



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

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

Newsletter No. 29

AUTUMN 2006

ANNUAL AUCTION

JUNE 2006



What a team !



Full details inside....

Auction 2006 Reaches £4,000

The ever-popular Annual Auction was held in Child Okeford Village Hall on Saturday 23rd June 2006 and once again proved what a great team of volunteers we have and how all their hard work can pay off.

As soon as the Auctioneer's gavel had hit for the last time in July 2005 Gordon Adam OBE was already making plans for this year's event.

During the extensive amount of time Gordon spends working in the two charity shops he is able to source a huge variety of goods of greater value or that will attract more interest if presented at the Auction rather than on sale in the shops. The Auction's reputation locally means we are also lucky enough to have items donated specifically for the event and this year we had 219 lots.

Our team of volunteers help throughout the year collecting donated goods and transporting the vast amounts to our store in Sturminster Newton. Gordon collates all the goods into lots and prepares an extensive catalogue for us to publish and sell prior to the event. This always raises interest amongst local dealers.

On the Friday afternoon prior to the Auction the large team have to move all the lots to the hall in Child Okeford. Not only does this involve several trips in the Friends van but also a horsebox, an assortment of cars and several trailers. We must have raised plenty of interest as we were preparing our convoy in the centre of Sturminster Newton. Ready to meet us in Child Okeford was the second part of the team tasked with arranging everything to correspond to the catalogue. And what a job that was!

Saturday morning we were all "up with the lark". Even more members of the team then became involved as clerks, stewards, car parking attendants and thank goodness for the ladies providing the refreshments! We certainly needed our early morning cuppa.

The hall soon filled and when the Auction got under way Gordon kept the bids coming until the gavel fell for the final time.

Out of the £4000 made expenses were kept to a minimum and the net proceeds of £3772 will certainly be put to good use. A huge thank you must go out to Gordon and the team of volunteers that helped in so many ways to make this event such a success.

Volunteers

Why not join our team?

We have a great team of dedicated Volunteers that give time in our shops, assisting with our events, spending time on the wards and supporting the services that we are able to offer within the community. We would like to welcome the volunteers that have joined the team since our last newsletter and thank all of our volunteers for the time that they give.

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.

SHOP VOLUNTEERS

Our shops in Barnack Walk, Blandford and Innes Court, Sturminster Newton play the major part in our fundraising and run so well because of their dedicated teams of volunteers. Our Volunteers can either work a set morning or afternoon each week or on a more casual basis to help out as and when there are slots available. We welcome additional volunteers not just to serve our customers but as part of the "behind the scenes" team that sort our incoming goods.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Our community services continue to grow and these volunteers are always in demand. They are able to help with driving patients to appointments, befriending, supporting carers, and helping with shopping amongst many other things.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Our hospital Volunteers provide hospital staff on the wards with much needed help for a few hours in the afternoon or morning. They help by serving teas, setting tables, helping patients with menus, looking after flowers and chatting to patients, some of whom may not have many visitors.

A message from our Chairman, Peter Fale

Firstly, I would like to start by welcoming five new members on to the Friends Council, namely, Doc Addison, Trevor Bridle, Brian Burrows, Bob McLaren and Jackie Stayt. It is always nice to welcome new people to support the work that we do and I hope that they find the contributions that they make to this important role very satisfying. On behalf of all on Council, I welcome them and I very much look forward to working with them.

With the current changes taking place nationally to the NHS and the forthcoming merger of the three existing Primary Care Trusts in Dorset, we are living in uncertain times. It is therefore, important that we are clear as to how we would hope that things develop with respect to our local hospital. The guiding principle is that a community hospital should enable people to avoid the need to attend an appointment, or to stay unnecessarily in a general hospital. Thus providing care and treatment as close to their home as possible. With this in mind, the question that needs addressing is what specific services should be provided by Blandford Hospital in the next five years or so.

Currently the hospital provides care for both physical and mental health, care of the elderly and palliative care for terminally ill patients. At the moment Joseph Weld Hospice is the nearest hospice facility for people living in and around the Blandford area. The Primary Care Trust are exploring the idea of increasing the palliative care facilities at Blandford Hospital, thus enhancing the already excellent service that is currently provided for those using the Family Room on Portman Ward – which you may be aware, was provided by the Friends. Personally, I would like to see some exploration of the possibility of there being continuing care beds, as at the moment provision for those in need of 24 hour care either by the NHS or Social Services is woefully inadequate and residential accommodation is in very short supply.

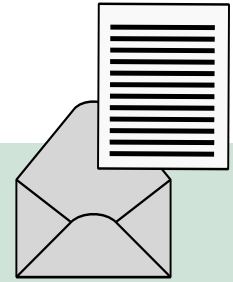
Another important way in which the hospital can contribute to the health care of the community, in partnership with GPs, is the management of long-term conditions such as diabetes. Therefore all services are being reviewed to enable patients who need regular treatment to be able to have this treatment at Blandford, rather than having to travel to an acute hospital elsewhere. Obviously the wider the range of clinics available, the greater the number of patients can be treated locally and we at the Friends feel this is something of great importance to patients and their families. The Community Mental Health Team continues to operate from Blandford Hospital and provide an excellent service.

I am aware that many value the Theatre facility at Blandford and recently a great deal of thought has been given as to the best use that can be made of it given to the more stringent health and safety regulations that are now in place. Apart from low risk surgery, the use of the Theatre for diagnostics seems an appropriate development and one that the hospital is ideally suited for.

The Friends continue to strive to support and enhance the facilities at Blandford Hospital and I would welcome letters from any of our members who wish to comment on the treatment they have received. As always, we continue to look for new members who feel they can support us in any way and if you have a relative, friend or neighbour who you feel may be able to help, please show them this newsletter or give them our contact details. It is only with your help that we can continue to support this local community hospital in providing such a high standard of care.

Peter Fale, Sept 2006

Letters



Would you like to comment on any issues raised in this newsletter?

Do you have something to say about the Charity, The PCT, and Healthcare in the area in general?

Do you have feelings you would like to share or grievances to air? This is your spot in the future. Please put pen to paper and share your views with us.

All Correspondence should be sent to the Friends office by letter, Fax or E-mail and marked Newsletter Letters Page.

I would like to say that the recent training sessions for volunteers organised by Jean Durrant are a great innovation, and I do hope that they will continue. I have attended two on dementia, which were most interesting and a very great help to those of us who come into contact with patients. I shall also be attending another one regarding wheelchairs, which will once again be very useful, certainly to me, as a volunteer driver who very frequently has to manhandle wheelchairs in and out of the boot of my car.

The satisfaction that I for one get out of being a volunteer is immense, but there are times, that as a lay person one feels slightly out of one's depth dealing with people, whose condition is not entirely understood, so attending these training courses not only helps with understanding but meeting with other volunteers and sharing problems, and ideas with them often clarifies confusions, and makes me realise that problem sharing is a training session in itself.

I do hope that it will be possible for Jean to continue to expand these sessions, and that all volunteers will be able to find the time to attend, as they can only enhance the 'job satisfaction' I am sure we all feel.

Yours sincerely
Jackie Stayt,
Blandford Forum

It is very kind of the Friends to fund subscriptions to the RNIB Talking Book Service, since becoming blind it has become an important part of my life.

Yours sincerely
D.S, Hazelbury Bryan

I wish to express my thanks for the wonderful service I receive from you and all your volunteers at The Friends. I have nothing but the highest praise for everyone's kindest and consideration. I would recommend The Friends to everyone.

As you know, I now live alone and am blind. My weekly visits from Jennifer brighten my day. She is such a lovely person to be with and helps me achieve things I can no longer do by myself.

My thanks are also extended to the hospital staff that invited me to attend the Balance Group at the Hospital. The Friends volunteers who took me to the Group each week were very supportive of my needs and the staff kindness itself. I am now over 90 years old and it is nice to know people still care.

Thanks also to The Friends for introducing me to your new service of supplying RNIB talking books to people such as myself. With Jennifer's help, I am learning to master the player and look forward to listening to my favourite books as well as some new ones. Please pass on my thanks to everyone.

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Matron's Update

As you may be aware the NHS is undergoing a period of change at the moment and North Dorset Primary Care Trust which currently oversees Blandford Hospital is due to merge with the other two Primary Care Trusts in Dorset. The merge will mean that there is one Primary Care Trust for Dorset and this will come in to effect from 1st October 2006. The new Trust will become Dorset Primary Care Trust. With this in mind, we are currently reviewing all our services within the hospital to ensure quality and cost effectiveness. All departments are in the process of producing performance and developmental action plans.

'A Vision for Community Hospitals'

Meetings have been taking place to discuss future hospital developments in relation to palliative/hospice care (for terminally ill people), the operating theatre, long term care, intermediate care and integrated older people services. The Director of Primary and Community Services is producing a paper to

reflect the meetings and to look at the way forward for future developments in North Dorset. The Trust Board will meet in September to discuss this.

Integrated Older Peoples Services

Representatives from both mental health and physical health services have been meeting to discuss a more integrated way of working. The Integrated Older Peoples Service will benefit patients in terms of staff being able to assess both physical and psychological conditions.

The Minor Injuries Unit at Blandford Hospital is now open from 0800-2000 hours.

During this period of change, I am reassured in the knowledge that we have such a good team here at Blandford Hospital, that the usual high standard of care and treatment will continue to be provided.

Mandy Humphries
Hospital Matron



Thank you

To coincide with National Volunteer Week, on the 8th and 9th of June we held tea parties at the hospital for all of our shop, hospital and community volunteers. This was an opportunity for Friends council members to say thank you for all the work that our volunteers do in their wide range of roles and let them know how much their dedication is appreciated. It was also one of the rare chances we have for so many volunteers to get together. Gill White's team in hospital catering provided wonderful cream teas and we all enjoyed the afternoons. We shall all get together again in the New Year for our annual belated Christmas Dinners!



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.

AUCTION 2007

Please don't forget that if you have any items of value that you would prefer found a new home we are already gathering goods for the Auction next summer. We would be particularly interested in jewellery, antiques and small items of furniture.



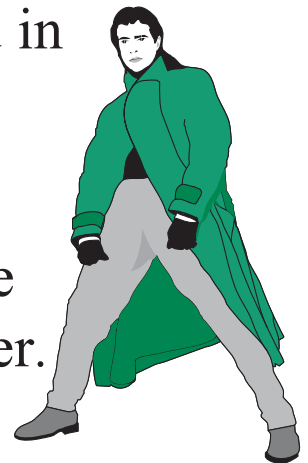
Please support our

Autumn Fashion Show

At the hospital on Thursday 26th October 2006, 7pm

All monies raised at our fashion show will be put to good use locally at our local hospital and in the local community.

Space is limited and tickets are available to our membership before they go on sale generally. Full details on the enclosed flier.



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD HOSPITAL RNIB TALKING BOOKS PROGRAMME

It is not too late to participate in this programme where the Friends will pay the annual subscription to the RNIB on your behalf if you are registered blind or partially sighted and live in the area served by Blandford Hospital.

Further details and application forms are available from Jean Durrant at the Friends Office on 01258 450095

Christmas Festivities



Don't forget that both of our charity shops in Innes Court Sturminster Newton and Barnack Walk, Blandford will have a wide range of

Party wear for all of those upcoming seasonal parties.



Autumn Fair

at Blandford Hospital
on Saturday 25th November 2006
at 2.00pm

Lots of stalls including:

Cakes and home produce with Jams and Chutneys
Toys, books, Jewellery, Scarves and Bags, Toiletries, Gifts, Videos and Tapes,
Prize Tombola, Pictures, Kitchen items, Christmas stall, Stationery,
Bottle Tombola, Lucky Dip and of course our Grand Raffle with great prizes.

Refreshments will be available from the
Dining Room throughout the Fair

We would be very grateful for any donations of Cakes,
Breads, Jams, Chutney etc. for our Home Produce stall.
Please leave any contributions at the hospital on Friday 24th
November or from 9.30 am on the morning of Saturday 25th.

Admission is **FREE** so why not take this opportunity to
do some of your Christmas shopping whilst supporting
such a worthwhile local charity.



Thank you for your support

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 local artist, Jake Winkle for allowing us to use this picture reproduced from one of his original watercolour paintings.



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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