

NEW FRIENDS' MEMBERS

We say a big hello to new members who have joined us so far this year:

Audray Allen	Harry Robertson
Jenny Blackman	Patricia Rose
Anna Coy	Jimene Sanchez
Helen Foster	Barbara Smith
Keshwinder Gill	Jean Tibbels
Ginny Marsh	Sandra Townsend
Christine Nobes	Maureen Vasper
Ann Peover	June Witcomb

Janice Perkins

New volunteers are always needed – just contact our office for a warm welcome

Christmas raffle

With this newsletter we enclose some raffle tickets. Please try and support us with this annual fund raiser. Requests continue to come in every month and we need every penny we can raise. Top prize is a super Christmas hamper which is on display at the Out Patient Tea Bar.

Thanks are due to our Fund Raising Team lead by Tracey Lennard whose annual Black Tie Dinner raised a whopping £2345 for Friends' funds.

Adopted Our thanks go to the Woolscott Flower Club who have adopted the Friends of St. Cross as their annual charity. If any other group or club would like to adopt us we would be delighted to hear from them. Remember more than 98p in every pound we raise goes to the health services we support IN RUGBY.

FRIENDS' NEWS

If you would like extra copies of *Friends' News* for friends, family or neighbours, these are readily available just ring Karen in our office on 01788 663756.

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THE Charity for RUGBY.

We support St. Cross, Rugby Community and Mental Health Services



(Issue no, 11) November 2011

FRIENDS' NEWS

Newsletter of the Friends of the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby

BUILDING SOCIETY'S MAJOR SUPPORT

Once again The Coventry have demonstrated their magnificent support with a super **£21,633** cheque handed over on 26th October. Friends Chairperson Chrysanda Gilbert received the cheque and said "This is just terrific. Since the St. Cross Saver scheme started we have had £103,000 from the Coventry. That really is tremendous support and it enables us to continue helping our local hospital and to fund vitally needed equipment. I am most grateful to all who contribute to the Saver Account scheme; their loyalty to the Coventry and to The Friends really does help us **MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**"

HELPING HEARTS DONATION

Helping Hearts, the charity arm of the Heart of England Co-op have made a lovely donation of £500 which has been used towards purchasing some bariatric chairs for St. Cross. The hospital has a need for a range of different equipment and these chairs will be used throughout the hospital.



Chrysanda Gilbert, Barbara Woodward from the Friends Committee together with Helping Hearts and Hospital staff receiving a £500 donation from Helping Hearts

HOSPITAL NEWS

Working in the NHS has never before been as challenging as it is currently with the financial pressures being placed on all public services. As a Trust we have had to make, and are still in the process of making, some very difficult and unpalatable decisions in order that we reduce the gap in our deficit and can continue to function in an efficient and effective manner. One of those decisions has been the closure of the beds on Birch ward and relocation of the staff onto other wards at the Hospital of St Cross. This is due to take effect on 30th November 2011. Rugby patients will still be repatriated back to Rugby once their acute condition has been stabilised at University Hospital and it is deemed safe to do so and the Hospital of St Cross remains a vital asset to the UHCW NHS Trust.

More positive news is the recent election of one of our Retinal Screening Unit Joint Programme Managers to the Council of the British Association of Retinal Screeners at their annual conference. In addition to this, we are very proud that our other joint programme manager has been selected to join a new English National Screening Programme Diabetic Retinopathy grading college. These are tremendous accolades for the individuals concerned and for the unit as a whole and we are proud that our staff have been recognised nationally for their high standards and performance.

As you will know, the Linden Unit has been closed for some time now and we have been in talks with various parties as to the most appropriate use of the building and surrounding area. Currently, our most preferred option is to develop the beautiful building into an Intermediate Care Centre which will benefit the Trust both financially and operationally and provide greater opportunities for care outside of the hospital for Rugby residents. Obviously these talks are at an early stage and we will endeavour to keep you up to date as more news come along.

Juliet Starkey Hospital Manager

THE Charity for **RUGBY**.

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New officers for Friends

We welcome June Witcomb who has taken on the role of Secretary, assisted by Vi Saunders. Both have NHS backgrounds which is always a big help. Another new member, Barbara Woodward is developing ways of applying for grants and was successful with her first application (see front page).

The Friends committee structure has also been streamlined to make us more efficient and able to consider requests for equipment more easily.

More gifts to St. Cross

We continue to receive requests for equipment from St. Cross and from the Community and Mental Health services whom we support. In July we approved expenditure of over £20,000 including three major items, these being:

Nasopharyngoscope	£4,495	for Out Patient Dept
Co2 regulator	£10,400	for Willow Ward (for Endoscopy)
Power saw	£3,650	for Theatres

At the September meeting we approved more donations of £2956

That's brings our total for this year to nearly £70,000. That's what we call **MAKING A DIFFERENCE** and why we need all the help we get in our fund raising efforts.

GLITTER PEN FOR CHRISTMAS? The ideal stocking filler – available from our Tea Bar in the Out Patient Department. Just £2.00 – a real bargain. All proceeds to the Friends of St. Cross.