



# Friends of Victoria Hospital

The newsletter of The Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne, Dorset

No. 53

Winter 2022-23

## Chair's Corner

**"Supporting Wimborne Hospital to provide excellent care".**



Dear Members,  
I have now been in post for almost a year and it has been a delight to meet so many of you at the Annual General Meeting and various

events throughout the year. As the population grows around Wimborne it would be good to see more members join The Friends, so spread the word about our wonderful local hospital and do share this newsletter with others.

We really value the support of volunteers who work in a range of roles including our Charity Shop, fundraising events and tending the hospital garden. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank them. On a summer's day it is wonderful to see the activity co-ordinator, whom we fund, involving patients for a short period outside, enjoying the garden. Gardening is a great therapy.

All of the Trustees of course are volunteers and in 2022 we were fortunate to recruit three new Trustees to join the team. I hope you get a chance to meet them during 2023. You will find some of their details on page 2.

Our partnership working with Dorset HealthCare is strong and we are delighted to be currently making progress on Phase One of the development to improve X-ray facilities. Phase Two will see further improvements to Wimborne Hospital as we celebrate 75 years of the NHS in July. Our website will shortly be updated so do please take a look and contact us with any feedback or views. □

## X-ray leads the way



By the time you read this, a major refurbishment of the X-ray Department will have started. You may have seen articles about this in the local press.

Work began on Tuesday, 3 January, and is expected to last for around 13 weeks.

Improved access routes for patients will allow greater privacy, and one room previously not fully used will be improved so that it can accommodate a second X-ray machine, allowing the department to see more patients.

Much of this work will be funded by a specific bequest unrelated to the Friends, but we shall contribute £255,000 to this project. Part of this amount will go towards purchasing an Agfa DX-D300 X-ray machine (see pictures above).

The DX-D 300 DR system combines excellent image quality with optimal convenience. It offers top-of-the-line technology, a single detector and a fully-motorised positioner, yet requires limited space. Its excellent quality images are immediately available.

The fully-motorised DX-D 300 can handle a broad range of X-ray studies, including lateral exams. This adaptability makes it ideal for use with all patients, even those less mobile, whether in sitting, standing or lying positions.

A temporary facility at Victoria Hospital continues to provide X-rays on site. This arrangement is working well and cares for most patients, though there may be a few exceptions. Where appropriate, some patients may be booked in at Poole Hospital, or offered the option of appointments at Swanage

Hospital. Ultrasound services are continuing at Victoria Hospital during this time.

Brad

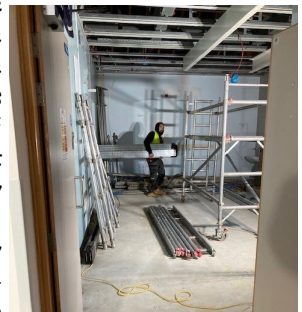
Rootes, Dorset HeathCare's East Dorset and Purbeck locality manager, said:

"I'd like to say a big thank-you to the Friends for this generous charitable donation. These improvements will make a huge difference to the radiology department and the facilities it can offer."

The works involved are not just

moving some walls. The photo on the right shows a little of what will not be seen by patients when they come for X-rays in future. Bringing the ventilation up to latest standards requires extra air-ducting in the roof space, and in turn this needs the support of the steel joists seen in the picture above.

The project is due to be completed by 31 March. Until then we have to expect curtailed spaces for parking because of these works. □



Footnote!

## New Faces

### Deborah Straw Matron



at Victoria Hospital, Wimborne and

Deborah thanks everyone for their kindness and support over the last couple of months and writes:

"I am the new Matron for the Inpatients wards

Stanley Purser Ward at Swanage Hospital.

I came into post at the beginning of November 2022 and have certainly hit the ground running. I was previously the Matron for Surgery, Head & Neck and Gynaecology since 2017 at Poole Hospital. I then became Matron for Surgery alone when it became UHD covering both Poole and Bournemouth sites. Prior to this I worked 20+ years in Emergency Care, Emergency Departments and Repatriation Nursing travelling worldwide.

In the two months that I have been here I have been completely blown away

by the kindness and warmth that I have received, there is certainly a lovely feel to the Community Hospitals: such dedication and devotion that the staff overtly demonstrate to the Patients, colleagues, the Hospital itself and the community.

I have never seen such amazing community support that the people of Wimborne and Swanage, and the surroundings areas show towards their local Community Hospital. It is very humbling and very much appreciated.

I look forward to working with you all, and all the great things that we can achieve going forward." □

## Trustees

### Lee Hardy



Lee Hardy OBE is in his first year as a trustee. He was born and educated locally and has had a family home in the area all his life.

He brings wide

-ranging experience and a broad business perspective gained from a long, operationally-focused career in the Royal Navy which encompassed frontline and staff appointments at sea, ashore and in Command.

Latterly he led an Overseas Territory on behalf of the UK Government, served as a marine and maritime adviser within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and is now closely engaged in the Blue Economy leading

projects designed to counter illegality at sea.

He is active across the local community holding a variety of board and voluntary roles. A strong advocate for the hospital, he hopes his extensive experience of delivering complex projects in challenging situations will assist the Friends in their ambitious plans to enable continuous enhancement of facilities and setting, for the benefit of patients and staff □

### Christine Hawkins



I can trace my family living in Wimborne back generations. My Great-Grandad was once the town crier! I went to school in Wimborne and had my first job in

Wimborne. My roots are firmly here!

I first became aware of the hospital aged about 5 when I had my tonsils and adenoids out in the children's ward. I remember the ice cream and jelly best!! Various family members have been both in- and out-patients and I am always struck by how friendly and efficient the staff are. We are so lucky to have a local hospital.

This is one of the reasons I wanted to support the hospital, it's a precious facility and one that we mustn't lose.

My background is in Marketing and Fundraising, skills that I am hoping the Friends will be able to use to promote themselves and raise funds.

I am hoping to assist with the shop, keeping an overview on things and being there to support the staff, who do a wonderful job in these hard competitive times.

I am looking forward to learning about the shop and the Friends, and I want to support them in any way I can. □

### Jeff Hart



consultant and is also Chair of Governors of Poole High School.

Jeff Hart has lived in Wimborne for over 35 years. He was a teacher for many years before moving into leadership and inspection. He currently works as an education

Jeff has worked with Wimborne Community Theatre for many years and is now Chair. A recent production attracted over 300 participants and was the 30<sup>th</sup> production of the group. The group prides itself on working closely with schools and disabled adults. All the schools in Wimborne have engaged in productions with the group.

Previously, Jeff has been a Board Member of Dorset Community Foundation for 4 years which raised funds for worthwhile causes. He personally generated income for charities and distributed monies to many

needy groups.

Jeff has three children and one granddaughter and lives near the market in the town.

Jeff feels that being a Trustee is a worthwhile role: 'I would love to serve the Friends and further improve opportunities and facilities. The recent growth of Wimborne is phenomenal but the infrastructure needs to develop too. The hospital is a great facility for local people. I would support carefully planned growth so that the lovely town my children have enjoyed continues to thrive safely and remain amazing.' □



## Award winners



Above you see Chair Anne Salter (centre) presenting two Friends' Awards at the October trustees' meeting. The award-winners were Sandra Fry on the left, and Dawn Eddicott on the right.

Sandra is the Admissions Officer for Day Surgery and Endoscopy Units and has worked at Wimborne Hospital since 2001. Working with colleagues at the acute hospitals of Poole, Bournemouth and Christchurch [UHD], she has overseen the smooth transition of all patients to a centrally managed model, and continues to work collaboratively with her colleagues.

Sandra has stepped in when there were staff difficulties elsewhere and offered to ring the patients herself, thus providing reassurance that Wimborne is open for business, that it's safe to have

their procedure and to offer a slot on the next available list. This has ensured our sessions achieve maximum utilisation and reduce waiting times. Always a friendly first point of contact, Sandra puts the patient first and is a highly regarded and valued member of the team.

Dawn is Facilities Supervisor for the domestic team and started work at the hospital in 2018. She has a "nothing is too much trouble" approach to her work and goes above and beyond the call of duty to support her team and colleagues. At times of need she has cancelled annual leave, worked weekends, extra hours and is always available. She is highly regarded by all she encounters in her job. □

## Annette Sanchez leaves

In October President David Pope presented Annette Sanchez with flowers as a token of our appreciation as she left her post as Matron. She had been with us for six and a half years, latterly also in charge of the ward at Swanage, a tall order.

Few will forget her moving account at the 2021 AGM of dealing with the Covid pandemic at its height: she coped with an uncertain and worrying situation, fearing



the worst, re-deploying and motivating her anxious staff to take up unusual roles and organising the hospital to deal with the unexpected. Fortunately the worst did not materialise.

We shall miss her sunny personality. □

## Future improvements

Soon after the work on X-ray finishes, Phase Two of the re-development of the Outpatients Dept will begin, possibly in May.

This phase will move the Minor Injuries Unit from the rear of the building to the front, and equip it to be upgraded, if need be, to an Urgent

Treatment Centre. After that, the Physiotherapy Dept will be substantially upgraded, re-allocating space and creating greater privacy for patients.

The Friends hope to support the full cost of Phase Two. □

## Facebook

Our Facebook page is really connecting us to the local community with our followers increasing each week. By sharing posts to other local group pages, for example "Wimborne News and Views", we can reach up to 1.3k views in a week. If you have not taken a look already we would encourage you to click on the link "Find us on Facebook" on our website at [www.friendswimbornehospital.org.uk](http://www.friendswimbornehospital.org.uk).

We currently have a total of 598 people following us and would love this number to rise! Why not help us to double our followers in 2023? □

## Financial journey

If you follow the financial fortunes of the Friends, you will be well aware that the generosity of local people has provided us with handsome funds over recent years.

In order to protect our funds against erosion by inflation, we sought advice and invested in the stock market through a modest range of funds. At its best point our financial profile was about 55% invested and 45% in deposits.

We aimed to have all our deposits FSCS protected, which meant we had money with some 25 different banks or building societies.

In all these dealings we closely followed our professional advisers to whom we are most grateful. They gave good advice too: by late 2021 our portfolio of investments had reached a value some 5.8% above inflation over the period of investment.

As we prepared to make large grants in support of the projects you read about elsewhere in this newsletter, we were advised to sell all our market investments to secure their value against nasty surprises. So once again we have no investments, and there is some consolation in the higher interest rates now on offer.

The pandemic played its part in delaying all kinds of plans, but now things are on the move again. Our funds are now available so that Dorset Healthcare can improve facilities in X-ray, Minor Injuries and Physiotherapy. We are pleased to be spending the money exactly as our members and donors wish. □

## RESPONSE FORM

I wish to become or I am a Member of the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne

[please ring correct words above & PRINT below]

Name: ..... (surname)

..... (first name)

Title (Mr / Mrs etc) .....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Tel No. ....

I enclose a cheque payable to 'The Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne' for £ ..... (min £5)

We respect your privacy and wish to keep your name and address on our computer only in order to log your subscriptions, keep your details up-to-date, post you our newsletter and (where appropriate) claim Gift Aid. Your details are processed lawfully on our computer only, backed up securely and will be disclosed (as required) only to the Inland Revenue and to our mailing firm. We will not disclose any information to anyone else.

To find out more on how your details are used and kept secure, and about your rights in this connection, ring 01202 856484, or email [dhc.fvhw@nhs.net](mailto:dhc.fvhw@nhs.net) or write to: Victoria Road, Wimborne, BH21 1ER. You may stop your membership at any time and we will delete your details.

If you agree to your details being processed as described, please tick to confirm and proceed:

I agree [ ]

### GIFT AID DECLARATION

If you currently pay tax the Friends of Victoria Hospital can claim back the tax from a subscription / donation of any amount, whether regular or one-off, provided you have given the authority. You can cancel this authority at any time. If you agree, please sign the declaration below.

I want the Friends of Victoria Hospital to reclaim tax on this donation and all future donations (delete as needed)

Signed: .....

Date: ..... 20 .....

Please complete and return to:

The Secretary

Friends of Victoria Hospital, Victoria Road, Wimborne  
BH21 1ER

Registered Charity 299230

### STANDING ORDER MANDATE

To: The Manager

..... plc (your bank)

..... (bank address)

..... (bank address)

..... (bank postcode)

Please pay to the account of the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne at Barclays Bank plc, Wimborne Branch, (sort code 20-96-96), A/c No. 33765237 the sum of

£ ..... on ..... / ..... / ..... next, and annually thereafter on the same date. This instruction cancels any previous order in favour of the Friends of Victoria Hospital, Wimborne.

Your bank a/c no.: .....

Your bank sort code: .....

Your name: .....

Your address: .....

.....

.....

Your postcode: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....

## Dates for 2023

June 10th

Minster Fair

Minster Green, craft & gift stall, 10 to 4pm, weather permitting.

July 13th

NHS 75th Anniversary Celebration & Annual General Meeting

Wimborne Community Centre, 41-44 King Street, Wimborne.  
2.30 pm - 7pm (AGM starts)

November 11th

Christmas Charity Fair

Allendale Centre, Wimborne.  
10 to 3pm Christmas Craft and quality gift stall.

Any enquiries to Rae at our office who can give further details on any event. ☐



## Donations

We are most grateful for donations such as £277 from Witchampton & Crichele Club (see photo above), £229 from East Dorset Trac(tor) Pack and also from the Wimborne Bowls Club who generously gave £1,070 this year. ☐

## Digital version

If you'd prefer not to get a printed newsletter through the post, you can read our newsletter on our website [[www.friendswimbornehospital.org.uk](http://www.friendswimbornehospital.org.uk)].

Go to our News page and click on the link to the newsletter you'd like to read. You can view and/or download the file from there. If that works for you and you wish to stop getting the newsletter by post, please let us know - see contact details on this page. ☐

### AGM

13 July 23

Save the date

Also celebrating

75 years of the NHS

## The Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne Newsletter

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