



Friends of Victoria Hospital

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

No. 55

Winter 2023-24

Chair's Corner

"Supporting Wimborne Hospital to provide excellent care".



Dear Members

It was good to meet so many members at our Annual General Meeting in the summer and to share how the Friends support our community hospital by volunteering, raising money and providing grants for equipment and training.

We also shared the breadth of local accessible services that the hospital provides for the Wimborne community (Inpatient beds on Hanham Ward, an ever-growing range of Outpatients Clinics, surgical procedures/investigations and departments for Minor Injuries, Physiotherapy and Radiology). The hospital prides itself on the quality standards provided and it is heartwarming for the Friends to receive many letters from grateful patients that confirm the quality of the services and staff they meet at Wimborne Hospital.

We are heartened to hear that the Minor Injury Unit (MIU) continues with the longer opening hours of 8am to 8pm. The last appointment at the MIU is half an hour before closing (7.30 pm). If you turn up unannounced you will be assessed but could be directed elsewhere or given an appointment later that day or the next so it is always advisable to call 111 or go online for an assessment to ensure you get the right support.

It is a time of change for the Board of Trustees where we have some long-standing Trustees stepping down after many years of loyal volunteer support. These include Val Sweetlove (Secretary) and Rae Cotton (Publicity and Fundraising). Their support has always been professional in approach, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the Hospital. We are delighted to have 3 new Trustees join the Friends who will work with us to ensure the funding you so generously provide continues to be used wisely to benefit the hospital.

We look forward to sharing future updates during the year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and healthy 2024. □

Rae Cotton retires

An influential career at the Portman Building Society was good preparation for Rae who joined the Friends in 2006 as our fundraiser and PR trustee. For the last 18 years Rae has been the public face of this charity.

Everything she undertook was executed with her flawless sense of style and her innovative approach to events which might fly the flag for our charity was impressive. Over time she introduced such events as the Dudsbury Dinners, Barn Dances at The Langton Arms in Tarrant Monkton and Fashion Shows, where all the garments on the 'catwalk' were donated goods, modelled by her own volunteers. She put on Flower Demonstrations, set up tables to sell craft items at the Wimborne in Bloom November Craft Fairs and organised Cream Teas twice a season at the Mackrell Charity Old School in Sturminster Marshall. She also had a stall at the "Steam Up" at Drusilla's pub.

Her fund of ideas was endless and similarly her energy. Her garage filled up with clothing ready for shows, she spent hours sewing and making items for sale. She attended functions on behalf of the Friends to receive donations and



Dr David Pope presents Rae with a bouquet at our AGM 2023.

always presented the charity in her inimitable, stylish fashion.

Latterly Rae was a great support in our shop. She certainly brought in impressive funds from her events but just as significant was the high profile for the charity which she created and maintained in Wimborne for all of her 18 years. We are already missing her dynamism and dedication. □

Our new Shop opens

At the start of October 2023 we opened our new Shop just a few yards along the High Street from our original premises, where we opened our first charity shop in 1997. In those days there were far fewer charity shops in the town than now.

The new premises at 69 High Street offer us less backroom space but a light and bright selling area where sales and donations have taken off in the most exciting fashion.

We are most grateful to Sarah and Natasha, supported by our marvellous



team of volunteers, for making this change of premises work so smoothly and successfully. □

New trustees

Colin Davidson



Colin has been in General Practice locally as a GP for over 35 years and recently retired. He helped set up and run the Day Case

Endoscopy Unit for over 25 years. This was delivered with much help and co-operation from Dorset Healthcare Trust with whom he had a great working relationship. He has extensive management experience in Primary Care and was involved in setting up the Clinical Commissioning Group in Dorset, then sat on the Board until it was superseded by the current Integrated Care Board.

He is married to another

recently retired GP and they live just outside Horton with their energetic Working Cocker Spaniel, Bella. They have 3 grown up children, two in medicine with one going into General Practice.

Colin was keen to be a trustee to help give something back to the community in a setting he knows well and hopes his experience will be of some use to his fellow Trustees. □

Sharon Powell



Sharon Powell and has been a Trustee since September 2023. Sharon was educated in Poole, and lives locally with her husband.

Sharon has one daughter, and during her education Sharon

supported the schools she attended by being a parent governor.

Sharon has been a nurse for 45 years, having worked clinically for 11 years as a Practice Nurse at a large GP Practice in Bournemouth, followed by being employed for 21 years by Dorset HealthCare as a manager of community health services.

Sharon's role involved managing community services and community hospitals within areas of Dorset, and for 4 years was Locality Manager for East Dorset, managing

community services, Royal Victoria Hospital Wimborne, and St Leonard's Hospital. In these posts she worked with several League of Friends on building projects, and with the development of new clinical services for the local community.

Sharon retired in June 2023, and wanted to continue developing and supporting clinical services at Wimborne Hospital, that provides care and services to a population that is continuing to grow. □

Sue Saddler



Sue Saddler was born in London but has lived in Colehill for over 40 years.

She is a new Trustee who joined the Friends in October. She

trained as a Secretary with Pitmans and worked for over 25 years for a local special school as their Finance Officer. She participated in, and helped to lead, the inaugural Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at the school, taking the first group to Gold and to St James's Palace to receive their awards. In connection with this work she abseiled with a paraplegic young man in a wheelchair, the best thing she ever did.

Sue was also a member of the

project team which built and commissioned a new school and also oversaw the move from old school to new. This demanded considerable organisational skill, the ability to bring others with her and some nerve.

Sue has two sons and one grandson and is looking forward to making a contribution to the work of the Friends in recognition of the excellent care received by her late husband. □

Partnership with Lewis Manning Hospice Care

In 2023 the Friends started working in partnership with Lewis Manning Hospice Care to provide a Breathlessness Service twice a month in the hospital, delivered by a respiratory therapist.

The patients for whom this service is suitable have reached the end of the healthcare pathway for their condition where no further active treatment is possible. However, they suffer from extreme breathlessness. This can be so bad

that they may not be able to walk to the toilet. They stop going out for fear of not being able to cope, their horizons in life shrink and the breathless attacks can be frightening and debilitating.

Improvement can be achieved by different forms of management, learning about the causes, using mindfulness and awareness to disarm the problem.

The appointments are for one hour. This allows ample time for

the patient, the physiotherapist, and the patient's partner when present, to unpack the thoughts and emotions accompanying this problem, to arrive at an understanding of strategies which may help and to reassure the patient that some improvement is possible. In this way a better quality of life for patients can be achieved even when the end of life is approaching. □

Cardiac ultrasound (Echo) machine

Keeping local people 'heart healthy' with a state-of-the-art cardiac machine

Wimborne's Victoria Hospital has taken heart from the arrival of a new 'echo' machine, thanks to a generous donation by the Friends.

The £96,500 device will be used to perform echocardiograms, an ultrasound test that checks the structure and function of the heart.

It will enable speedy diagnosis of a wide range of cardiac conditions at the Dorset HealthCare-run hospital, including valve disease, heart failure, cardiomyopathy and congenital heart disease.

The machine also provides improved image quality, using the latest computer software.

Cardiac physiologist Rachel Brown explained:

"We can achieve better visualisation of cardiac structures, resulting in a more accurate assessment for the patient. This machine also incorporates 3D imaging, auto measurements and the most up-to-date techniques.



Left to right: Rachel Brown, Cardiac Physiologist, Maxine Guillen, Lead Cardiac Physiologist

"Our patients can now receive high quality echocardiograms which will help us identify any problems as quickly as possible and guide their subsequent treatment."

The echo machine was paid for by the Friends of Victoria Hospital.

Anne Salter, Chair of the charity, said:

"I am delighted the trustees of our charity agreed to fund the purchase of a cardiac ultrasound machine. This latest technology allows for quicker and more accurate assessments. It also means that local people can be seen sooner and closer to home." □

Treasurer

The Friends are looking for a new Treasurer to take over this key role as soon as possible. This voluntary job requires on average about 6 hours per week and is suitable for a recently retired person with a financial background, while familiarity with accounting software would be advantageous. Naturally interest and the ability to commit time to working with an enthusiastic team of trustees is important. To discuss the role or ask questions ring 01202 856484 and leave us a message, or email dhc.fvhw@nhs.net. To look at the job description go to our website at www.friendswimbornehospital.org.uk □

Hospital update

The short waiting times and expertise of the staff in Radiology is no secret to anyone who has visited the department



From left: Debbie Jones and Pete Enwright of the Radiology Department displaying a dental x-ray machine in May 2023

as a patient for an X-ray or Ultrasound, especially since the major upgrade in April/May 2023. The high quality of their work was confirmed after rigorous inspection by 'Quality Services in Imaging', which took

place last October. The team were required to submit over 300 pieces of evidence to validate their work, and then the assessors spent three days inspecting the department on site. The feedback was extremely positive.

In similar fashion, the Endoscopy team have recently undergone an inspection by the Joint Advisory Group [JAG]. The accreditation process involved submitted documented evidence to JAG who robustly review it, feed back on it and, if required, ask for a re-submission. The team received their accreditation in December 2023. The next review, in 24/25, will be an onsite inspection which happens every 5 years.

The number of Endoscopy sessions will be increased from 3 to 4 per week, and eventually to 5 sessions/week. Outpatient clinics for Endoscopy have started to be provided. □

Volunteers

The Friends always welcome new volunteers for the range of roles which support the work of the charity.

Apart from volunteering in the shop, we need the help of a **driver with a reasonable-sized car** who could drive between our shop in the High Street and the hospital roughly once a fortnight.

Our shop in the town has never had enough storage space for the donated goods which are out of season. This stock is predominantly clothing and is kept in plastic bags in a store room at the hospital.

The job requires the driver, accompanied by one of the shop managers, to collect bags from the shop and drive them up to the hospital, unload them and wheel them up to the storage room, then to collect bags of stock for sale and load them into the car for the trip back to the shop. The whole job lasts less than an hour.

To discuss the role or ask questions please ring 01202 856484 and leave a message or email dhc.fvhw@nhs.net □

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.

Email address:

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 mailsorting 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 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:



Charity Fair

At Wimborne in Bloom's Christmas Charity Fair Rae Cotton put on her customary, colourful display of goods for sale (many of which she has created herself). She is seen here with two of her very loyal helpers: Marilyn Hutton and Carol Head. □

Want to read this on our website?

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].

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. □

The Friends of Victoria Hospital Wimborne Newsletter

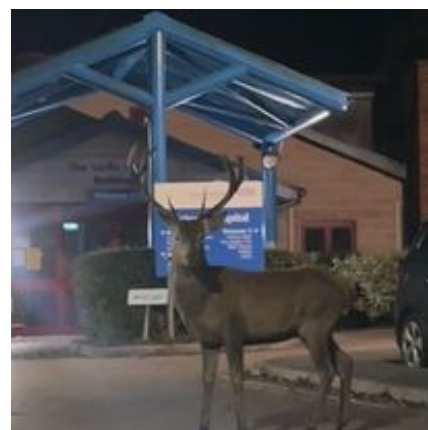
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Oh deer! Should have rung 111



A passing motorist took this photo early on an October morning. At the time of the rut, stags lose their heads completely. Can't think why.

For access to our Minor Injuries Unit (open 8 to 8) ring 111 for an appointment. □

TRUSTEES

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