



# 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. 20 – November 2015

## The Diamond Jubilee Appeal is set to achieve double its target

By the end of October we had received over £115,000 and we are confident that other donations in the pipeline will help us exceed double our initial target of £60,000. As a result we have not only committed £130,000 to the project to relocate the Blood Taking Service but are already in discussions as to how we can add the extras that will make a difference to the hospital's plans for the expansion of Day Surgery and the new Children's Outpatients facility in the building previously occupied by the Pine Clinic.

This will only have been achieved through the fantastic support that the Appeal has received from all corners of the community which has been one of the key aims of the Appeal.



Rugby Benevolent Fund Group cheque presentation by Bob Mercer

In September we reported that the Appeal had benefited from a £20,000 grant from the Rugby Group Benevolent Fund. We were also privileged to have been chosen as the Mayor's Charity for 2014/15 and at our AGM following the end of his term of office Councillor Ramesh Srivastava presented the Appeal with a cheque for £5,150.

Just as important to us has been the success of the collection of 5p pieces which passed another milestone when Volunteer Jane Wood presented Heather Green with a 5p piece in a glass pig in celebration of Heather's idea which has raised £2,000 in 5p pieces! We plan to continue collecting this way for the foreseeable future!



Michelle Giles, Jane Wood, Heather Green and the glass pig!

Individual fundraisers are Jo Tyler who took on the 3 Peaks Challenge and Les New who has recovered from serious illness and is running in the Stratford Half Marathon, in November, alongside his son Lee-Anthony who ran two half marathons in aid of the Charity earlier in the year!



Jo Tyler 'planking' at the summit of Ben Nevis

Community fundraisers since the last newsletter include the Rugby Friendship Centre and the Ladies Prayer Group at the Rugby Indian Association which added to the support given by members of the public nominating and voting for the Friends at Asda and the Nationwide Building Society.

We have also enjoyed support from the business community. Avon Timber held a Corporate Golf day which raised £4,500. Several local businesses have contributed great prizes for the Christmas Raffle.



Avon Timber cheque presentation by Bob Mercer

The Appeal will continue until the end of the year but the work of the Charity will continue beyond then and it is our earnest hope that the momentum of the Appeal and the success of the Blood Taking Service Project will lead to continued support from the community.



Mayor's Charity cheque presentation by Bob Mercer

### Open Day

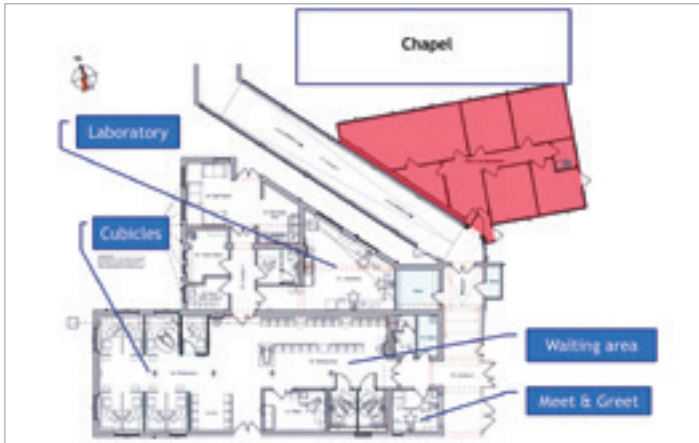
Work on the new Blood Taking Service location began in September and it is expected that work will be completed in November and so we are planning to hold an Open Day on **Saturday 12th December between 10 and 2** when Volunteers and Supporters can be shown round the new facility. Please call the Friends office on 01788 663754 to let us know if you plan to come along and celebrate the result of all your efforts.

**2015 is the Diamond Jubilee for the Friends. Since 1955 we have spent over £3 million on equipment and support for projects. We have no paid staff and all monies donated go directly to improving the experience of patients in Rugby**



Special Award  
Winner 2014

# Work on the new Blood Taking Unit is underway



New Blood Taking Unit in the "Old Mulberry ward/Medical Unit"

The old Central Sterile Services Department building and the Portakabin next to the Chapel have been demolished to make way for the entrance to the new unit.

Parking for the new unit will be on the top/North Road – currently signposted for deliveries and to the Midland Diving Chamber. There will be the same number of spaces as are presently provided outside the Day Surgery Entrance and this will be free for patients attending the Blood Taking Service.

There will be a meet and greet reception and the waiting area will be adjacent to the cubicles. Patients will be asked to sit in vacant cubicles which will be much more efficient than the Phlebotomists having to wait on patients coming from the waiting area as at present.

More pictures of the progress of the project can be found on our Facebook page.



Demolition of the CSSD building on 15th September



The Portakabin next to the Chapel has gone!



Portering chair by Navin Mistry

## The Friends equipment donations continue to make a difference

Due to the success of the Appeal we have been able to continue fulfilling requests for equipment and here are photos of some of these. Help desk volunteers spotted that there was a shortage of portering chairs and so the Friends supplied an extra two! When Dermatology asked for a bariatric treatment plinth we bought one for Physiotherapy as well! The Orchard Centre requested a hover mattress in order to help safely move patients from their own bed

to a hospital bed supplied for use at home. When the Children's Out Patients moved temporarily to Hawthorn ward we supplied a stadiometer which will improve the accuracy of measuring patient height which is key to prescribing the correct dosage of medicines. We expect further requests now that the department is in its permanent new location in the former Pine Unit (near the Day Surgery entrance).



Bariatric and standard treatment plinths by Navin Mistry



Hover mattress for the Orchard Centre team courtesy of SWFT NHS Turst



Stadiometer for Children's Out Patients by Navin Mistry



# Mary Lock meets Prince Edward at the Battle of Britain Commemoration

Mary is a member of the Civil Defence Association (CDA) and she is believed to be the only surviving member of the association from Coventry and as such, she was invited to St Paul's Cathedral to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. She was greeted there by Sir Neil Thorne, representing the CDA, to whom she emphasised that she was, in truth, there representing her comrades in the CDA. They were often in her mind as the day unfolded.



Mary Lock and Prince Edward in conversation



Mary was escorted by Sir Neil Thorne OBE TD DL

After the very moving Service at St Paul's, Sir Neil escorted Mary to the Guildhall where she was introduced to Prince Edward. The photo of them in conversation is very telling, both of the Prince but also of Mary. It shows the deep interest he took in her story of the Coventry Fire Guard. It also conveys the importance to her of ensuring the memory of her Coventry colleagues was recognised on the day. 92 year old Mary continues her voluntary service to this day as a member of the Friends of St Cross. She regularly staffs the Tea bar in the hospital and also helps serve tea in the staff room in Out Patients.



The Coventry Fire Guard instructors, 1944



Mary in her instructor's uniform



Asda shopping trolley handover by Eddie White



In store collection at Sainsbury's by George Ballard

## Local supermarkets support the Friends

ASDA held a customer ballot to select the winner of a £200 donation from the Asda Foundation. The response from customers and staff was amazing as the ballot box was filled to the brim! ASDA also donated a shopping trolley for use by the Book Sales Team at St Cross.

Tony Cousins, Vice-President of the Charity, explained "The trolley will replace the old and rickety trolley we use to move books from the storeroom we have in one part of the hospital down to the Help Desk in Out Patients. A wide selection of second hand books are on display when the Help Desk is

open between 10 & 12 and between 2 & 4 every Monday to Friday, other than Bank Holidays. The books are unpriced but we ask for a minimum donation of 50p! This has become an increasingly popular method of fundraising and we hope to raise £2,000 in 2015! We welcome donations of paperbacks and children's books in good condition. Unfortunately hardbacks are less popular!"

We have also held in-store collections at Sainsbury's and Tesco where customers were interested to hear about the progress of the Appeal and see the plan for the new Blood Taking unit.

**Volunteers are always needed - We regularly have requests to operate new services or expand those that we currently operate. If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a trustee of the charity contact [volunteer@fsx.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@fsx.org.uk).**

## Legacy boost for the Appeal

The late Ken Chandler recently left a legacy to the Rokeby Lodge with instructions that the Lodge distribute the funds to charitable causes and the Lodge, presented the Friends with a cheque for £1,000 which they asked should be added to the Friends Diamond Jubilee Appeal.

The presentation party included Ken's daughter Elaine who said "my father would have been delighted to hear about the Appeal and the project to relocate the Blood Taking Service. I am also very pleased that his legacy is being put to such good use."

Over the years approximately half of the Friends income has come from legacies and it is great to hear of the pleasure that this gift has given to Ken Chandler's daughter Elaine.

Supporters who wish to leave a legacy to the charity should consult their solicitor in order to ensure that their wishes are recorded in a will.



Rokeby Lodge cheque presentation by Navin Mistry

## The Diamond Jubilee Ball raised a record £5,105



The Fundraising Sub-committee by Jamie Gray

The Fundraising team held another hugely successful Black Tie Dinner Dance in the summer. Many thanks to Tracey and the team who put so much into this and the other events they organise. Next up is the Christmas concert!



## Hospital Management Report

St Cross has seen a number of exciting developments since the last newsletter not least of which is the relocation of the new Children's Outpatient department into its final home. This is a change which has allowed the paediatric team to increase not only the amount of clinics that they hold at Rugby but also the number of clinicians attending the clinic. This is very important as it means that a number of patients will be able to access the healthcare professionals that they need to see in one visit without the need to come back.

At last I am really pleased to be able to report that we have completed the much waited for demolition works on some of the old buildings at the top end of the site. Knocking these buildings down has really opened up the chapel and staff are commenting on the improvement that its made. Some of these works are to support the phlebotomy project which is really coming along nicely now.

We have been particularly pleased to have begun operating on a wider variety of different surgical procedures over the last few months as part of a plan to capitalise on St Cross as an elective centre for UHCW. We have been operating on Ear Nose and Throat patients successfully since April 2015 and are always looking to expand our case mix where safe and appropriate to do so and to that end we further increased our repertoire last week undertaking yet another new (to us anyway!) procedure. This and various other initiatives has meant that as at the end of September, we have seen an increase of 11.45% in the total number of cases undertaken at St Cross this year to date, from the same time period last year. The challenge is to keep this up over the winter months but it is an excellent foundation on which to work.

\* Photos were taken by Friends volunteers and supporters. Bob Mercer, Eddie White, George Ballard and Navin Mistry are also members of Dunchurch Photographic Society.