



Friends' News

Newsletter of the Friends of St Cross

We support The Hospital of St Cross, Rugby
and the local community and mental health services



Issue No. 25 – May 2018



Befriending initiative attracts new volunteers

In early December we launched an initiative under the headline "No-one should be alone at Christmas" and we invited the community to volunteer to visit patients who were unlucky enough to be in St Cross over the Festive Season!

We received some 50 offers to attend on over 150 occasions during the Festive Period. Feedback from befrienders, patients and staff was very positive and we have been able to recruit a number of new volunteers who are now visiting the wards on a regular basis.

Children's Outpatients has become more child friendly

The Friends have provided a buggy park so that the waiting room is no longer congested with children's push chairs. A new play area is used when children are waiting in between appointments at the unit. There is also a new patient hoist and other equipment for the unit.

Since the move to the stand alone building near the Day Surgery Entrance, the number of clinics being offered at St Cross has increased considerably and are now on par with the Children's Out Patients services at University Hospital

The next steps for the unit are to decorate the various rooms and it is hoped that we can work with one or two schools to come up with some design briefs that will appeal to the diverse group of patients!



We have some 200 volunteers and no paid staff. Since 1955 we have spent over £3.5 million on equipment and support for projects and all monies donated go directly to improving the experience of patients in Rugby





Other equipment donations

A wide range of new equipment has been donated and put into use in recent months to improve the patient experience!

The Flexible Outpatient Cystoscopy Urogynaecology Service (FOCUS) is a new service for women in Coventry and Warwickshire which is based in the Owen Building at St Cross and means that patients no longer have to travel to University Hospital in Coventry for a procedure that requires general anaesthesia and an overnight stay in hospital.

A new support donated to the team who perform knee replacement surgery at St Cross will help the service undertake even more procedures and improves the patient experience. Thanks to this, the surgical team can now quickly and accurately position the patient's leg prior to and during the operation as it is easy to use and requires less setting up time.

An office in the Dermatology department at the Hospital has been converted into a clinic room so that the team of consultants can expand and see more patients at the same time. Until the Friends donated a dermatoscope, an examination couch and a dressings trolley the consultants had to share equipment between the three clinic rooms which was causing hold ups in appointments!

Children with autistic spectrum disorders and complex needs are benefiting from the latest donation of Paediatric toys to the Community Service at the Orchard Centre. These provide a wider range of therapy activities for children and help inform parents in how to support their children's language and communication by developing strategies that include commenting and gesturing alongside play.

Patients recovering from a stroke or brain injury can now benefit from specialist rehabilitation services using a muscle stimulator at home. This is a new service for patients in Rugby and is part of an Early Discharge Team initiative.



Fantastic support from across the community enables us to continue to make a difference



Thanks to the support and generosity of the many holders of a savings account which supports the Friends of St Cross, the Charity has received another massive donation from the Coventry Building Society. This is the eleventh donation which the Society has made and takes the total that the Friends have received this way to an amazing £216,293.

The Friends were involved in lots of fundraising activity over the before and after the Festive Season!

A Carol Service at Castle Keep raised over £1,220 and the annual Christmas Raffle raised over £2,000 for the third year running. Other events include a Quiz Night (£750) an Open Day at Castle Farm Equestrian (£1,222) and a Latin American evening at the Tuning Fork (£900).

The Rotary Club of Rugby Dunsmore donated £580 from their share of the proceeds of a carol concert, held in Dunchurch, and the 2017 Rotary Spring Fair.

A dinner dance held in the Indian Community Centre raised £500 with another £500 of matching funds promised from GE!

Rugby's Biker/Triker Charity Group donated a share of the proceeds from BBQs for the Friends to use for equipment for the Joan Cox Diabetes Centre at St Cross.

The Victoria Inn of Lower Hillmorton Road named the Friends as their charity of the Year 2018.

The Ladies of Hannover Gardens raised a magnificent £800 from their annual Easter sale of works, bric a brac, tea and cakes.

In addition, the charity continues to receive massive support from individual supporters who either make one off donations, often in memory of departed relatives and friends, or through regular contributions or undertaking sponsored activities! Supporters can also donate some or all of the proceeds of sales on eBay!



Volunteer News



The annual Christmas buffet lunch was a great opportunity for volunteers from all the organisations who support the hospital to meet informally and be thanked by members of the UHCW executive team for all that they do.

This year we launched a new service with volunteers who are running bingo sessions in the Ash Dialysis Unit which are much appreciated by the patients.

We currently have a number of forthcoming vacancies on the Tea Bar service as several volunteers wish to retire after many years of service!

BREAKING NEWS...

Doris Froggatt, who has been a trustee of the Charity for 21 years, received the Long Service Volunteer Pride of Rugby Award on the 11th of May! Doris is stepping down as a trustee but is continuing to volunteer for various services!



Hospital Management Report

We're coming to my favourite time of the year where the sun is shining (well mostly) which always showcases what a great location the Hospital of St Cross is.

Those of you who have visited the Outpatient Department in the last month or so will have seen the lovely artwork we've had commissioned to the children's waiting area and the main Outpatient waiting area. This has really brightened the space up and along with the new chairs will, we hope, improve the experience for our patients whilst they are waiting for their clinic appointment.

Continuing that theme albeit on a slightly different note, we have recently upgraded the Dermatology Minor Operations treatment room to enable more complex surgery to take place. This supports our continued plans to expand the range of services we are able to offer at St Cross.

In January I was very proud to be part of a team from the Bowel Cancer Screening service based at the heart of the hospital to donate ten pints of blood (between us not individually!) and give something back to the NHS. The team took the opportunity to put a spotlight on the screening programme by setting up an information stand at the blood donation drive.



Juliet Starkey, Group Manager - Hospital of St Cross & Trauma & Orthopaedics.