



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

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

Newsletter No. 28

JUNE 2006

SPRING FASHION SHOW 2006

Many of you will have attended one of our ever-popular Autumn Fashion Shows at the hospital and for the first time this year it was decided to also stage a Spring Show. The evening was organised by Susan Adam, with her husband Gordon and a team of helpers in support. A great evening was had by all. Gill White and her team provided us with a delicious buffet and the wine was flowing while the team of models displayed some wonderful garments that had all been donated to one of our two charity shops. As always those garments were then on sale

to our audience and a total of over £1000 was raised for the hospital and it's work in the community. A huge thank you must go out to Susan, Gordon, the team of models and of course everybody that was involved behind the scenes in making the show such a success.

Plans for the Autumn Show are already in hand and for your diary, the date will be Thursday 26th October. Please look out for further details which will be available nearer the time.



THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD HOSPITAL RNIB TALKING BOOKS PROGRAMME

As you may be aware, Dorset County Council is no longer able to provide funding for the subscriptions to the RNIB Talking Book Service. As a result, The Friends of Blandford Hospital would like to offer present and future subscribers free membership to the "Friends of Blandford Hospital RNIB Talking Books Programme."

This would mean that The Friends would pay your annual £70 subscription (or £50 if you already own a Daisy CD Player) to the RNIB on your behalf, (guaranteed for 2 years) if you live within the area served by Blandford Hospital.

This offer is available to Blind or Partially Sighted people Registered with Dorset County Council and who are also with the following GP Surgeries:

Whitecliff Mill St. Surgery	Eagle House Surgery
Sturminster Medical Centre (inc Marnhull)	Child Okeford Surgery
Cerne Abbas Surgery	Stalbridge Surgery
Milton Abbas Surgery	Bere Regis Surgery
Sixpenny Handley Surgery	

If you would like to participate in this programme, or know of someone who would, please contact: **JEAN DURRANT** at the Friends Office on **01258 450095** for an application form.

Membership Subscription

Annual membership was due at the beginning of April. If you have not yet paid for the year ending 31 March 2006 your subscription is now due. 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 wish to pay by Bank Standing Order in the future, please complete this section of the form.

PLEASE NOTE – if you have paid for this year, or if you already pay by Bank Standing Order, please ignore this reminder

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**on Wednesday 12th July, 2006
at 6.30 p.m.**

To be held in the DAY HOSPITAL at
***Blandford Community Hospital
Milldown Road, Blandford***

**After completion of formal business
there will be a talk by Dr Clare Baggett -
Specialist Hospital Doctor**

ALL ARE WELCOME

Refreshments are available

A message from our Chairman, Peter Fale

The N.H.S is changing in a number of ways e.g. the G.Ps are going to have greater say in the services that are available, the patient will have more choice about their treatment and there will be more competition between the various hospitals. The Friends will be involved in enabling these changes to happen to the greatest benefit of the patients in our locality by enhancing the equipment available locally and informing those providing services of the paramount needs of patients.

We have also undergone changes in response to an increase in demand for our volunteers and a need for someone to have overall responsibility for fundraising and publicity. Jean Durrant will now concentrate solely on her position as Community Services Co-ordinator. We are pleased to have appointed Emma Campbell as Fundraising Co-ordinator and her role will also include publicity and production of the newsletters. Since her appointment she has made an excellent start and we are looking forward to a bright future. Sarah Connors will continue in her role as Office Manager.

We have already had a very successful Spring Fashion Show this year and we look forward to our Auction on 24th June, the Autumn Fashion Show on 26th October and the Autumn Fair on 25th November.

The shops have continued to be our main source of fundraising and are proving ever more successful. Early in the year the Sturminster Newton Shop came up for sale, and, so, in order to secure it for the future, we had no option but to purchase it, which we duly did.

The need for transportation of patients has increased with the patients being offered a greater choice of where they are treated – particularly with the advent of the Shepton Mallet Treatment Centre and we have been pleased with the recruitment of several new volunteers. With Jean able to concentrate on the volunteers she has been able to expand their role.

The Audiology clinic, which we financed, has been up and running since January but the major work on Portman Ward has been delayed by the uncertainty surrounding the theatre. So, although our major projects are still in the wings, we have been able to support many requests for help both within the hospital and the wider community.

It has been made abundantly clear both at National and Dorset level that Community Hospitals have an increasingly important role to play in the health service. We are confident therefore that your hospital has a secure future and will continue to need our support.

Peter Fale, Chairperson, May 2006

Hats, Hats, Hats....



*Are you off to a Wedding
this summer?*

*A Garden Party or
Perhaps the Races?*

We have a wonderful selection of hats in numerous styles and colours at both of our charity shops at extremely reasonable prices.

Why not pop in to the shops in Barnack Walk, Blandford or Innes Court, Sturminster Newton and have a look.

If you don't see one on display to match your outfit please ask our helpful volunteers to search amongst those awaiting display.

Princess Anne back in Blandford



The Princess unveils the Plaque.

10th JANUARY 2006

Staff and patients gave The Princess Royal a warm welcome when she visited Blandford Community Hospital on January 10th 2006.

The Princess unveiled a plaque marking the hospital's re-accreditation as a practice development unit (PDU), which officially recognises the hospital for achieving a range of standards and improving care for patients.

It was 20 years ago that the Princess opened the new part of the hospital.

She said:

“It does rather mark the passage of time but it also reminds us of the important role community hospitals play. Since I opened this one, we have seen a lot more come on stream.”

The Princess toured the hospital with Matron, Mandy Humphries and Trust Chairman Mary Penfold.

She met staff and patients along the way, including the Bee Careful child Accident Prevention team, Friends of Blandford Hospital, Volunteers working at the hospital and the housekeeping and portering staff.



Jenny Wise, OT assistant, Matron Mandy Humphries, The Princess Royal and Lorna Wrench, Rehab assistant.

■ Thank you

The following are a few of the items that the Friends have recently helped finance.
This has been made possible by the generosity of those who have given us donations or subscriptions.

A self-propelled, multi purpose wheelchair for the O.T.
Department Funding towards the cost of the new Audiology booth in the hospital
Hymn books for the Hospital Chapel
A large screen television with DVD equipment for Tarrant Ward
Contenance stimulators for the Physiotherapy Department
Toys for the waiting room for children visiting Blandford Clinic
Blood pressure machines for the Physiotherapy Department
Funding towards the cost of a new health room for 'The Exchange'
(Sturminster Newton Health Centre and Community Centre Project)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Have you visited our Charity Shops in
Barnack Walk, Blandford Forum
and Innes Court, Sturminster Newton recently?

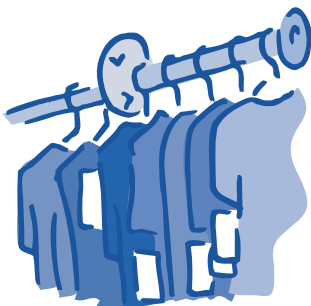
*We hold a huge range of good quality clothing, household linens, curtains, bric-a-brac,
jewellery, toys, books, shoes, tapes and CDs, electrical items and much more....*

PRICES ARE VERY COMPETITIVE AND STOCK IS ALWAYS CHANGING
SO WHENEVER YOU ARE IN TOWN WHY NOT PAY US A VISIT

Blandford Shop open Monday – Saturday 10am to 4pm
Sturminster Newton Shop open Monday 9am to 4pm
Tuesday – Friday 10am – 4pm and Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY

Donations of good quality items for re-sale as above are always required.



■ We need you!

Can you help by giving just a little of your time?

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Community Volunteers are always in demand, as our services within the community, continue to grow.

If you choose to be a community volunteer, you can work as and when it is convenient to you.

Our community volunteers provide help to people by driving them to appointments, taking them shopping or to visit relatives and friends in nursing homes that are some distance away, supporting a carer by sitting with someone whilst the carer goes out for a while, befriending – a visiting service whereby a volunteer supports a housebound person by having a coffee and chat with them each week.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS

Our hospital volunteers provide hospital staff on the wards with much needed help for a few hours in the afternoon or morning.

Volunteers help by serving teas, coffee, setting lunch tables, helping patients with their menus, looking after the flowers and chatting to patients, some of whom may not have many visitors.

Do you have a few hours a week to spare, especially on a Saturday or Sunday, to help the Hospital Staff?

If you feel you can help, in any way, at the hospital or as a community volunteer then please call Jean at the Friends Office on 01258 450095 who will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

SHOP VOLUNTEERS

Our shop volunteers play a major part in the fundraising for the hospital and the community it serves.

We have two shops, one in Barnack Walk, Blandford and the other in Innes Court, Sturminster Newton. The shops provide our main income and would not run so well without such a dedicated team both serving customers and working behind the scenes sorting the incoming goods.

Volunteers can either work on a set morning or afternoon each week or fortnightly or they can work to fill in when people are on holiday or sick.

We are always in need of additional shop volunteers. Do you have any time to spare and would like to join a great team? Please contact Emma at the Friends office on 01258 450095.

Dates for your Diary

24th June 2006

**Annual Auction Sale
Child Okeford,
Viewing 8.30am, Sale 9.45am**

12th July 2006

**Annual General Meeting
Blandford Hospital, 6.30pm**

26th October 2006

**Autumn Fashion Show
Blandford Hospital, 7.00pm**

25th November 2006

**Autumn Fair
Blandford Hospital, 2.00pm**



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.

Do you have something to say about the Friends, the PCT, and Healthcare in the area in general? Do you have feelings you would like to share or grievances to air? This will be your spot in the future. Starting with the Autumn Newsletter we would like to have a letters page, so please put pen to paper and share your views with us.

All correspondence should be sent to the Friends Office at the hospital by letter, Fax or E-mail and marked Newsletter Letters Page.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital

Registered Charity No: 800482



Annual Auction Sale



**Child Okeford Village Hall
on Saturday 24th June 2006**

**Viewing 8.30am, Sale from 9.45am
Refreshments Available**

Over 200 lots inc. China, Porcelain (Poole, Wade, Denby & Antique) Jewellery, Adult and Children's Books, Silver plate, Linens, Old Toys, Cut & Glass, Ephemera, Treen, Kitchenalia, Lamps, Collectibles, 100s of records, Golf Equipment, Scalectrix and much more....

A draft Catalogue at 50p will be available from either of our charity shops 14th June 2006 in Barnack Walk, Blandford Forum and Innes Court, Sturminster Newton. Further Details can be obtained from the Friends Office on 01258 450095

Thank you for your support