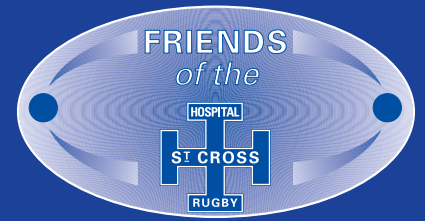


Friends' News

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



Issue No.15 November 2013

Equipment donations in 2013 top £103,000 – so far!

Over the years, we have supported virtually every department in the hospital. In the past five years average expenditure has been about £100,000 per year. This has only been possible due to the ongoing support and generosity of local people. This year has

been no exception, with donations of 6 low height beds with pressure-relieving mattresses and cushions for use throughout the hospital and 6 exercise bikes for cardiac rehab topping the list.

*Photo by Eddie White**



Long service awards presented at the AGM



*Photo by George Ballard**

The Annual General Meeting was held on 17th June within the Outpatients Department at the Hospital and was attended by 56 members of the public. Heather Green (Chairperson) welcomed the newly elected Mayor Councillor Tony Gillias.

During the meeting 5 Volunteers were acknowledged by the charity for their outstanding contribution over the past 15 years – Tony Cousins, Marilyn Watts, Judy Brooks, Jean White and Pam Fox. The Mayor awarded three certificates to those present on the evening who were Tony, Marylin and Judy.

Rugby Golf Club Ladies chip in

Not only was Lady Captain's day at Rugby Golf Club a great success, it was also the day when the 'pot' for FOHSC reached £1000!

The theme for Lady Captain's day was 'a celebration of the lady's section.' Old photos of past captains, players and competitions were on display and the Lady captain (Caroline Brown) and Mens' captain (Martin Weaver) dressed in costume to welcome the ladies.



Photo submitted by Caroline Brown

The Coventry Donation 2013

Over the past 6 years the Friends has received donations totalling £121,199 from Coventry Building Society in connection with the St Cross Saver accounts. A further donation will be presented after we have gone to press and the actual amount will be reported to the media and included in the next newsletter.

Many thanks to the people of Rugby who choose to hold savings in these accounts and to the Coventry for supporting us in this way.

Rugby Darts league hit double top



At the finals of the Rugby summer darts league, cheques for £1,000 were presented to the Friends of St Cross and Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) charities. The league is for mixed entries and is run during the summer to raise money for local charities.

*Photo by Bob Mercer**

2015 will be the Diamond Jubilee for the Friends. Since 1955 we have raised over £3 million. There are 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

**George Ballard, Bob Mercer, Navin Mistry and Eddie White are Friends volunteers and members of Dunchurch Photographic Society.*

Fund raising events over the last six months

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has supported our various fund raising events over the past six months.

The visit to the Battlefield Railway at Shackerstone, in August, was a new style of event enjoyed by a full coach load of friends and raised a 'Steamy' £750. Another 'sell out' event was the Fusion Spice night which featured fine Indian cuisine and a Bhangra dance demonstration and workshop. The event raised an amazing £3,399! A Christmas Cake decorating demo and mini fair will have added to the funds raised after we went to press.

Thank You to Tracey Lennard and her team who put a great deal of time and energy into planning these events.



Photo by Bob Mercer*

The Book Stall goes to Clock Towers

The first ever Friends of St Cross book sale in the Clock Towers Centre was a cracking success and raised a super £275 for the Friends' funds.

So many books were sold that we urgently need to re-stock our supply of good quality paperback books. If anyone has a few books to spare we would be glad to have them either at the Tea Bar in Out Patients or at our office in the Octopus Centre.



Photo by Eddie White*

Sponsored runs and stunts

We have joined forces with the UHCW Charity to provide an opportunity for local athletes to raise funds for our charities through guaranteed places in the London Marathon.

Details of this and other runs as well as opportunities to parachute and sky dive for the charities will be published on Facebook and our website in the coming months.

Do you use email or Facebook?

The committee is starting to look at increasing our use of email, the website and Facebook to improve how we engage with our volunteers and supporters and to 'spread the word' about all the good work that we do.

If you would like to receive information electronically then please drop a note to office@friendsofstcross.org.uk and include any suggestions for topics you would like to see or receive more about.

Christmas raffle and collections

BUY YOUR TICKET NOW FOR OUR FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Superb Hamper plus lots of other prizes to be won. Tickets available from the Tea Bar in the Out Patients at St. Cross or from any Committee Member or ring 01788 663754.

Thank You to Doris and her team who turned out at Tesco and Sainsbury's and will be pounding the streets doing house to house collections in the Spring.

If you can help with house to house collections or placing tins in the community please contact Doris on **01788 817659**.



Photo by Navim Mistry*

HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

The last edition of the newsletter informed you about the donation of 2 bladder scanners into the hospital costing £15,125. For this newsletter I thought it would be beneficial to give you an update on the scanners so that you can see what a real difference your support makes to our patients.

Both scanners were put into circulation shortly after donation, 1 based in Hoskyn Ward and the other in the Urgent Care Centre and are available to patients across the hospital. To date 81 members of staff have been trained in the use of the scanners and the interpretation of the results ensuring that scans are available 24/7, 365 days a year. The scanners have been used every day so far and give another dimension to the diagnostic assessments already performed enabling clinicians to make more informed decisions about treatment plans for individual patients.

In other news the Rugby Urgent Care Centre has now 'gone live' and is totally nurse-led with fully trained and competent Emergency Nurse Practitioners.

To end on a positive note, Mulberry Ward recently had an unannounced Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection looking into 2 outcomes 'Respecting and Involving people who use services' and 'Care and welfare of people who use services' and I am very pleased to let you know that the ward was found to be compliant in both outcomes. There are always issues we can improve on and the CQC highlighted a couple that we have already begun working on improving. The successful inspection is testament to the hard work that all of the staff put in at St. Cross and I am sure we would achieve the same positive outcome whichever department was inspected.

Juliet Starkey – Group Manager, Hospital of St. Cross.

Roadshows

Do you know of any organisation which might be interested in one of our talented Roadshow Volunteers going along to give a presentation, **FREE OF CHARGE**, on the history and current work of the Friends at

St. Cross and within Rugby's Community and Mental Health Services? If you do then please ask them to contact us through any of the methods below!