Health Team for Older Persons** **01258-394045**

The friendly and approachable team support older people who have mental health problems. We usually visit people in their own homes. We also see people who live in residential care.

Jane House who has been in post for almost 20 years leads the team. Jane is a Community Psychiatric Nurse as are Iain, Berys and Rosemary. Andy and Joyce are our community support, outreach workers and are relatively recent additions to the team. We also have a Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr Simpson, Occupational Therapist and an assistant, Marcia. We have access to psychologists and Social workers when needed.

Barbara, our team secretary, keeps us all on track. If you telephone you may well hear her wonderfully rich and mellow Norfolk accent. If no one is in please leave a message; on the answer phone is Iain's clear diction.

We have an open referral system, which means that any concerned person may approach the team. It is not necessary to go via the Doctors. We are asked to see clients by Doctors, Nurses, Social workers, neighbours, family members, and friends, and by people who are concerned about their own mental health.

The types of conditions that we are regularly involved with are:

- Memory loss and dementia
- Clinical depression
- Anxiety and extreme stress

- Mental health problems which seriously affect day to day living
- Long standing mental health problems such as schizophrenia
- Obsessions and phobias

We provide a wide-ranging assessment, which includes mental, physical and social aspects. We consider the needs of families and carers. We use the Single Assessment Process (SAP), to improve communications.

We jointly work out a mutually agreeable care plan. The plan will be carefully tailored to meet individual needs and wishes. It may include

- One to one work
- Group therapy
- Medications and treatments
- Activities to promote practical daily living skills
- You may be invited to the day hospital (which will be featured in it's own right)
- Advice and guidance regarding other services
- Help to access other services



Missing from picture are Barbara who is manning the phone and Joyce and Marcia who are out, doing some "Real Work"

# Volunteering with the Friends....

## *Help us make a difference*

We are very lucky to have such a great team of volunteers working with us that make a real difference to the services we can offer in the hospital and throughout the local community. Whether involved in the shops and fundraising or helping at the hospital, providing transport, helping with shopping or befriending, each volunteer plays a key role in our organisation.

Not only is volunteering very rewarding it can also be fun.

We have recently been able to say thank you to our volunteers at our



annual belated Christmas dinners when during 2 evenings in January our shop, community and hospital volunteers all enjoyed a wonderful dinner provided by the Hotel Services team at the hospital and a rare opportunity for them all to gather together.

## **Volunteers Urgently required in our Charity Shops**



The success of our 2 charity shops is a credit to the dedicated team of volunteers that work in each of the shops both serving the customers and working behind the scenes collecting and sorting the huge volumes of incoming goods.

We always need new volunteers in both shops and would welcome any of our members who would like to come forward and join our very friendly team.

Please call Emma in the Friends Office on **01258 450095** for a chat if you are interested in joining us.

## ***Volunteering in the Hospital and Local Community***

Our 71 Community and Hospital volunteers are very active supporting patients within the hospital itself and helping them remain independent within our community.

Our services continually grow and on average our volunteers work a total of 1115 hours per month providing a variety of services, such as:

- A free transport service enabling people to attend medical appointments
- Taking people shopping, or if they prefer, we can do their shopping for them
- Dog walking to enable people to keep their pets
- Sitting with clients whilst their carers go out
- Befriending those who have difficulty getting out
- Supporting the Stroke Association by transporting members to their fortnightly meetings

A new venture, shortly to start, is for several of our volunteers to support the National Association for Epilepsy. We have been asked to support newly diagnosed patients, by giving them help and advice.

We know that our services are greatly valued by the many people that we support each month and try to provide assistance whenever possible following a referral from a patient's GP.

**Our volunteers come in all shapes, sizes and ages. Could you spare a few hours a week helping the Friends with these services?**

**If you think you can, please phone Jean Durrant in the Friends Office on 01258 450095**

## ***Legacies and Bequests***

**Please consider a gift to the Friends when making your will. Your solicitor will be able to guide you through this process that can make such a difference to the hospital and the services that we are able to provide.**

## Are we ready for LINKS?

In January 2003 the Government established the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH) to replace the longstanding Community Health Councils, and to become very involved with it's aim of providing health services foremost around the needs of patients and the public.

It is now a departmental public body, sponsored by the Department of Health with a remit to promote the involvement of the public in decision making regarding the provision of healthcare and thereby including the funding support of "PPI Forums" established in the same year.

The "Shire" Dorset forum that now incorporates the one originally involved with Dorchester Hospital, consists of volunteer members of the public, of which I am one. It has wide powers of access and monitoring including how well the local NHS is meeting its duty to involve and consult with the public.

Following the Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the CPPIH will cease to be operational on 31st March and our Forum abolished. It will be replaced by a LINK (Local Involvement Network), of which there will be 1 for each Local Authority Area. Dorset County Council will soon appoint a host who will start making the LINK operational.

- The Dorset LINK will most likely not be up and running until late 2008.
- It will be made up of individuals, groups and organisations from the community such as the Friends of Blandford Hospital.
- LINK members will commit to regular participation in the LINK activities
- LINK participants may wish to influence or express views about varying healthcare issues on behalf of their organisations
- Each LINK will be structured individually, with flexibility the key.

The primary role of a LINK will be to provide a stronger view for local people in the provision of their health and social services. In my view, the success of this new venture will depend on the interest and enthusiasm shown in its work by members of the local community and time will tell if this is forthcoming.

If you would like to learn more about LINKs and possible involvement, there is vast information at [www.dh.gov.uk/policyandguidance/organisationpolicy/patientandpublicinvolvement/fs/en](http://www.dh.gov.uk/policyandguidance/organisationpolicy/patientandpublicinvolvement/fs/en) or I would be happy to chat with you if you leave your details at the Friends Office.

**Frank Pike, Life Vice President, Feb 08**

## 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](mailto:FriendsBlandford@dorset-pct.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.

## 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.

Please note, if you already pay by standing order there is no need to send a subscription.

**Thank you for your continued support**

## "Make a Friend a Friend"

The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital not only support the hospital and local projects financially but our membership also provides a strong voice of the local community in connection with healthcare matters locally. The more members we have the more weight the Friends have to influence healthcare in our area. Unfortunately, as an organisation that has been active now for 60 years, we are finding that each time we send out our newsletter we are finding that more of our members have either moved away from the area or sadly died. We need our membership to grow and are looking for your support with this. If you have any friends, family, colleagues or neighbours that may like to join us please telephone the office and we will happily send out an information pack.

# Auction

## 7 June 2008

### CHILD OKEFORD VILLAGE HALL

Viewing from : 8.00am  
Sale starts : 9.45am

Once more we are looking forward to the Annual Auction and we are already more than half way towards our target of 200 lots. Last year's Auction beat all of our previous records and if we are to reach that level again, or even better to exceed it, we need some items of value. This year so far we do not have a Lowry print or Lalique Crystal but maybe you can help fill the gap...

We would appreciate further donations of Antique China, Silver, Old pictures - especially oils and watercolours, jewellery, Old or Antique fans and evening bags, early items of Wade Whimsies, old Walking Sticks and Canes or any other items of value that you feel able to donate to help make this event a success and benefit our local hospital.

If you have any items you would like to offer us, please call Emma at the Friends Office on 01258 450095 and she will be happy to arrange collection. Alternatively, you may like to take items, clearly marked "Auction" into either of our charity shops in Barnack Walk, Blandford or Innes Court, Sturminster Newton.

The catalogues for this year's Auction will be on sale in our charity shops from 23rd May and further information will be available on our website:-

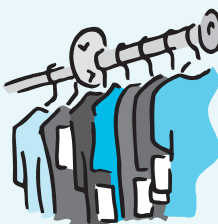
[www.friendsblandford.org](http://www.friendsblandford.org)

### Dates for your Diary



10th April	Fashion Show Crown Hotel, Blandford
7th June	Annual Auction Child Okeford
9th July	AGM Blandford Hospital
19th July	60th Anniversary Garden Party, Durweston
11th September	Fashion Show Crown Hotel, Blandford
17th October	Concert by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals Corn Exchange, Blandford
8th November	Autumn Fair Corn Exchange

Have you visited either of our charity shops recently? Both are now full of a wonderful range of Spring and Summer Clothing, shoes and accessories ready to stock up your wardrobe for the new season. We also have an ever-changing selection of household linens, books, DVDs, Bric-a-Brac. There is fresh stock on offer every day, so whenever in town why not pay us a visit; you are very likely to find a bargain!



Find us at:

Barnack Walk, Blandford

and

Innes Court, Sturminster Newton