



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. 21 – May 2016

The Diamond Jubilee Appeal and Project outstanding success



The final total raised for the Appeal was a staggering £128,038 – more than double the original target of £60,000!

One of the highlights of the Appeal was the Gala Proms Concert given by Bilton Silver Band and the Male Voice Choirs from Rugby, Coventry, Wigston and Northampton. The event was held in the Temple Speech Room and was attended by over 600 who raised a fabulous £7,000 shared between the Appeal and Tedworth House, the Charity supported by the joint organisers of the event the Rotary Club of Rugby Dunsmore.

The Appeal attracted support from all corners of the community and we are delighted to hear that many groups have decided to continue fund raising for the Charity in 2016. These include the Rugby Male Voice Choir who are holding a Spring Concert in May and the ladies of Hanover Gardens who have been holding table sales throughout the year!



A new Fundraising Co-ordinating Team has been established to work with these groups and others such as the Rotary Club as well as our own Doris Froggatt and Tracey Lennard who have raised so much over the years. Other fundraisers, towards the end of the year, included two carol concerts, the annual



Christmas Raffle and the UHCW Jingle Jog all of which exceeded expectations! The Friends Blood Taking unit has been hailed as an outstanding success with praise coming from patients and staff. Read more about this on page 2

Annual General Meeting

will be held in the

Benn Hall at 6:30 on Tuesday 28th June

Special Guest Speakers

Debbie Harris, Specialist Mental Nurse Health

Juliet Hancox Chief Operating Officer at the Coventry
and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group.

Volunteers, supporters and members of the public are **all**
welcome to attend.

Light refreshments will be available at the end of the meeting.

We ask that all who intend to come let us know by email to office@fsx.org.uk
or call 01788 663754 so that we know how many to cater for!

The Charity won the Team of the Year Award at the Pride of Rugby Celebrations



We have over 200 volunteers and no paid staff. Since 1955 we have spent over £3.25 million on equipment and support for projects and all monies donated go directly to improving the experience of patients in Rugby



Special Award
Winner 2014

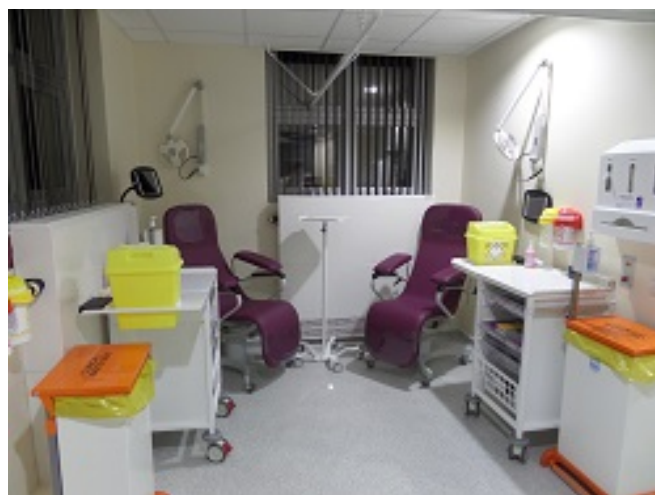
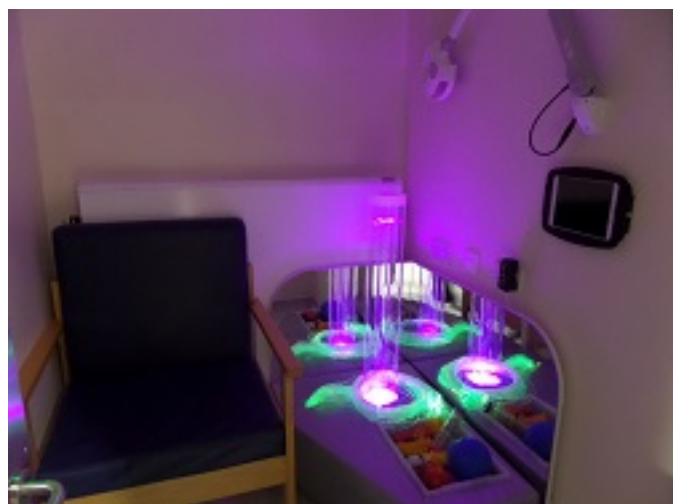
The Friends Blood Taking Unit is open and a great success

The staff are enjoying working in a much improved facility and have delivered a reduction in patient waiting times whilst coping with an increase in demand. Compared with October and November last year attendance in January and February is up 28% (from 287 per day to 368) and the percentage of patients who have had their blood taken within 15 minutes of registration has gone up from 53% to 72%!



This has been a great team effort with the Trust funding the major building works, the Friends donating £100,000 towards the internal refurbishment and a further £33,241 for the new equipment used in the unit and of course the staff themselves who have adapted to new ways of working enabled by the project.

A feature of the new facility is the Sensory Cubicle where nervous patients are helped to relax with a light show and a range of other equipment. A letter received not long after the unit opened says it all! "I would like to send a big thank you to the nurses at the blood taking unit at St Cross. I visited on [a] Friday afternoon with my 8 year old daughter who was extremely nervous about the procedure. The nurses were amazing and caring and the sensory room really helped to make her experience a positive one."



Other equipment donated to the Hospital

During 2015 a total of £51,100 was spent on equipment over and above the £133,241 committed to the Friends Blood Taking Unit. Here are some of the items we bought!



Staff from Mulberry Ward gathered together to thank the Friends of St Cross for a number of donations which will make a real difference to the patient rehabilitation experience on Oak and Mulberry Wards.

The team are pictured in part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Rehabilitation Centre which is at the end of Mulberry ward and has recently been decorated with a mural on the walls which carries through to etchings on the windows which transform the ambience of the area. The mural was funded by the Friends and created by Midlands based artist Lynne Hollingsworth, and brings the outside in with flower designs, beautiful window frostings and even a hidden squirrel affectionately named Lee. Mulberry's dayroom is now the ideal spot for patients to enjoy arts, reminiscence and afternoon tea with the ward's activity coordinator.

The Dermatology Service delivered at the Hospital of St Cross is expanding thanks to the enthusiasm of the team and the Trust for delivering more services locally and the support of the Friends of St Cross who have donated two new pieces of equipment.

A special light can be used to shine a bright, focussed light on the area of skin which is to be treated by the team. In addition, a specialist cauterisation tool enables the team to perform a wider range of delicate procedures which involve rapidly sealing small blood vessels in areas being treated.



Staff in Cedar ward have taken delivery of bedside chairs with different leg lengths ready for the ward to expand with an additional 6 beds which will open in the Spring.



Special software is being used in the Bluebell Lounge to stimulate elderly patients with Reminiscences of the 1950's and 1960s.

Dialysis patients now have improved seating whilst they await treatment or patient transport!



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.

Tea Bar and Book Sales top £12,000

Volunteers who staff the Tea Bar and Help Desks will be delighted to hear that not only are their friendly services much appreciated by patients and staff but they have raised a record £12,153 in 2015!

The Coventry St Cross Saver provides another boost



Thanks to the support and generosity of the many holders of the St Cross Saver Account the Friends of St Cross have received another massive donation from the Coventry Building Society.

For the past eight years the Coventry has donated 1% of the average value of the total held in St Cross Savers accounts and the cheque last year was for a massive £18,163 taking the total that the Friends have received this way to an amazing £171,725.

The Fundraising team have great plans for 2016

The Fundraising team have already sold out the Black Tie Dinner Dance in the summer and have planned more events. Many thanks to Tracey and the team who put so much into this and the other events they organise.

Join the FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. CROSS for ...

A BOSTIN' DAY BY BUZ UP THE BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

SATURDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

TICKETS £32 (OAPs £30) - COACH WILL DEPART FROM ST. CROSS AT 9am PROMPT
and return to St. Cross at approximately 5.15pm!

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES:

- FREE PARKING AT ST. CROSS
- RETURN COACH FARE
- ENTRANCE TO THE BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM
- SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY TALK
- 45-MINUTE TUNNEL BOAT TRIP UP THE CUT!

AND ENTER OUR FANTASTIC PRIZE RAFFLE!

TAKE A PICNIC, OR HOT FOODS & SNACKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON SITE!

LIMITED NUMBER OF COACH PLACES AVAILABLE - TO BOOK PLEASE CALL 01788 815788

FRIENDS OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. CROSS proudly present ...

IT'S SHOWTIME

SONGS FROM THE SHOWS with CAVATINA

SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER at CASTLE FARM - TICKETS £10 - DOORS OPEN 7pm for 7.30pm

From The Phantom of the Opera to Les Misérables, ABBA to the Beatles, colourful and captivating local choir Cavatina will be on song with the popular classics everyone loves - plus a few surprises!

PRIZE RAFFLE & LICENSED BAR

TO BOOK YOUR SEAT PLEASE CALL TRACEY LENNARD ON 01788 815788

Hospital Management Report

Previously I have shared with you our progress on increasing the elective (pre-booked) theatre activity at the Hospital of St Cross and this newsletter is going to be no exception. The initiatives put into place over the last year are now well established. The end result is a fabulous increase of 10.3% in the total number of surgical procedures undertaken at St Cross throughout 2015/16 from the previous year. This means that more patients have been able to receive their elective surgery at our hospital. In addition to this we have seen a whopping improvement of 17.6% in the number of theatre lists starting on time, which has a real impact on anxious patients sat waiting on the wards for their operation.

The hospital grounds have had a little bit of a makeover recently with the installation of a fully-accessible bus stop at the front of Outpatients. We have been working towards this for some time so it was lovely to see the plans finally come to fruition. We've also had a complete update to the external lighting across the site with the installation of energy-efficient LED bulbs which have a better quality of light distribution although it may be next winter before we really get to see the benefit of these works! Finally, it would be remiss of me not to draw your attention to the 'much awaited' new phlebotomy car park currently in development at the front of the Friends Blood Taking Unit. This will create additional spaces exclusively for patients of the unit, including a number of disabled spaces. Patients having blood tests will continue to get free parking for up to 30 minutes.

It doesn't end here though - we are fully committed to seeing the continued development of the Hospital of St Cross and look forward to sharing some of our ideas with you in the coming months...

Juliet Starkey, Group Manager - Hospital of St Cross.

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

This newsletter has been kindly designed and produced by the Coventry Building Society on behalf of the Friends of the Hospital of St Cross, Brookfield House, Hospital of St. Cross, Barby Road, Rugby. CV22 5PX.

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