

Friends of North Somerset Community Hospital

Newsletter February 2024



We would like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year.

The Friends continue to support the hospital with much needed items and below we list the 2023 support given by us with the help of kind donations from the local community.

Following the 30th anniversary event at Junior Poons restaurant in December 2022 raising £7,805 the hospital was able to purchase two ECG machines one for the Minor Injury Unit and one for the Elton Rehabilitation Unit and these were presented by Junior to the Hospital and accepted by David, the Chair of the Friends, in May 2023.

Following a presentation to the Friends by Tony Gill, resident NHS Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist, it was agreed by all to fund the request for a new high end Ultrasound machine. The current equipment is not able to show the user the high level of detail necessary to avoid further referrals and cannot be used for more in-depth reviews and/or injection guidance. It was agreed the new machine would provide a better quality of service and would avoid patients having to travel and reduce more costly outside referrals.

The Friends have also agreed to support the provision of a temporary building as a staff room and a storeroom due to the ever increasing patient numbers to the site and this has arrived and been installed.

The Friends also funded two Dynamap blood pressure monitors one for the Elton Rehabilitation Unit and one for the Minor Injury Unit and an ophthalmoscope for patient assessment along with a new wheelchair. The Friends have also agreed to purchase 12 new waiting room chairs, fund the repair of a patient examination couch and purchase some colouring and drawing sets for waiting children along with two large patient information display screens for the waiting rooms and some new Christmas decorations for the outside Christmas tree. Shoplands Sawmills of Clevedon once again kindly donated the beautiful Christmas tree that adorned the front lawn of the hospital this year spreading joy to the town. The Friends also purchased some furniture for the hospital staff room.

The Friends also funded five two-seater picnic benches, one of which is adapted for wheelchair users. The benches are made from recycled material and so will not require maintenance and will serve the hospital for an extremely long time. These will be particularly useful for patients waiting in the warmer weather.

The Clevedon Mens' Shed have also renovated some beautiful cast iron benches and some original hardwood benches to add to the site and are very well used indeed.

Donations from outside organisations through the year have included £200 from the Southey Masonic Lodge; £1,126 from the Bedford Players following their "Stage and Screen The Comeback". £384 from Lesley Payne and Lloyds Bank Portishead and £364 from Slimming World Nailsea also matched by Lloyds Bank. Many thanks to these organisations for their support.

The Hospital was chosen to be one of the beneficiaries from funds raised by the Christchurch Christmas Tree festival competition and so the Minor Injury Unit team delivered a rather unique Covid inspired tree for their display made from (out of date) PPE gloves and won first prize!

The Minor Injury Unit (MIU) has continued to grow in patient numbers with well over 20,000 injured patients receiving treatment so far in the year 2023/24 and with two months left to go of the year. They have also implemented a new Pharmacy referral system for anyone that presents with certain minor illnesses as the MIU is only for injuries and so illness or medical issues will be redirected appropriately. They have received many hundreds of cards and letters of thanks over the year which is great for staff morale.

The Elton Rehabilitation Unit has seen the number of patients successfully supported and discharge back to their own homes increase this year which is wonderful and they have recently recruited two new ward Sisters to the unit who are very much enjoying their new roles. Patients and relatives of the Elton Unit have also enjoyed the Little Teapot facility.

The Outpatient service on the first floor has the following clinics running: Musculoskeletal; Physiotherapy; Podiatry; Heart Function; Gynaecology; Audiology; Parkinsons; Neurology; Long Covid; Continence service (Bladder & Bowel); Catheter Clinic; Wound care; Ear wax removal (Imperial Hearing and Meadows & Wood). It also still houses the Out of Hours GP service in the evening and weekends operated by Brisdoc and accessed only via the 111 phonenumber. It is not a walk-in GP service.

The Little Teapot café had a successful year and there are enough volunteers registered to run it allowing the opening to be extended to Saturday mornings. The benefit to patients and visitors to the site is immeasurable and the volunteers receive huge amounts of positive feedback from its patrons. The legal transfer of the Little Teapot from The Friends to NHS Property Services is in process.

Sadly, a past Chairman of the Friends, Mary House, passed away in early November. The funeral was attended by several of the Friends Committee and hospital staff where a beautiful service was held in St. Mary's Church, Walton St. Mary.

We now have 418 followers on our Facebook page where you can keep up to date with the work of the Friends. (North Somerset Community Hospital Friends).

The Friends would like to thank all the hospital staff for all the hard work they have put in. The hospital provides a very efficient, friendly and much loved service to the residents of North Somerset and is appreciated by all who use the facilities. The Friends will continue to do all they can to facilitate improvements in services as patients prefer to be treated at their local hospital wherever possible.

Finally, we thank the members for their continued support and send notice that we will be holding the **AGM of the Friends on Tuesday 7th May at 7pm** in The Little Teapot café on the hospital site. Members of the public are welcome, particularly anyone interested in helping on the committee.

More information from the Chair David Fife at friendsofnsch@gmail.com