



# THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

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

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

Newsletter No. 40

AUTUMN 2010

“Blandford Hospital will continue to provide high quality services”



“As both healthcare providers and commissioners, the NHS is constantly reviewing services to ensure local needs are met and they deliver the best possible value for money.

As part of these ongoing reviews, we recently held meetings with The Friends of Blandford Hospital around a jointly commissioned feasibility study into potential reconfiguration of beds at the hospital.

News of this study ran in the local media sparking several rumours around the future provision of healthcare in the area.

We would like to take this opportunity to confirm that current services will remain at Blandford Hospital and there are no plans to close the hospital.

We will be working hand in hand with local partners including the Friends of Blandford Hospital to ensure that local residents continue to receive high quality services”

**Tim Archer**  
**Chief Operating Officer**  
**Dorset Community Health Services**



## Fundraising News...

As we prepare for our busy Autumn schedule of events we can also look back on the success of 2 of our regular events earlier this year.

### Easter Bingo

This event was well attended and with very happy players who enjoyed their evening and the prizes on offer. In fact it was enjoyed so much that the regulars asked us to organise another bingo before our traditional Christmas event. The evening made a net profit of £260. Our thanks again go to our regular caller, Derek Holdeman and also to Tish and her team in the hospital kitchen for the refreshments.

### Auction

As always, Gordon Adam had gathered a wonderful catalogue of 210 lots from the generous donations from our supporters and this year's Auction held in June was again very successful. Richard Kay was again our auctioneer and kept us entertained with his humour, knowledge and efficiency. The gross takings for the sale were £6300 making a net profit of £5806. Not a record breaking year for us following last year's tremendous total but still a very satisfying figure. There were certainly some very happy dealers/collectors at the end of the sale with a few of the lots not achieving the amounts we would have hoped for. However, if they went away with a bargain then they will definitely come back next year.

Talking of next year, Gordon is already gathering items for the sale so if you have something to donate, please drop it into one of our shops or give Emma a call in the office to arrange a collection.

### Blandford Rotary Club

We were delighted to hear that under the leadership of their President, Jim Atkins, the local Rotary club have elected to raise funds for the Friends of Blandford Hospital in the current Rotary Year ending July 2011. They are planning a Western Casino Night on 14th January 2011 which we hope some of our members will support.

Full details of the Friends upcoming events can be found later in this newsletter together with an opportunity to purchase tickets for our events on the enclosed flyer.

## Dates for Your Diary

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 1st Oct  | Fashion Show,<br>Corn Exchange, Blandford  |
| 2nd Oct  | Clothing Sale,<br>Corn Exchange, Blandford   |
| 21st Oct | Autumn Bingo<br>Hospital Dining Room   |
| 6th Nov  | Autumn Fair<br>Corn Exchange, Blandford  |
| 2nd Dec  | Christmas Bingo<br>Hospital Dining Room  |
| 17th Dec | Christmas Concert by<br>The Band of the Royal<br>Corps of Signals<br>Coade Hall, Bryanston |



## Christmas Prize Bingo Thurs 2nd December

Doors Open 6.45pm  
Eyes Down 7.30pm

Dining Room, Blandford Hospital  
(Refreshments available)



Numbers are strictly limited to 60  
players so early arrival is recommended.

**\*\*10 prize games and a cash flyer\*\***

**Great Odds - Fantastic Prizes**

Further info from the Friends' Office on  
**01258 450095**

# Fashion Show

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Oct



The Corn Exchange, Blandford

*Doors open 7pm for opportunities to browse and purchase clothes, jewellery and accessories. The show starts at 8pm*



*Tickets only £5 each, to include a glass of wine or juice, available in advance from the hospital charity shops in Blandford and Sturminster Newton or from main reception at the hospital*

All garments modelled in the show, and much more, will be on sale to the audience so please join us for a night out and a great chance to stock up on clothes and accessories.

# Grand Clothing Sale

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct

9am - 1pm

The Corn Exchange  
Blandford



*“Good quality clothes, for all seasons,  
at bargain prices”*

If you would like to purchase tickets in advance then please return the form on the rear of the flyer enclosed with this newsletter

## Introducing Matron



*I joined the team at Blandford Community Hospital in April and have been very impressed by my new team. As was the Care Quality Commission (CQC) when they undertook an unannounced inspection of the hospital in May. The staff, patients and the Friends of the hospital*

*have made me feel very welcome and have really helped me to settle into my new role as the hospital Matron.*

*I have worked within the NHS for over 18 years and started my career as a medical records clerk. I decided that I wanted to have more contact with patients and then became a health care assistant. During this time I developed many essential nursing skills and this ignited the passion in me to become a nurse.*

*Following my nurse training I started to work as a staff nurse within one of the busiest accident & emergency departments in the country in Leicester. I went on to lead a ward that was attached to the department and climbed up the professional ladder eventually becoming a Matron specialising within older peoples care. This drew my attention to the excellent work that was going on within community hospitals. I was looking for a new challenge in a community hospital setting and saw the advertisement for the Blandford Community Hospital Matrons post – the rest is history as they say.*

*During my research of the hospital before I attended my interview I came across the “Friends” on the internet. I thought that it looked like this group offers great support to the hospital. This was a tremendous understatement. Since I have been in post I can see at first hand how dedicated the organisation as a whole is, and what the Friends have done and are continuing to do in order to develop our hospital, assisting our staff to provide high quality care to local people within our community for now and in the future.*

*I have been a regular visitor to Dorset over the last 10 years and I feel very privileged to have moved here and I look forward to leading the team at Blandford Hospital in the coming years.*

**Darren Wickwar, Matron, August 2010**



## Our Chairman is honoured by Attend

Honorary life membership is awarded by the Trustees to individuals who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the work of Attend. Peter has been welcomed as an Honorary Life Member as an extraordinary person for his outstanding work since he became involved with the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital in 1994.

Peter was asked to join the council to represent Bryanston school and he soon became actively involved in the setting up of a befriending scheme for patients being discharged from hospital and helping them in the community with needs such as transport. Peter was asked to become Chairman of the Friends in 1996 and as a result became a non-executive director of the North Dorset PCT. This not only gave him in-sight into the organization of local health care but also he became aware of the “politics” of the NHS making it easier for the Friends to adapt to the ever changing ways of the NHS.

Peter has seen considerable changes in the way the Friends support the hospital locally. Although, considerable funds are still spent on equipment and buildings, many of the activities of the charity have now moved outside of the hospital supporting local groups and providing an excellent programme of Community Services to those in need of support.

Peter was invited to chair the network of Friends groups in Dorset to promote co-operation sharing of ideas.

Peter said: “Being honored in this way has meant for me that the “political” power of the grass roots, when co-ordinated, has been recognized by Attend. This is an important message to convey to our member groups. I am, of course, also, on a personal level, proud and pleased to have been recognized”



**WELL  
DONE  
PETER...**

**KEEP UP  
THE GOOD  
WORK!**

## A message from our Chairman, Peter Fale

The recent merging of the Portman and Tarrant wards have monopolised the Friends' attention over the Spring and Summer. As a temporary solution to the problem of meeting the new NHS EU standards the patients of Portman have been moved to Tarrant, making it a 24-bedded ward. Pleasingly, this has been achieved without any staff redundancies, but it has been an anxious time for both nursing and hotel services staff.

The Portman ward is seen as a superb facility by staff and patients both past and present and its two family rooms provided by the Friends hopefully make life a little easier for patients and their families receiving palliative care. The newly completed sunroom, again supplied by the Friends, at a cost of £82,000 has views of the bowling green and recreation ground, plus easy access to the millennium garden. This all helps to make a hospital stay that bit easier. We are therefore, committed to ensuring, if at all possible, that the 24-bedded ward should eventually be located in the Portman ward. We are working with the provider arm of NHS Dorset and its Chief Operating Officer, Mr Tim Archer to this end.

This will require considerable changes to the Portman ward and the theatre area will have to be moved elsewhere within the hospital. Therefore a feasibility study has been commissioned from the Dorset Design Practice and the initial survey has been encouraging. We now await the structural survey and Mac, our Project Manager, is in constant touch with the design team. It is impossible to foresee how long the study and the whole scheme will take, but the cost of changes needed to Portman is likely to be in excess of half a million pounds. This is, however, an exciting opportunity to equip the hospital and bring it up to date to answer the needs of patients for both now and the future and will ensure that as many patients as possible will receive treatment close to home.

Recently the hospital has received national recognition for pioneering a pain relief clinic using the image intensifier supplied by the Friends. Congratulations to Kate Pope for seeing this project through from its conception.

Changes to our Council, included the retirement of Joe Izzo, who has been a council member since the early nineties, held the post of deputy chairman from 1998-2008 and Chairman of Community Service Working Group since 1996, until his recent retirement. Though quiet and unassuming he has

been very effective in giving wise counsel, being available for anyone who needed him, and being a constant reliable support. I thank him for his contribution to the Friends. I would also like to thank Andrew Haviland, who was already on our Council and has now taken over in this role. I know he will give invaluable support to both Lisa and our volunteers.

As always, the office staff, the council, and the volunteers have all been outstanding in their commitment and hard work. I do appreciate greatly their efforts and am very grateful for their support.

Peter Fale, August 2010

## SHOP NEWS

Our shop in Barnack Walk, Blandford Forum received a long overdue facelift this summer and the trustees, volunteers and customers alike have all been thrilled with it's new lighter and brighter look. The transformation was the result of ideas put forward by the team of volunteers and has already made a significant difference to the shop takings since it reopened. Once the decorators and electricians had completed their projects the volunteers spent two days completely restocking the shop with it's very low priced goods and we were welcomed back by our regular customers that had missed their bargain hunting while the work was done.



Pictured here are some of the council members and volunteers who work so hard to make the shop a success.

Our shops can be found at:  
**Innes Court, Station Road, Sturminster Newton**

Tel: 01258 471245

**Opening hours:**

Monday 9am – 4pm  
Tuesday – Friday 10am – 4pm  
Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm

**and Barnack Walk, Blandford**

Tel: 01258 458390

**Opening Hours:**

Monday – Saturday 10am – 4pm

**VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS REQUIRED IN OUR CHARITY SHOPS. PLEASE CALL EMMA IN THE FRIENDS' OFFICE IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE FRIENDLY TEAMS.**

# Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends....

## *Help us make a difference*



Perhaps first and foremost for those of you not already aware, Jean Durrant retired at the end of May after 10 years with the Friends in the role of

Community Services Co-ordinator. A leaving party with hospital staff and trustees in the dining room and a tea party held at the new Parish Rooms to mark Jean's retirement, gave friends, volunteers and clients the chance to say thank you, Goodbye and wish Jean well for her retirement.

As you may remember from our previous newsletter I was already working alongside Jean on a jobshare basis since Summer 2009 and have now taken on the role of Community Services Co-ordinator.

You will note from our Chairman's message that Joe Izzo retired from his role as Chairman, Community Services Working group at this year's AGM and Andrew Haviland has taken over this position. Welcome Andrew, I am already enjoying working with you to further develop the services we are able to offer.



So although there have been changes within our organisation, we continue to provide the best service we possibly can to support our clients throughout the area.

As always our summer outings on our mini bus have proved so popular that we never seem to be able to accommodate everyone. We are trying to make the social trips as fair as we can by alternating our clients so everyone has "a go" !!

The minibus has undergone further improvements. We are now the proud owners of Air Conditioning and what a difference it has made already. Don't worry; the blankets knitted by our volunteers are still there for those who feel the cold. Other modifications have all proved beneficial to our volunteers and passengers.

As always, the need for the services we offer is growing. This is particularly so in the case of providing transport for local residents that have been referred to us by their GPs because they are in need of support. With the phasing out of the NHS Hospital Transport Service the pressure has certainly been increased on our team of volunteers and the number of clients on our books continues to grow faster than the number of volunteers that drive for us. We continuously aim to provide an efficient service and although not guaranteed, we certainly do extremely well.

This would not be possible without our dedicated team of volunteers of whom we are very proud. We can never thank them enough for all of the time that they give to support our clients in so many ways.

This brings me onto say that if anyone can spare a couple of hours a week we would very much like to hear from you! Whether you would like to help with transport, escorting on the mini bus or just offering companionship we would love to hear from you.

Please give us a call on the number below and we can have a chat about how you would like to be involved.

**Lisa Deverell**  
**Community Services Co-ordinator**  
**August 2010**

## How to Contact us...

The Friends' Office at the hospital is usually 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)**

Our website is:

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

In the office you will find Sarah Connors (Office Manager), Lisa Deverell (Community Services Co-ordinator) and Emma Campbell (Fundraising Co-ordinator). They will each be able to help you with your request or enquiry.

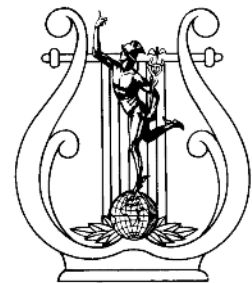
# Autumn Fair

Saturday 6th November

The Corn Exchange, Blandford  
9.30am – 2pm

*There will be a wonderful selection of goods on sale to tempt you.  
Admission is free so why not take this opportunity to do some  
Christmas shopping whilst supporting your local hospital.*

## THE BAND OF THE ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS



*Performing a seasonal concert in aid of the Friends of Blandford  
Community Hospital and the Army Benevolent Fund*

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, 7.30pm**  
**Coade Hall, Bryanston School**

**Tickets only £7 in advance**

Tickets are available from Friends' Charity shops in Blandford and  
Sturminster Newton, Main Reception at the Hospital or by returning the  
reply slip on the enclosed flyer.

**INFO: 01258 450095**

# Christmas Cards



Our new Christmas Cards (as pictured below) are now available in packs of 10, priced at £2.50 per packet. This year we have again purchased the Christmas Cards offered by Attend supporting all Friends' organisations nationwide. We have 4 different designs and 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.



*Carol Singing*



*Festive Cones*



*Winter Companions*



*Winter Robin*



Please send me Christmas Cards as detailed below @ £2.50 per pack plus £1.00 per order towards packaging and delivery. I am pleased to enclose my cheque for £..... (Cheques should be made payable to: The Friends of Blandford Community Hospital)

\_\_\_ Packs of "Carol Singing"

\_\_\_ Packs of "Festive Cones"

\_\_\_ Packs of "Winter Companions"

\_\_\_ Packs of "Winter Robin"

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

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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