

Friends' Newsletter



Friends of Crowborough Hospital

Volume 9 Issue 4

November 2011

Hospital Fete Success

This year's Hospital Summer fete on August bank holiday Monday was another great success. Although there were a few early anxious concerns about the weather, the afternoon was dry and warm which encouraged people to stay and enjoy all the attractions on offer. Local residents queued to support the many varied stalls, games, refreshments, entertainment and exhibitions and it was estimated that 2,000 came through the gates past the very determined bucket collectors!



<i>Forthcoming events</i>	2
<i>In & Around the Hospital</i>	2
<i>Volunteers News</i>	3
<i>Purchases & Projects</i>	4
<i>Donations</i>	4
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	5
<i>Information</i>	6

There were the ever popular stalls selling cakes, hand made items, books, toys, bric a brac, clothes, furniture, pictures, plants and garden equipment.



The human fruit machine, raffle, tombola, choose a key and other games provided for those who like to take a chance and the children enjoyed



Refreshments included a beer tent, hot dogs, ice cream, popcorn and candy floss as well as the traditional tea and home made cakes in the day centre.



the bouncy castle, face painting and the fire engine.

Jimmy the Jester was a hit, entertaining the children with his juggling skills and many also admired the different skills of the artists whose work was on show in two exhibitions.

The final total raised was a wonderful £13,250 which it is hoped to use towards developing an area of the hospital grounds to provide a pleasant garden with seating and planting for in-patients to enjoy during their stay.



The next Newsletter will be published in mid February 2012. Contributions are always welcomed from patients, staff and friends. The deadline for any articles or advertisements of events is January 31st

Committee meetings will be held on January 11th and February 8th at 7.30 at the Day Centre

Past events

Coffee morning

Following the fete, a coffee morning was held for about 40 stallholders during which they were thanked for all their hard work both on the day of the fete and before-hand. A slide show of photos enabled those who had been hard at work manning stalls to see how the afternoon went as a whole.

The Chairman of Foch (Russell Wakefield) particularly thanked this year's fete committee: Janie Hooper, Dorothy Creelman, Richard and Janet Kent. Although they are willing to continue their involvement to a greater or lesser degree, a request was made for more volunteers to become involved with organising the fete. People with a variety of skills are needed and in particular a few fit young people to help with the physical jobs would be welcomed. As well as on the actual fete day, there is a lot to be done planning and organising the hire of stalls, licences, insurances etc. and the committee would welcome new members. You can contact them by email at

fete@foch.org.uk or by telephone at the friends office 01892 664626.

This contact can also be used if you or your company would like to be a sponsor of next year's fete and be acknowledged on a display board.

Jumble sale

Items left over from the fete were on sale at a jumble sale on October 15th which raised another £488 towards the fete total.

Forthcoming events

Salvation Army Concert.

This event raises funds for Crowborough Hospital. This year it will be held on Wednesday 7th December at 7.45 at All Saints Old Hall, Chapel Green, Crowborough. Entry is by donation. Please go along to support the singers, the band and the hospital.

In and around the hospital

Departure of Matron

Due to reorganisation within the East Sussex Hospitals Trust, a number of management posts have been cut or amalgamated. As a result, Nigel Bayley (modern matron) has left his post at Crowborough for a new post in Hastings. We thank him for his work here and wish him well in his new job. Although the details are not yet clear, Crowborough, Uckfield and Lewes are to share a clinical services manager and Jane Stevens has been appointed. The Friends welcome her and look forward to working closely with her for the good of the hospital.

Estates

The estates department has no large projects to report on at present but there are a number in the planning stage and we hope to be able to report on those in the next newsletter



Maternity Services

The board has finished its work on the review of maternity services in the area and, although there is further work to be done before an announcement is made about how these services will look, it appears that Crowborough Birthing Centre will continue to have a part to play. The main priority now is to encourage greater use of the unit. The Friends have agreed to fund leaflets and posters to be placed in GP surgeries and other suitable locations.

A report from the Birthing Unit follows:

The midwives at CBC have been kept busy promoting its excellent reputation. They attended the Sussex Baby and Toddler Show at the Kings Centre on 17th September. This was well attended and definitely helped to put CBC on the map. They are planning for the next baby show to be held at Brighton on the 13th November.

The number of women who give birth at CBC has reduced compared to this time last year. Two of a number of reasons for this are the new Tunbridge Wells Hospital and issues around screening; both of which are being looked at by the Crowborough Implementation Group.

Crowborough Birthing Centre has been quoted as

a 'Success Story' in the Royal College of Midwives magazine; CBC was lucky enough to have a visit from the General Secretary of the RCM Cathy Warwick who was very positive about its ethos and would like to see this replicated nationally.

As ever, it is a joy to work at CBC, especially when some of our mothers walk through our doors saying 'it's so nice to be back' and yes, this is in between contractions!

Debbie Gowers

General ward news

Staff on the ward welcome Maryanne Lomax who has transferred from Uckfield and is our new ward manager. A long serving member of staff, Patsy Wimbush, has retired after ten years as a night staff nurse. We wish her well in her retirement. Another member of staff, Sarah Waterman has left the ward and transferred to minor injuries. We congratulate her on her new position.

Ward staff and patients are continually grateful to the volunteer "tea ladies", Leslie Bagwell Purefoy and Beryl Farrow, who serve the afternoon teas to patients each day.

The Ward is holding a Christmas raffle to enable staff to buy "extras" for the festive season. You are invited to visit the ward and buy a ticket when you are next at the hospital.

Regular Clinics

A number of clinics are held regularly in the out patients department, which are much appreciated by patients who can see their specialist in the comfortable surroundings of their local hospital.

- Family Planning,
- Occupational Health nurse,
- retinal clinic
- orthopaedics
- ear nose and throat,
- paediatrics,
- care of the elderly,
- dermatology,
- health in mind,
- cardiac follow up,
- general surgery,
- otolaryngology
- orthotics,
- continence

In addition, the x ray department is open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for appointments as well as for referrals from the minor injuries dept. and ante-natal clinics are held regularly in the Birthing Unit.



Volunteers' news

News from the Shop by Rosemary Marsh

Christmas is on its way and the Hospital Shop is now stocking Christmas cards, calendars, diaries etc. plus a selection of small toys and novelties and home-made marmalade jams and mincemeat.

Inevitably, like most retail outlets, we are feeling the effects of the current economic climate but perhaps if we all persuaded just one family member/friend/neighbour/colleague to come and buy just one packet of cards even and they, in turn, encouraged one more person to support us, the shop and subsequently the Hospital would reap the benefit. I know we are a little out of the way and there are lots of Charities all seeking our custom, but this is OUR community hospital and we should do all we can to support it.

The ladies in the shop have done a sterling job over the summer doing extra duties to cover for holiday. Some of them have done more than their share (I'm sure they must know who they are) and I am indebted to them. As always, the time you freely give, be it large or small is fully appreciated and valued. Thank you ALL!

There will be a Shop Volunteers lunch some time in January and it would be really good to have a full complement of ladies. Last year was a very happy social gathering and much enjoyed.

Finally, everyone connected with the Shop sends Christmas wishes and Blessings to all our readers and Friends of Crowborough Hospital.
R.M

The shop committee would like to express special thanks to volunteer Bene Cooper for her continuing work in the shop and her production of beautiful hand knitted goods.

Purchases and planned projects

Requests agreed by the Friends Committee

- Magnifying lamp for minor injuries - £258
- Equipment for "pulmonary rehabilitation" consisting of blood pressure monitor, a stop watch, arm weights and a set of static pedals amounting to £100
- Special cushions for the mini bus to improve passenger comfort - £100

The Committee is considering the best way in which to replace the storage portacabin. This is used for fete and other storage and is no longer fit for purpose.

Committee has also requested a fully costed proposal from Estates regarding the outside seating area and garden which it is hoped will be funded from the Fete profit.



Donations

We are very grateful to have received individual donations totalling £240.



Crowborough Social Club held a Snail Race night and raised £195.

The Royal British Legion donated £25 following the loan of our minibus.

Crowborough St John's WI held a collection which raised £200.

The Wednesday Fellowship Group at Crowborough United Church collected £50.



Collection boxes from the Shop, the Day Centre and Crowborough Social Club raised £156.



In our May edition, we reported on Jenny Weller who took part in the Brighton Marathon. We are extremely grateful to her for raising the magnificent sum of £1581 in **sponsorship**.

In Memoriam Donations totalling £2780 were received in respect of the following:

Mr Ronald Leslie Columbell

Mr Dennis Everett Ward

Mrs Lilian Bonnet

Mr Robert Edgar Jones

Mrs Mary Elizabeth Sivyer

Mrs Laurah Gillah

Mrs Lilian May Wood

Mr James Finlater

A further donation was also made in memory of Dr. Alan Winter

We extend our condolences to their relatives and thank them for making these donations.

We are also grateful to Tester and Jones and Paul Bysouth for administering the donations

Paintings

A number of paintings have been sold in August, September and October by the artists Roger Goringe (3), Mary Bradley (3), Clive Button, Anne Acott and Cordelia Stocks. We are most grateful to receive 25% of these sales which amounts to £142 plus an additional donation of £100 made by one of the purchasers. More paintings are displayed along the corridor to the General Ward and would make original Christmas gifts!

A Big Thank you to all who have raised money and made donations during the past year.

Gift Aid has been reclaimed in respect of many of these donations and fund-raising events and the total for the year so far is £4711.92. Thanks to Jane for this work.



Miscellaneous

Advertising policy

The Board of the Friends of Crowborough Hospital has discussed the question of advertising in the Newsletter. Board Members agreed that advertising should be accepted subject to the following:

- Advertisements should relate to medical provision and care, medical goods, social care or support services, care goods, funeral directors and/or other products or services which are consistent with the constitution of FoCH
- Acceptance of advertisements will be at the discretion of the trustees
- No advertisement will occupy more than one eighth of a sheet of A4, there will be no more than one advertisement per page and none on the front page
- Price to be agreed with each advertiser on application. The sub-group suggests a guide price of £50 per issue, minimum of 4 issues (i.e. payment of £200) to be paid in advance and non-returnable
- Discretion to accept or reject specific advertisements to be delegated to the treasurer who will report to the board if he does not feel it appropriate to exercise his discretion.

Anyone who is interested in advertising in future issues is invited to contact the Treasurer, Terry Moon at the Friends' office.

Sale of the ambulance station

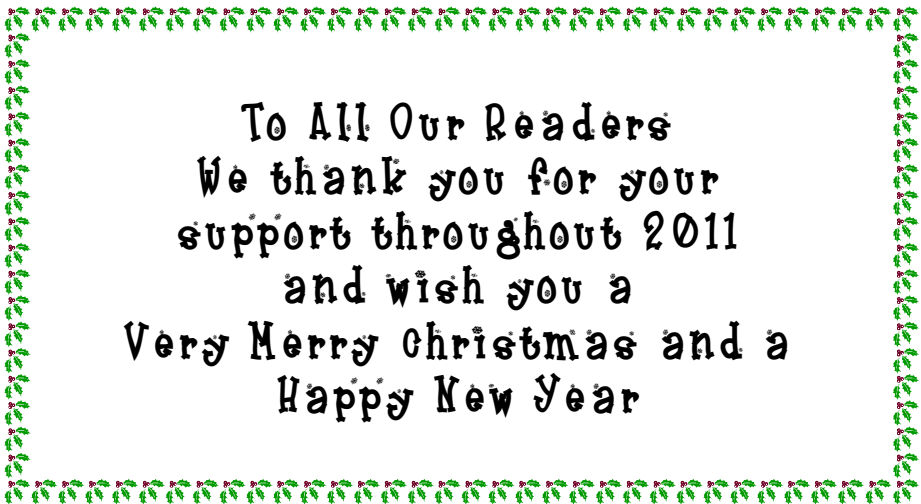
As you will no doubt have heard, ambulance services are being reorganised with the effect that the ambulance station next to the hospital will become redundant. Ambulances will instead be dispatched from various waiting areas and personnel will no longer have a home station.

A planning application has been received by Wealden District Council in respect of the ambulance station site to demolish the station and build a block of 4 flats. FoCH committee and Trustees have discussed this and agreed to put in an objection on the following grounds:

- The windows of habitable rooms in the projected development overlook the wards and the conservatory. This could compromise the privacy, dignity and safety of the patients, many of whom are elderly and frail.
- There is an unacceptable risk of noise and disturbance both during the building process and subsequently from the occupants.
- There is no reasonable possibility of screening the new building from the hospital.

In addition, Trustees feel that the ambulance station forms a part of the integrated footprint of the Hospital and as such should not be sold off for purely financial reasons.

An acknowledgement has been received from Wealden District Council. Consultation finishes in the middle of November and we hope to bring you more news of this in the next newsletter.



To All Our Readers
 We thank you for your
 support throughout 2011
 and wish you a
 Very Merry Christmas and a
 Happy New Year



Caring for the Heart of the Community

Friends of Crowborough Hospital

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South View Road
Crowborough
TN6 1HB

Phone: 01892 664626
Fax: 07092 865667
Email: info@foch.org.uk
Web: www.foch.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 231379
Inland Revenue Charity Code: YAF88PG



Membership of the Friends

We hope that those of you who are not already Members would be interested in joining the Friends.

Membership is just £10 a year, or you can become a life Member for a larger sum. If you would like details of this, please get in touch.

If you would like to pay by standing order, we would be happy to arrange this for you.

For those who are tax payers we can arrange (at no cost to yourself) for the Inland Revenue to make an additional payment to us equal to the amount of tax that you would have paid on your donation or membership (Gift Aid). In this way, your donation can be of even greater value. Changes made by the Inland Revenue in respect of how Self Assessment tax forms are completed for charitable donations mean you will need the Code (shown above) if you complete such a form.

As a Member you can be as involved as you wish, joining one of the committees, or just supporting the work of the Friends by attending the various events during the year.

If you would like further information on any aspect of the Friends or would like to become a volunteer or a Member, please get in touch with us at the address above, or by phone or e-mail.

Office Opening Times

The Friends' Office is usually open Mon — Fri mornings and occasionally at other times. If we are closed, please leave a message; written, telephone or e-mail and we will contact you as soon as we are able.

Mail can be left in the black letterbox outside the office.



Donations / Membership

I/we would like to make a donation to support the work of the Friends of Crowborough Hospital.

Our donation includes a £10 membership subscription (yes/no).

I/we enclose a donation of £

The Friends may reclaim tax (Gift Aid)

Name

Address

Post Code

Telephone

E-mail

Please send details of how I/We may make regular donations (Standing Order)

Donations should be returned to:
Friends of Crowborough Hospital
Crowborough Hospital
South View Road
Crowborough TN6 1HB