

Friends of North Somerset Community Hospital

Newsletter

February 2022



Dear Friends

We wish you all a safe and healthy 2022. Hopefully we are in a better place than we were this time last year. *The Friends* continue with their regular zoom meetings.

The big news this year is the opening of our new onsite tea room which replaces the old 'Little Teapot'

After five years of trading as a tea room and 27 years of existence the conservatory building was becoming very tired and unfit for use so the decision was made to replace it! The new build has been fully funded by *The Friends* of the Hospital with some incredibly generous donations of materials and precious time by other companies and individuals. After several delays due to Covid and a shortage of materials, the building is now nearing completion. Our intention is for it to be open 9-5pm Monday to Friday and hopefully weekends too. This will require additional volunteers to make tea and coffee and serve patients while they wait. Our advertisement in 'Clevedon Living' resulted in many people contacting us and we now have about 20 volunteers who will receive training ready for the re-opening of ***The Little Teapot***.



The photo of the near completed building above shows the new spacious and airy facility, for patients and carers while they wait for their appointments.

Due to Covid, the number of people allowed inside the outpatients building has been severely restricted and patients and their support have had to wait outside until called. The facility will provide a warm dry building where hot and cold drinks and legendary homemade cakes can be purchased.

We are currently still looking for some additional volunteers to work in it so if anyone is interested they should contact the Minor Injury Unit on 01275 546852 who will arrange a call back to answer any questions you might have. As the volunteer will be working on NHS premises there is a requirement to complete some simple training modules and help will be given with these.

The Friends also recently funded a pager system, which, once booked in, enables people to wait outside in the fresh air or in their car safe in the knowledge they will not miss their turn in the queue.

Thank you time ☺

We would like to thank **John West Contractors** as the main building contractor, **Britannia Windows Clevedon** for providing the windows, doors, roof and fitting at cost price; **Howdens Clevedon** for donating all the kitchen and appliances; **Grant Cherrington and Luke Holland from DC Construct** in Clevedon for fitting the kitchen and **Jim Heal from Rudge Brothers and James (RBJ Flooring)** for kindly supplying and fitting the flooring, counter front and kitchen splashback free of charge; We also received a cheque from **Ben Hazeldine** for £1,910 representing proceeds from a Vibe re-union/end of lockdown party which he organised at the Community Centre where three local DJ's - **C.J. Haslow, Will Summers and Mikee Freedom** - gave their time without charge. **Lesley Payne and her colleagues at Lloyds Bank Clevedon and Portishead** who, along with match funding from Lloyds, donated £1958.66. Thanks also go to **Matt Mills at Clevedon United Junior Football Club** for donating £507 which were the proceeds of a raffle in aid of the hospital as their chosen charity of the year. Thanks also go to **The Freshwater Angling Club** who raised £301.75 with their Fishing Competition and **Clevedon Yeo Rotary** who presented £125 from the proceeds of the Open Gardens Scheme. Christmas joy in the shape of a beautiful tree was once again kindly donated by **Shoplands Sawmills** in Clevedon. If there is anyone we have missed out then please accept our apologies and our gratitude. Thanks also go to those who left us legacies, which have us enabled to start planning an extension to the Minor Injury Unit.

Hospital Update

The Minor Injury Unit (MIU) has been very busy with all patients with minor injuries that go to A&E in Weston now being redirected to Clevedon for assessment and treatment. The attendance numbers for the MIU have grown from 16,000 in 2019/20 to over 20,000 in 2021/22. A preliminary meeting has been held regarding a proposed MIU extension and *The Friends* are now in discussion with Sirona care & health (the healthcare provider) to part fund this. If you are ever unsure where to go for treatment you can ring 111 for advice and guidance.

The Outpatient Department continues to operate albeit slightly reduced from previous years due to social distancing and managing the flow of patients. Clinics cover Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Musculoskeletal, Heart Function, Parkinson's, Neurology, Catheter Clinic, Bladder and Bowel.

The Elton Rehabilitation Unit. The rehab unit continues to be extremely busy and the team are working hard to ensure that patients are able to be admitted and discharged in a timely but safe manner; there is never an empty bed for long! The patients have enjoyed watching the progress on the Little Teapot build from the day room windows.

The Unit was full for the Christmas period and we are extremely grateful to *The Friends* for the Christmas presents that they kindly provided – they really were appreciated by all the patients.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a walk in inspection in December of 2021 and was very complimentary during their review of the Hospital and the MIU. The service retained its 'Good' rating and the official report was released publically on February 9th.

As well as the Cafe build *The Friends* have recently funded 2 new patients' trolleys, some patient chairs, two clinical observation machines and a bladder scanner.

Anyone wishing to become a member of *The Friends* or if you just want to ask a question, you can reach us via e-mail: friendsofnsch@gmail.com or visit our website at www.friendsofnscommunityhospital.org.uk You can also follow our Facebook page for updates through the year.

This year's AGM will be Tuesday May 10th at 7pm in The Little Teapot ☺