



Friends' News

Newsletter of the Friends of the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby.
We support St. Cross, Rugby Community and Mental Health Services



Issue No.17 July 2014

Friends Diamond Jubilee Appeal launched at the AGM

The appeal for £60,000 will underpin a major project to upgrade the Phlebotomy (blood taking) Service at the hospital and ensure that we are able to continue to fund other equipment donations.

The Phlebotomy Service is the service most used by the community in and around Rugby. With several thousand patients per month the service has been under pressure for some time with patients often queuing outside a packed waiting room. The project will relocate the service into the heart of the Rainsbrook Wing, will double the capacity and will have its own dedicated access from what is now the volunteers car park.

Chairperson, Heather Green said "This is the first time in recent years that we have launched an appeal and we will be seeking the support of local business as well as the general public and the many clubs and societies who have kindly nominated us as their 'charity of the year'."

Vice President, Tony Cousins said "We wanted a project worthy of our Diamond Jubilee year that really would make a difference and, in discussion with hospital managers, identified the Blood Taking Service scheme. This is a very busy department housed in accommodation that has become inadequate to provide a good service

and badly needs new facilities to improve the service which is used more than 60,000 times every year."

"With heavy pressure on its budgets the UHCW NHS Trust has been unable to afford the scheme any immediate priority and we are delighted that we could support a project that will be a clear benefit to so many patients. We know that the Trust shares our pleasure and we all look forward to seeing the patients using the improved facilities."

For suggestions on how you can raise money for the appeal or donate directly, please see the back page.



2015 will be the Diamond Jubilee for the Friends. Since 1955 we have raised over £3 million. We have no paid staff and we aim for 98p in every pound raised to go directly to supporting St Cross and Community and Mental Health Services in Rugby.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

On the 2nd of June we were delighted to announce that we have been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2014. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who is involved and supports us for making this possible.

This unique UK national honour was created over a decade ago to mark the

Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 and has the equivalent status for voluntary groups as the MBE has for individuals. We were the only organisation in Warwickshire, and one of only 111 in the country to be honoured this way in 2014.

Juliet Starkey, General Manager at St Cross, said "The Friends give fantastic

support to the staff at the hospital and their donations have made a clear difference to the patient experience in St Cross. There is not an operational department in the hospital that has not at some time benefited from a donation from the Friends and so I was pleased to nominate them for this national recognition."

Pride of Rugby Special Award

Several members of The Friends went to The Pride of Rugby Awards ceremony on the 9th May to support Edie Freeman who had been nominated and short listed for the Long Service Volunteer Award after 50 years service. Edie did not win her category of Award but we were surprised and delighted to receive a Special Award for the charity as a whole. The judges told us afterwards that so many members of the charity had been nominated they felt that a Special Award was called for!

Thanks to Rugby FM and Warwickshire CAVA for their support and kind words at the ceremony – it was a great night!



Special Award
Winner 2014



Bluebell Lounge opened

The Bluebell Lounge has been designed for patients with confusion and/or dementia, their relatives, carers and accompanying staff members to come and take time out.

Specialist Nurse in Mental Health, Debbie Harris said:

“People who are confused find it difficult to settle whilst they are in hospital because everything seems so strange to them. I identified the need for a room like the Bluebell Lounge so that patients could have time away from clinical areas and this room is an ideal place as it has been designed to represent a family sitting room with many comforts of home.

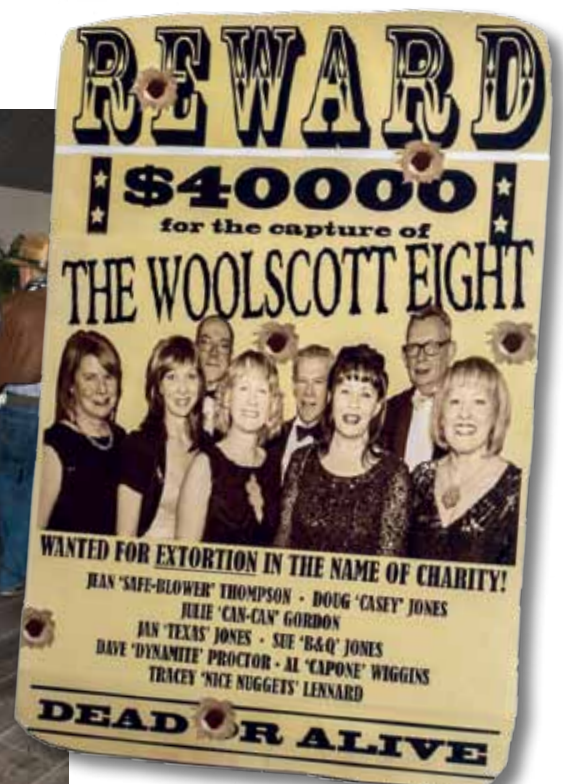


Hoe Down raises £2,820

Tracey Lennard and her team held the first ever Friends Wild West Hoe Down at Castle Keep in Woolscott. Not only did the team organise the event – they somehow found time to rehearse a superb demonstration dance which got the party into full swing.

Future events planned are Scenic Cruise & Pub Lunch – 30th August Songs from the Shows & Saturday Lunch – 11th October Flower Power III – 20th November

To book your ticket call Tracey Lennard on 01788 815788



Some suggestions of ways that you can support the Diamond Jubilee Appeal!

In launching the Appeal at the AGM, Chairperson, Heather Green said "We would like the entire community to engage in this appeal as it will benefit so many of them. Every penny will help make a difference – so if people would like to collect their spare 5ps or 20ps and bring them into us at the Help Desk – that would be terrific. Some people may like to hold Coffee Mornings at home or they could come to one of our fund -raising events or organise one of their own?"

The photos on the right may give you a few ideas.

London Calling recently hosted a pub quiz and raised £166. The Merchants Inn has told us that entry fees for the quiz they hold on the last Monday of the month from June onwards will be donated to The Friends.

Two of our supporters abseiled from the Dome of the West Orchard Centre in Coventry and raised £625 including Gift Aid. Supporters can join in all sorts of sponsored events throughout the year – or why not organise your own event – the more bizarre the better!?!

Rugby Dunsmore Rotary Club donated £2,000 and they have said that "this is only the start!" They have recently held a Golf Day and some of the proceeds from that will come to The Friends and they have invited runners to join in the Run for Rotary day at Draycote on the 28th of September – register at <http://rfr.1060.org.uk>

James Pak of Jamesway Travel has donated £500 as well as a £100 voucher for our Christmas Raffle and a £500 voucher which will be auctioned at next year's Black Tie Dinner and will be coming up with other ideas throughout the year.

Diamond Jubilee Committee member, Willy Goldschmidt said: "It is great to have such strong support for the appeal from business and community organisations and to see the variety of ways in which they have chosen to raise funds and both have said they will be thinking of others! We are keen to hear from other companies, clubs and societies from the town who wish to become involved. In particular, we would love to have a bumper set of prizes for this year's Christmas Raffle! If you would like to help please drop an email to Appeal@fsx.org.uk – we can arrange free 'roadshows' for any organisations, including schools, who would like to know more about The Friends.

We have also heard that Warwickshire Women's Bowls Association and Alstom Rugby have nominated us as their 'Charity of the Year' – many thanks to them and the others we are yet to hear from!

Readers can donate online at
www.localgiving.com/friendsdiamondjubilee



Follow progress on Facebook or our new website www.fsx.org.uk

This newsletter has been kindly designed and produced by the Coventry on behalf of the Friends of the Hospital, Brookfield House, Hospital of St. Cross, Barby Road, Rugby. CV22 5PX.

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