

Friends of North Somerset Community Hospital

NEWSLETTER (Feb) 2019

First we would like to wish all our Friends a belated Happy New Year. In these times of economic uncertainty, we bring you some positive news on the hospital front.

Following the re-opening of the inpatients last year, the hospital continues to perform well. Early last year Healthwatch carried out an inspection of the Clevedon facility's Minor Injuries Unit (MIU). The charity carries out visits to social care and NHS-funded services to judge the quality of care. It reported that all patients were seen within the time frames indicated on the whiteboard in reception.

In May Healthwatch carried out a Patient-Led Assessment of the Care Environment visit and the hospital received a 100 % cleanliness rating. The watchdog also rated the unit's dementia friendliness as 98 %, an 8% increase on the previous report's findings. The unit provides intensive therapy as well as 24 hour nursing support to enable patients who have ongoing rehabilitation needs to move out of an acute hospital bed as soon as they are medically well enough to do so.

This autumn health bosses dismissed concerns over the future of the hospital after documents suggested it could be closed and redeveloped for housing. But NHSPS (NHS Property Services) reported that it has no intention of selling the hospital to developers unless it is deemed redundant by the NHS commissioning body. North Somerset Community Partnership has assured patients that a hospital will remain in Clevedon for the "foreseeable future."

The Cardiology clinic will be extending from once a fortnight to weekly. Current clinics include Musculoskeletal, Physiotherapy, Neurology, Heart Function, Gynaecology, Audiology, Podiatry, Cardiology, Parkinsons, Frailty, Orthopaedics, Renal, Bladder and Bowel and Falls. Potentially there will also be an Orthopaedic Fracture Clinic in the near future. In the pipeline the hospital is trying to secure a specialist orthopaedic hand and foot clinic and a dermatology clinic.

The Friends have agreed to fund the leg ulcer clinic at St. Andrews Church Hall for another year, either by covering their rent or supplying an agency nurse – yet to be decided.

The Little Tea Pot is continuing to provide a good income and is a much-needed facility. However, the roof leaks, it is too small and is in need of so many repairs that a new replacement conservatory is planned. An architect has kindly offered his services free but some complications have arisen as it is now having to be viewed as commercial premises, which might hold things up

The Friends have committed to a figure to cover the conservatory and the base. Matt Croughan has also managed to obtain some excellent furniture for the new conservatory from a closing down café in Bristol. It will be open on a daily basis from 9.00 to 4.00. It will also be open for use for patient group meetings out of clinic hours.

The Little Teapot had an unannounced Walk In Food Hygiene Inspection from the Council on 31st January and were awarded a 5 which is the highest rating and there was a footnote to say that the staff should be commended on their efforts. Congratulations to all involved. Their efforts made #4995 for the hospital last year.

On a glorious day, 24th September, the Friends held a golf day at Clevedon Golf Club where £3,328 was raised for the hospital. Our thanks to the teams competing, our sponsors: Stowells, Round Table, Neighbourhood Watch, Wards Solicitors, John West Contractors, Steven Smith, NSCP, Britannia Windows, PACT, Junior Poon, the Elton Family, Clevedon Medical Centre, Essential Computing, Squarestone, Howdens, and Wayside Garage. We would also like to thank all those Clevedon restaurants, and shops who kindly donated raffle prizes for this event.

Purchases for the hospital to the end of October totalled just under #15,000 And included Phlebotomy chairs \$1,100, lounge fittings nearly #2000 and a variety of Other necessary equipment over #12,000.

The Friends also provided the Christmas tree which was kindly donated by Shoplands. It was so large that we had to buy more baubles and lights! As usual we provided presents for the inpatients over the Christmas period and also Christmas goodies for the staff in both Inpatients and Outpatients.

This May our Chairman Di Brown is standing down after a very successful 12 years as Fundraiser and five years in the Chair. We would like to welcome our new Chairman David Fife . David has been an active committee member for more than 25 years and will make a brilliant Chair.

Finally, the Committee of the Friends of the hospital would like to thank all those who have become a Friend for their continued support. Anyone wishing to volunteer for providing tea and coffee for visitors and outpatients at The Little Tea Pot please contact Bernie Micklewright on 01934 4416486 or 07950 228227.

Our AGM is planned for 13th May at the Community Centre in Princes Road, Room 2 7.00.p.m. for coffee/tea. Meeting commences 7.30. We look forward to seeing you there.

Should you receive this Newsletter and not want it please let us know or if it arrives At your address for people who have moved please notify us by phoning Sylvia Longman on 01275 544039.

