



ANOTHER NEW SERVICE - PATIENT IMPRESSIONS STARTS SOON

Friends' volunteers will soon be operating another new service at St. Cross. The "Patient Impressions" scheme is due to start this summer and volunteers will talk to patients throughout the hospital and record their views on the hospital's services which will then be fed to hospital managers as part of a process of ensuring the highest possible standards. Chrysanda Gilbert, Friends' Chairperson said "We are delighted to be involved in this scheme which shows how much the Trust cares about maintaining the already high standards at St. Cross. We have had a lot of interest from our volunteers who are keen to be involved in this project."

HAWTHORN WARD

Readers will be aware of the closure of Hawthorn Ward. The Friends have asked the Partnership Trust, who are responsible for the service, to consider refunding the cost of the equipment donated to the ward in the last few years.

HELPING HANDS SCHEME

Brian Stratford from the Friends' service Helping Hands team has been to University Hospital, Coventry to advise on the setting up of a similar scheme in that hospital.

NEW EYE TREATMENT

Watch out for ANOTHER new patient service at St. Cross. Building work is well advanced to provide premises for the Lucentis treatment of macular degeneration; an eye condition which particularly affects the elderly. The department is due to open this summer. The Friends expect to donate equipment to support this service.

EDIE'S DIAMOND AWARD

Edie Freeman's 45 years of voluntary service at St. Cross was recognised by ATTEND, the national association by a Diamond Award. Edie attended a reception at St. James's Palace in the presence of the Duke of York. "Well done, Edie, a wonderful record."

IMPORTANT AGM CHANGE
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Hospital Services Update

The patients on our wards are now enjoying the benefit of the new single sex shower room facilities which are in each of the bays. The Department of Health is clear that "Being with other patients of the same gender is an important component of privacy and dignity." and this is a viewpoint with which St Cross wholeheartedly agrees.

The £2million pound Lucentis service development which will help patients suffering from age-related macular degeneration, has begun and the preparatory demolition works are already completed. Located centrally within the hospital this service expands on the current ophthalmic services which we are currently able to offer such a Cataract procedures and Outpatient consultations and hopes to open this summer.

Those visiting the hospital will have noticed that our access roads were badly affected by the adverse weather conditions experienced across the country in January and February with large potholes developing in several locations. I am pleased to say that a programme of repair was initiated very quickly and has now been completed. The roads are now fully serviceable.

In recent weeks we have seen the long awaited development of the courtyard area by Cedar Ward. Previously an unusable children's area, the play equipment has now been removed and the whole area landscaped to include raised flower beds which will provide an expanse of colour once established. We are now in the process of furnishing the area and hope to see patients and relatives taking advantage of the lovely weather in the garden.

The Theatre Business plan to develop a brand new purpose built Theatre block at St Cross is gathering momentum. This will be beneficial for the residents of Coventry and Warwickshire as we will be able to offer more surgery at St Cross both in terms of volume and diversity which will be delivered in laminar flow theatres reducing the risk of infection.

The growth of St Cross has continued with an approximate extra 5000 patients being treated in 2009/10 to 2008/2009. The biggest area of growth is in Outpatients where we have seen an increase of approximately 3000 patients. This is a real achievement for both staff and residents as it sees more care being delivered closer to home.

Plans are currently underway to develop a new rehabilitation ward on Oak Ward which could have up to 22 patients receiving specialist multi-disciplinary care where it has been identified that they would benefit from rehab following for example, a stroke, in an effort to improve quality of life. The ward will be overseen by the Gerontology team and will open late summer.
Juliet Starkey Hospital Manager

WANTED

A volunteer to co-ordinate our **PRESS & PUBLIC RELATIONS** activities. This is a vital area of our committee work and we urgently need someone able to take this on.

We also need someone to run our **GARDENING TEAM** and pull together the areas we try to look after around the hospital site. If you know of anyone who might be interested please contact the office.

LONDON MARATHON

Our thanks go to Pat Horton for running in the London Marathon in aid of the Friends of St. Cross. We are most grateful to Pat for his wonderful support.

NEW VICE CHAIRPERSON

Main committee member Heather Green has stepped into the vacancy for a Vice Chairperson in addition to her role as Help Desk co-ordinator. We are very grateful to Heather for taking this on.

HELP DESK

The Out Patient Department Help Desk has benefited from an improved station and reception desk; work has recently been completed.

TABARDS

We now have a set of high visibility "Friends of St. Cross" tabards which are very eye catching and which will be very useful whenever we hold a fundraising event.

WHITE ELEPHANTS

Our thanks go to Brenda Hole for organising another White Elephant Sale at St. Andrew's which raised an excellent £287 for our funds.

EQUIPMENT DONATED TO ST. CROSS

Examples of equipment donated to St. Cross so far this year:
X-Ray department 2 patient trolleys £3058. Equipment for Physiotherapy Department £4000. Dialysis chairs for Renal Dialysis Unit £11490.
Exercise bike & other equipment for Physiotherapy Dept. £1180.

FUTURE EVENTS

Please try and support these events

9 th July	Collection at ASDA
18 th July	Annual Football Tournament at Churchover
15 th September	Golf Day
20 th November	Annual Black Tie Dinner at the Masonic Hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7th June 2010

This year's AGM has moved from the traditional afternoon in April to an evening meeting in June. The main reason for this is because the Recreation Hall is no longer available and an evening meeting allows us to use the Outpatient Department waiting area. We hope that an early evening meeting in mid-summer will allow even more of our members to attend; this is a very important event in our calendar and allows all members to have their say in how "The Friends" runs its business. Do please come along if you can – we have an excellent guest speaker to tell us about the exciting new Lucentis treatment unit at St. Cross and there will be an update on the Patient Impressions scheme as well.

How can you help?

Become a volunteer or help us to raise funds – there are a host of ideas and we will be happy to discuss them. If you feel you could run even a small fund raising event do please give us a ring. Every penny helps – already this year we have donated thousands of pounds worth of equipment – we can only do that if we can keep raising the funds to do it. Please help us in any way you can.

CAR STICKERS

Help the Friends – please display one of our new car stickers available from the Out Patient Tea Bar or from the office.

GLITTER PENS

Still selling well.
Only **£1.50**. They are a real bargain at this price – better still buy several – they make lovely gifts.