



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482
Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7DD
Tel: 01258 450095 (General Office) 01258 451456 (Shops and Fundraising)
www.friendsofblandford.org.uk

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024



The 21st November 2023 was the Friends' 75th anniversary and we were delighted to welcome the joint Chief Executive of Dorset HealthCare (pictured) to help us celebrate! The hospital, via our colleagues in the restaurant provided staff with a fantastic celebratory cake and biscuits which was duly cut by Matthew and enjoyed by all!

Matthew then joined the Friends staff and Trustees for our regular Board meeting. He congratulated the Friends on all our achievements over the last 75 years and thanked the staff, volunteers and our supporters for making this possible. Matthew then shared with us some of the

challenges facing the NHS in general and more specific ones in Dorset, such as covering a mix of rural and areas, and the need to keep services as local as possible. With this in mind Matthew said he and Dorset HealthCare were constantly reviewing what services could be brought into community hospitals, bearing in mind the constraints that we face, both financial and physical such as increased parking requirements.

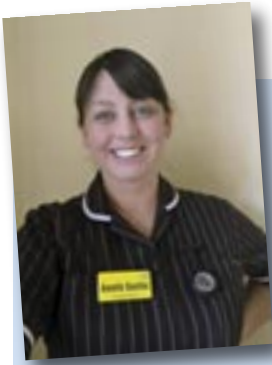
The Friends stressed how keen we are for services to be the the hospital so they can be accessed by its community and to avoid patients having to travel across Dorset to access care that may be able to be provided more locally.

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Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with the Friends of Blandford Hospital,
our news, shop special offers and events.



Matron's Update

Things at the hospital are very busy, not just with our routine work but also as you may have seen on social media, works have started to upgrade some of the clinic spaces and make room to accommodate additional services on site. As a result, it is quite noisy at times while the work is being carried out, but we are hoping that the disruption won't last for too long.

The ward is doing well, and we are focusing daily on what we do well and scrutinising where we can improve and making plans. Our outpatient's department and treatment room continue to be very busy, and the team are working tirelessly to keep business going as usual whilst planned work carries on.

I think I can safely say that all on site are looking forwards to the lighter evenings, and the promise of spring after such a wet winter. I for one am keeping a close eye on the beautiful cherry tree at the front of the hospital, that will hopefully blossom soon and remind us all that spring/summer are on the way. In the meantime, we will keep doing our best and look forward to enjoying the refurbishment on site once the work is completed.

Please can I also remind all, that our MIU service runs on Mondays and Wednesdays only, and there are **no MIU services on other days of the week. If urgent care is needed please do call 111 for advice and direction.**

Many thanks

Annette



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership subscriptions are due in April (minimum subscription £5 per annum).

If you have already paid your subscription or pay via bank standing order, please accept our sincere thanks. If not and you pay by cash or cheque, kindly complete and return the Membership Subscription Renewal form enclosed.

If you could like to check any aspect of your membership, please call the office on 01258 450095.

Thank you for your continued support!



Another way to support our activities....

It is now possible to donate to The Friends of Blandford Hospital online via our website. Please visit www.friendsofblandford.org.uk and click on the link on our homepage. Your donations will make a real difference to our charity. Thank you.



A message from our Chairman...

Dear Friends

Hopefully Spring is round the corner. If you are like me, having been indoors during the winter, I'm now anxious to get outside and enjoy some nice weather. Perhaps these long winter months help us to reflect on how we feel when things are at a standstill, and when Spring comes and change is around the corner we look forward to all the things we can do as our mood changes. I think we can apply the same to the Friends, we are at our best when we have things to plan, organise, meet and help people so they have something to look forward to. This brings me on to our Fundraising Trustee, Mike Wood who sits on our Board and has been organising events over the period of my Chairman's role, which is at least 12 years. He has decided to hand over the reins now as his move to the Bournemouth area makes it difficult for him to organise local events in the Blandford area. On behalf of the Board and Trustees we would like to thank him for all his hard work and enthusiasm he has given the Friends over the

years and hopefully we shall keep him as a Trustee. So, now we need someone to take his place, or maybe the role could be shared. Someone who can think outside the box, organise events whether small or large, eg, Bingo, Charity Ball, Promise of Auctions etc and be part of our team. We have a proud history of caring and supporting our community and the fundraising over the years has helped support all that we do, from transporting people to their appointments, shopping trips and supporting the hospital with new equipment etc.

The Friends constitution allows up to 20 Trustees and at present we have 12, so there's room for 8 more people within the community to join us. Have your say in how the money is spent, have a voice when decisions are made. Share your ideas with us and help shape the future of the Friends and the Hospital. Please contact me on ssandmcole@btinternet.com for any further information if you are interested in becoming a Trustee.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Trustees, Volunteers and Staff for all their hard work, making another successful year. I hope you all have a lovely fun-filled summer with plenty of sunshine!

Best wishes

Steve Cole

Fundraising

Do you have a passion for fundraising? Could you spare some time to help organise events to raise money for our charity?

If this seems like something you may be interested in, please call the office on 01258 450095

Community

Spring is just around the corner, which means so are our social trips! Those registered for such trips will be receiving their letter shortly detailing potential trips this Spring/Summer. Don't forget if you know someone who is lonely and might enjoy these, please ask them to get in contact with me. I will be happy to visit them and explain the service.

Once registered with us you can join us to go out and about. We will pick you up and drop you safely home at the end of an enjoyable outing!. Most of our trips we like to keep short, and simple. We enjoy outings such as visiting garden centres where you might like to pop into the coffee shop for coffee and a cake or to the seaside where you can enjoy fish and chips! In the summer months take a leisurely boat cruise around Poole harbour and take in the views of Brownsea Island. We have, in the past, also had the company of a seal and dolphin!!!

Walking is always kept to a bare minimum so all can enjoy and feel comfortable.



These trips rely heavily on the goodwill of our volunteer minibus drivers and escorts to accompany.

We would really benefit from another minibus driver to join our team. Like to know more, why not give me a call for an informal chat on 01258 450095.

I am very pleased to be able to show off our new minibus - it sits eight people comfortably, thus allowing us to keep our trips small and friendly. We have an electronic tailgate for those who may struggle with the two small steps at the side.



Christmas... in January!

We held our annual post-Christmas dinner in January in the hospital dining room. This is always a tremendous night enjoyed not only by the volunteers, but us girls from in the office and Board members. It's an opportunity for the volunteers to meet up with one another as opposed to going back and forth on road trips and not actually meeting anyone else!

S e r v i c e s : -

MINIBUS SHOPPING

We currently have spaces on our minibus for shopping. If you have no other way of getting to a supermarket and can independently go around the shop, we may be able to offer you a space on our bus on a Thursday morning/Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. We pick up from various locations – it goes without saying both our driver and escort are there to help put your shopping on the bus and into your house if you so require?



Lisa Deverell - Community Services Manager
01258 450095
dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net
March 2024



Project Manager's Update...

We currently have no projects in the hospital as everything is on hold while the Trust continue with their Wave 4 project which entails taking over space unoccupied within the hospital to then move NHS services which are using property within the town into the hospital.

At this point I wish to address the social media news announcing that "New services are coming to Blandford Hospital in a £2.9 million revamp".

I have been asked by many within the community what new services are coming to our hospital and what wonderful news this is for Blandford and the town.

This social media news is misleading. There are no new services coming to the hospital only bringing existing external NHS community services under one roof from the Blandford Clinic.

For clarification I raised the matter with the Trust Project Manager and here is a list of existing services which are being relocated into the hospital: District Nurses, Dorset Bladder and Bowel Continence Service, Health Visitors, Midwifery, Newborn Hearing Screening, Older People's Psychology, Paediatric, Paediatric Speech and Language, Podiatry and School Age Immunisation Service and School Nursing Service.

The social media states that the refurbishment will continue until the end of the year.

We continue to express our concerns to the Trust about the car parking pressures which already exist and the effect this will have on patients attending the hospital for treatment.

As a result, our next project to refurbish and upgrade our Treatment / Procedure Suite will commence initial concept discussions with the design team in the summer with the plan to be in a position to go out to tender at the end of the year with commencement on site early in the New Year [2025].

Mac McLaughlin Project Manager



How to contact us...

The Friends staff consist of Leonne – Charity Team Manager, Lisa – Community Services Manager, Becca – Shops Manager and Lucy – Charity Admin Support.

The office is open Monday to Friday 10am until 4pm and can be reached on 01258 450095 (main office and community services or 01258 451456 (shops).

We can also be contact via email at dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net or via the 'contact us' button on our website at www.friendsofblandford.org.uk

Warehouse sales

As you may know we have a warehouse in Hinton St Mary. Recently we have recently began to have successful sales there where members of the public can come and purchase our excess items or pieces of furniture that don't fit in our shops, mainly coffee tables, small bookcases and dining chairs. Come along for a rummage and find yourself a bargain!

We also open on the 1st Saturday of the month (volunteer availability allowing) for dropping off donations, especially larger quantities.



Shops Update

Reduce, reuse, recycle!



That is exactly what our customer Harvey did with his inspired design... We asked Harvey why he shopped with us:

Hi, I'm Harvey Webber aged 19 and I am currently studying UAL Level 3 extended Diploma in Creative Practice: Art: Design and Communication at

Bournemouth and Poole College.

Fast fashion can create dangerous working conditions with exposure to toxic chemicals, poor air quality and result in more and more waste going to landfill.

In the past couple of years, there is growing acceptance that: while shopping for second hand is largely motivated by saving money: recycling or 'up cycling' items is another factor. So, I bought some donated ties and created a shoulder bag to prove that you can make anything from preloved items.

See the back page for dates of our upcoming warehouse sales!

B	B	H	E	N	R	E	S	E	O	L	A	E	T
O	B	R	I	C	A	B	R	A	C	F	A	D	N
O	L	S	E	I	D	A	L	C	B	O	L	D	I
K	A	L	E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	A	L	R
S	E	A	L	S	E	E	A	E	N	A	E	C	A
I	Y	R	E	L	L	E	W	E	J	R	I	D	S
B	A	P	O	U	N	D	R	A	I	L	I	E	B
I	A	E	I	T	F	A	L	T	S	I	F	K	C
T	R	C	K	E	N	A	T	R	S	U	A	R	E
R	A	N	E	F	U	R	N	I	T	U	R	E	U
C	T	N	L	L	E	L	S	B	H	A	T	S	U
C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	S	D	B	E	I	F
A	S	G	A	B	A	E	E	U	A	E	E	H	R
A	R	T	O	E	A	C	M	T	U	W	R	S	D

JEWELLERY
LADIES
FURNITURE
BAGS
POUNDRAIL
HATS
MENS
ELECTRICAL
CHILDRENS
BOOKS
ART
BRICABRAC

STOCK APPEAL

Quality donations of clothing, gifts, bric-a-brac, books and portable electrical items and many more are always required in our shops.

Donate feeling confident that all monies raised will be used to benefit projects in our local hospital and community.

We can also arrange collection of stock if required, to arrange this please call Becca on 01258 451456.

We would love to see what clever designs or upcycles our customers make with items purchased at our shops – please email us with any projects at dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net

Dates for your diaries!

Come and visit our warehouse in Hinton St Mary for our popular Warehouse Sales!

Catch the bargains before they hit the shops and see some of the larger pieces we are donated which we are unable to display in the shop settings!

Card payments now accepted!

2024

Saturday 13 July 2024
10.00 – 12.00

Saturday 19 October 2024
10.00 – 12.00



2025

Saturday 18 Jan 2025
10.00 – 12.00

Saturday 12 July 2025
10.00 – 12.00

If you can't wait until then to see what bargains we have available you can visit our shops at:

Blandford Shop

Unit 1, Barnack Walk, Blandford Forum
DT11 7AW

Tel: 01258 458390

Shop Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 10am – 4pm
Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Sturminster Shop

1 - 2 Innes Court, Sturminster Newton
DT10 1BD

Tel: 01258 471245

Shop Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 10am – 4pm
Saturday: 9.30am – 12.30pm