



The League of Friends

OF THE ROYAL SHREWSBURY HOSPITAL

Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2020/21

Dear Member,

Since I last wrote to you my how things have changed! however one thing that has stayed constant is the continued support and generosity of so many people and as a charity we feel very lucky. As well as all the wonderful donations we also received many offers to provide PPE and gifts for the hospital staff's wellbeing hub, which has all been greatly appreciated.

During the first few months of lockdown the Friends responded quickly to an urgent request from the Trust to fund ten portable monitoring modules for patients needing vital signs monitoring within the critical care unit, these monitors are detachable but retain patient details and will allow continual full monitoring during transfer to theatres or ITU. This transfer activity increased in the Critical care areas due to the Coronavirus.

Most recently we have approved funding for specialised equipment for the Urology department who wants to transform the way that it treats patients with enlarged prostate by converting their treatment from an in-patient procedure (2-3 days admission) to a procedure carried out in Day Surgery. The quality of the patient's care will be improved by reducing the number of side effects, the risk of complications and the need for blood transfusions. This is a new service and very few Hospital Trusts offer this treatment which uses the very latest surgical technology and we are proud to give our support to this important new service which will help to save more lives.

Due to the hard work of Shop Manager Lee, his assistant Lynn and their marvellous team North shop has remained open every day which was welcomed and much appreciated by the NHS staff. Lynn has been keeping in touch with all our over 70's volunteers and those with underlying health conditions and who are all very keen to return; we are most certainly missing seeing their smiling faces and look forward to when we can welcome them all back.

The Fundraising committee as always had some marvellous events planned for the summer months but of course due to the circumstances they could not go ahead; however this wonderful group of ladies still managed to raise £5,000 by holding garden events, plant and cakes sales and would you believe a variety of online exercise classes organised with the energetic team of fitness instructors from Rowton Castle Country Club, this event proved to be a great success and we, along with numerous waistlines, were very grateful for their support.

Without a crystal ball, none of us know what the next six months has in store for us all, but what I can predict is that the LoF will be here representing your kindness and generosity by continuing to support our hospital and its wonderful staff.

Please may I take this opportunity to wish you and your family good health and please know that we are very grateful for your continued support during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Susan

Susan Hurdiss, Organising Secretary

Two new bladder scanners have been purchased by the Friends of the RSH

RSH Surgical Assessment Unit staff prepares one of the newly funded bladder scanners for a patient investigation during a busy Coronavirus period. The scanners allow user friendly non-invasive examinations for instant assessment of the patient resulting in greatly improved safety, comfort and often reduced length of stay. Being deployed from the medical device library for frontline nursing care wherever required within the hospital ensures efficient use of the devices. SAU Ward Manager Denise Bennett said that, "the Bladder is in daily use as a vital piece of equipment for patient care."



The League of Friends Fundraising Office
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital North, Shrewsbury SY3 8XQ
T: (01743) 261007

The League of Friends Shop Office
T: (01743) 261008

Email: s.hurdiss@nhs.net
www.rshlof.org.uk

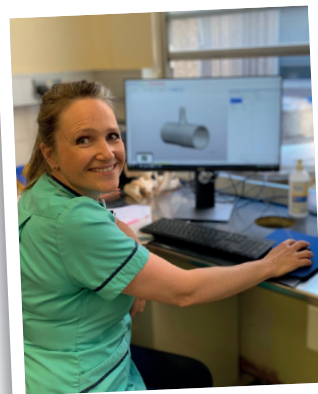


Details of gifts paid since March 2020

£33,590 Bladder Scanner; £16,520 Portable Monitors; £34,876 YAG Laser.

Gifts approved: £36,000 for Morcellator for Urology Benign Services to treat Benign Prostate; £99,000 for improvement to the Ophthalmology department.

RSH Principal Maxillofacial Prosthetist and Laboratory Manager Samantha Bunn finalises the design for the Oxygen breathing circuit component ready for production onto the RSH League of Friends donated 3D printer.



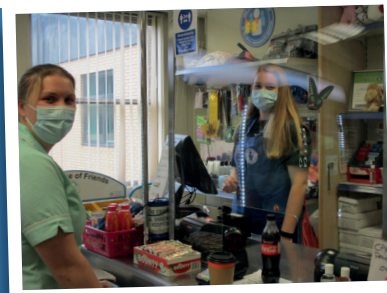
Oxygen breathing inlet

Volunteers giving their time to help in our shops

Since the very beginning of this terrible pandemic the Friends kept one of its four main shops open 7 days a week for the benefit of the hospital NHS staff and also started operating an extra new service of pre-order food hampers for the staff after a long and exhausting day. This proved to be a great success and very much appreciated. The hampers consisted of fresh produce all sourced locally.

Once restrictions started to ease slightly and other hospital services resumed a second LoF shop was opened in the Outpatients area for hospital staff, patients and visitors alike. A third shop will be opened within the coming weeks.

Friends Shop Manager Lee Herkes said, "We have tried very hard to keep our shops open while making sure our staff and customers are as safe as possible and following the strict guidelines of installing screens, wearing face masks and operating a card/contactless payment only policy, as well as introducing one way systems with floor markings to remind people to social distance. Hearing the gratitude of hospital staff and patients using the shops make it all worthwhile and of course we wouldn't have been able to carry on offering this service without the tremendous help from our marvellous helpers and volunteers."



17 year old Charlotte Hope is seen serving a member of the hospital NHS staff. Charlotte is a former student of Thomas Adams College and has now recently started her University Teacher's training Course

Volunteer
Peter
Crimson
helping in
Teabar



Dr Louise Sykes & Maria Houghton, advanced clinical Practitioner in Critical Care & Friends Chairman Richard Lawn pulled out the four winning tickets.

Summer Raffle August 20th

Dr Louise Sykes, Clinical Director Anaesthetics said "The League of Friends have always been hugely supportive of the Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Recently they have purchased a new state of the art ECHO machine and 3 ultrasound machines which have allowed us to deliver the best evidenced based bedside management to our patients during these unprecedented times. We have also been able to enhance the skills of our multi-disciplinary team training physios and nurses to deliver cutting edge diagnostics. We are incredibly grateful for their continued support"

Friends Executive Chairman said "I am delighted that in these difficult times the League has once again brought some cheer to our supporters through our Summer Raffle whilst at the same time raising more funds for vital equipment for the RSH. Of course Covid greatly restricted our direct ticket sales this year so takings were lower than usual but we were still able to award the usual generous prizes, just as we have carried on funding hospital equipment in 2020 even though our shops and fundraising activities have been greatly restricted. Congratulations to the winners."



Sadly an end of an era for the flowers which have brightened up the areas of the hospital for so many years



Going as far back as 1970s when the Friends were in its infancy they have provided flowers for the enjoyment of patients, staff and visitors to the RSH. Originally fresh flowers were placed in entrance and waiting areas on the Cophthorne South site and when the new hospital we now know as RSH was built the service expanded with an army of volunteers arranging and delivering fresh flowers twice a week. However in the early part of the new millennium when infection control became more of a concern it was decided to replace the fresh flowers with artificial ones and the flower arrangers got together four times a year to make up displays to adorn the hospital as the seasons changed. They were carefully washed and put away when replaced with new creations.

At the start of the Covid 19 pandemic the hospital management reluctantly decided that due to health and safety they could no longer receive them.

It's an end of an era but one the Friends intends to turn into a fundraising opportunity as all the flowers which have been lovingly cared for over the years will now be available to purchase; also some will be made into arrangements and door wreaths for the general public to purchase and enjoy in their own homes. For more information contact Sue at the Friends office 01743 261007.

In memory of Dr Malcolm Booth who passed away July 20th aged 96

At only 18 Malcolm joined the RAF and became a Lancaster bomber pilot during the Second World War and he never lost a crew member in 30 missions. Later he became an innovative educationist teaching at several Shropshire schools and finally Head of St Mary's Primary School, Westbury. After retirement he threw himself into charity and voluntary work which included 37 years as a volunteer for the RSH League of Friends, becoming Chairman of both the Executive and Shop Committees. His services to the community were recognised in 2007 when he was made an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. He also gave more than 30 years' service to the Shrewsbury Flower Show which included time as Chairman. He was a truly remarkable man who went through life always putting others first. The family plan on holding a memorial and celebration service open to everyone once circumstances allow at St Chad's Church where Malcolm had been a long standing chorister and churchwarden.



Malcolm seen with Friends volunteer Colin Roscoe

Leaving a gift in your Will or leaving a donation in memory of a loved will make a lasting difference

By making provision for the League of Friends RSH in your Will, you would be providing a lasting gift for future generations. Every sum, no matter how small, is welcomed and spent entirely on providing vital hospital equipment to improve patient care and help save more lives. Thank you very much indeed for your support.

DRAW TICKETS:

Enclosed is a book of 10 raffle tickets which you can purchase yourself, or sell to family and friends. Tickets are just £1 each (£10 for the book) sold/unsold tickets should be returned to the Friends office **by 10.00 am on Wednesday 16th December 2020** to ensure entry into the draw. **For extra tickets contact the office 01743 261007.**



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